

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



Bay Restoration Plan

The comprehensive plan of action for protecting and restoring Santa Monica Bay, known as the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP), was approved by the State of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1995 and updated in 2008. The BRP includes goals, objectives, and milestones that guide Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) restoration programs and projects in three priority areas: water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans. The BRP also identifies the responsible lead and partner entities, and the roles of the SMBRC in supporting, promoting, and implementing Bay restoration work.

Actions identified in the BRP have improved the environmental quality of the Bay, but full recovery of the Bay is far from certain. Steady and long-term efforts along with consistent funding are necessary to ensure that SMBRC realizes the BRP's goal of a healthy and restored Santa Monica Bay.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

The SMBRC is a non-regulatory, locally-based state entity established by an act of the California Legislature in 2002. The SMBRC is charged with overseeing and promoting the Bay Restoration Plan by securing and leveraging funding to put solutions into action, building public-private partnerships, promoting cutting-edge research and technology, facilitating stakeholder-driven consensus processes, and raising public awareness.

The SMBRC brings together local, state, and federal agencies, environmental groups, businesses, scientists, and members of the public on its 35-member Governing Board. Watershed stakeholders are also represented on the SMBRC's two main advisory bodies: the Watershed Advisory Council and the Technical Advisory Committee. The SMBRC, along with its non-profit partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF), is a member of the EPA's National Estuary Program.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

The SMBRF is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990. The purpose of the Foundation is to contribute to the restoration and enhancement of the Santa Monica Bay and other coastal waters and to complement the work of the SMBRC, with a focus on obtaining and expending funds not otherwise available to the SMBRC.

Sailing in Santa Monica Photo: SMBRC



Letter From the Director

The year 2011 has been a very rewarding year. We continue to make progress toward the goals and objectives of the Bay Restoration Plan.

A Better Bay. We completed the Ballona Rain Gardens, the first and largest capital construction directly overseen by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF), and installed nearly 500 rain barrels and two residential rain gardens in our popular Culver City Rainwater Harvesting program. Our marine team removed urchins from over-populated reefs and restored healthy kelp forests. The Boater Education Program expanded Honey Pot Day, giving free mobile sewage pump-out services to boaters, and picked up trash in Marina del Rey with our largest in-water coastal clean-up ever. We certified Clean Bay Restaurants that met stormwater requirements and let their customers know about it, helping to inform consumers' green choices. And much more - read on!

Better Communications. Our activities this year challenged us to more effectively reach out to the public about our work. We recognize that long-term projects, such as restoring Malibu Lagoon and Ballona Wetlands, require a strong commitment to stakeholder education. We continually promote an understanding of wetland ecological processes that are critical to our communities' health and well-being. We do this through science reporting at public workshops, websites, newsletters, and activities for kids and adults

on site, and we are proud to say that it is working, as support for full ecological restoration builds throughout the watershed.

Better Governance. In 2011, we established new policies and procedures to respond to public input and inquiries. We amended the SMBRC's membership and operating procedures, and further clarified the roles of our Governing Board and advisory committees. We unveiled a new website (www.smbrc.ca.gov) to streamline access to documents and information. We are planning new workshops and other mechanisms for getting public input on the BRP and annual work plans. As a State Commission and a National Estuary Program, we remain committed to serving and educating our stakeholders as we restore the habitats and health of the Santa Monica Bay.

Sincerely,



Shelley L. Luce, D. Env.
Executive Director

Collecting sea urchins. Photo: SMBRC





Wetlands and Coastal Habitats

Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program A two-year comprehensive biological, physical, and chemical assessment of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER). *First-year surveys and report and second-year surveys completed.*

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning A multi-year program with the Department of Fish and Game and State Coastal Conservancy partners, to prepare technical studies, engineering plans, CEQA/NEPA documents and permit applications for this important regional wetland restoration project. *On-going.*

Ballona Creek Watershed Historical Ecology and Ballona Water Budget Studies of the historical conditions and changes to the landscape and ecology of the Ballona Creek watershed, including an assessment of present-day water sources and uses. *Completed.*

