



The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program. TBF is a non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. The SMBRC is a locally-based, non-regulatory state entity which is charged with overseeing and promoting the SMBNEP's Bay Restoration Plan.

BAYWIRE

October-November 2015 Edition

RFP Date Announced for \$7 million of Prop. 84

At the October 15th Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) Governing Board meeting, it was announced that on November 2, 2015 the SMBRC would begin accepting applications for the Proposition 84 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program to support capital projects that protect and restore Santa Monica Bay.

Approximately \$7 million will be available under this invitation to submit proposals. Projects funded under this grant program will be implemented through the execution of a standard grant agreement between the project proponent and the State Water Board. State Water Board staff and staff assigned to the SMBRC will be jointly responsible for the management and oversight of Proposition 84 projects.

Consistent with the purpose of Proposition 84, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program will recommend funding for capital projects that restore and protect the Bay's water quality and help to achieve one or more of the following goals in accordance with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP):

- Improve water quality through enhancement of current federal and state framework and collaborative, integrated watershed wide planning and implementation.
- Improve water quality through pollution prevention and source control.
- Protect and enhance water quality through the restoration of wetlands, streams, and riparian zones.
- Protect public health through the achievement of no beach closures and postings at Santa Monica Bay beaches.
- Maintain/increase natural flood protection through ecologically functioning floodplains and wetlands.
- Conserve water and increase local water supply.

On November 2nd, SMBRC issued RFPs, and applications are available at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

Steelhead Trout to Regain 4.5 miles of Arroyo Sequit Creek

It's estimated that due to damming and other human impacts, steelhead trout have lost 80-95% of their historic stream habitat. Today only three streams, Arroyo Sequit, Malibu, and Topanga Creeks, are known to contain steelhead trout, and their numbers are few. After 15 years of



planning, help is on the way. To restore a healthy stream and benefit the trout and other aquatic species, two concrete road crossings and a “check Dam” that cut through Arroyo Sequit Creek will be removed and replaced with freestanding bridges. By reconnecting to 4.5 miles of historic habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains, this project will allow upstream passage for the federally endangered steelhead trout, which relies on access to upstream areas of our local rivers and streams to mate and lay eggs. TBF is excited to be

working with the CA Department of Parks and Recreation and the CA Conservation Corp on this project, and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission recommended funding for it.

Abalone Lab is Coming Soon!

TBF, with federal and state biologists, aquariums, abalone farms and researchers up and down the west coast, are engaged in method development and research to bring the abalone back.

To further the development of techniques and methods that will most effectively return stable populations of abalone to the wild, TBF will cut the ribbon on our new research facility in the Port of Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Southern California Marine Institute.

Green abalone, like all abalone species in southern California have experienced sharp population declines since the 1970s due to overharvesting and disease. The techniques



and methods being developed with green abalone should be transferrable to all of the species of abalone needing help to recover including the endangered white and black abalone. The

processes we follow require us to spawn, raise, outplant and monitor the abalone that we're working with. TBF is especially focused on finding the most cost- and time-effective techniques to restore these beautiful and important snails to our rocky shores.

Oceanside Bilge Pumpout Added to SoCal by BEP

In December, a project conceived and led by TBF's Boater Education & Outreach Program (BEP), collaborating with various partners, comes to fruition at the public unveiling of a bilge pumpout facility in Oceanside Harbor. The Oceanside bilge pumpout and oil-water separator uses the latest in science and technology and is valued at over \$82,000. There are only two other public bilge pumpout facilities in southern California, located in Santa Barbara and Channel Islands Harbors.

The bilge is the lowest compartment on a vessel, and can collect rain and wash water, as well as oil, fuel, antifreeze, and other hazardous materials from the engine. Currently, the only lawful option for disposal of this mix of water and hazardous materials is pumping it into containers for disposal at a certified Household Hazardous Waste collection facility.

If disposed of in the ocean, one pint of oil can produce a slick of approximately one acre on the surface of water.

The bilge pumpout and oil-water separators provide a convenient and sustainable solution for boaters to properly disposal of oily bilge water and the method will directly improve water quality.

The BEP is focused on finding tools to help boaters protect the environment as they recreate. The bilge pumpout complements the Absorbent Pad Exchange, where boaters can dispose of oil soaked absorbents and receive a clean absorbent for free.

G2 Gallery Partners with The Bay Foundation for Film Fest

TBF was honored to be the Opening Night non-profit partner of Venice's G2 Gallery annual "G2 Green Earth Film Festival", held October 16, 2015. The festival features environmental



documentaries from around the world, and the opening included three shorts (*Co2ld Waters*, *Dutch Week Burger*, *Into the Microscope*), one feature film (*Project Wild Thing*), and TBF-produced, LADWP-funded, and W3 Award-winning PSA "Desert Delivery". Holding the rapt attention of approximately 60 attendees, the feature film, *Project Wild Thing*, is a real-life story about one man's determination to get children outside and into nature. TBF was pleased to be associated with this beautiful film during the festival's Opening Night.

Sold-Out 'State of the Bay Conference' Held at LMU Sept. 9



Over 200 people attended the sold-out State of the Bay (SotB) [Conference](#) on September 9th. The conference and forthcoming report are produced jointly by The Bay Foundation (TBF), the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), and the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at LMU. SMBRC's Chair Micheál O'Leary, followed by Dr. Tina Choe, Dean of the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering, LMU, and then Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board, opened the morning by welcoming attendees and discussing the value and success of the collaborative efforts by organizations and people gathered at the conference.

