



# baywire

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

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### **Baywire for December 2010 Meeting**

#### **Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom Re-Elected to Governing Board Chair**

Mayor Richard Bloom was elected to his third consecutive term as Chair of the SMBRC Governing Board by unanimous vote at the December meeting.

"I am honored to be selected as Chair of the Bay Restoration Commission for another term," said Bloom. "Commission staff and our 35-member Governing Board continue to provide strong leadership that is making a real difference in the health of the Bay and its watershed. I look forward to working with the Board and community on our many important projects."

The Governing Board also elected six vice-chairs: Liz Crosson (Santa Monica Baykeeper), Fran Diamond (Member, Regional Water Quality Control Board), Mike Gin (Mayor, Redondo Beach), Mark Gold (President, Heal The Bay), State Senator Fran Pavley, and Mark Pestrella (Assistant Director, LA County Department of Public Works).

#### **Governing Board Adopts 2011 Calendar**

The 2011 SMBRC calendar was adopted at the December meeting. The Governing Board will meet every other month as follows:

February 17  
April 21  
June 16  
August 18  
October 20  
December 15

All meetings will be held at the Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina del Rey and will begin at 9:30 a.m. Governing Board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org).

#### **Ballona Symposium Success**

The first Ballona Wetlands Science and Research Symposium was held on December 8, 2010 on the campus of Loyola Marymount University. A full capacity crowd of almost 200 attendees heard presentations from wetland experts on restoration monitoring and regional wetland research from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh to the Tijuana Estuary. The symposium brought together scientists, stakeholders and regulators to learn about cutting edge research and monitoring and facilitate a dialog to further inform the restoration planning and monitoring at the Ballona Wetlands. One of the many

highlights of the symposium was a presentation by SMBRC Ecologist Karina Johnston describing the year one summary of the [Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program](#).

A [proceedings document](#) is now available on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project's website. Additional symposium documents, including presentations, will be also be made available via the SMBRC website. We wish to thank all the speakers and attendees for helping to make the first Ballona Wetlands Science and Research Symposium such a wonderful success.

### **Goodbye and Congratulations to Mary Small!**

The SMBRC Board is saying goodbye to Mary Small, who has represented the State Coastal Conservancy on the Governing Board for the past four years. Ms. Small has been promoted to Deputy Director of the State Coastal Conservancy, where she will oversee budgeting and strategic planning, and serve on the Ocean Protection Council's management team. She will continue to work with the SMBRC on the Ballona Wetlands restoration project and other initiatives.

"Mary has been a strong supporter of coastal protection and restoration, and the Santa Monica Bay has benefitted enormously from her leadership," says SMBRC director, Shelley Luce. "Her clear vision of a healthy, thriving Bay and her commitment to the collaborative process have helped move many projects from the 'Great idea' phase to the 'Let's get it done!' phase. She has truly contributed to a better quality of life in coastal California and we know she will continue to do so in her new role."

Succeeding Mary on the Governing Board will be Joan Cardellino, the Coastal Conservancy's new Southern California Regional Manager. Joan is already actively involved in many local projects to protect coastal resources and improve water quality. The SMBRC Governing Board welcomes Joan and looks forward to working together.

### **SMBRC Supports World Surfing Reserves**

By unanimous vote, the Governing Board adopted a resolution supporting the concept of World Surfing Reserves and the designation of Malibu's Surfrider Beach as the first-ever surf location to be designated as a reserve. The resolution was developed at the request of Governing Board member John Sibert, a Malibu City Council member.

### **SMBRC Touts Major Accomplishments in 2010**

From marine reserves to wetlands preservation studies to water conservation projects, the SMBRC and its staff were busy in 2010. Discussing SMBRC's work at the December Governing Board meeting, Executive Director Shelley Luce highlighted three of this year's major accomplishments.

The SMBRC was actively involved in establishing Marine Protected Areas up and down the California Coast, including the protection of key areas within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed (see next section for details). On December 15, the California Fish & Game Commission ratified the hard work of SMBRC and others by establishing over 15% of California coastal waters as reserves that will protect critical breeding habitat for aquatic species. SMBRC staff, lead by the tireless work of Lia Protopapadakis, played key roles in gathering data, helping the Fish & Game Commission to make an informed decision.

A critical part of the process to restore the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve was accomplished by SMBRC this year. Staff scientists completed the first year of a comprehensive physical and biological assessment of the entire Reserve the first such comprehensive assessment, and an important contribution to the overall restoration planning process.

The Santa Monica Bay Watershed lies in a relatively arid region, and water conservation has become a critical issue in this densely populated urban area. The SMBRC addressed the issue this year by co-sponsoring a symposium on rainwater

harvesting and funding the Los Angeles rain barrel program, and by starting a project to install rain gardens along Ballona Creek to capture and filter runoff from commercial and residential neighborhoods. SMBRC also participated with the City of LA and many others to develop a Low impact Development ordinance for the city, which was adopted by LA City Council this month.

### **Marine Protected Areas Approved for California**

Key parts of Santa Monica Bay, along with several other aquatic habitat areas along the California Coast, will now be protected under the Marine Life Protection Act. On December 15, the California Fish and Game Commission designated a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Southern California, which include aquatic areas in our region.

Like the National Park system, MPAs protect important and iconic marine areas from damaging use. In addition to benefitting activities such as SCUBA diving, MPAs also improve fishing outside their boundaries. The network will protect eight primary areas along our coastline and in the Channel Islands, two of which bookend the Santa Monica Bay, amounting to nearly 15% of state waters south of Point Conception.

SMBRC staff, lead by Lia Protopapadakis, has been working on this issue for three years. We are glad to see it has passed, and look forward to the day that the Department of Fish and Game puts the MPAs into effect. SMBRC staff will continue to assist with monitoring and outreach to ensure that the MPAs are managed adaptively and effectively.