



baywire

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

Issue 14
June 2009

Approval of the Bay Restoration Commission's 2010 Work Plan

By unanimous vote, the SMBRC Governing Board approved the Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2010. The Work Plan is the SMBRC's way of tracking its grant expenditures from the US EPA and measuring its progress toward achieving its mission to improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the Bay's benefits and values.

Highlights of the FY 2010 Work Plan including participating in development of Los Angeles County's municipal stormwater permit to ensure water quality improvements, establishing TMDLs for Ballona Creek, and completing viable on-site water treatment systems in Malibu.

The Work Plan also focuses on the SMBRC's active participation in the Marine Life Protected Area process in the Southern California Bight, publishing a State of the Bay Report, and hosting a State of the Bay Conference next January.

The Work Plan can be viewed on the SMBRC website at www.santamonicabay.org.

Presentation of SMBRC Grant-Funded Projects

Four water quality and habitat restoration projects funded through grants awarded by the SMBRC were presented to the Governing Board at its June meeting. These four completed projects represent only a portion of the grants awarded by the SMBRC, but demonstrate the breadth of restoration and water quality work currently being conducted in the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

City of Santa Monica – Dry Weather Runoff and Pervious Surfaces

Neal Shapiro of the City of Santa Monica reviewed two projects funded by the SMBRC. The first, a Bicknell Avenue "Green Street" project replaced original pavement with pervious pavers on each side of the street and two 12-foot wide biofilter swales with mulch and plantings.

The second project at Mar Vista Park diverts water from the Sawtelle Channel storm drain, filters out trash, removes oil and grease, heavy metals, and other pollutants, and then returns the water to the storm drain which then flows to Ballona Creek.

City of Los Angeles – Grand Avenue Tree Wells & Westside Park Project

Andy Flores from the City described seven Filterra storm water bioretention and filtration devices that have been installed along Grand Boulevard in Venice.

Mr. Flores also presented the Westside Park Project, which involved the design and construction of a system to divert, treat, and use the dry weather flow and first flush stormwater from the stormdrain that runs beneath Westside Park in the Baldwin Hills area.

MEETING UPDATE

- 2010 Work Plan Approval
- SMBRC Grant-Funded Projects Presentation
- Grant Funds Availability Update

SAVE the DATE

2009 Governing Board meetings will be held on:

Aug 20
Oct 15
Dec 17



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Presentation of SMBRC Grant-Funded Projects - *continued*

Manhattan Beach – Pervious Parking Project

Lindy Coe-Juell of the City of Manhattan Beach presented the City's recently completed pervious parking project. This system has reduced dry and wet weather runoff and associated pollutants by converting six city-owned parking lots, totaling 128,000 square-feet, to pervious concrete paving.

Removal of the Rodeo Berm at Topanga

Rosi Dagit of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains discussed this joint project with the California Department of Parks & Recreation to remove a 1000-foot berm on the Rodeo Grounds parcel of Topanga State Park. Removing the berm restored the natural floodplain, creek channel and sediment transport balance at the southern end of Topanga Creek.

Coastal Conservancy and State Water Board Grant Funds Availability Update

Mary Small from the State Coastal Conservancy gave an update on the Coastal Conservancy's bond-funded grants. The state has allocated funds from the early 2009 bond sales to all of the agencies that administer bond-funded programs. The Coastal Conservancy has received allocations for Proposition 12, 40 and 50. This includes funds for Proposition 12 grants administered by the Coastal Conservancy on behalf of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. The Coastal Conservancy has not received its allocation from Proposition 84 yet but expects to get it soon.

The highest priority for the Coastal Conservancy will be paying invoices for work completed prior to December 19th, 2008. All of these invoices were sent to the State Controller in early June and grantees should receive payment within six weeks. In addition, about half of the Conservancy's existing grants will be restarted using funds available from the spring bond sales. Conservancy project managers will contact grantees, tell them how much funding has been allocated to their project, and work with them to develop a revised work program for the available funding. Many grants will remain frozen because there is not enough money to restart them.

At this time, no one knows when more bond funds will be available to complete existing projects or start new projects.

SMBRC grant manager Jack Topel reported news regarding (Prop 50) bond-funded grants from the State Water Resources Control Board. According to Mr. Topel, the State Water Board hopes to begin paying outstanding invoices (for work performed prior to December 18, 2008) with proceeds from the March and April bond sales. Topel indicated that there is no word on when Prop 50 funded projects may resume work, but it may not be until after an anticipated fall bond sale. The Board has no plans to accept project applications for Prop 84 funding in the near future.

The week after the Governing Board meeting the State Water Board forwarded Prop 50 invoices to the State Controller's Office on Monday, June 22, 2009. For more information, contact Jack Topel or visit http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/stoppedbond_projects.shtml for details.