



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
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THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Contact: Guangyu Wang, 231-576-6639 or gwang@waterboards.ca.gov

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Ambrose called the meeting to order on June 29, 2015 at 9:43 am in Pereira 128, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

ATTENDANCE

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Present
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri	Present
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Absent
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Present (left at 11:30 am)
Eric Stein	Present

Staff Present

Lia Protopapadakis, TAC Coordinator
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director

Members of the Public

Alex Steele, LACSD
Laura Nunez, MBC

PUBLIC FORUM

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Order of the Agenda.* Approved with no changes.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes.* None
- Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff*

Chair Report. The chair had nothing to report.

Subcommittee Report. No MRAC chair report.

Staff Report. Lia informed the Committee that she will be leaving in August for doctoral program.

Wang reported that the Governing Board approved the 2016 annual work plan. Most of the plan tasks are carried over from previous year, except for some new items related to climate change, which were required by EPA to evaluate how the BRP will be impacted by climate change (temperature, hydrologic regime, sea level rise, ocean acidification, etc. He envisioned TAC involvement in this evaluation. Wang also reported that some money are left in Prop. 84 and SWRCB wants this to be spent. We will issue a RFP in November.

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Wang also described the new effort to make a very clear distinction between the Commission, the Foundation, and the JPA. This includes description in the work plan, which refers all three organizations collectively as the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program.

Eric commented observed that Wetland Recovery Project is engaging in similar climate change impact vulnerability assessment and recommended coordinating with similar regional groups. Steve requested that the TAC be involved in developing the RFP for Prop. 84 funding and TAC should approve projects that are designed with the monitoring activities in mind and recommended writing this into the RFP. Primary question is whether these projects do impact receiving water quality. With the EWMPs they should be able to coordinate projects in a way that can meet receiving water criteria and monitor the projects to demonstrate effectiveness.

Wang reported progress on State of the Bay Conference Planning – 1 session in morning, 2 sessions in afternoon. One of the afternoon sessions will be a panel discussion. General idea is to touch on existing, new and emerging issues, while making room for presentations on some of the stories highlighted in the State of the Bay Report without being repetitive. The State of the Bay report will be presented at morning plenary session, which will help people figure out what sessions they want to go to. Intertwine what the State of the Bay found and what the sessions are about. The plenary panel at the end is still being developed. Opportunity to do some wrap up from the breakout sessions.

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

AGENDA ITEM 4: Presentation: Monitoring proposal for the City of Los Angeles's one-mile outfall diversion

Mas gave the presentation. During the diversion, effluent will be diverted from 5-mile outfall with extensive diffusing system to 1-mile outfall with less diffusion. He mentioned that 90% probability of potential for impact sites range from Venice to Redondo Beach. Limited to 20-25 stations in a day/ 120 possible stations. Drifter will be used to detect directions of currents. The City will use this info to select stations and track the plume daily. Key parameters to be measured include DOM, a certain type of phosphorous, and satellite images of backscatter to track difference in surface tension that has a slick appearance. SCCOOS will be hosting a webpage with real-time and near real-time data, primarily established for the scientists, which is private. The public version of the website will be more static.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion: Habitat Assessment Discussion

The following comments or points were made during the discussion:

- Confidence Level. Conflation between two sources of potential uncertainty - BPJ confidence or amount of data. Separating will be better.
- Indicators cover full range of things in category.
- Not all indicators should be weighted equally. Indicators with established thresholds should be weighted higher. If use separate weighting then need to show this in the table.
- Extent and Vulnerability – Extent is still important even if it appears as if it will be stable for a very long time. As for vulnerability, if only a small amount remains, vulnerability is still much bigger deal.
- Soft bottom benthos – should have an extent indicator, i.e. size of habitat relative to

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- predevelopment. There are also possible changes related to artificial reef construction.
- Extent & vulnerability should be separate subcategories? If it is not possible for a habitat, will leave it blank.
- Should 4 subcategories be scored or the 2 main categories be scored? The answer is yes because it might be easier to come up with overall score if have 4 to work with than just 2.
- Should have separate column for uncertainty for each of the four categories and be more explicit about it and about the source? The answer is yes. Column can describe the uncertainty for each indicator, and an indicator of the uncertainty for the overall subcategory score.
- Three approaches could be used to address spatial issue when most habitats have 2 regions, some have 3, and some have 1, and data are not equally available.
 - o Approach 1: weight equally or by extent. Pie chart could be used to describe the score for the entire Bay.
 - o Approach 2: regional range describes range of the score.
 - o Approach 3: pie chart to describe variation. This artificially quantifies the regions and is misleading.
- The following rules should be used to combine indicators into subcategory score:
 - o If 100% of indicators are good, Score is excellent.
 - o If 100% of indicators are poor, score is critical
 - o If 100% of indicators are fair, score is fair.
 - o Ignore no scores, but will factor into uncertainty of assessment.
 - o If mix of scores for indicators.
- When combining trends into subcategory trend, if a trend is clear but not clear what the trend means, don't indicate the trend, but discuss specifics. Also, send to TAC for review for those with uncertainty,.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion: Articles for the State of the Bay Report

Revisions recommendations were made by members for six articles. Major recommendations are summarized below.

MPA Story

- Include map of MPAs. Needed some editorial work.
- MPAs in SMB, 1st paragraph is odd. Function should be to relate how SMB MPAs relate to other MPAs in southern California.
- A lot of opinion in the article. Shouldn't discuss data until there are data in So Cal. Monitoring should yield interesting data in the future.
- Don't use term "underwater parks"
- Could include info from lighthawk, which can show if people respect MPAs and how usage has changed inside and outside.

Cyanotoxin Story

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- Need to replace data and make more descriptive due to change in publication timing

Santa Monica Mountains Story

- Many unsubstantiated assertions in the 3rd paragraph need to be revised
- Need a map that shows development in the last 5 years, either current land use or designated land use.
- Mention forums for regional collaboration.
- Should also mention projects we've funded (arundo removal, stream restoration) and others we've liked to do (Rindge Dam)
- Keep focus on management changes.

Water Supply and Use: One water

- The article needs to be focused on water supply, including practices to encourage water conservation, reclaimed water, and groundwater recharge.
- Don't mention cleaning aquifer.
- Articles on lessons learned from Australia. Melbourne was able to do a lot of stuff because they had one agency that did all the things that LA City has 3 agencies to do (potable water, stormwater, wastewater treatment).
- Grey water is more of a contender. City council is considering policy for grey water use. Add to looking ahead paragraph.
- MTBE as a groundwater issue should be included because need to use groundwater. Move to looking ahead paragraph. Add desalination.
- Add note about Hyperion not being all the recycling LA City is doing.
- More emphasis on problem created by more concentrated effluent.

Trash TMDL

- Identify which categories were not identified in the stream data and vice versa. (Disposable tableware, straws, stirrers, cigar tips) and where categories overlap imperfectly (caps, paper bags).
- Combine and further simplify categories, where not perfectly aligned, as follows:
 - o Food associated stuff
 - o Smoking associated stuff
 - o Plastic bottles
 - o Plastic bags

Climate Change article

- Better to highlight that it is an important issue and discuss the plans in the future planning and studies in the Bay in the overview section.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: State of the Bay Conference, Wednesday, September 9, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

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