



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Vice Chair Bay called the meeting to order on June 24, 2013 at 9:50 am at ECC 1857, University Hall, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

#### *TAC Members*

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rich Ambrose (Chair)   | Absent                             |
| Steve Bay (Vice Chair) | Present                            |
| Gerry McGowen          | Present (alternate for Mas Dojiri) |
| John Dorsey            | Present                            |
| Rainer Hoenicke        | Present                            |
| Karen Martin           | Present                            |
| Dan Pondella           | Absent                             |
| Eric Stein             | Present                            |

#### *Staff Present*

Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager      Jack Topel, Project Director  
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director

#### *Members of the Public*

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kathy Knight (BEEP)        | Eric Miller (MBC)             |
| John Dettle (Torrance)     | Tim Pershing (Asm. Bloom D50) |
| Jon Ball (City of LA, WPD) | Daniel Loo (City of LA)       |

### PUBLIC FORUM

Kathy Knight from the Ballona Ecosystem Education Project (BEEP) spoke against using bulldozers to restore the Ballona Wetlands and the Annenberg development.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Order of the Agenda. Approved with no changes
- Approval of Meeting Minutes. Approved with minor edits.
- Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

*Report.* Guangyu gave the report from the Governing Board (GB). The GB had a lively discussion on the Water Quality section of the Bay Restoration Plan Update, especially in relation to the role that the SMBRC will play in the new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. The GB elected a new vice chair and executive committee member, Susan Nissman.

*Discussion.* There was discussion about the role the SMBRC could play in coordinating the regional groups of cities that are forming to develop Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMP), following the Regional Board's new optional program under the new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. The TAC suggested that the SMBRC could play a role coordinating across the different regional groups forming in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. As the cost of monitoring is a big concern, another role the SMBRC could play would be to assist in developing monitoring frameworks that fulfill the requirements of the regional board and meet the needs of the State of the Bay Report while eliminating duplication of effort and generating cost savings. It may also be possible to loop the storm water monitoring coalition in. Guangyu will follow up with Eric Stein.

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*Public Comment.* Perhaps the TAC could have a role reviewing the Engineered Waste Management Plans (EWMPs).

- d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*)

*Report.* Rainer announced his official move from the San Francisco Estuary Institute to the new state agency, the Delta Stewardship Council, which was designed to replace CalFed but with regulatory implications. He will be particularly focused on Low Impact Development (LID) success as it relates to water conservation and water supply and is looking toward southern California as an example of LID retrofit activity.

## AGENDA ITEM 4. Review Monitoring Plans for Projects Funded under Proposition 84

- a. City of Torrance, Stormwater Basin

*Presentation.* John Dettle briefly presented on the low flow diversion project planned in the City of Torrance. Three natural sumps had been converted into drainage basins that lead to the Herondo storm drain. The current drainage overwhelms the capacity of the Herondo drain low flow diversion system. The project will construct berms around the outlets of these drainage basins to capture small storm events and infiltrate or reuse the water onsite. This will reduce the volume of water entering the system and thereby reduce the number of exceedance days.

Because the project goal is to address TMDL exceedances, the monitoring plan focuses on the TMDL's in place; in this case bacteria, suspended solids, and grease. Trash will be measured at the city yard after street sweepings and visually in the basins, but is outside the scope of the project. The monitoring plan calls for water sampling twice in the summer and twice in the winter for one year. They have written a grant proposal to extend monitoring for 3 years; it is being reviewed.

*Discussion.* The TAC recommended the following:

- Make the connection between the project goals and what is reported clearer and give more detail in the description of what will be included in the annual report. Right now there is no clear articulation of how to judge success. The monitoring plan needs to relate the questions being asked to the project goals and to the analysis. It would be nice to see a comparison of bacteria counts to demonstrate a quantifiable reduction in bacteria density.
- Find a way to measure flow rates. These can be compared to the values calculated in the project design. It would be helpful to know the volume of each storm, the retention time in the basin, the volume captured by the basin. It may be possible to extract flow rates from the low flow diversion during low flow periods. Talk with LA County flood control district, they may have an interest in helping with this effort.
- Consider the inclusion of a monitoring station at the beach near the drain outlet to see if the project has made a measureable impact on the receiving water body. LA City is no longer monitoring stations outside of the City of LA. It may be useful to establish sampling sites near the drain to compare exceedances per storm size. The major challenge with this is that the drain is close to the breakwater. The animal presence on the breakwater may alter the beach bacteria counts.
- Enter data in CEDEN or SWAMP.

They also discussed the value of collecting samples at regular intervals throughout a storm rather than a single grab. Different parts of the storm are informative about different constituents. Toxins are more prevalent in the earlier part of the storm, while bacteria build at the end. They also mentioned the importance of including education and outreach material that discusses stormwater management and the role it plays in beach water quality.

Jack will forward an updated plan to the TAC for a second review.

