Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Accomplishments and Challenges

2012
2012 Scope of Tasks

- Wetlands and coastal riparian habitats restoration
- Green neighborhoods programs
- Marine habitats protection and restoration
- Outreach
- Planning and policy development
Ballona Wetlands restoration project enters the environmental planning stages

Malibu Lagoon restoration is underway!
The 2nd Annual Wetland Research Symposium
Ballona Wetlands monitoring and outreach – engaging local residents and students
Bond-funded LID Projects

- City of Torrance storm water detention basin
- Manhattan Beach green belt park project
- City of Inglewood trash capturing devices installation
- City of Los Angeles University Park Rain Gardens
- City of Santa Monica In-line Storm Drain Treatment and Infiltration Pilot project
- City of Calabasas Catch Basin Trash Inserts
- County of Los Angeles Oxford Basin enhancement project.
• LightHawk aerial survey to map the boats operating in coastal waters in Southern California
- Kelp restoration – continuing and expanding
- Abalone and halibut research – Applying scientific knowledge to help recovery of these iconic species
Public Outreach

- Boater Education Program
- Restaurant Certification Program
Technical Studies

- Ballona Watershed Hydrology Study
- Wetlands Climate Change Impacts Study
Tasks recommended by WAC

- Compilation and outreach of cost-benefit information on storm water pollution reduction – on hold pending the MS4 permit timeline
- Further promote the Clean Bay Restaurant certification Program – in progress
- Promote outreach and monitoring of beach ecology – in progress
- Disseminate fish die-off and HAB information – on hold due to loss of TAC members
- Explore new rocky reef restoration with the use of natural material – in progress through exploring the use of Rindge dam demolition material
- Enhance boater education program – in progress
- Explore formation of monitoring coalition – in progress with obstacles
- Improve BRP progress tracking and reporting – in progress through the updating process.
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan Update

2008–2013

Watershed Advisory Council Meeting

February 13, 2013
Background

- 1995 first Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) approved by the US EPA
  - Identified 250 actions
  - 74 priority actions
  - Partially updated in 2002

- Progress reports:
  - BRP Checkup report completed in 2008

- 2008 first major BRP update completed
  - 14 Goals in 3 Priority Areas
  - 60 Objectives
  - 170 Milestones
2008 BRP

Plan Organization - Three Key Priority Areas:

» Water Quality
» Natural Resources
» Benefits and Values to People
Plan Organization

Plan’s structure:

- Priority Areas
  - Overarching Goals
    - Specific Actionable Objectives
      - Action Items/Milestones
The 2008 BRP Update
I. Water Quality

- Goal # 1: Improve water quality through treatment or elimination of pollutant discharges regulated under the current federal and state regulatory framework
- Goal # 2: Improve water quality through pollution prevention and source control
- Goal #3: Address Potential Impacts of Emerging Contaminants
Water Quality

- Help to achieve TMDL compliance
- Improve storm water quality through LID and green infrastructure
- Reduce trash through public education and restricting the use of plastic products etc.
- Eliminate pollution from septic systems
- Eliminate impacts of water intake from coastal power plants
- Address potential impacts of emerging contaminants
The 2008 BRP Update

II. Natural Resources

- Goal #4: Create/ support policies and programs to protect natural resources
- Goal #5: Acquire land for preservation of habitat and ecological services
- Goal #6: Manage invasive species
- Goal #7: Restore wetlands, streams and riparian zones
- Goal #8: Restore coastal bluffs, dunes, and sandy beaches
- Goal #9: Restore intertidal and subtidal habitats
- Goal #10: Protect and restore open ocean and deep water habitats
Natural Resources

- Establish Marine Protected Areas
- Restore wetlands and streams
- Restore coastal bluffs, dunes and sandy beaches
- Restore intertidal and subtidal (kelp) habitats
- Protect and restore open and deep ocean habitats
- Acquire lands for open space/habitat protection
- Manage invasive species
The 2008 BRP Update

III. Benefits and Values to People

- Goal #11: Protect Public Health
- Goal #12: Maintain/increase natural flood protection through ecologically functioning floodplains and wetlands
- Goal #13: Increase public access to beaches and open space
- Goal #14: Conserve water and increase local water supply
Benefits and Values to Humans

- Protect public health
  - Achieve zero beach closure and posting
  - Communicate seafood consumption risk to the public
- Maintain/increase natural flood protection through ecologically functioning infiltration, floodplains and wetlands
- Increase public access to beaches and open space.
- Conserve water and increase local water supply
Status of BRP Implementation
2008-2012

» 31 milestones achieved
» 114 milestones still in progress
» 25 milestones uninitiated
Accomplishments

Water Quality

» State policy established to phase out once-through cooling of coastal power generation stations
» New municipal storm water permit adopted with more requirements/incentives for LID implementation
» County-wide storm water funding initiative developed
» Septic prohibition enacted for the Malibu Civic Center area
» Malibu Legacy Park project completed
Accomplishments

- **Natural Resources**
  - Marine Protected Areas established in Santa Monica Bay
  - Historical ecology and hydrology studies for the Ballona Creek watershed completed.
  - Land in Corral Canyon area acquired for habitat protection
  - CEQA/NEPA process for Ballona Wetlands restoration started
  - Malibu Lagoon restoration near completion
  - Oxford Basin restoration is moving forward
  - More kelp habitats restored
Accomplishments

- **Benefits and Values to Humans**
  - More dry-weather diversion projects implemented
  - New fish consumption advisory issued and new peer signage installed
  - Ballona Creek Greenway plan completed and new greenway projects implemented
Remaining and New Challenges

- TMDL and MS4 permit implementation/compliance
- Significant reduction in storm water (wet-weather) pollution
- Implementation of green solution/LID approach
- Septic system management
- Emerging contaminants
Remaining and New Challenges

- Wetland and stream restoration
- MPA enforcement and monitoring
- Intertidal and nearshore habitats protection
- Decline of fishery resources
- Control of invasive species
- Remediation of historical DDT contamination
Remaining and New Challenges

- Reliable pathogen indicators
- Open space in urbanized areas and open space access
- Climate change adaptation
Your Input is Needed

- Receive and incorporate input from WAC
- Revise the BRP and solicit public comments
- Develop final draft for approval by the Governing Board
Breakout Session

- Group 1 – Water Quality
- Group 2 – Natural Resources
- Group 3 – Benefits and Values to Humans