

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

*Our mission:*

*To restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the Bay's benefits and values.*



*Letter From the Director*

The year 2008 has been full of surprises for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and its stakeholders. We moved our offices from downtown Los Angeles to the campus of Loyola Marymount University in Westchester, where we are closer to the Bay, the Ballona Wetlands and our many projects located throughout the Santa Monica Bay watershed. We received a large grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to conduct baseline monitoring in Ballona Wetlands, and several smaller grants for research and planning in Ballona Creek watershed, only to have those funds frozen just as projects were getting underway, due to the state's current fiscal crisis. A year of ups and downs!

This report describes our work in revising the Bay Restoration Plan, the guiding document for the SMBRC's efforts to clean up and restore the Santa Monica Bay. The BRP Update took 18 months and included public workshops, online submissions, and one-on-one meetings. The result was fourteen goals and over 160 milestones marking our path to a restored Bay - a path that was strongly supported by our partners and gained the unanimous approval of our Board of Governors.

We are pleased to report that the broad stakeholder base and science and policy expertise of the SMBRC are being put to good use in the state's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, the process that will finally evaluate potential marine protected areas in southern California including the Bay. Our work on the invasive mudsnail in the streams of the Santa Monica Mountains, as well as the results from a ground-breaking survey of pumpout use by California recreational boaters, are also detailed in this report.

There are many other exciting programs ongoing at the SMBRC. Working with Loyola Marymount University, we started a collaborative Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies, to build on our productive relationships with professors and students, and attract research funding and disseminate information. With our municipal and nonprofit partners, we completed installation of 500 catch-basin trash collection devices, a permeable parking lot for hundreds of cars right on the beach, low-flow diversions at Marina del Rey and elsewhere, and the removal of an historic berm and restoration of the streambanks in lower Topanga Creek. Our Clean Restaurant Certification program is rewarding conscientious restaurants that take care of their stormwater with positive publicity and exposure, and our Coastal Clean Up Day event continues to attract volunteers eager to help clean up litter and spread the word about the tragic consequences of marine debris.

The SMBRC wishes to say a big thank you to our Governing Board members and other partners, who make all of our work possible. We look forward to implementing our revised and updated Bay Restoration Plan and continuing to improve the health and vitality of the Bay and all the creatures whose lives and livelihoods depend upon it.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelley Luce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Shelley Luce  
Executive Director*

## *Major Programs and Projects of SMBRC in 2008*

### *Proposition 50 Grant Program*

Baldwin Hills to Ballona Creek Storm Water Diversion, Treatment, and Reuse  
Ballona Creek Mid-City Pollution Control Retrofit  
Bicknell Green Street Urban Runoff Treatment BMP Demonstration Project in Santa Monica  
Culver City's City-Wide Best Management Practices (BMP) Treatment Train  
Go Wild! Nativescaping at Schools  
Grand Avenue Tree Wells Storm Water Infiltration in Venice  
Low Flow Diversion at 28th Street in Manhattan Beach\*  
Low Flow Diversion at Boone Olive Pump Station in Marina del Rey\*  
Malibu Lagoon Restoration  
Mar Vista Recreation Center Retrofit in West Los Angeles  
Permeable Beach Parking Lots Construction in Manhattan Beach  
Rancho Corral Land Acquisition Purchase within Corral Canyon of the Santa Monica Mountains\*  
Santa Monica Bay Watershed Catch Basin Trash Excluders  
Sapphire Storm Drain Low Flow Diversion in Redondo Beach

