



baywire

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

BAYWIRE **October - November 2014 Edition**

Shared Costs and Key Partnerships = Proven Restoration Results

As part of its annual reporting to the US EPA, the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program submits an annual “Habitat and Leveraging Report” that demonstrates how the program and its partners are successfully collaborating, both physically and financially, to achieve the program’s restoration goals. We’re very pleased with the efforts of our staff and our partners in their accomplishments to achieve our shared goals in improving the health of our coastal ecosystems and related economies.

For the date range of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, we are proud to report the following:

- The total leveraging amount was \$15.7 million. At least \$3.5 million of this was for projects in which SMBRC played a primary role, while the rest were funds partners spent on land acquisition in the Santa Monica Bay watershed.
- Total acres of habitats protected/restored: 717.55. This includes 12.68 acres of kelp and key land acquisitions in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program’s partners contributing to this year’s values include:

- Federal: EPA, NOAA/MSRP
- State: State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Fish & Wildlife, California State Parks
- Local: Los Angeles County, City of Los Angeles, Culver City, other watershed cities, The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, Los Angeles World Airports, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Non-Profit Groups: Heal the Bay, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Marina del Rey Anglers
- Local Business: commercial fisherman, Southern California Edison, various consultant organizations
- Research Institutions: Loyola Marymount University, California State University-Channel Islands, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, UCLA

While the final dollar values are not yet in, the 28 NEP programs nationwide restored 93,557 acres in 2014.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority Approves Three Grant Programs & Budget

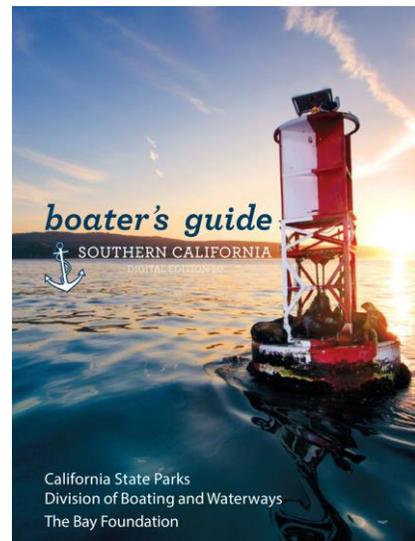
Three ongoing and successful programs will continue thanks to approval by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority in October. The popular Boater Education Program, an important Wetland Monitoring Program, and the ongoing monitoring of the Malibu Lagoon will move forward into the new year with staff diligently working on each.

For more information on the programs, read the more detailed summaries below or contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org.

Highlights from our Boater Education Program for 2014

Our popular Boater Education Program was busy in 2014! Here are some highlights of its most active programs:

- Used Oil Competitive Grant Award from CalRecycle: The program was granted \$245,000 for installation of bilge pumpouts, four new absorbent exchange sites, two used oil publications, and boater outreach. Staff is currently reviewing bilge pumpout applications from Cabrillo Way Marina (Port of LA), Oceanside Harbor, and Sun Harbor Marina (San Diego).
- Completion of 6th year of Honey Pot Day Program: This year featured an online class and video for boaters to learn about proper boat sewage management, how to use a pumpout station, and the effects of raw sewage on public health and aquatic ecosystems. There was a total 76 participants and 2,160 gallons of sewage was pumped.
- Southern California Boater's Guide at West Marine: The program partnered with Southern California region West Marine stores (16 stores) to distribute guides and promote the new e-book. There was an increase in e-book App downloads after an article was published in *The Log* newspaper, totaling 531 downloads since launch in March. We are hoping this partnership with West Marine will boost downloads.



Wetland Program Development Grant – Regional Monitoring Update



This highly technical and important program developed over a dozen Standard Operating Protocols for wetland monitoring in California – including field methods, lab methods, quality control checks, and data management strategies.

It was a busy summer of fieldwork for staff and interns. September marked the end of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve/regional wetland monitoring program fieldwork with next steps including entering various data and the beginning development of final products.

We also joined a statewide working group (California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup – a subgroup of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council) to translate our regional work into the statewide site-intensive protocol development for wetlands.

Malibu Lagoon Monitoring Program Grant Received from SWRCB, Wildlife Conservation Board and Los Angeles County Proposition A

This ongoing program continues to monitor the success of the Malibu Lagoon restoration project and perform monthly restoration events with community volunteers.

The first least terns nesting in the wetland in 73 years were recently discovered, as well as numerous tide water gobies and at least one steelhead trout. The restoration is exceeding vegetation cover requirements and increased native biodiversity, as preliminary data suggest water circulation improvements and increased dissolved oxygen. There is also ongoing maintenance to weed and ensure native plant establishment. These are weekly efforts and once to twice monthly community volunteer opportunities, if you are interested.



Contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org for more information.

Executive Director Ford Continues on Board of the Southern California Academy of Sciences

Executive Director Tom Ford started his term as a member of the Southern California Academy of Sciences board of directors.

