



The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program. TBF is a non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. The SMBRC is a locally-based, non-regulatory state entity which is charged with overseeing and promoting the SMBNEP's Bay Restoration Plan.

## **BAYWIRE**

### **June-July 2015 Edition**

#### **SMBNEP Annual Work Plan Approved by Governing Board, Shows Diversity of Watershed Projects**

Kelp restoration, bringing back endangered abalone, expanding the Boater Education Program, wetlands protection, local water quality projects—these are just a few of the endeavors being tackled by the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program and its partners, as detailed in the 2015-2016 Annual Work Plan. By unanimous vote of the SMBRC Governing Board at its June meeting, the Work Plan was approved and sent to the U.S. EPA for consideration. U.S. EPA approval of the Work Plan triggers important funding from the Federal Budget for the SMBNEP to help fund staffing of the various projects, among other things.

The Annual Work Plan is updated each year to show which projects and partners the SMBNEP is working with, which projects have been completed, and future anticipated issues and projects that are being reviewed. You can view a complete copy of the Work Plan here:

[http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about\\_us/agendas/2015jun/item3b\\_smbnep\\_fy16\\_workplan.pdf](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/agendas/2015jun/item3b_smbnep_fy16_workplan.pdf)

If you have any questions about the Work Plan in general, or about specific projects, please contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) or 310-922-2376.

#### **MPA Aerial Monitoring Program Presented at June SMBRC Governing Board Meeting**

Amanda Zellmer, Postdoctoral Researcher, Vantuna Research Group, presented an update on Aerial Surveys of Local Marine Protected Areas.

On January 1, 2012, the State of California set aside approximately 356 square miles of southern California coastal waters in a network of 52 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or special closures with highly restricted fishing regulations in an effort to provide refuge habitat for marine organisms. Since 2008, The Bay Foundation, (TBF) has been collecting data to study the success of these MPAs in limiting fishing within MPA boundaries and to evaluate whether MPAs cause fishing patterns to shift in the remaining unprotected areas along the southern California coast. With the aid of LightHawk, TBF flies transects along the coast to record aerial survey data on the presence and activities of most marine vessels observed. Between 2008-2014, TBF recorded almost 13,000 observations, with the number of observations continuing to increase with additional surveys.

In collaboration with the Vantuna Research Group at Occidental College, TBF are using these data to construct models of the distribution of marine vessels both before and after the implementation of MPAs. These models predict the probability of vessel presence for the entire coast. Using techniques that were initially designed for studying the distribution of species, called Species Distribution Modeling (SDM). In this case, the data from the observations are compared to environmental factors such as ocean depth, reef size, MPA presence, etc.

These models, have described significant changes in the number of fishing vessels within MPAs, but these changes depend on the type of fishing vessel and the type of MPA. Commercial fishing vessels such as urchin boats and trawlers show much greater decreases in predicted probabilities within MPAs compared to recreational sport fishing vessels. These results suggest that MPAs are effective in reducing fishing, although further education and enforcement may be necessary to help all fishers identify MPA boundaries.

Further research will continue to better determine how far fishers are traveling from port to access fishing grounds, whether fishing vessels are being compacted or being more broadly distributed throughout the coastal waters of southern California.



**[Comprehensive, Post-Restoration 2-Year Monitoring Report of Malibu Lagoon Indicates Success Towards Project Goals](#)**

The Bay Foundation has released the “Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project Comprehensive Monitoring Report (Year 2)”, the first report to fully compare and evaluate pre-restoration conditions to two years of post-restoration conditions. The project has been watched carefully by many for its potential to be a test case for giving life back to a local wetland.

Based on the first two years of a five-year monitoring program, the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project shows it is on track to meet or exceed the documented criteria for success. The Project’s core goals included improving the ecological health of the lagoon’s system by enhancing habitats for native wildlife, creating several acres of new wetlands, and increasing tidal flushing and water circulation to improve water quality and eliminate the “dead zones” and oxygen-deprived areas.

The Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project was completed by California State Parks with project partners State Coastal Conservancy, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, and The Bay Foundation. Monitoring included funding from Wildlife Conservation Board and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

For the full report, please click [HERE](#).