Ballona Wetlands Outreach A wide variety of outreach activities including monthly Open Houses, Farmer's Markets, nature tours, bird walks, and more. *On-going.*

Stone Creek Restoration A monthly community restoration and education program on this tributary to Ballona Creek, on the UCLA campus adjacent to an elementary school. *On-going.*

Malibu Lagoon Restoration Public education and outreach about the restoration plan, and preparation for implementation in summer 2012. *On-going.*

Mudsnail Survey An annual survey of New Zealand mudsnails, tracking this invasive species in streams throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. *On-going.*

Green Neighborhoods

Ballona Creek Rain Gardens A project funded under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the rain gardens collect and treat storm water runoff from 22.5 acres of commercial, industrial, and residential development along the Ballona Creek. *Completed.*

Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program A neighborhood program to install rain barrels and rain gardens that conserve water and beautify neighborhoods. *Completed.*

Proposition 84 Grant Program 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. *On-going.*

Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program Partnering with watershed cities to give Clean Bay Certification to local restaurants that comply with stormwater permit requirements and the program's pollution prevention practices. *On-going and expanding.*

Ocean

Marine Protected Area Outreach Outreach efforts including testimony at the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) public meetings, comments on the Marine Protected Area (MPA) monitoring plan, and developing outreach material about new MPA network. *On-going.*

Sea Urchin Gonad Index development Partnered with California Sea Grant to develop and apply a sea urchin gonad index assess relative primary, secondary and tertiary production values across Santa Monica Bay reefs. *Completed.*

Green Abalone Genetic Study Partnering with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to define extent of populations of green abalone in southern California and inform restoration plans for the species. *Completed.*

Eelgrass Restoration Partnering with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and others to plan survey, assessment, and restoration of eelgrass bed in Santa Monica Bay. *On-going.*

Kelp Forests Restoration Partnering with NMFS, Santa Monica Baykeeper, Vantuna Research Group, and California Science Center on kelp forest

restoration off Long Point, Palos Verdes, and planning a new rocky reef habitat restoration program in the Palos Verdes area. *On-going and expanding.*

Sustainable Local Fisheries Partnering with Cal State University Dominguez Hills and local commercial fishermen to develop local markets for the Santa Monica Bay. *On-going.*

Halibut Study Partnering with Marina Del Rey Anglers and DFG to develop low-cost strategies to study halibut in Santa Monica Bay to improve management of this species. *New.*

Outreach

PIE Five Round 9 PIE projects including the City of Manhattan Beach's Drought Tolerant Garden Demo project, South Bay Surfrider's Waste Characterization Study project, Marina del Rey Angler's Youth Fishing and Environmental Education program, the County of Los Angeles (Department of Beaches and Harbors)'s Clean Harbors program; and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' SEA Lab Plankton or Plastic program. *Completed.*

Boater Education Program A multi-faceted program including publication of the Southern California Boater's Guide, a statewide Motorized Boater Survey, expanded Honey Pot Day program, and management of the statewide boating education and outreach efforts. *On-going.*

Coastal Cleanup Day Annual kayak clean up in Marina del Rey coordinated by SMBRC staff. *On-going.*

Planning and Policy Development

Financial Strategy Development An SMBRF program to develop a financial action plan to diversify funding sources. *On-going.*

SMBRC Governing Structure Amendment of the SMBRC governance structure to streamline and improve SMBRC procedures. *Completed.*

Habitat Health Index Development Collaborating with UCLA, SCCWRP, University of Southern California (USC), and Pepperdine University to develop habitat health indices for major habitats in the Bay. *On-going*

Coordinated Monitoring Program for Southern California Estuarine Wetlands Partnering with EPA Wetlands Program to develop and expand a site-specific, coordinated monitoring program for Southern California estuarine wetlands. *On-going.*

Climate Ready Estuary Program Modeling and analysis of climate change impacts including sea level rise and rainfall patterns on Ballona Wetlands and Ballona Creek watershed. *Complete.*