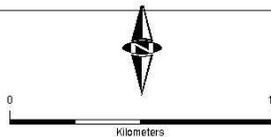
The Southern California Academy of Sciences is dedicated to promoting fellowship among scientists and those individuals interested in science; to contributing to scientific literature through publication of pertinent manuscripts; to fostering scholarship among young scientists; and to providing information to the membership, to the public, and to public agencies on matters of mutual interest and concern to the sciences and society. (source: scas.nhm.org)

Update on Ongoing Ocean Restoration Projects in the Santa Monica Bay: Physical Oceanographic Sediment Transport

Staff spent two days supporting an effort lead by Doug George from UC Davis, supported by a USC Sea Grant to model sediment transport around Point Dume. They collected 18 samples and deployed equipment that will characterize the size and overall direction of transport around the headland. Staff will assist in retrieving the equipment in November-December and results should be available next year.



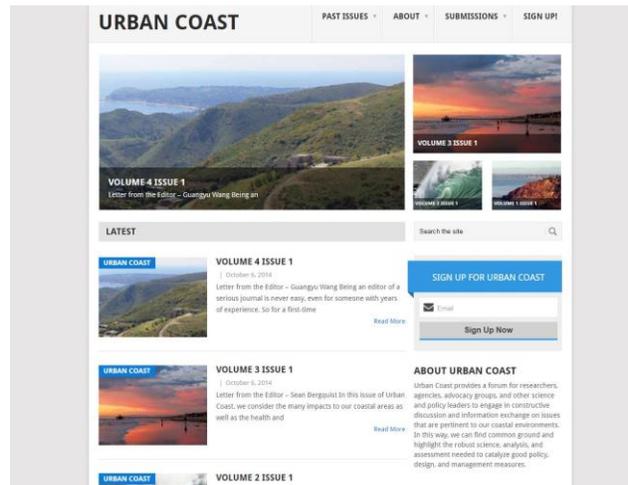
NOAA Bathymetry contours: 5 m intervals
Kelp and Substrate Layers: CA DFW



Pt. Dume Circulation and Sediment Transport Experiment
Figure 1
Proposed Field Campaign (ver. 1 July 27, 2014)

[The Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies Launches the *Urban Coast* Journal Website](#)

During the October SMBRC Governing Board meeting, the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies launched UrbanCoast.org, a website which serves as the online portal to the *Urban Coast* scientific journal. The peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal is published by the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies, a partnership of [Loyola Marymount University's Seaver College of Science and Engineering](#) and [The Bay Foundation](#).



The site provides free access to all four previous issues, which showcase scientific articles discussing multidisciplinary research on environmental and social issues affecting urban coastal areas around the world. To continue to attract top contributors and more actively and consistently engage in current issues, *Urban Coast* will now be publishing more frequently as an online publication, with periodic printed issues. The journal is currently accepting manuscript submissions for future issues.

Please visit UrbanCoast.org, and learn about submitting your research, being a contributor, reviewer, or just sign up to receive new issue release updates!

[In The News](#)

The media continue to highlight some of our programs and staff, including:

Mother Nature Network reported on why our divers are restoring the kelp forests. They spoke with Tom Ford and one of the sea urchin fishermen. More [HERE](#).

National Geographic also spoke about the kelp restoration work with two other of the key sea urchin fishermen, diving partners for years, [HERE](#). Finally the *Daily Breeze* updated on the kelp restoration story [HERE](#).

KPCC's morning show host spoke with Karina Johnston about estuaries during National Estuaries Week. Pls listen to her almost 8 min. interview [HERE](#). Karina also spent time on *ESPN LA* radio [HERE](#) (2nd half).

The Bay Foundation's Coastal Cleanup Day event continues to draw attention: [Daily Breeze post-event](#) piece shares what we gathered and several great events [Daily Breeze pre-event](#) piece highlights longtime TBF volunteer

The internship program through Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at LMU received some homegrown attention in the *Loyolan* [HERE](#).

The SoCal Boater's Guide gained some targeted traction & attention in *The Log* [HERE](#).

Local YAHOO employees were among the new visitors learning about and helping clean up the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Read more [HERE](#) in the *SM Mirror*.

And finally, KCET Rewild blog was one of several outlets excited to report on the release of 100s of threatened red-legged frogs into the SM Mountains. SMBRC has been working on this with multiple partners for quite a while. Read more [HERE](#).

Social Media IS Important and Fun!

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: [“Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”](#)

Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: Follow us at [@TheBayFoundation](#)

YouTube: [“Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”](#)

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

Watch our FB for “Restaurant Thursdays”, and our Twitter for twice-weekly tips on water and energy conservation!

And 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>

2014 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 2014 meeting date is:

- December 18 (Note: The 2015 meeting calendar will be approved at this meeting)

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 Bay Foundation, has a new and improved website! Check it out at www.santamonicabay.org . It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

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