



baywire

News and Updates from the Governing Board of the
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Issue 15
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Governing Board Votes Unanimously to Support the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

After lengthy debate and discussion, the Governing Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative.

“The fact that we could get unanimous support for the resolution demonstrates not only the collaborative nature of our Governing Board, but the broad interest in the MLPA Initiative itself within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed,” said Dr. Shelley Luce, the Executive Director of the SMBRC. “We hope that the Blue Ribbon Task Force, established by the state to consider various Marine Protected Area (MPA) proposals, takes into account the issues noted in our resolution and develops a sound recommendation for the State Fish & Game Commission to consider.”

The resolution, which can be found on our website, was the result of input from the myriad local, state, and federal entities that are represented on the Governing Board. Chairman Bloom noted friendly amendments to the initial draft from federal agencies, local governments, local water districts, county representatives, and environmental and business interests.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force will be considering three MPA alternatives for the region on October 20th-22nd and forward its recommendations to the State Fish & Game Commission for its decision on the MLPA process on December 10th.

Local Water Districts Present Water Conservation Measures

As everyone in southern California is aware, we are in the middle of an ongoing drought that shows no signs of ceasing in the near future. Representatives from the West Basin and Las Virgenes Municipal Water Districts, presenting to the Governing Board at its August meeting, noted that unless they and their customers take swift, specific action to conserve water, costs will become even higher than they are now and mandatory reductions will occur.

The two municipal water districts are the primary managers and deliverers of water to the Santa Monica Bay watershed. Both Rich Nagel, West Basin’s General Manager, and Jim Reinhardt of Las Virgenes, stated that their costs to receive water from outside sources (such as the Metropolitan Water District) have increased substantially as the drought has progressed. Those costs, of course, are passed on to the customer, but present only part of the picture.

Conservation efforts are absolutely necessary to ensure sufficient water is available throughout the watershed. These include low-flow showers and toilets, limiting and controlling automatic sprinkler systems, plant drought-tolerant landscape, and limiting car washing, among others. To the extent that it is cost-effective, water recycling and even desalination are considered alternatives to relying on imported water to meet consumer demand. Both water districts are enhancing their educational program as well in order to be sure that the consumers take the opportunity to reduce water consumption in order to avoid the increasing costs.

For more information on water conservation efforts within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed, visit the Las Virgenes MWD’s website and the West Basin’s website.

Questions about the Baywire? go to sanatmonicabay.org

MEETING UPDATE

- *MLPA Initiative Resolution Approved*
- *Water Conservation Measures Presentations by Local Water Districts*

SAVE the DATE

2009 Governing Board meetings will be held on:

Oct 15

Dec 17