### *Proposition 12 Grant Program*

Arundo Removal Along Malibu Creek  
Ballona Creek Litter Monitoring and Collection Project  
Ballona Creek Watershed historical ecology and water budget studies  
Ballona Creek Greenway Plan Development  
Beach Bluffs Restoration Project in South Bay  
California Red-legged Frog Survey Project in Santa Monica Bay Watershed  
Downspout Disconnection Program in Ballona Creek Watershed  
Green Solution Planning Project - Phase II in Los Angeles County  
Invasive Vegetation Removal at Solstice Creek  
Invasive Vegetation Removal at Zuma Creek  
Kelp Restoration in Santa Monica Bay  
Madrona Marsh Restoration and Enhancement  
Nicholas Canyon Creek Restoration\*  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Invasive Vegetation Removal and Habitat Restoration Projects  
Rindge Dam Removal Feasibility Study  
Stone Canyon Creek Restoration Project  
Topanga Creek Rodeo Grounds Berm Removal  
Wilshire Drain Diversion and Treatment\*

### *Water Quality, Watershed, and Wetlands Restoration*

Proposition 84 grant program planning, outreach, and proposal solicitation  
Support and facilitation of Ballona Wetlands restoration plan development and interim management  
Wetlands monitoring program development and implementation  
Watershed green solution promotion and facilitation  
Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force participation  
California Clean Beach Task Force participation

### *Marine and Riparian Habitats Protection and Monitoring*

Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Regional Stakeholder Group participation  
MLPA data gap analysis project  
Bight\* '08 nearshore rocky reef habitats assessment and eutrophication study  
Baseline economic data collection on non-consumptive uses of the Bay  
Surveys to assess the extent of mudsnail infestation in the Northern Bay watershed (Santa Monica Mountains)  
State Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force participation

### *Planning and Policy Development*

Bay Restoration Plan check-up and update  
Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) implementation facilitation  
Stream Restoration policy development  
Stream protection ordinance development

### *Public Outreach*

Storm Water BMP restaurant certification program in South Bay area  
Southern California Boater Education Programs  
State of the Bay report development  
Coastal Cleanup Day coordination  
Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Risk Communication Program support

\* Completed in 2008





### *A New Chapter in Bay History*

The SMBRC added a new chapter to the Bay's history book when we completed an update to the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) shortly before the dawn of the New Year. By a unanimous vote, our Governing Board approved the 2008 BRP Update at its meeting on December 18, 2008. The new BRP reflects the consensus of all SMBRC partners on the best approaches and strategies to ensure progress toward Bay restoration in the coming decades. With 14 goals, 66 objectives, and 166 milestones, it is without question a comprehensive plan that meets head-on the broad and complex issues and challenges we face. Whether by coincident or not, the timing of the new Plan's release is also noteworthy. 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) and provided an ideal time to take a look back and plan for the future. Meanwhile, we are also glad to signal the readiness of the SMBRC and all our stakeholders to bring renewed energy to the work of restoring Santa Monica Bay.

Let's briefly turn the page to an earlier time in history. The original BRP was developed by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project (SMBRP) shortly after it was established in 1988 as an NEP. The original BRP was approved by the federal EPA Administrator and the State's Governor in 1995 and has served as the blueprint guiding the recovery of the Bay's health ever since. In 2003, the SMBRP formally became the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), which carries on the mission to facilitate and oversee implementation of the BRP, but with greater capacity to carry out restoration efforts.

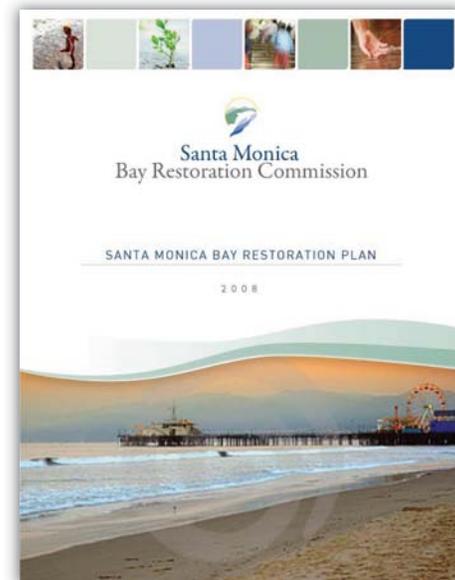
While the original 1995 BRP served its purpose well, certain elements had become outdated after 13 years without a major tune-up. Beginning in mid-2007 and over the course of the next 18 months, SMBRC staff conducted a thorough "check-up" of our progress on implementing the original BRP, and an update with major revisions that better reflect current status and needs in the Bay. We did this through an interactive process with active participation from members of the Governing Board and the public. The results of this process are two documents: the 1995 BRP Check-Up and the 2008 BRP Update.