The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program's Technical Advisory Committee presented the morning plenary, providing the SotB framework for the presentations and panels that followed. The morning plenary had TAC members Dr. Rich Ambrose (Chair), Steve Bay (Vice-Chair) and Dr. Eric Stein, present the results of the assessment produced by the TAC with regard to water resources, water quality and habitat conditions in the Bay.

The day included presentations and panels addressing topics informative and critical to our coast's future in the context of climate change, including but not limited to coastal resilience, water resource and quality management strategies, health of streams and wetlands, wildlife and biodiversity protection in the urban environment, ocean chemistry and living resources, and marine protected areas.

California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird gave the keynote speech. He spoke to the attendees with his personal accounts about the top challenges the State faces, and the State's efforts to: address sea level rise and the drought, prepare the State's water resources for the future, and protect marine and fishery resources. He particularly noted, with specific examples why good scientific work is pivotal for planning, and how it should be used as the basis for ocean planning. Using science as the basis, he also cited success stories of how local grassroots

organizing efforts can guide legislative action, lead to new public policy, investments, and restoration projects on the ground; and he encouraged everyone to get energized and go out to make great things happen. For the full speech, please visit our [YouTube](#) page.

The day's themes were tied together in the afternoon plenary panel featuring UCLA's Dr. Rich Ambrose, L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board's Fran Diamond, UCLA's Dr. Mark Gold, City of L.A. Council member Paul Koretz, CA Ocean Protection Council's Cat Kuhlman, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Dr. Craig Shuman, LADWP's Nancy Sutley, and moderated by TBF's Tom Ford.

The SotB Conference brought together scientists, members of the public, agency representatives, non-profit organizations, and students to address a wide range of topics and to better understand the health of the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Stay tuned for the State of the Bay Report to follow with additional details and scientific analyses summarizing the last five years of focused efforts by the SMBNEP and its partners.

Statewide Wetland Monitoring...

TBF completed the California Estuarine Wetland Monitoring Manual this summer, in partnership with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, CSUCI, and many other scientific organizations and university partners. This much-anticipated product for the scientific community will help move wetland monitoring into a consistent, statewide, standardized set of tools to assess how our wetlands are functioning and how to achieve the best possible futures for them in the face of things like development and climate change.

Join TBF Outside

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations:

- Culver City Rain Garden
- LAX Dunes
- Malibu Lagoon
- Stone Canyon Creek

Please check <http://www.santamonicabay.org/events/> for dates, times, brief descriptions, and who to contact.

TBF also works with corporations and other organizations for group volunteer days. Please contact Rod Abbott (rabbott@santamonicabay.org) if you'd like to plan such an event.

In The News

The media continue to highlight some our programs and staff, including:

[The New Yorker](#) magazine closed out (last six paragraphs) its thorough piece about seaweed as potentially the next superfood by talking to Tom Ford and visiting the kelp restoration site.

Rancho Palos Verdes TV's Mark Doddy interviewed Tom Ford on their show "[Peninsula Beat 53](#)" about the kelp restoration project.

[Culver City News](#) ran a front-page rain garden story, interviewing TBF's Ivan Medel.

[Sea Magazine](#) ran a Q&A with Director of Outreach Programs Grace Lee in the August issue (starts p. CA-7 of CA News tab).

Abalone and kelp restoration was covered in [NOAA's Fisheries W. Coast region blog](#).

State of the Bay Conference garnered some preview press in [Beverly Press/LaBrea Park News](#), [Surf Santa Monica](#), [Westside Today](#), and U.S. Green Building Council's L.A. chapter weekly Newsletter.

After the conference, there was coverage by [KPCC's](#) Jed Kim, the [Daily Breeze](#) (also running in the [Daily News](#)), and [Maven's Notebook](#) (significant CA water blog). Maven's Notebook also ran a rundown of Secretary Laird's speech, [here](#).

[Santa Monica Mirror](#) and [Westside Today](#), published the announcement of new TBF Board member Kate Vernez.

TBF's announcement of multiple climate change grants was shared by [Westside Today](#).

Journalist Brad Pomerance interviewed [Tom Ford for The California Channel](#), "CA Edition" show (9/9).



Tom Ford shared his thoughts with KPCC's Molly Peterson on stormwater, El Niño and catching more runoff (ran Sept. 4-7).

For our different kind of Coastal Cleanup Day this year, weeding at LAX Dunes, we received mentions in [The Argonaut](#), [Santa Monica Mirror](#), on [KPCC](#), and in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (project was noted).

Last but not least, [The Malibu Times](#) and [Malibu Surfside News](#) shared State Parks' news about the Arroyo Sequit Steelhead Restoration Project, noting TBF's involvement.

Social Media IS Important and Fun!

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: [“Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”](#)

Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: Follow us at [@TheBayFoundation](#)

YouTube: [“The Bay Foundation”](#)

*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow.

Watch our FB for “Restaurant Thursdays”, and our Twitter for twice-weekly tips on water and energy conservation!

And did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by The Bay Foundation on our site? Check out your local DINING options at <http://www.santamonicabay.org/learn/our-work/clean-bay-restaurants/>

2015 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2015 meeting dates are:

- December 17

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any SMBRC Governing Board meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 808-631-6118 or by e-mail at svalor@santamonicabay.org . You may also visit the SMBRC website at www.smbrc.ca.gov .

Check Out Our Websites

Please check out the SMBRC website: www.smbrc.ca.gov . To streamline access to the Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC’s bodies.

The Bay Foundation’s website can be viewed at www.santamonicabay.org . It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org or Julie Du Brow at jdubrow@santamonicabay.org .