BRP Implementation Tracking Developing an integrated Access database to track progress and generate reports on objectives and milestones of the BRP. *Completed.*

Association of National Estuary Programs Directors Annual Meeting Hosted the annual Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) Director and Administrator meeting. *Completed.*

Largest volunteer turnout for Marina del Rey Kayak Cleanup Photo: S. Woodard





Surveying Invertebrates in the BWER Photo: K. Johnston

Ballona Wetlands: We Know Better, and It Counts

The Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program is a multi-year effort to assess the condition of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER), inform the state's wetland restoration planning, and develop baseline information and data to assist long-term and regional monitoring programs. It includes protocol development with scientific review, coordination with regional restoration programs, implementation of assessment protocols, data analysis and reporting, and external scientific review. Results were analyzed based on habitat types determined by the California Department of Fish and Game in 2007.

Results of the first-year survey are reported in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Baseline Assessment Program: 2009-2010 Report. Each of the 12 chapters includes the goals of the assessment program for that component of the study, summaries of previous studies of the BWER, detailed methods used in the Baseline Assessment Program surveys, and results. The report is available for download on SMBRC's website: www.ballonarestoration.org, under "Project Documents".

Surveys showed that non-native plant species dominated the majority of the upland habitats at Ballona Wetlands (e.g. grassland and scrub habitats), and that native plant species dominated the lower marsh systems. While the surveys identified lower fish species richness than other southern California salt marsh systems, they showed the presence of several fish species common to salt marsh system (e.g. California killifish, arrow goby, and Pacific staghorn sculpin). Surveys found 154 bird species, 13 mammal species, and 8 herpetofauna species.

In September 2011, SMBRC completed the second year of comprehensive biological, physical, and chemical surveys including flying and terrestrial invertebrates, vegetation, large and small mammals, targeted vole surveys, water quality, fish, cross-section channel physical surveys, and roadkill surveys. The third year survey is underway and will transition from the intensive comprehensive baseline surveys to a long-term monitoring program.

Coordinated Wetland Monitoring in Southern California

Monitoring and assessment strategies developed by the State of California and EPA universally call for coordinated and consistent approaches to monitoring and assessment. Intensive assessment methods provide information on ecological function and process, are more diagnostic of restoration performance and regulatory compliance, and are important as a validation measure for rapid assessment methods. The wetlands monitoring program will address these issues by expanding to include additional reference sites on a regional scale.

Beginning October 2011, an EPA Wetlands Program Development Grant will allow the SMBRC to lead wetland scientists throughout the region in the development and expansion of a site-specific Level 3 coordinated monitoring program for Southern California estuarine wetlands. Data collected from multiple wetlands in Southern California will help establish standard monitoring protocols and evaluate rapid assessment methods, all for the purpose of achieving coordinated and consistent wetlands monitoring throughout the region.

New Zealand Mudsnail – A Bigger Challenge Ahead

The New Zealand mudsnail is one of the many aquatic invasive species that have been introduced to the Santa Monica Bay watershed over the years. This mudsnail invader may likely impact the food chain for endangered southern steelhead trout, as well as impact the physical characteristics of our streams themselves. The SMBRC has been monitoring the spread of this aquatic invasive since 2006. Staff completed the 2011 survey in August, and the results were disappointing. Out of twenty-two streams surveyed, thirteen have been invaded by the mudsnail, including two new streams: Zuma Creek and Liberty Canyon Creek. Additionally, Cold Creek, formerly one of the most pristine creeks in the watershed, has seen an explosion in mudsnail abundance. The full 2011 survey report will be available in early 2012. Visit www.mudsnails.com for information on what is being done to combat this aquatic pest and how you can help prevent their spread.

