



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Ambrose called the meeting to order on September 19, 2012 at 9:50am at Loyola Marymount University, Van Der Ahe 190, Los Angeles, CA. Round robin introductions followed.

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Present
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri	Absent
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Absent
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Present (Left at 11am)

Staff Present

Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director
Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager
Victoria Ippolito

Members of the Public

Joe Gully, LACSD	Paul Shadmani, LACo Flood Control District
Katherine Pease, Heal the Bay	Deborah Deets, LA City Sanitation
Susie Santilena, Heal the Bay	Mike Curtis, LADWP
Josh Swensson, LACo Flood Control District	Barbara Cameron, Malibu
Bruce Hamamoto, LACo Flood Control District	Rick Valte, City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public and representatives of organizations/agencies wishing to comment must fill out a comment card at the meeting and will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address the Committee and to provide public testimony on items not otherwise on the agenda. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers or otherwise at the discretion of the TAC Chair.

Joe Gully reminded everyone about the upcoming SETAC Meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Order of the Agenda - No changes made.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes. Meeting minutes will be approved at the December meeting.
- Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

Rich reported on the recent Expert Judgment meeting sponsored by the MPA Monitoring Enterprise (MME) and noted that the TAC's Habitat Health Assessment in the 2010 State of the Bay Report contained all the elements that the MME is looking for, in particular the spatially explicit rocky reef

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index that Dan developed. There will possibly be another meeting in December.

Dan reported that the MRAC has had several meetings dedicated to the development of a draft white paper on the value of vegetated coastal marsh for marine fish and sea birds.

Lia added that the draft white paper will go through another round of revision and staff anticipates sharing a polished draft with the TAC in December. Staff is also moving forward with plans to host a series of workshops this fall/winter on Habitat Health Assessment Index development for each habitat type. Lia reported that the SMBRF/Heal the Bay Kayak Cleanup Event on Saturday 9/15 was a huge success. We had 168 volunteers collect 158 lbs of trash and 33 lbs of recyclables. Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, which will be celebrated with several events, including a special edition of the Urban Coast. Finally, Lia is serving on the Lobster Advisory Committee for the spiny lobster Fishery Management Plan. Commercial fishing representatives have requested the group consider allowing commercial fishing in previously closed areas of the Santa Monica Bay, the leeward side of Catalina, and within 750 ft of piers, jetties, and groins. Their reasoning is that the newly created MPAs will cause overcrowding on fishing grounds and turf battles. There have been few technical studies into the benefit of these closed areas and when combined with the new MPAs, they present the opportunity to study the differences between localized effects of recreational and commercial fishing effort.

Guangyu is finishing the SMBRF's Climate Ready Estuaries report. For the Santa Monica Bay, the major impact of climate change will be sea level rise. When the report is finished, staff will send it to the TAC. The restoration at Malibu Lagoon is slightly ahead of schedule and should be completed by the end of the year. The Ballona Wetland Restoration project started the CEQA/NEPA process in August with a scoping meeting held on the wetlands. And the Governing Board directed staff to begin bringing them priority projects for Prop 84 funding. Of the \$75 million SMBRC was originally given control over, \$20 million remains. Some has been set aside for large, high priority projects that are a long way from being funded. The rest will be spent on other priority projects as they become available. The TAC expressed an interest in reviewing the project priorities, and requested that staff involve the TAC when they work with project proponents to develop priority projects.

d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*) None.

Public Comment. None.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Review Bond Funding Proposals and Monitoring Plans

Guangyu gave a brief overview of the four projects and described the major differences between Prop 84 and Prop 12, namely that Prop 84 is restricted to capital projects that have water quality benefits and requires TAC review, while Prop 12 does not have the same restrictions or requirements. However, SMBRC believes that TAC review of the Prop 12 project will still be valuable.

a. Prop. 84 Proposal: Oxford Basin restoration – County of Los Angeles

Josh Swensson, from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, gave an overview of the project and answered questions from the TAC.