The 1995 BRP Check-Up is a section-by-section examination of the progress we have made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the original 1995 BRP. Happily, we can report that the achievements of the SMBRC and its partners over the last thirteen years are extraordinary: completing secondary treatment upgrades at the two major wastewater treatment plants, securing more than \$60 million of state bond funding for projects to restore the Bay, completing more than 30 capital outlay projects for improving dry-weather water quality at Bay beaches, and acquiring thousands of acres of open spaces and key wetland and riparian habitats in the Bay watershed. These are just some of the significant milestones among many other success stories that you can find when you browse through the Check-Up report.

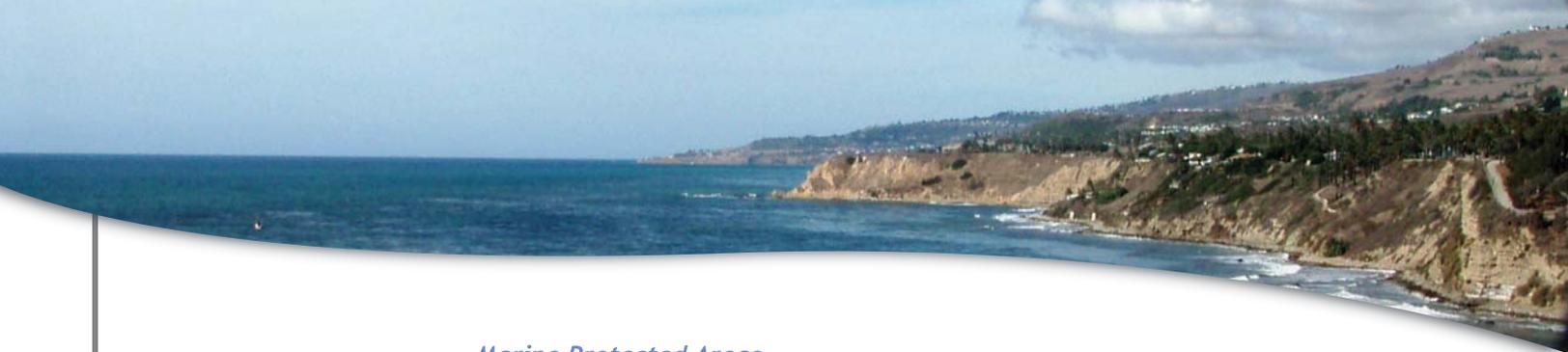


While we proudly inscribe these achievements into the Bay's history book, the check-up has illuminated many remaining obstacles and challenges. For example, there has been no significant reduction in pollutant loading from urban runoff; DDT and PCBs continue to release into the environment far above the levels harmful to marine life and human health from the nation's largest deposit on Palos Verdes Shelf; and few or no measures have been added to prevent overharvesting of fish and other marine organisms in the Bay. On top of these challenges, we must also deal with the potential impacts of emerging contaminants and climate change.

The newly-adopted 2008 BRP Update is designed to provide a new set of tools and mechanisms to address these challenges. But more importantly, the SMBRC wants to use this opportunity to inspire everyone to think big, aim higher, and explore unbeaten paths. This is not an easy task. But in the end, our hard work, which included multiple public workshops, many iterations of a draft document, numerous face-to-face meetings and e-mail communications, has paid off. Many of our partners represented on the Governing Board also deserve kudos for their active contributions and proactive stances on many issues. These efforts have made it possible to incorporate ground-breaking approaches and ambitious milestones into the BRP Update, such as the use of low-impact development and green infrastructure approach to reducing storm water pollution, protection and restoration of local streams, and major expansion of water recycling in the Bay watershed.