Motion sensor cameras track wildlife in the BWER. Photo: K. Johnston



New Zealand mudsnails. Photo: J. Topel





Once an Eyesore, Now a Beautiful Rain Garden

Some people see the trashy, overgrown, decrepit rights-of-way along the banks of Ballona Creek as a wasteland and health hazard, but we saw an opportunity. Those unused areas could be used to grow native plants and treat stormwater before it flows into Ballona Creek from surrounding areas. SMBRC created a vision of the Ballona Creek Low Impact Development (LID) Rain Gardens, and received funding from the ARRA and the State Water Resources Control Board, to make it a reality.

Now the completed Rain Gardens collect water from 11.1 acres of commercial and industrial properties along Jefferson Blvd, and from 11.4 acres of a residential neighborhood on Jackson Ave and Revere Place in Culver City.

SMBRC reached out and educated residents and business owners, and before long the community enthusiastically embraced the project. The City of Culver City and Los Angeles County Flood Control District gave their full support, providing much-needed help in getting a cutting-edge project through the permitting process.

Now, rain that falls here flows from streets and buildings into the rain gardens. The runoff is funneled through special filters to remove oil and grease, suspended solids, trash, metals, and bacteria before flowing into the garden swales. The swales contain California native plants selected for their ability to remove pollutants. The plants are also capable of being completely submerged during rain events and can handle extended periods with no water. The gardens were designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate a minimum .75 inch 24 hour storm event. Once the swales become saturated and can no longer absorb additional runoff, excess flows are channeled into an outlet drain equipped with filters to ensure that all runoff is filtered before reaching Ballona Creek.

Ballona Rain Garden Before Photo: M. Abramson



The first test of the rain gardens occurred on October 5th when Culver City received 0.9 inches of rainfall over 12 hours. Nearly all the runoff from the entire 25-acre total drainage area percolated into the gardens, producing very little runoff to Ballona Creek. SMBRC estimates that the two gardens can capture, treat, and infiltrate more than 125,000 and 260,000 gallons respectively. SMBRC will continue to monitor the Rain Gardens and provide information for design of future gardens to cities, the County and others who wish to use this innovative design to help clean up our creeks and ocean.

The project created approximately 30 full time jobs throughout the construction and was completed on time and under budget.

Ballona Rain Garden After Photo: M. Abramson



Historical Ecology: Envisioning the Wild Watershed

*Do you know how La Cienega Boulevard got its name? You may not guess even if you speak Spanish, because *ciénaga* means marsh or bog, and that's not what we see when we drive this busy thoroughfare today. However, historical records such as hand-drawn maps and diary entries tell us that indeed there were wet meadows, marshes and streams all around the present-day boulevard.*

The Historical Ecology of the Ballona Creek Watershed is a new report, presented as a downloadable book and interactive website at www.ballonahe.org. It tells the story of a watershed and its people at a point in time, over 100 years ago. Creeks, springs, wetlands, and other landscape features have supported human culture in our region for centuries. Urbanization has changed and covered up the natural forms of local waterways, as creeks were channelized, wetlands were buried, and land was graded and paved to make way for roads and buildings. As we begin to undo the damage and repair our urban waters, an understanding of the physical processes of land and water puts "restoration" into meaningful context. Knowing how habitats were distributed historically informs us about how to place them in an urban context, choosing the right places and types of habitats to restore for a sustainable ecosystem.

We are very excited about the Historical Ecology of the Ballona Creek Watershed and hope that many readers will be enlightened and inspired by this important work.

A fully installed rain barrel in Culver City Photo: J. Medel



Saving Rainwater, One Barrel at a Time

The SMBRC partnered with Culver City on a city-wide program to install rain barrels at homes and businesses. The Culver City Rainwater Harvesting program (CCRH) installed 396 rain barrels with overflow runoff directed to porous areas for infiltration (i.e. gardens and lawns). Our staff and volunteers also installed two rain gardens and two cisterns, to harvest and infiltrate even more rainwater, while beautifying the City with native, low-water-use plants. This innovative program educates people about the benefits of rainwater harvesting, promotes water conservation, and provides a cost-effective model for other agencies and municipalities to use in future rainwater harvesting programs.