Discussion. The lack of modeling of the water circulation around the berm and the new tidal inlet management strategy means that aspects of the project are unknown including where the fine sediments would settle out (in the Basin or in the Marina) or whether velocities would be high enough to prevent algal growth. The TAC recommended treating the project as experimental and encouraged the County to commit to a high level of monitoring and adapting the project based on the





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monitoring results. They also recommended including bacteria monitoring for anthropogenic markers because the berm is likely to attract birds.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

b. Prop. 84 Proposal: Vermont Avenue green street – City of Los Angeles

Susie Santilena, from Heal the Bay, gave an overview of the project, requested specific feedback on how to monitor the project, and answered questions from the TAC.

Discussion. The TAC commented that the project will use a wide variety of different water infiltration BMPs. This creates the opportunity to compare how different BMPs work and what the most cost effective mix is for our watershed. They suggested that because a big benefit of the project is what can be learned from it, the budget should include more money for monitoring and analysis, including social indicators. They also suggested demonstrating community support more clearly, since the project relies on community involvement. They also asked how the proposed community BMPs would be maintained.

Public comment. Barbara Cameron commented: “One of the things we [the City of Malibu] learned from South Bay Environmental Service Center is that whenever you get access to a household, you never just talk about rain barrels, you come with free rebates for turf replacement, you go to the net and find out all the other things that they can implement that are not costing this grant and they even add on energy savings, your washing machine replacement, everything. But I think, not limiting your conversation to just rain barrels when there are other free opportunities to meet the water quality goals may be useful.”

c. Prop 12. Proposal: Abalone Cove upland habitat restoration – Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Guangyu gave an overview of the project and noted that it will be funded under Prop 12, not Prop 84. This means that the project does not have to improve water quality, nor does it have to be reviewed by the TAC.

Discussion. Staff noted that the project is similar to 2 other past projects. The TAC commented that they liked the project, but noted a concern that monitoring is not explicit in the proposal’s budget. They wondered what can be learned from all three of these projects. They also noted that a report on the outcome of the first two projects may be valuable for the Governing Board, when they make their decision to fund the project.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

d. Prop 84. Monitoring Plan: In-line storm drain runoff infiltration demonstration project – City of Santa Monica

Guangyu gave an overview of the monitoring plan developed by the City of Santa Monica for their in-line infiltration demonstration project.

Discussion. The TAC noted that it followed the monitoring plan framework nicely. However, the TAC was confused that the City was planning on monitoring water flow at the inflow point (to the chamber) and at the bypass point and NOT in the groundwater table. The City explained that the geology of the location prevents any connection with groundwater and that they do this type of monitoring at their Bicknell Street (they have a monitoring well and take samples at 4ft and 8ft to measure contaminant removal). They asked the Rick Valte (City of Santa Monica) if they had any comments on the framework. They found it easy to follow and thought it would be a good reference for other cities and projects. Specifically, the TAC recommended:

- 1st flush samples should be collected later in the storm.

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- Composite sampling provides better information than grab sampling; the best is flow weighted composite sampling.
- Organics should be included in storm water sediment monitoring unless baseline water samples show organics are below the detection range.

Public Comment. Barbara Cameron commented that cost is also an important consideration, especially when considering how repeatable the project is. She added that all past and current project applications are accessible on the FAST system (used for Prop 84 applications), but that the monitoring plans and reports are not; and this limits the ability of consultants and cities to learn from other projects. She also commented that the City of Malibu must conduct outcome monitoring (ie outflow & groundwater) to meet their ASBS requirements.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Presentation and Discussion: Potential Bight '13 Research Questions and Survey Plan (Ken Schiff)

Discussion

The TAC identified 5 priority areas where bight-type regional monitoring program may help fill some data gaps useful for the State of the Bay and other efforts.

- These are:
- Rocky Intertidal surveys
- Seagrass bed mapping
- Beach ecology surveys
- Pelagic Indicator development
- Stream ecology

ROCKY INTERTIDAL: Pete Raimondi will be surveying rocky intertidal sites in Malibu as part of the ASBS working group in Bight '08. He is also surveying sites in PV as part of his MPA Monitoring project funded by the MME. The TAC discussed the possibility of adding sites or of adding additional metrics that may be better at identifying human disturbance. This "working group" is underway and not part of Monday's kick off meeting. **NEXT STEPS:** We need to ask Pete which sites he is sampling to determine whether additional effort in the Santa Monica Bay is needed. We also need to discuss the feasibility of adding new metrics/indicators to get a better estimate of human disturbance.