*We are all excited to have this long-awaited new blueprint for restoring the Santa Monica Bay. As Mark Gold, President of Heal the Bay and Vice-Chair of the Commission's Governing Board commented in his blog, there is nothing more fulfilling than to see the SMBRC taking environmental protection to another level. Meanwhile, we cannot disregard his warning: the hard part is getting everyone to do their part to implement the new BRP. "Only when we all do so, can we finally have the restored Santa Monica Bay that we've been dreaming of for decades."*



## *Marine Protected Areas*

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) mean many things to many people. To some they are underwater parks where one can photograph plentiful and large fish. To others they are no-go zones, outside of which one can catch large fish. And to a few, they are control sites where one can study undisturbed marine ecosystems.

To meet these expectations, California's MPAs will need to be large enough to encompass the movements of many species, close enough together to provide inter-connected habitats where larvae may settle, and broad enough to capture organisms that occupy many different types of habitats over their lifetimes. They will need to be located in areas with rich habitat and species diversity in order to improve opportunities to observe marine life inside the reserves and enhance fishing activities outside. They will need to be drawn with sensitivity to the viability of recreational and commercial fishing industries. They should also be near sites of long-term monitoring and take advantage of synergies with other marine and coastal managed areas.

All of this will take a tremendous amount of data. Accurate, spatially resolved, quantitative data often don't exist. The SMBRC began working two years ago with support from the Ocean Protection Council to fill in these data gaps. Our work included proposing a list of potential species likely to benefit from MPAs, and a survey of coastal visitors focused on non-

consumptive, recreational uses of our ocean. Now that the State planning process has finally arrived in southern California, all the stakeholders involved in the process are making use of our data.

Establishing an acceptable and meaningful network of MPAs in southern California will take more than good data. Public participation is also key, and this will happen through the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG). The RSG is composed of stakeholders willing and able to work together on a solution to the complicated jigsaw puzzle of our marine habitats and uses.

Our marine policy specialist, Lia Protopapadakis, has been appointed to the Regional Stakeholder Group, where she will work with other stakeholders to develop proposals for a network of MPAs in the south coast region. Lia will represent the SMBRC and will be a voice for collaboration and compromise as we move toward solutions that put the long-term benefit of living marine resources and the millions who depend on them ahead of all other interests. With assistance from the Resource Legacy Fund Foundation, SMBRC will ensure that local officials and communities surrounding the Santa Monica Bay are informed and able to participate as the process continues. In this vein, Lia has given presentations about the process at local aquariums and is planning public informational meetings targeting groups throughout the community.

*Two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) exist in Santa Monica Bay: Abalone Cove and Point Fermin. They are both State Marine Parks, one of three types of MPA that prohibits commercial fishing. These MPAs were presumably created to protect these heavily picked-over rocky-intertidal communities, while allowing recreational anglers and spearfishermen to continue to fish in the area. In 1999, with the signing of the Marine Life Protection Act, California embarked on a mission to evaluate these and the other existing State MPAs for their effectiveness and to establish a network of MPAs that have common purpose and function.*

## *Combatting Invaders in Our Watershed*

In 2008, SMBRC staff worked with the Santa Monica Baykeeper to conduct a third annual New Zealand mudsnail survey in the Santa Monica Mountains. The survey results are being analyzed, but this much is already known: Mudsnail numbers are increasing in infested streams, and the mudsnail continues to spread. In 2006, we found mudsnails only within the Malibu Creek watershed. A year later they had spread up the coast to the Solstice Creek watershed. Thankfully, our latest survey indicated the mudsnail has not yet spread to any additional watersheds, though they continue to invade further upstream in the tributaries of Malibu Creek watershed. Of particular concern was the appearance of the snail in Cold Creek, which has been called one of the “best preserved and most biologically diverse” areas in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Additionally, the SMBRC continues to support research and projects to control and manage other invasive species including red swamp crayfish; Arundo donax; English, Cape, and Algerian ivies; tree of heaven; fennel; and a host of others.

