



baywire

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

BAYWIRE **June 2011 Edition**

West Basin Municipal Water District Elected to “At-Large” Governing Board Position

The SMBRC Bay Watershed Council elected West Basin MWD to the SMBRC Governing Board at its June meeting.

“It’s a natural fit for West Basin to work with our esteemed colleagues on the Commission in addressing water quality issues in the Santa Monica Bay,” said West Basin Board President Ron Smith. “Many of West Basin’s programs reduce runoff to the oceans and we will continue reaching out to our communities to do more to help maintain water quality in our local tidelands, beaches and ocean environment.”

West Basin will serve the remaining six months of the At-Large term, until elections are held for all elected members of the Governing Board at the Bay Watershed Council’s December meeting.

Welcome aboard West Basin and Director Smith!

Governing Board Approves Funding for Arroyo Sequit Restoration

After a delay of over five years, valuable steelhead trout habitat restoration at Arroyo Sequit will go ahead. The SMBRC Governing Board approved a total of \$1.6 million for the California State Department of Parks and Recreation and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation to remove motor vehicle crossings and a check dam in lower Arroyo Sequit Creek. These stream barriers block movement of the endangered Southern California steelhead trout and other species from high quality habitat upstream.

The funds will be used to remove two “Arizona crossings,” - cement structures laid on the creek bed –and replace them with free span bridges, opening up the creek to steelhead migration. An check dam that hindered steelhead spawning will also be removed. Native vegetation will be planted to stabilize creek banks and improve riparian habitat.

“Removing old Arizona crossings and check dams and restoring free flows and fish passage is a high priority for SMBRC, State Parks, Cal Trout, and other local groups. This project will open up new habitat for our endangered steelhead trout and will solve ongoing bank erosion problems, while

also improving public safety with modern, freespan bridges. We are very excited to move this project forward.”

Arroyo Sequit Creek flows into the ocean at Leo Carillo State Park north of the City of Malibu.

SMBRC Work Plan for 2012 Approved

The SMBRC Governing Board unanimously approved its Work Plan for 2012. The Work Plan, which outlines how the SMBRC and its partners will carry out watershed restoration and water quality projects in the region, is part of our funding agreement with the US EPA pursuant to the National Estuary Program.

Highlights of the 2012 Work Plan include continued work on Urban Greening/Low-Impact Development projects and expansion of rocky reef/kelp restoration, with the addition of abalone restoration, and eelgrass assessment and protection.

For more information or a copy of the Work Plan, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org or Guangyu Wang at gwang@waterboards.ca.gov .

Public Comment Policy Adopted by SMBRC

In response to requests by Governing Board members and the general public for an understanding of how public comment may be made at SMBRC meetings, a Public Comment Policy was adopted for all SMBRC bodies at the June meeting.

The Public Comment Policy outlines procedures for members of the public who wish to address the SMBRC's Boards, Committees and other bodies. It was drafted according to existing state law and clarifies the most effective ways for members of the public to present information to the SMBRC in a public forum.

For more information on the new Public Comment Policy, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org .

Look Out for Our New Website!

The SMBRC will soon have a new website: www.smbrc.ca.gov . In response to requests for more streamlined access to Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the new website will feature information on the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's, including meeting dates and times, public documents, and contact information.

The SMBRC's partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, will continue to support the existing website at www.santamonicabay.org with detailed information on programs, projects, reports, volunteer events, and other Foundation activities.

Look for the new website online at www.smbrc.ca.gov in early July.