SEAGRASS BEDS: There appears to be some interest among the folks in the coastal wetlands and estuaries group to map eelgrass beds. Seagrass in general was a HUGE data gap in our 2010 State of the Bay Report. If we are interested in sea grass restoration in the future, knowing the extent of our own beds and how they compare to those in the region will be useful. **NEXT STEPS (BEFORE MONDAY):** determine our level of interest in this; monitor this in the breakout session at Monday's kick off meeting.

BEACH ECOLOGY: There will be a breakout session on Trash and Marine Debris at Monday's meeting. There appears to be interest among beach managers in quantifying and identifying beach trash and marine debris. There may be an opportunity to blend Karen's beach ecology surveys (in development, with some funds from SMBRF and in direct relation to the State of the Bay Report) with these beach trash surveys within the Bight program. **NEXT STEPS (BEFORE MONDAY):** Confirm that Karen will attend the Bight Meeting. Determine our level of interest in this.

PELAGIC OCEAN INDICATORS: There is interest among the POTWs in testing the use of DNA Bar Code technology for identifying fish larvae in fish larval transects. This would meet one of the requirements of our CMP, would be a data stream in a Pelagic Health Index, and may inform MPA management. Burt Jones gave us recommendations for a pelagic health index before he left.

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This index identifies zooplankton enumeration and identification as one metric that should be used
NEXT STEPS (BEFORE MONDAY): Review Burt Jones recommendations for a pelagic health index to see if there are other metrics he identified that we don't have data for that could be collected more cheaply. Determine our level of interest in this. Monitor this breakout session at Monday's kickoff meeting or confer with Joe Gully before Monday and ask him to convey our interest if we have any.

STREAM ECOLOGY: The Stormwater Monitoring Coalition has created a program similar to the Bight program for streams. They monitor similar constituents as the stream team does as well as bio indicators (insects). 2013 will be their 5th year of sampling. They have finished a report on their first year of monitoring. It would be feasible to modify their monitoring to include additional sites or metrics in the Santa Monica Bay for the 2013 field season. There will also be an opportunity to inform their next evolution of the monitoring project. This is not part of Monday's kick off meeting.
NEXT STEPS: Find and read their 1 year report. Determine our level of interest. Contact the group and determine feasibility of adding additional sites or metrics to their monitoring plan.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 6. New TAC Member Candidates.

When the TAC was recreated in 2008, it had 10 members. Shortly after, a natural resource economist was added, bringing the total to 11. The TAC currently has 7 members. Staff would like to bring the total back up to 11. Staff also sees this as an opportunity to reassess the range of expertise and disciplines represented and fill these empty seats with experts that can speak to some of the issues currently being brought before the TAC, including physical oceanography and larval transport, hydrology and watershed processes, microbiology, climate change, and social science research.

Discussion. The TAC recommended limiting the search to researchers actively working in a relevant geography and living in southern California because it will be hard to engage them otherwise. In-person meetings are valuable and successful remote participation is challenging because it requires the participants to be really committed. Additional disciplines to consider are conservation biology and microbiology. Creating an associate position may be a good solution for finding social scientists interested in the broad discussions had at TAC meetings and for bringing in engineering expertise to assist with Prop 84 project reviews. Specifically, the TAC recommended:

- Trish Holden (UCSB), Microbiology over Ali Boehm (Stanford)
- Jose (LMU), Environmental Engineer (could be brought in as an AD HOC member for Prop 84 Review)
- Eric Stein (SCCWRP), Freshwater Ecologist over Scott Cooper (UCSB)
- Libe Washburn (UCSB), Physical Geographer and Interdisciplinary Oceanography

Staff will include Santa Barbara, Orange County, and San Diego researchers in the search, but will not go outside of California. Staff will also look for ideas from places like the Clean Beaches Initiative Task Force Science Advisory body.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 14, 2012 at 9:30am in "The Hill" room (Malone 460C) on the LMU Campus.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm

