

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.

## October-November 2016 Edition

### Prop. 84 Funds are Recommended for Five Impactful Projects

On Oct. 20, the SMBRC recommended funding for five projects that would use the final \$9,000,000 allocated to the SMBRC from Proposition 84 by the State Water Resources Control Board for coastal water quality improvement projects pursuant to the Clean Beaches Program. Proposition 84 is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, passed by the voters of California on November 7, 2006.

The funds from Prop. 84 were made available to the SMBRC for projects that protect Santa Monica Bay beaches and coastal waters, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, and projects to protect and restore the Bay's marine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats. The RFP (released Nov. 2015) for this round of funding focused on assisting responsible agencies in meeting the requirements of the new Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit).



*SMBRC Chair Enrique C. Zaldivar, with City of L.A. Councilmember Paul Koretz at his right and SMBRC Executive Dir. Tom Ford (white shirt, under sign), at Westwood Neighborhood Greenway Project ribbon cutting on Nov. 4, 2016.*

The five projects are:

- Culver Boulevard Realignment and Stormwater Infiltration/Retention Regional Project (Project Applicant: City of Culver City)
- Westwood Neighborhood Greenway Project (Project Applicant: City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation)
- Ladera Park Water Quality Enhancement Project (Project Applicant: County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works)
- Gates Canyon Park Project (Project Applicant: County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works)
- Santa Monica Bay Catch Basin Insert Project (Project Applicant: City of Rancho Palos Verdes)

For more complete information on the projects and amounts awarded, please [click here](#).

We would like to thank the Clean Beaches Santa Monica Bay Task Force for all their work in reviewing the submissions.

### Beginning the BRP Process: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Earlier this year, The Bay Foundation (TBF), with support from the SMBRC, was awarded an EPA grant to conduct a broad, risk-based, Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) of the objectives

in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program's (SMBNEP) Bay Restoration Plan (BRP), our guiding document. The CCVA identifies risks associated with individual objectives and goals in the BRP. Additionally, the CCVA identifies strengths and weaknesses of existing objectives to manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The inputs from this project will be used to develop climate change adaptation strategies and directly inform the revision of the SMBNEP's BRP to be completed by 2019. [The CCVA is currently posted here.](#)

BRP goals span a wide range, including; water quality, natural resources, and human use values and benefits. Thus the results of this assessment may help inform many of the SMBNEP partner agencies in their climate change adaptation planning efforts. The CCVA is one aspect of the larger effort to help NEPs and environmental managers address climate change in watersheds and coastal areas. The CCVA is a living product that can have new models, additional risks, and vulnerability revisions altered over time as new information becomes available. SMBNEP would like to thank U.S.EPA, and the experts who provided invaluable input to the report.

### **Pilot Beach Restoration Project Ready to Go!**

The Santa Monica Beach Restoration pilot project of approximately three acres aims to return a healthy and beautiful ecosystem to this beach, which in turn, will address climate change issues for both humans and wildlife. The project will evaluate increased protection for our coastal infrastructure and residences from sea level rise and erosion, while also providing a vital refuge for invertebrates, birds, and rare coastal vegetation species. It will also serve as a model for the region, showing that heavy recreational use of beaches and meaningful habitat restoration are both possible!

This pilot project will use low-lying sand fencing and native plant seeds to restore approximately two out of three acres of a highly impacted beach system. The goal is to bring back a diverse, endemic-rich, coastal plant and wildlife community which has been almost completely eliminated from the Los Angeles region. We believe that the iconic beaches of Santa Monica will be a beautiful and important location to try out this restoration project, which will utilize existing sand to transform a portion of the current beach into a sustainable coastal strand and foredune habitat complex resilient to sea level rise. To learn more about the project and how you can help please [click here.](#)