One inch of rain falling on a one-thousand-foot rooftop produces more than 600 gallons of water. This rainwater runs off roofs through downspouts and usually onto an impervious surface, such as a sidewalk, driveway or parking lot, where it collects a variety of pollutants before reaching the Santa Monica Bay. In this way the once-clean rainwater is contaminated and discharged to the bay, and lost as a local water resource. Rainwater harvesting techniques used by the CCRH program reduce the amount of runoff reaching the Santa Monica Bay, and thus also make our streams and ocean cleaner.

Approximately 40 percent of California's drinking water comes from groundwater, and rain barrels promote groundwater recharge by redirecting the flow of runoff to pervious surfaces where it can sink into the soil. Additionally, using collected rainwater to water plants saves drinking water while decreasing water-related energy demands. Program participants also learned about other rainwater harvesting techniques they may around their property to help conserve water and reduce polluted storm water runoff.

The CCRH program was very popular in the community and was publicized by a variety of local media outlets including a morning news spot with KTLA's Gayle Anderson. Ms. Anderson highlighted the benefits of rain barrels and a residential rain garden planted with native plants. She concluded the spot with the exclamation "Make it rain!" Building on the success of the CCRH program, the SMBRC plans to host a rainwater-harvesting workshop in the fall of 2012 to educate homeowners about the benefits of rain barrels and further local responsible water resource management.



Collecting samples in the Laboratory Photos: Tom Boyd Images 2011

A Tale of Two Gonads

The SMBRC Marine Programs Group started two research projects in 2011 targeting subtidal rocky reefs in southern California. The sea urchin gonad index study was funded by California Sea Grant and is key to understanding the response of sea urchins to kelp restoration work on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Field and laboratory work was conducted in last spring by SMBRC, Santa Monica Baykeeper, Vantuna Research Group, and numerous interns from the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University. The results clearly demonstrated that sea urchins inside urchin barrens have very small gonads compared to urchins in kelp forests on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. This variance in production rates in kelp forests versus urchin barrens is useful in determining the response of sea urchins to kelp forest restoration. These data also demonstrate the value of kelp forest restoration to local urchin and lobster fishermen - the restored kelp forest is where the marketable sea urchins are found. The results of this work are being prepared for publication.

The green abalone population genetics and disease risk management project was made possible by a grant awarded through NOAA's Species of Concern program. It has enabled a broad partnership to collect tissue samples from abalone from several of the Channel Islands and along the mainland coast from San Diego to Los Angeles. These samples and the data from this study are central in structuring restoration efforts for the green abalone in southern California. More work will be completed with biologists from the University of California Santa Barbara in early 2012 to determine exposure of green abalone to withering syndrome, helping to ensure that existing population structures are maintained and that withering syndrome is not inadvertently introduced into any areas where it is currently absent.



Size differences between sea urchin gonads

Cleaner Restaurant, Cleaner Bay



The Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program continued its efforts throughout 2011 to make restaurants and communities cleaner and greener. The seven participating coastal cities renewed their enthusiastic support of the program, faithfully conducted inspections, and promoted all the restaurants that passed their inspections with 100% compliance with the program's pollution prevention best management practices (BMPs). For certified restaurants, the program is an important way to

contribute to the local community, and they proudly displayed their program certificate for their patrons to see. Malibu, Redondo Beach, and Torrance all certified more restaurants this year than ever before, and the average recertification rate for all the cities was over 90%! Exciting plans for 2012 include student participation in the certification process and a local advertising and social media campaign to increase awareness.

Involving and Educating The Public: Our PIE Program is More Popular than Ever

Involvement & Education (PIE) Program provides small grants to increase and diversify educational outreach efforts and awareness of Bay-related issues throughout the watershed. The PIE program has been a catalyst for hands-on, engaging programs for over a decade! Of the five projects completed in 2011, two ocean-related programs are highlighted below.

