



baywire

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

BAYWIRE **February - March 2013 Edition**

SMBRC Executive Director Appointed as Chair to the Association of National Estuary Programs

Shelley Luce, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), has been selected to serve a two-year term as the Chair for the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP). The SMBRC has been part of ANEP since 1988 when the State of California and U.S. EPA established the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project (later to become the Commission) as a National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act.

ANEP's mission is to support the nation's 28 local National Estuary Programs and serve as a unified voice for issues affecting them and the nation's vital estuaries. The 28 programs are science-based advocates for their respective estuaries; are collaborative within their local communities, with special focus on public/private partnerships; and share successful strategies among each other to address common ecological and management issues.

"The National Estuary Program fulfills a unique role in fostering collaboration among very broad stakeholder groups," states Dr. Luce. "It's really hard to get people from different perspectives and agendas to work together on one key thing – protecting our precious estuaries – and ANEP is critical in supporting the National Estuary Programs in getting this job done. I'm excited to be chair of this committed group."

In her role with ANEP, Dr. Luce will be responsible for coordinating outreach to elected officials about the importance of estuaries to local communities and economies. A major goal for her term as chair is increased public understanding of and appreciation for their local estuaries and the NEPs that protect and enhance them.

Open space planning and habitat restoration are key elements in Dr. Luce's approach to resource protection, with environmental policy expertise in developing innovative policies and plans for water supply and conservation, marine protected areas, stream protection, and environmental justice. Her work includes overseeing large-scale wetlands restoration projects; facilitating community-based greenway planning in dense urban Los Angeles; and producing major planning documents such as the Green Solutions report. She advises numerous scientific panels and groups in California. Dr. Luce has a doctorate degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from UCLA.

"I am proud and excited to hand over the reigns to Shelley," says Dr. Holly Greening, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and immediate past-Chair of ANEP. "She is excellent at working with stakeholders, and bringing varying perspectives together. Her obvious passion for native habitats, as well as for addressing climate change through this purview, is going to be invaluable to leading ANEP."

MDRA Election to At-Large Position

The Marina Del Rey Anglers (MDRA) has been elected to fill a vacant At-Large position on the SMBRC Governing Board. The MDRA is a member of the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) and was one of three WAC members nominated for the position.

The MDRA was founded in 1975 and incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit organization in good standing pursuant to Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The MDRA's purpose is to promote fishing activities and environmental conservation. The organization runs the oldest fishing competition on the West Coast, which helps to fund its philanthropic and conservation activities. The MDRA also operates a white seabass nursery.

As boaters, MDRA hopes to give some "Feet on the Ground" feedback to the group. Says Keith Lambert 2013 MDRA President, "We have a long vision. We can recall the Red Tide of 2002 and 2003 and what that did to the Bay. [Our] members fought for removal of gill nets from near-shore waters in 1987. ...we have a strong focus on and goals for healthy water flows and healthy fish in the upcoming enhancement to the wetlands near Marina Del Rey."

The At-Large position is a voting position on the Governing Board. It was vacated by former Santa Monica City Councilmember (now Assemblymember) Richard Bloom. The MDRA will serve for the remainder of the term, through December 2013, and is eligible to seek re-election to that position.

Welcome aboard!

Dr. Eric Stein Appointed to Technical Advisory Committee

Dr. Eric Stein was unanimously appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) by the SMBRC Governing Board at its February 2013 meeting. Appointments to the TAC are based on expertise in coastal and watershed sciences, with a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively to reach consensus on technical issues relevant to the staff and Governing Board.

Dr. Stein is currently a principal scientist at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), where he is head of the Biology Department. He oversees a variety of projects related to in-stream and coastal water quality, bioassessment, hydromodification, watershed modeling, and assessment of wetlands and other aquatic resources. His research focuses on effects of human activities on the condition of aquatic ecosystems, and on developing tools to better assess and manage those effects.

Prior to joining SCCWRP, Dr. Stein spent six years as a Senior Project Manager with the Regulatory Branch of the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers, and four years with a private consulting firm.

Dr. Stein will serve the TAC as an expert in watersheds and freshwater systems. Current TAC members and SMBRC staff believe that this expertise will enhance the breadth of the TAC, particularly when it reviews proposed Proposition 84 projects and the habitat health assessments for freshwater streams for the next State of the Bay report.

Welcome Dr. Stein!

Welcome New State Assembly Members to GB

The recent redistricting of state and federal legislative boundaries has brought changes to the makeup of the SMBRC Governing Board. Due to their significant presence within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed boundaries, we now have three new Assembly districts represented on the Governing Board (formerly two districts with the previous boundaries).

Joining us as non-voting members of the Governing Board are:

- Assemblymember Richard Bloom (Assembly District 50) covering the Malibu and Westside cities region
- Assemblymember Steve Bradford (Assembly District 62) covering the Ballona Creek watershed cities region
- Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (Assembly District 66), covering the South Bay region.

As *ex-officio* members, these Assembly districts will serve on the Governing Board for the next 10 years, until the re-districting process takes effect again.

Annual Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Held to Discuss the Bay Restoration Plan

The SMBRC Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) held its annual meeting on February 13 at the Dockweiler Youth Center in Vista del Mar. This meeting was convened to review SMBRC's progress in implementing the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) and solicit ideas and suggestions from WAC members regarding how to update the goals, objectives, and milestones included in the existing BRP.

Twenty-three WAC members and more than 10 public representatives attended the meeting and provided staff with a lot of valuable comments and suggestions during the breakout session.

Staff has been busy compiling this information, and a summary will be made available to WAC members in late March and will also be put on our website, www.smbrc.ca.gov.

Bay Restoration Plan Update Coming Soon

An update of the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) is planned for this year (2013)! The BRP (which is available online at http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/smbrc_plan) is the comprehensive plan of action for protecting and restoring the Santa Monica Bay. It includes goals, objectives, and milestones that guide SMBRC restoration programs and projects in three priority areas: water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans.

The last major update of the BRP was completed in 2008. It is important to now assess the progress made in the last five years and incorporate new program priorities and approaches.

The planned BRP update this year will be done through a public process with involvement of the Governing Board, the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC), and other interested stakeholders. Based on input received at the annual WAC meeting of February 13, staff is currently incorporating information, developing a first draft BRP update for Governing Board review through a workshop in April, and finalizing the new BRP for Governing Board approval this fall. Please stay tuned for further information and an announcement of the April workshop date!

Important Online Updates!

Do you really like us? We mean publicly? Prove it!

We've recently consolidated various social media avenues and ask that you participate, if you have a social media presence.

Facebook: LIKE us at "Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation", or click [HERE](#).

Twitter: Follow us at @SMBRF

*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow.

And by the way, did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by SMBRC on our site?

Check out your local DINING option at

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/CleanRestaurants/cleanrestaurants.html>

2013 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2013 meeting dates are:

- April 18
- June 20
- August 15
- October 17
- December 19

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or by e-mail at svalor@santamonicabay.org . You may also visit our website at www.smbrc.ca.gov .

Check Out Our Website

Please check out SMBRC's website: www.smbrc.ca.gov . To streamline access to our Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the new website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's bodies.

The SMBRC's partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, continues to support their existing website at www.santamonicabay.org and includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org .