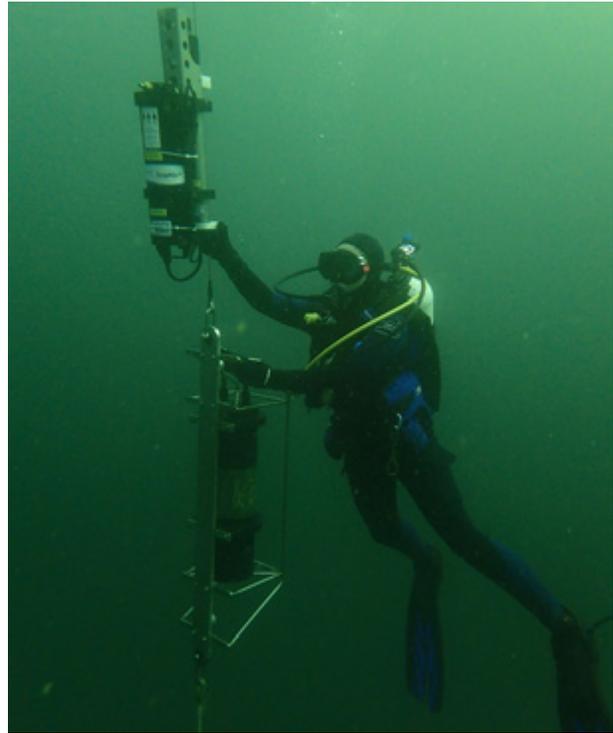
*Artwork by Mia Lehrer+Associates*

## Ocean Acidification: New pH and Dissolved Oxygen sensors Deployed!

We are excited to announce that on Nov. 3rd, the long-awaited SeapHOx sensor, which will measure dissolved oxygen and pH in the ocean, was connected with the pCO<sub>2</sub> sensor that was originally placed into Santa Monica Bay in July (see July-September 2016 edition of [Baywire](#)).

Combined, these sensors form an array that will collect data on these key chemical attributes of the ocean water. The information gained from these data will help us understand how ocean acidification is manifesting off our coast.

These sensors represent an aspect of SMBNEP's involvement in regional efforts to better understand ocean acidification. This effort is a collaboration between TBF, The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles Environmental Monitoring Division. Other partners include: U.S. EPA, UC Davis, UCLA, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System.



## Award-Winning Clean Bay Certified Program Making Waves



L to R: Victoria Gambale, Grace Lee

The Clean Bay Certified (CBC) Program staff connected with a new community in mid-Sept. at the annual L.A. Green Festival downtown, and with our carnival-like game, were able to educate a number of visitors on best practices to improve the quality of stormwater heading into Santa Monica Bay.

A few days later, the CBC Program won the Innovation category in the [SoCal Environmental Excellence Development \(SEED\) Awards](#), which are presented by the South Bay Business Environmental Coalition. The program was noted for going “above and beyond the norm for sustainability”.

CBC has also just received a grant from Patagonia who funds “organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change.” The grant will fund the creation of CBC tool kits to help restaurateurs overcome roadblocks to certification.

## 2015 Annual Report for SMBNEP Posted

The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program 2015 Annual Report has been posted online on the SMBRC website ([click here](#)) and on The Bay Foundation website ([click here](#)). The Annual Report reflects information for the calendar year 2015.

## Join TBF Outside

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations:

- Culver City Rain Garden
- LAX Dunes
- Malibu Lagoon
- Stone Canyon Creek

Please check TBF's [Events Page](#) for dates, times, brief descriptions, and who to contact.

TBF also works with corporations and other organizations for group volunteer days. Please contact Rod Abbott ([rabbott@santamonicaabay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonicaabay.org)) if you'd like to plan such an event.

## In The News

[Culver City News](#) and [YoVenice](#) reported the news about the five winning projects to be recommended for Prop. 84 funding. One of the projects is in Culver City.

[Culver City Crossroads](#) touted the addition of Culver City in the Clean Bay Certified restaurant program, and how it will help prevent stormwater runoff pollution.

[The Beverly Press](#) helped TBF call out for Coastal Cleanup Day volunteers; and [Westside Today](#) reported on the LAX dunes cleanup event results, with over 3500 lbs. of invasive vegetation collected and a welcome to our 130 volunteers by Councilmember Mike Bonin.

Several outlets kindly noted TBF's 2nd Annual Coastal Connections event and its notable honorees, including [SM Mirror](#), the Playa Vista Residential (and Campus) News, & Sustainable Santa Monica.

[Malibu Times](#) featured TBF's Mark Abramson in "Three Years After Restoration" piece.

## Social Media is Important, Fun and Connects Us!

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

Facebook: [@The Bay Foundation](#)

Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: [@TheBayFoundation](#)

YouTube: "The Bay Foundation"

\*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow. Watch our Facebook page for "Restaurant Thursdays"

And did you know you can check out your local dining options via an interactive map of certified [Clean Bay Restaurants](#) on our site?

## TBF INSTAGRAM PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Pictures we love on Instagram that tag @TheBayFoundation!



*King tides today make it perfect for marine team's annual tide pool surveys*

## 2016 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 last 2016 meeting will be held on December 15. The anticipated 2017 meeting dates are:

- February 16
- April 20
- June 15
- August 17
- October 19
- December 21

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 808-631-6118 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).