Plankton or Plastic: Raising Awareness of Marine Debris-

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC)'s SEA Lab hosted almost 200 at-risk teens and young adults for guided kayaking and sampling to learn about water quality, marine debris, and the local environment. Prior to this program, 89 percent of the participants had never kayaked and less than 1 percent was familiar with the concept of a watershed. The participants kayaked and collected samples in King Harbor, used stereoscopes to differentiate between plankton and tiny pieces of plastic debris, sorted and identified larger pieces of trash, and analyzed samples for water quality parameters. The participants discussed their various findings and

results, analyzed how human activities impact the environment, and learned how they, as individuals, can help prevent marine pollution.

Participants collecting project samples Photo: SEA Lab



Youth Fishing & Environmental Education-

The Marina del Rey Anglers (MDRA) hosted 24 educational fishing trips for over 600 at-risk youth to learn about the importance of both protecting and enjoying the marine environment. The participants helped collect trash around the dock before boarding the boat and learning about local habitats, pollution prevention, and sustainable and healthy seafood. Next, the participants learned about catch-and-release fishing techniques and put their new skills into practice by fishing off the sides of the boat. The participants pledged to do their part to protect the environment and were given free tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific and educational handouts, including an MDRA-created booklet with environmental facts, pictures, and activities.

Catch-and-Release fishing with MDRA Photo: MDRA



Survey of Motorized Boater in California Yields Some Interesting Findings

In an effort to better understand motorized boating in California, between October 2007 and October 2009, the California Department of Boating and Waterways and California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program, SMBRF, and Keep the Delta Clean Program conducted a survey of motorized boaters about their attitudes, opinions, and knowledge of boating related issues. We are pleased to announce a total of 5,735 surveys were completed!

Here are some interesting things we discovered about the surveyed motorized California boating population:

- *Concerns common to most of the boaters surveyed, particularly older boaters, included intoxicated boaters, inexperienced boaters, trash and debris, and drinking water quality.*
- *Across all boaters surveyed, 96 - 97 percent said oil leaks into the bottom of their bilge or engine compartment most of the time or every time they use their boat.*
- *About 98 percent of boaters who reported oil leaks said they cleaned up the oil.*
- *A little over one-third of boaters with on-board toilets used sewage pumpouts more than 10 times a year or every time they go out.*
- *The most common obstacle to pumpout usage encountered by boaters was waiting in line more than 10 minutes, followed closely by broken pumpouts.*
- *About 70 percent of surveyed boaters do not know the penalty in California for illegally discharging untreated sewage is a \$2,200 fine.*

Findings from this survey support the continued need of promoting environmentally sound boating practices among the boating community and demonstrate the importance of educational programs like ours.

Dockwalker volunteer administers a boater survey. Photo: V. Ippolito

Soaking it up in Long Beach

Long Beach Harbor encompasses two distinct areas - Long Beach Shoreline Marina and Alamitos Bay Marina, which together comprise the largest municipally-run marina in the nation. SMBRC's Boater Program, with a grant from CalRecycle, partnered with Long Beach Marine Bureau and Alamitos Bay Marine fuel dock, to launch a municipally-run Oil Absorbent Exchange Program. Thanks to the City's commitment to water quality and support of pollution prevention measures, boaters have access to free and convenient program where they can pick up fresh oil absorbent pads and recycle used ones at the fuel dock.

Composed of polyethylene adsorptive fibers designed to absorb fuel and oil, while "repelling" water, boaters use absorbents to catch spills while fueling or changing engine oil. Most boats are equipped with an automatic bilge water pump that discharges bilge water overboard. An absorbent in the bilge soaks up petroleum products from bilge water that is often contaminated with oil, diesel, and other toxins before the water is discharged overboard.

Free oil absorbents are available to boaters. Photo: V. Ippolito



Coastal Cleanup Day Makes Waves in Marina del Rey

Every year on the third Saturday of September, thousands of volunteers lend their hands in support of clean beaches and inland waterways during the International Coastal Cleanup Day event. For the seventh consecutive year, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation hosted the Marina del Rey In-Water Kayak Cleanup on the morning of September 17.