This year Jack Topel, the SMBRC’s lead staff for invasive species issues, was invited to join the California Agencies Aquatic Invasive Species Team (CAAIST).

Two of the most important objectives of the CAAIST are to facilitate communication and collaboration among state agencies on aquatic invasive species management, and to implement the California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan, which was signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in January of 2008.

Jack also began working with staff from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to have Malibu Creek placed on the 303d list of impaired water bodies due to the presence of invasive species. Placement on the 303d list is the first step toward eventually establishing a TMDL for invasive species in Malibu Creek.

We continue to support public outreach aimed at preventing the introduction and stemming the spread of the invasive species. Staff has given presentations at conferences and interviews with local media in our efforts to inform the public of the problems posed by invasive species and how we can all prevent the introduction and spread.



*Invasive species are already a serious environmental and economic problem in the Santa Monica Bay watershed and beyond. Nationally, the cost of controlling invasives and the damages that result from their introduction is estimated at more than \$137 billion annually. In California alone, more than \$87 million a year goes into the fight against invasive plants and animals. Here at home, the Commission has invested hundreds of thousands in the battle.*





*The SMBRF's Boater Program renewed strong working relationships with marinas through regular site visits; assisted marinas that did not have the proper equipment and signage; and significantly increased awareness of available funding opportunities for installation and maintenance of sewage pumpout facilities. The evaluation determined and continues to measure the number of functioning pumpout facilities for boaters in California. This is proving beneficial as we work towards improving vessel sewage management in California harbors.*

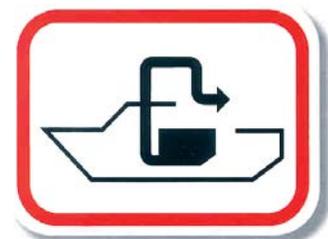
### *Checking the Pumps*

Since 1993, Congress has allocated \$140 million from the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) to help reduce pollution from recreational vessel sewage discharges into U. S. waters. This is extremely important in reducing bacteria and nutrient loads in marinas and coastal areas, attaining water quality standards and meeting TMDL requirements. The program has funded construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of sewage pumpout/dump station facilities and outreach programs at marinas throughout the state. It has helped marinas to buy new equipment or renovate existing equipment, including pumps, piping, on-site holding tanks, pier or dock modifications, signs, permits, and other things needed for a comprehensive sewage management facility.

Unfortunately, since the program's inception, there has been little follow up on tracking how those CVA funds were spent or measuring the effectiveness of the pumpout stations they funded. Initially, there was also a dearth of information available about the capabilities and maintenance requirements of sewage pumpout equipment. To fill these gaps, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) worked with the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and the San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP) to implement a statewide program to monitor the condition of sewage pumpout stations that have been supported by CVA funds.

The study areas included 59 facilities in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties of southern California and 79 facilities in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in northern California.

The evaluation of sewage pumpout facilities showed a clear picture of how CVA grant funds were used, the effectiveness of these allocations, and the specific conditions at pumpout facilities.



### *The Coming Year and Beyond*

As we enter 2009, the SMBRC has an updated Bay Restoration Plan and lots of energy for tackling new challenges and finding fresh approaches to ongoing issues. At the same time, we and our stakeholders are weathering a terrible financial crisis, with many of our water quality and habitat improvement projects on hold indefinitely, and funding for our own staff in peril. All the energy and good intentions in the world may not compensate for the loss of over \$20 million in bond funding for important water quality and habitat improvement projects!

We are dismayed by the delays but excited by the progress to date in our Green Solutions project - Phase One was completed last year, and Phase Two will resume when bond funds are available again. This project identifies publicly-owned lands suitable for infiltrating or treating stormwater while creating new parks and open spaces, and could lead the way to truly multi-benefit projects. Also on hold, but hopefully underway again soon, is our Prop 84 Grant program. Proposals are under review by staff and our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and we look forward to going ahead with this program in the future.

