



Micheál O'Leary Elected to Fill Governing Board Vacancy

By unanimous consent, the Governing Board elected Culver City Council Member Micheál O'Leary to represent the Ballona Creek Watershed cities as a voting member at Bay Restoration Commission meetings. Recently elected to the Culver City Council, Mr. O'Leary represents a key city with the Ballona Creek Watershed. Mr. O'Leary announced that Barry Brucker, Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, will serve as his alternate.

O'Leary assumes the Governing Board seat held by Jeffrey Prang, City Council Member for the City of West Hollywood, who resigned from the Governing Board due to changing work commitments. Bay Restoration Commission members will sorely miss Mr. Prang's service and dedication to the Commission, and we welcome Mr. O'Leary's enthusiasm and perspective and look forward to working with him.

Bay Restoration Commission to Release \$10.5 Million for Local Projects

With \$10.5 million now available from the Proposition 84 bond, the Bay Restoration Commission issued a Request for Proposals in late August. The Commission seeks projects that will make significant water quality improvements, including reducing beach closures and trash, among other goals. Preference will be given to projects that also improve habitat and open space, demonstrate public-private partnerships, integrate into a larger, multiple benefit project, or are consistent with the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. A minimum of 15% match will be required, but can be waived if the project benefits a disadvantaged community.

MEETING UPDATE

The Governing Board of the Bay Restoration Commission convened on August 21st at the Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina del Rey.

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Updating the Bay Restoration Plan

Ballona Wetlands Restoration: Progress so Far



SAVE the DATE

2008 Commission Governing Board meetings will be held on:

- October 16
- December 18





“We’re fortunate to have this money available to help restore the precious resources of Santa Monica Bay,” said Executive Director Shelley Luce. “We look forward to funding exciting, multi-benefit projects in our watershed.”

The Bay Restoration Commission sponsored a well-attended workshop on Tuesday, September 2, in order to answer questions and guide potential project proponents. The RFP is available on our website (www.santamonicabay.org) and we strongly encourage interested parties to discuss potential projects with staff before completing the application. The submittal period closes on 5 p.m. on October 17.

For more information, contact Jack Topel at jtopel@waterboards.ca.gov or Sarah Woodard at swoodard@santamonicabay.org.

Updating the Bay Restoration Plan

The original Bay Restoration Plan (the Plan), the guiding document of the Bay Restoration Commission, was adopted 12 years ago. The Plan identifies environmental issues, responsible and partnering entities (such as local cities, agencies, and the county), and proposed solutions and timelines, and helps the Commission and its partners work more effectively toward restoring the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Since its adoption, great progress has been made by our partners in implementing the Plan, while environmental issues and priorities have continued to evolve.

Bay Restoration Commission staff held a public workshop in late 2007 and a member-oriented workshop at the August 21 Governing Board meeting, and will continue to seek input from all our partners. The Plan identifies the goals of the Commission, and restoration objectives and milestones. The main categories are water quality in the Bay and its watershed, natural resources, and the benefits and values of the Bay to people.

The final Bay Restoration Plan update will be presented to the Governing Board for approval at its October 16, 2008 meeting.

Ballona Wetlands Restoration: Progress so Far

The progress of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration project was demonstrated in detail at the August Governing Board meeting. As presented by Mary Small, of the State Coastal Conservancy, and Sean Bergquist, Bay Commission staff, the two major goals of the project are ecosystem restoration and improved public access. Small and Bergquist noted that baseline monitoring of the ecological conditions at the Wetlands is underway, and that a feasibility study of the proposed restoration alternatives will be released by the end of this year.

The Early Action Plan developed by wetlands stakeholders is now being implemented as well, with the re-design of the western parking lot (at Gordon’s Market in Playa del Rey) complete and construction to begin soon.

For more information, go to the restoration effort’s website at www.ballonarestoration.org.