A new record of 167 volunteers came together in an effort to rid the marina waterway of 425 pounds of ocean bound trash and debris through scuba, kayak, and land cleanup sites. Volunteers were equipped with reusable nets, gloves, and buckets, and were able to collect, categorize, and dispose of trash and recyclables with a zero-waste impact. Among the throng of kayak volunteers were Assembly woman Julia Brownley and City of Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation was proud to accommodate more volunteers this year than ever before thanks to the addition of new sponsors! Although the event is free-of-charge to the public, the SMBRF generously donates time and resources to produce the event. These costs include organizing and planning the event, soliciting donations from local businesses and supporters, transporting kayaks to and from the event, purchasing bait nets to collect trash, refreshments for the volunteers, and much more. The SMBRF received over \$30,000 in in-kind donations, in addition to nearly \$2,000 in cash donations.

Volunteers team up to scoop trash in Marina del Rey Photo: S. Woodard



The Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies

The Center is a formal partnership between Loyola Marymount University and the SMBRF. Research conducted by the Center focuses on Santa Monica Bay and other urban coastal areas and has included undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities throughout the region. Current research efforts focus on offshore rocky reefs and biological monitoring in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. In addition, SMBRF staff serves as faculty within the Seaver College of Science and Engineering and provides lectures and presentations to other departments.

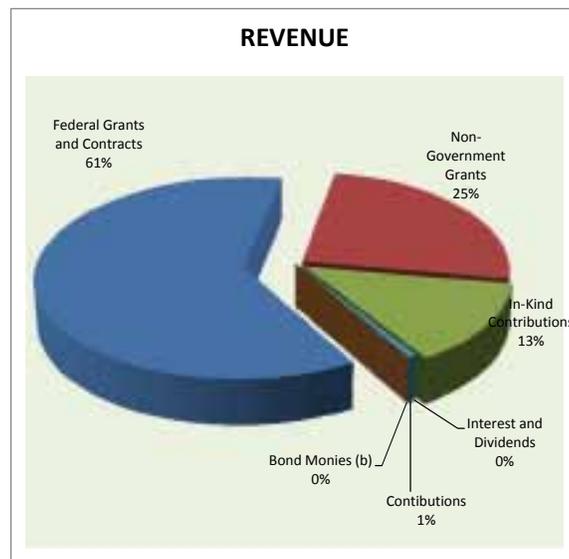
In 2011, the Center joined the LMU Sustainability Committee and worked with LMU facilities on a sustainability plan for the campus. As part of this initiative, SMBRF staff designed a low-water-use native plant garden and a vegetable garden, and installed a cistern and rain garden that captures water from roofs on campus, stores it for irrigation, and infiltrates surplus water into the ground, reducing runoff and conserving water. The garden is now a living laboratory for the biology department at LMU as well as a beautiful and productive garden for the students and faculty to enjoy.

Rain gardens at Loyola Marymount University Photo: J. Medel

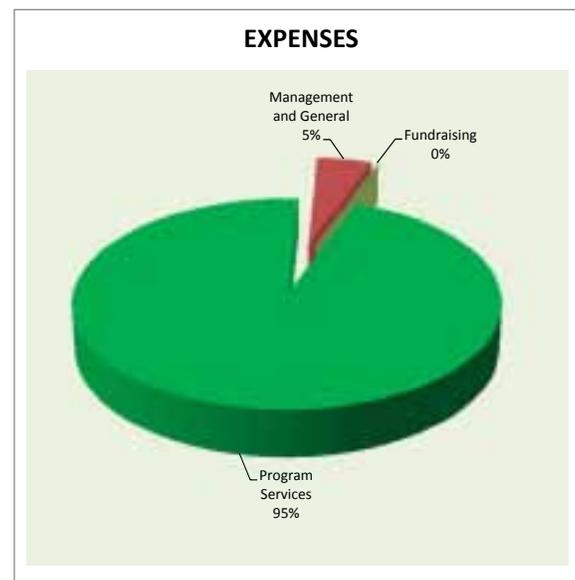


The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation partners with the Commission to make funds and resources available for the restoration of the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Provided below is a financial summary that reflects the total resources made available through this partnership for the work of preserving, protecting and restoring these important natural resources.