## State of the Bay Conference and Report set for Sept. 9, 2015

Mark your calendars! The every-five years State of the Bay report will be this year's *Urban Coast* issue, available online in early September, in line with our State of the Bay Conference. The report is a science-based comprehensive assessment of the Bay's environmental conditions, covering all major Bay habitats and a broad range of issues, which follow closely the three priority issues addressed by the Bay Restoration Plan: water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans. Major findings of the report will be featured by presentations and panel discussions during the State of the Bay Conference.

A promotional poster for the State of the Bay Conference. The background features a close-up of a sea slug. On the left, a dark blue vertical banner contains the text "SAVE THE DATE" in large white letters. The main title "STATE of the BAY" is in large blue font. Text on the right includes "Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Presents". The central text describes the conference as a one-day event held every five years, focusing on restoring and protecting Santa Monica Bay. It lists four topics: Water Resources: Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change; Water Quality: New Challenges and Innovative Solutions; Urban Watersheds: Connecting Cities to Nature; and Marine Resources: Restoring Healthy Oceans for All. The date "September 9, 2015" and location "Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles" are prominently displayed. Additional text at the bottom mentions the venue's LEED design and the organizing entities: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, The Bay Foundation, and the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University. A small photo credit "Photo: Acolline Eyles, Photo: Veritas © Phil Garner" is on the right edge.

**SAVE THE DATE**

For more information: call (213) 576-6643 or visit [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov) and [www.santamonibay.org](http://www.santamonibay.org)

Santa Monica Bay  
National Estuary Program  
Presents

# STATE of the BAY

A one-day conference presented once **every five years** on the progress of restoring and protecting Santa Monica Bay and its resources, and on the challenges faced in moving towards a more ecologically healthy and sustainable environment.

Presenters and panelists will discuss findings and ideas from the latest research, assessments, and case studies during multiple concurrent sessions focusing on the following topics:

- ✦ **Water Resources: Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change**
- ✦ **Water Quality: New Challenges and Innovative Solutions**
- ✦ **Urban Watersheds: Connecting Cities to Nature**
- ✦ **Marine Resources: Restoring Healthy Oceans for All**

## September 9, 2015

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Conference will be held in the brand new, state-of-the-art Life Sciences Building featuring renewable energy technology, solar screen, green roof, research garden, and other LEED designs.

Organized jointly by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, The Bay Foundation, and the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

Photo: Acolline Eyles, Photo: Veritas © Phil Garner

## Helping Out on Phase 1 of Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Since Spring, TBF has been providing project management support to Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains' project architect Clark Stevens on Phase 1 of "Liberty Canyon Wildlife Passage Improvements Project".

Native vegetation and other techniques are being designed and applied to the landscape to encourage mountain lions and other wildlife towards the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Passage instead of trying to cross the open freeway. The project is funded by a primary grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board, with additional support from Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and CalTrans. This is the first phase of a multi-phase crossing effort and would complement the ultimate goal of a highway spanning wildlife overpass at Liberty Canyon that is the focus of the current #SaveLACougars campaign. Learn more by reading TBF's full announcement [HERE](#).

### **“When Nature Calls” – You Know You Want It**

A new vessel sewage management guide, *When Nature Calls*, is now available to boaters. This full color, 14-page “potty book” covers the environmental impacts of sewage in our waterways, marine sanitation devices, chemical additives, green solutions, instructions for how to use a stationary pumpout, and what is required of boaters to comply with the law. Boaters may download a version from [publications page](#) on TBF’s website. This publication was created by the State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and TBF, with funding from a Clean Vessel Act Grant.

### **Multiple Grants Across The Bay Foundation Programs Provide Great Opportunities**

U.S. EPA awarded two grants in a total amount of \$85,000 to assist the SMBNEP in studying and planning to adapt to climate change impacts. The first grant will be used to conduct a broad, risk-based, climate change vulnerability assessment of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan, identifying strengths and weaknesses of existing milestones in order to manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The second grant will be used to install a high precision, high frequency autonomous pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> sensing package, which will provide valuable time-series information on acidification and hypoxia, and advance research on status and trends as well as response to acidification by biological communities in the Bay.

The State Coastal Conservancy has awarded \$68,833.27 to The Bay Foundation for a Kelp Forest Hydrodynamics Study as part of the larger Climate Ready Grant Program. The study will measure the ability of our restored kelp forests to attenuate wave energy, alteration of sediment transport and changes in currents.

