

Update on SMBRA Projects: 30 June 2019

[Malibu Lagoon Post-Restoration Monitoring](#) – This long-term comprehensive monitoring program evaluated the condition of Malibu Lagoon post-restoration through biological, physical, and chemical surveys. On 30 June 2019, this monitoring project was completed after approximately six years of post-restoration monitoring. In June 2019, the draft Final Comprehensive Monitoring Report was completed and discussed with CA Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Once approved, the Final Comprehensive Monitoring Report will be posted publicly on The Bay Foundation (TBF)'s website. Post-restoration assessments of physical, biological, and chemical data indicated that the restoration project is meeting the success criteria outlined in the Monitoring Plan. Overarching trends of the long-term data set show that lowering the lagoon elevation, creating a wider single channel directed more towards the incoming tide, orienting channel configurations in line with prevailing wind patterns, and removing the pinch points (i.e., bridges) have led to an increase in circulation both in an open and closed berm lagoon condition. Vertical profile mixing is an additional water quality indicator of a more well-functioning post-restoration system. California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) surveys continue to be a good indicator of the consistently increasing condition of the post-restoration wetland habitat areas. While there were several external stressors to the system over the last year, including the Woolsey Fire in November and subsequent rain events bringing sediment down the watershed, Malibu Lagoon showed resiliency to impacts and continued meeting the restoration success criteria. Additional details, including data trends, analyses, and performance evaluations for all protocols are included in the Final Report.

[Evaluating Regional Wetland Monitoring Programs](#) – This program is working towards increasing regional understanding of the condition of local coastal wetland systems and applying that knowledge towards standardizing wetland monitoring across the state of California. In 2019, this program continued work on data standardization, data consolidation and analyses, held program partnership meetings, and conducted outreach activities. This program is conducted in partnership with California State University, Long Beach, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. Since January, this project saw significant progress and forward movement associated with program tasks, notably Task 1: Consolidate regional data sets and protocols, Task 3: Refine Level 3 monitoring manual, and Task 4: Outreach and data management. Two pathways are moving forward concurrently – the consolidation and interpretation of existing Level 3 data sets by each partner entity and the refinement of recommendations for the manual and associated protocols for inclusion in the updated manual. There are defined subcommittee groups for each significant resource section, including vegetation, invertebrates, water quality, and fish. These four parameters were determined by the project team to be the most important for monitoring programs and those most likely to be conducted by wetland monitoring programs throughout California. Final products are currently being drafted for this project with significant input from partner scientists throughout the region and the State of California.

Malibu Lagoon Post-Restoration Monitoring ended on 30 June 2019.

Evaluating Regional Wetland Monitoring Programs will end on 30 September 2019.