



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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MEETING OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Contact: Lia Protopapadakis (310-216-9826)

Thursday, June 3, 2010
9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Loyola Marymount University, North Hall 200

Note: *Public comments are italicized*; Action items are underlined

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

Rich convened the meeting at 9:40am. *Bill Paznokas (DFG) on the conference phone.*

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Agenda approved with no changes. Meeting minutes approved with minor corrections from Steve Bay.

3. Chair and Staff Reports

Chair report (Guangyu, Rich was unable to attend the Governing Board meeting): The Governing Board approved the three remaining Proposition 84 projects the TAC had reviewed in 2008. The State requested SMBRC to approve these projects, in anticipation of the release of funds. Staff plans to initiate another RFP with TAC review for a portion of the remaining \$14 million. The other portion will be directed to specific projects (may happen as early as the next TAC meeting). The Governing Board also approved a resolution to support the OPC policy on Marine Debris. AB 1998 (Brownley), to ban the use of single use plastic bags in many stores, passed the Assembly on June 2nd and is now headed to the Senate.

MRAC Chair report (Dan): At the May MRAC (formerly MTAC) meeting, the MRAC formally adopted its new name. They agreed to send a letter to the CA Fish and Game Commission addressing how the State's preferred MPA network falls short of the science guidelines and requested that the TAC sign the letter. They are still searching for a new socioeconomic member. Tom is now working with SMBRC and brought in a new grant from the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program to expand the kelp restoration project on Palos Verdes and incorporate commercial urchin fishermen. They are also discussing MPA monitoring and SMBRC is considering whether to submit a proposal.

The TAC recalled they had directed the MRAC to consider MPA monitoring. They suggest the MRAC consider the Adaptive Management requirements of the MLPA in the context of climate change, the potentially near-term inconclusive monitoring results, and the difficulty of testing network performance. Burt noted that the monitoring plan excludes

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values



oceanography, which is important in light of the expanding hypoxia in the North Pacific. This hypoxia appears to be driven by climactic conditions and is worsening with climate change. SCCOOS is now studying large-scale cycles of climate variability, all of which impact nearshore habitats (ex: kelp growth). The TAC also suggested the MRAC consider how to evaluate the MPAs, what should be in the monitoring proposals. Burt added that SCCOOS is interested in helping.

Staff report (Lia): Staff has had conversations with Fish and Game Commission staff about improving the Scientific Collection Permit application process. Karen noted that currently it is taking DFG 26 weeks to process her permit requests. They have a new approval process, but there are no guidelines. Rich added that they are now asking for information that is impossible to know, such as sex of the animal being removed. *Joe Gully noted that LACSD has 3 overlapping permits so they don't have a gap and added that they were pushing for an institutional permit.* Mas asked that staff continue to update the TAC on this issue. *Bill commented that he has reviewed some of these applications and thought they were very incomplete.*

4. Approve Dan Pondella's Rocky Reef Report: The Status of Nearshore Rocky Reefs in Santa Monica Bay

Rich noted the TAC gave Dan feedback on the draft report at the March meeting. Dan explained that the only substantial change made was the addition of a section at the end addressing next steps. Mas noted three typos. He moved to approve the Report with those corrections. Burt seconded the motion and the TAC approved Dan's report.

5. Discussion: Improving the analysis for the State of the Bay 2015 Report

The TAC chose to discuss improvements to the Habitat Assessment section under the Indicator Development item. They asked Lia to identify existing data streams that should continue to be used and note where staff thought improvements could be made for the next meeting. The group worked off Attachment 3 to go through the Focus: Water Quality section story by story: (* indicates data streams not used in SoBR 2010)

PATHOGENS & INDICATOR BACTERIA:

- Status updates on TMDLs in the Bay
- Number of samples exceeding TMDL samples in wet and dry weather
- Heal the Bay beach grades
- *Water quality monitoring at Ballona (Karina) and Malibu (Rich)
- *Recent epidemiological study (SCCWRP)
- *New state-sponsored storm water monitoring for metals, nutrients, and bacteria (<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/mywaterquality/>)
- *Include data for metals, nutrients, and dissolved oxygen from wetland monitoring (Ballona and Malibu), the state storm water monitoring.
- *Location of storm drains (baykeeper, Shelly Moore (SCCWRP))
- Continue monitoring sewage system overflows via annual reports of POTWs
- *Mussel watch data might provide a new data stream
- *Add harbors to report (Dave Caron)
- *Add open ocean/HABs to main report (Rebecca Shipe, UCLA for Santa Monica Pier and Dave for LA Harbor)
- *Add Contaminants of Emerging Concern to main report with new name. Possible data streams include NOAA's mussel watch study. LACSD and LA City are now monitoring their discharge streams (not bioaccumulation or impacts).