A grant of \$286,000 was awarded to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority by California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways. Objectives of the grant are to implement a Southern California boating education program about sewage related issues, educate boating facility operators about the Clean Vessel Act grant program for installation and maintenance of pumpout stations, and monitor publicly funded pumpout facilities throughout Southern California.

In June, TBF completed the highly successful LADWP Community Partnership Outreach Grant. Through Public Service Announcements, outreach events, rain garden installations, and media, TBF reached **over half a million people** with practical ways to conserve energy and water. Check out the humorous, 1-minute conservation PSAs on TBF’s YouTube channel, here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCebNmtfPpWeimK93p72wG4w>



Since April, as part of the Metropolitan Water District’s Innovative Conservation Program, The Bay Foundation has completed the installation of four residential rain gardens in Culver City and Mar Vista. The projects included pre-monitoring to evaluate water conservation, lawn removal, ground contouring to accommodate storm runoff from roof downspouts, and the planting of

drought-tolerant, native vegetation. Neighbors and volunteers helped TBF staff transform these grass lawns into native rain gardens for stormwater capture and water conservation.

### [In The News](#)

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



The [Los Angeles Times](#) accompanied our marine team during the Refugio oil spill to check out the status of Santa Monica Bay, especially around the kelp restoration sites and into the South Bay. They documented our team's search for tar balls and collection of tar balls for testing.

KCET Departures Blogger Carren Jao returned to write about the Malibu Lagoon, two years after [her 2013 story](#) on the restoration. She reviewed the report then spoke with TBF's Mark Abramson and State Parks' Suzanne Goode to share her take [HERE](#).

The [Topanga Messenger](#) published the announcement of TBF's project management support via Sr. Watershed Advisor Mark Abramson, especially for the "approach landscape", on Phase 1 of the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing for mountain lions.

*KNX 1070* invited Executive Director Tom Ford to be on *twice* within a week to speak about the Refugio oil spill and its potential effects on areas of Santa Monica Bay.

[The Argonaut](#) quoted Tom Ford regarding the Santa Barbara's birds and sea mammals that migrate south after the oil spill there, and potential illness.

Tom Ford was quoted by the [Daily Breeze](#) upon release of the EPA's fracking report.

The *Santa Monica Daily Press* published TBF's press release on the [Honey Pot program](#).

The [Santa Monica Daily Press \(p. 14\)](#) highlighted TBF's volunteer opportunities through a GIIVE.org article that focuses on different nonprofits.

The [Local Malibu \(p. 9-10\)](#) published the announcement of the Malibu Lagoon 2-year Comprehensive Monitoring Report. And the [Malibu Times](#) published an article on the report, talking to TBF, State Parks, and the local community.



[Multiple regional Acorn](#) newspapers continue to publish the status of at least a handful of California red-legged frogs who've survived their first year in the Santa Monica Mountains – "they're basically teenagers now."

The Bay Foundation's Tom Ford was awarded the "Project Collaboration" award during [Los Angeles Business Journal's](#) Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards. Consequently, on page 16 of the LABJ's special

section on the Awards included an article about the kelp restoration project that was the conduit for the award.

*Sea Magazine* highlighted our Southern California Boater's Guide App in its May issue "West Coast Focus" section.

The water/drought PSAs—"Desert Delivery" (over 12,000 views!) and the final one "Pretend--produced by TBF with LADWP (both on [TBF's YouTube page](#)) continued to receive strong exposure through multiple outlets until the close of the grant, and even after! *Sustainable Santa Monica e-News* shared the PSAs, as did weekly e-Newsletters of Councilmember Tom LaBonge, the City of Los Angeles' Ch. 35, and Calabasas TV. We thank everyone who helped share these.

### **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:** ["The Bay 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 The Bay Foundation on our site? Check out your local DINING options at

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/learn/our-work/clean-bay-restaurants/>

### **2015 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates**

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

The remaining 2015 meeting dates are:

- August 20 \* **THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED** \*
- October 15
- December 17

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

For additional information concerning any SMBRC Governing Board meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or by e-mail at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) . You may also visit the SMBRC website at [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov) .

### **Check Out Our Websites**

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

The Bay Foundation's website can be viewed at [www.santamonicabay.org](http://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](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) or Julie Du Brow at [jdubrow@santamonicabay.org](mailto:jdubrow@santamonicabay.org) .