Our TAC is working hard on a new State of the Bay report, the first in five years. This comprehensive overview of the ecological status of Santa Monica Bay brings together scientific work from dozens of researchers and institutions throughout the region and is eagerly awaited by the many people who are trying to clean up our waters and protect our diverse ecosystem. The report will be written this year and we are planning a State of the Bay conference for early 2010.

We also welcome another round of Public Involvement and Education grants in 2009. This very popular grant program sponsors innovative outreach that fosters environmental restoration and stewardship, and we are expecting many creative proposals in this round. There are sure to be more good ideas than we can fund all at once, and as always, we will continue to seek more funding for further rounds of this grant program.



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (July 1, 2007 - June 31, 2008)

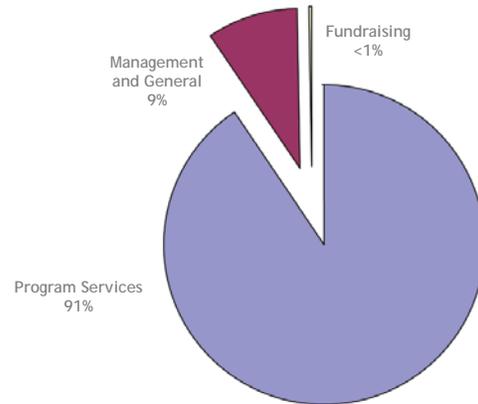
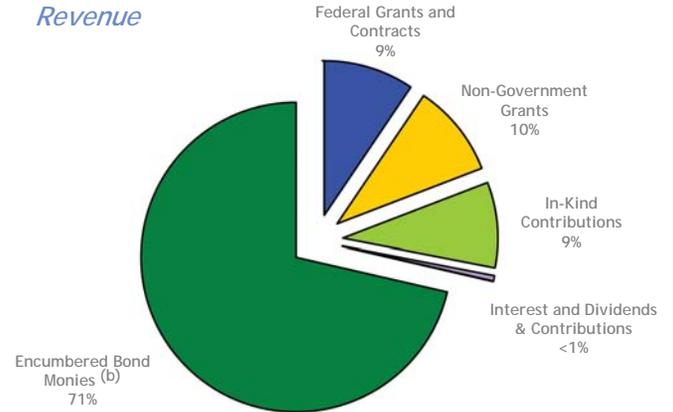
The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation partners with the Commission to make funds and resources available for restoration of the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Provided below is a financial summary that reflects the total resources made available through this partnership for the work of preserving, protecting, and restoring these important natural resources.

	Total	Commission (SMBRC) (a)	Foundation (SMBRF)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Federal Grants and Contracts	437,653	-	437,653
Non-Government Grants	455,329	-	455,329
In-Kind Contributions	417,274	361,366	55,908
Interest and Dividends	22,359	-	22,359
Contributions	4,625	-	4,625
Bond Monies (b)	3,340,132	3,340,132	-
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>4,677,372</b>	<b>3,701,498</b>	<b>975,874</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	1,558,517	361,366	1,197,151
Management and General	158,739	-	158,739
Fundraising	3,020	-	3,020
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	<b>1,720,276</b>	<b>361,366</b>	<b>1,358,910</b>

### FOUNDATION : Assets and Liabilities (c)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	97,708	-	97,708
Investments	371,511	302,074	673,585
Accounts Receivable	440,837	-	440,837
Prepaid Expenses	3,008	-	3,008
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>913,064</b>	<b>302,074</b>	<b>1,215,138</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	236,240	-	236,240
Accrued Liabilities	49,237	-	49,237
Deferred Revenue	69,500	-	69,500
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>354,944</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>354,977</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted	558,087	-	558,087
Temporarily Restricted	-	302,074	302,074
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>913,064</b>	<b>302,074</b>	<b>1,215,138</b>

### Revenue



### Expenses

- a) The financial summary provided for the Commission was not prepared by a certified public accountant, but by administrative staff at the Commission. The numbers provided here are intended to provide a general overview of the resources of the Commission and do not necessarily meet GAP standards.
- b) Bond monies are held in account by the CA State Coastal Conservancy and the CA State Water Resources Control Board for projects in Santa Monica Bay. The Bay Commission is responsible for soliciting, selecting, and overseeing the projects funded by these monies. The amount reported here reflects the total amount allocated by the Bay Restoration Commission in FY 08 for projects in the Bay and watershed.
- c) Assets and Liabilities are provided for the Foundation only.