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*Public Comment.* Taken in the course of the discussion.

b. City of Los Angeles – University Park Rain Gardens

*Presentation.* Daniel Loo from the City of Los Angeles briefly presented on the project to build 35 rain gardens in a 209 acre drainage around the University Park Campus. The gardens are designed to capture runoff from ¾” storm and are based on standard plans for “vegetated stormwater curb extensions”. They plan to sample 5 stations, but have not settled on which 5 sites yet. They are targeting bacteria and metals.

*Discussion.* The TAC recommended the following:

- Select monitoring sites based on land use as the criteria (commercial, residential, industrial) and feasibility.
- Add pesticides, pyrethroids, and organics to the constituents measured. Organics are an important contaminant in Ballona Creek.
- Collect flow data. This will validate the design by answering the question: did the garden accommodate runoff as designed? This could be done by building a flow meter into the 5 stations being monitored. Or more labor intensive but cheaper monitoring could be applied through the connection with USC. These methods include measuring the change in water level using water level sensors, estimating gutter flow and comparing areas with and without the rain gardens using the volume captured over time. Students could also do controlled experiments with known volumes of water.
- Include dry and wet weather sampling. It is important to know what volume is captured at each time, what contaminants are reduced.
- Add data to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) databases. Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) can work with the City of LA on how.

Jack will forward an updated plan to the TAC for a second review.

*Public Comment.* Taken in the course of the discussion.

## AGENDA ITEM 5. State of the Bay Report 2015

*Presentation.* Lia presented a list of the proposed stories that had been organized into sections of the report and opened the topic up for discussion.

*Discussion.* The TAC discussed the list. The discussion resulted in the below rough outline. Lia will refine the list and bring it back to the TAC at the next meeting for a discussion on data and indicators.

Introduction Themes:

- Efforts have shifted from planning and development to implementation. Examples include Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), beach habitat monitoring, climate change adaptation, once through cooling, and watershed planning related to stormwater.
- Greater emphasis has been placed on collaboration.
- Concept of sustainability is much more commonplace now.

Habitat Health Assessments. The TAC didn't discuss this in much detail but noted a few additional sources of data.

Water Resources:

- Water supply and water use: report on the change in water use patterns, water conservation and LID projects.
- Existing water quality programs: TMDLs (trash), rapid bacteria indicators development, source identification

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- New water quality programs: nutrients, current use pesticides, harmful algal blooms

## Natural Resources:

- Threats: sediment management and beach health (sediment budget report and management plan, broad beach story, Rindge dam story, San Pedro slides, managed retreat and adaptive management, climate change link, existing armoring, inundation maps, OPC predictive report); HABs monitoring network; invasive species (mudsnails, marine-talk to Los Angeles Waterkeeper, crayfish and interaction with mudsnails)
- Habitat Restoration: Malibu lagoon; Ballona wetlands (4 years of monitoring data, historical ecology report as tool for planning or assessment backdrop?); Prop 50 projects (Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy cliff & dune restoration); Kelp restoration (urchin gonad study)
- Habitat Protection: MPA implementation & a few years of monitoring (aerial surveys, Cooperative Research and Assessment of Nearshore Ecosystems (CRANE), side bar on climate change impacts); Santa Monica Bay fishing closure (squid, lobster, state of fishing in the Bay); watershed wide impacts of open space? (usage? Water quality? Carbon?)
- Species: Green abalone restoration (genetics paper, testing for withering disease, pilot study, sidebar on ocean acidification); Halibut management (stock assessment, data collection, sexing); lobster management (stock assessment, data collection, Fishery Management Plan (FMP)); white seabass restocking program (LA specific data from Hubbs?); whale sightings (greys, blues, killers, etc); sea lion mortality event; sea otter relocation program terminated?; tern and plover nesting site updates?; grunion update? Species of interest table update

## Benefits and Values:

- Fish contamination update (synthesis report with comparison of LA to other areas, white croaker movement study, update on Palos Verdes shelf site);
- Boater survey of pumpout usage & statewide study of boating activity (2007-2010)
- Value of habitats studies (venice beach--Tom has info. Also, despite all the human use venice has a tern colony and grunion runs. See also, Linwood Pendleton's reports)

## Looking Ahead:

- Track progress from last time
- Climate change and how it relates to invasive species, novel ecosystems, and MPAs
- Ocean acidification (develop appropriate monitoring networks, like the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), upwelling makes the Bay vulnerable)
- Cyanotoxin in streams
- Community based monitoring and tracking of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the regional scale as it relates to prospective new policies and changing regulatory landscapes
- Once through cooling, closing of San Onofre
- More concentrated influent at Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) because of increased water conservation

*Public Comment.* Taken in the course of discussion.

## AGENDA ITEM 5. Bay Restoration Plan Update

This item will be discussed during a special meeting to be held on July 1.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on September 23. Location to be determined.

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