TRASH:

- Percent reduction based on trash capture devices installed
- *Percent reduction based on new trash generation/collection study
- *Improve data collection from LA County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors (LAC-DBH) regarding trash picked up from beaches
- *Reinstate measuring amount of trash removed from Ballona trash screen.
- *Trash collected from sea floor during trawls (SCCWRP and potentially LACSD and Hyperion)
- *State-wide study of beaches (ex: nurdles) and can track regional changes (SCCWRP)
- *Trash data base from all their coastal cleanups with more detail than Ocean Conservancy's annual coastal cleanup surveys (Heal the Bay)
- Coastal Cleanup Day annual report (Ocean Conservancy)
- *Intake screens from power plants, such as Southern California Edison, long term data series, but not all of it is digital (Eric)

WATER RESOURCES:

- Data streams used in West Basin and LA City's strategic plans should be easy to obtain, also reclaimed water from West Basin and LACSD (Earl Parting at LADWP)
- Rainfall and stream flow data can get at a water budget, evaporation is negligible during heavy flow (Burt)
- *Also can use pervious/impervious pavement, but rate of infiltration is difficult to assess.
- *For info and data on water movement in urban areas talk to John Wilson @ USC. Can also talk to Jean Pierre Bardie (sp?) about water distribution systems in LA.
- *Track rain barrel installation. Has gone beyond LA City demo project and sales at Home Depot and Lowes are taking off.

Due to time, the TAC tabled the remaining discussion about the Natural Resources Section until the next meeting.

6. Introduction: Status of data and indices for different habitats in the Santa Monica Bay

Guangyu gave a brief overview of the research on index development he did to create Attachment 4. The major issue overcome in the development of each index was identifying reference conditions. This was true for natural resource, water quality, and human benefit and value indicators (such as the Heal the Bay Beach Report Card).

7. Presentations and Discussion on Index Development:

The TAC received the following presentations: (More detailed notes on the presentations are included in the Appendix to these meeting minutes)

Joe Gully for Don Cadien (LACSD), Benthic Response Index: BRI is data intensive.

Data on invertebrate species and sediment toxicity used to define a pollution gradient and assign species a tolerance score. Sites classified for their health based on the species assemblages. The index is not easily transferable, and cannot be updated with new or returning species not found in original data.

Ken Schiff (SCCWRP), Freshwater Index: Biological species list is grouped into metrics and compared to a pollution gradient. The groups/metrics that show responses are scaled or weighted for separation and thresholds are statistically drawn. An index developed for algae and nutrients in streams using this method is not likely to be transferable to creeks with different hydrology.

Betty Fetscher (SCCWRP), CA Rapid Assessment Method: CRAM is a structured “Best Professional Judgement” method and is designed to be fast. It requires a very high level of expertise. However it is transferable to different habitat types and regions. It does not scale well (build for small areas) and there is variability between assessors.

Jim Allen (ECORP), Fish Response Index: FRI was modeled after the BRI, but is based on Fish Guilds. It is limited by the definition of its reference sites (best and worse in the Santa Monica Bay at the time) and corresponds with BRI.

Rich Ambrose, rocky intertidal indicators: The MARINE group has tried to develop an index for rocky intertidal systems using a CRAM-style approach without success. They are currently trying again using a “best professional judgment” approach. So far, they have found relative agreement at the extreme ends of the spectrum, and disagreement in the middle. Almost everyone ignored a large amount of the data. Disturbance was defined differently and was difficult to observe in the data.

Dan Pondella, rocky reef indicators: The assessment of rocky reefs used in the State of the Bay Report uses Jim Allen’s fish guild model and is based on fish density, fidelity, and average size. It is transferable to different areas because fish guilds have been identified for all California habitats. It works with any sampling method that gives an estimate for density.

Karen Martin, sandy beach indicators: Very little data has been collected in this habitat. Beaches are heavily impacted and identifying undisturbed sites maybe challenging.

8. Discussion on Index Development in the context of the SMBRC

The TAC did a quick rundown of the different habitats for which indexes have yet to be developed and how SMBRC would best be involved.

- * SMBRC could play a big role in developing an index for Sandy Beaches;
- * Soft Bottom is in good shape, but could use better collection and workup. 30 sites minimum would improve the analysis. Also potential for regional surveys;
- * The IBI and CRAM for Fresh Water systems could be adapted for improved accuracy in the Bay watershed;
- * Rocky Reef index needs to have the reference and thresholds sorted out;
- * MARINE is still working on a Rocky Intertidal index, but they have no more money to collect data. They used to sample every 5 years. Possible to fund new data collection through MS4 permits? Also, they only had 3-4 sites in the Bay, but we’d need many more to say something about this habitat in the Bay.
- * Sea grass beds, dunes and bluffs, and the open ocean habitats will all be discussed at the next meeting. Staff will discuss the possibility for open ocean index with Burt and Dave before the next meeting.

9. Communications (Members may discuss correspondence or other Committee responsibilities.)

There was none.

10. Public Comment (This need not be related to any item on the agenda. *Remarks are limited to three (3) minutes.*)

There was none.

11. Adjourn. Rich adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.

Attendance

	<u>TAC Members</u>	<u>Staff Members</u>	<u>Public Participants</u>
x	Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Lia Protopapadakis	Sarah Sikich (HtB)
x	Steve Bay (Chair)	Guangyu Wang	Jim Allen (ECOrp Consulting)
x	Dave Caron	Tom Ford	Eric Miller (MCB)
	Rainer Hoenicke	Shelley Luce	Phil Markle (LACSD)
x	Mas Dojiri		Joe Gully (LACSD)
	Linda Fernandez		Clayton Yoshida (LADWP)
	Jenny Jay		Sean Anderson (CSU-CI)
x	Burt Jones		Ken Schiff (SCCWRP)
x	Karen Martin		Betty Fetcher (SCCWRP)
x	Dan Pondella		Rachel Kennisin (UCLA)