	Total	Commission (SMBRC) (a)	Foundation (SMBRF)
REVENUES			
Federal Grants and Contracts	2,086,595	-	2,086,595
Non-Government Grants	850,191	-	850,191
In-Kind Contributions	452,921	308,319.00	144,602
Interest and Dividends	-	-	-
Contributions	21,278	-	21,278
Bond Monies (b)	-	-	-
Total Revenue and Support	3,410,985	308,319	3,102,666
EXPENSES			
Program Services	3,192,928	308,319	2,884,609
Management and General	159,073	-	159,073
Fundraising	-	-	-
Total Functional Expenses	3,352,001	308,319	3,043,682



FOUNDATION: Assets and Liabilities (c)			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	232,094	220,791	452,885
Investments	9,740	-	9,740
Accounts Receivable	1,662,458	-	1,662,458
Prepaid Expenses	6,705	-	6,705
Total Assets	1,910,997	220,791	2,131,788
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	1,204,906	-	1,204,906
Accrued Liabilities	83,852	-	83,852
Deferred Revenue	84,716	-	84,716
Total Liabilities	1,373,474	-	1,373,474
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted	537,523	-	537,523
Temporarily Restricted	-	220,791	220,791
Total Net Assets	1,910,997	220,791	2,131,788



a) The financial summary provided for the Commission was not prepared by a certified public accountant, but by administrative staff at the Commission. The numbers provided here are intended to provide a general overview of the resources of the Commission and do not necessarily meet GAAP standards.

c) Assets and liabilities are provided for the foundation only.

b) Bond monies are held in account by the CA State Coastal Conservancy and the CA State Water Resources Control Board for projects in Santa Monica Bay. The Bay Commission is responsible for soliciting, selecting, and overseeing the projects funded by these monies. The amount reported here reflects the total amount allocated by the Bay Restoration Commission in FY 11 for projects in the Bay Watershed.

Governing Board

Executive Committee

Richard Bloom*, SMBRC CHAIR, President, Bay Watershed Council (City Council Member, City of Santa Monica)

Liz Crosson*, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Santa Monica Baykeeper

Fran Diamond*, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles

Gail Farber*, LA County Department of Public Works

Mike Gin*, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)

Mark Gold*, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal The Bay

Fran Pavley, State Senator, 23rd District

Angus Alexander*, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division

Rich Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair

Dayna Bochco*, California Coastal Commission

Julia Brownley, State Assemblymember, 41st District

Betsy Butler, State Assemblymember, 53rd District

Charlie Caspary*, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Grace Chan*, LA County Sanitation District

Bryant Chesney, NOAA -NMFS Southwest Division

Ruth Coleman*, California Department of Parks & Recreation, Director

Joe Edmiston*, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Santos Kreimann, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors

John Laird*, Natural Resources Agency, Secretary

Ephraim Leon-Guerrero, US EPA Region IX

Ted Lieu, State Senator, 28th District

John McCamman*, California Department of Fish & Game, Interim Director

Ann Notthoff*, California State Coastal Conservancy

Micheal O'Leary*, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)

Matt Rodriguez*, California Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary

Bill Rosendahl*, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council District 11

Marvin Sachse*, Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Brash Industries

John Sibert*, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)

Ron Smith*, At-Large Member (West Basin Municipal Water District)

Catherine Tyrrell, President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

Antonio Villaraigosa*, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Dennis Washburn*, At-Large Member (SM Mountains Resource Conservation District)

Zev Yaroslavsky*, LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)

Enrique Zaldivar*, LA City Department of Public Works

**Voting Member of the Governing Board*

Staff

Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Mark Abramson, Senior Watershed Advisor

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Diana Hurlbert, Restoration Project Coordinator

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