## GOVERNING BOARD

### *Executive Committee*

Richard Bloom\*, Mayor, City of Santa Monica (Public Member, At-Large)  
Tom Ford\*, Executive Director, Santa Monica Baykeeper (Public Member, Public Interest)  
Mark Gold\*, President, Heal the Bay (Public Member, Public Interest)  
Fran Pavley, State Senator, 23rd District  
Fran Diamond\*, Chair, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Mike Gin\*, Mayor, City of Redondo Beach (Representative, South Bay Cities)  
Gail Farber\*, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Linda Adams\*, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Angus Alexander, Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division  
Don Koch, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
Julia Brownley, State Assemblymember, 41st District  
Charles Caspary, President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Michael Chrisman\*, Secretary California Resources Agency  
Ruth Coleman, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Rich Ambrose, UCLA (SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee Chair)  
Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Bob Hoffman, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries Southwest Division  
Vacant\*, Councilmember, City of Malibu (Representative, Malibu Watershed Cities)  
Ted Lieu, State Assemblymember, 53rd District  
Ann Notthoff\*, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Jenny Oropeza, State Senator, 28th District  
Ephraim Leon-Guerrero, US EPA Region IX  
Micheal O'Leary\*, Councilmember, City of Culver City (Representative, Ballona Watershed Cities)  
Enrique Zaldivar\*, Director, Los Angeles City Department of Public Works  
Bill Rosendahl\*, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles District 11  
Marvin Sachse\*, Brash Industries (Public Member, Business Interest)  
Sandra Shewry, Director, California Department of Health Services  
Catherine Tyrrell, Malcolm-Pirnie (President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation)  
Steve Maguin\*, General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Antonio Villaraigosa\*, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Sara Wan\*, Commissioner, California Coastal Commission  
Dennis Washburn\*, Mayor, City of Calabasas (Public Member, At-Large)  
Jack Weiss, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles, District 5 (President, Bay Watershed Council)  
Santos Kreimann, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Zev Yaroslavsky\*, Supervisor, County of Los Angeles 3rd District (Representative, Board of Supervisors)

\* Voting Member of the Governing Board.

## STAFF

Shelley Luce, Executive Director  
Sean Bergquist, Wetland Restoration Program Manager  
Joel Hanson, Administrative Director  
Karina Johnston, Restoration Ecologist  
Grace Lee, Boater Education Program Coordinator  
Unica Luna, Boater Education Program Assistant  
Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Science and Policy Analyst  
Jack Topel, Environmental Scientist  
Scott Valor, Director of Government Affairs  
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director  
Sarah Woodard, Project Manager

*The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is a public/private partnership—a locally-based, independent state entity charged with the restoration and protection of Santa Monica Bay. The Commission is committed to a restored and healthy Bay, and works to achieve broad consensus and implement innovative policies and projects based on the best available science.*

*Guided by a 35-member Governing Board representing a diversity of Bay stakeholders, the Commission oversees an ambitious agenda for Bay restoration. The Governing Board consists of 20 voting members, 11 non-voting members, and 4 legislative members and meets six times annually. The Governing Board also elects a 7-member Executive Committee which meets in the month prior to Governing Board meetings.*

*The Commission is advised by a Technical Advisory Committee, made up of scientists, engineers, and other experts, which meets six times annually. The broad stakeholder advisory group of the Commission is the 74-member Bay Watershed Council, which convenes once a year.*

*As one of twenty-eight National Estuary Programs, the Commission is also part of a national network of similar organizations working in some of the country's most important coastal waters.*

*A great thanks is owed to all those who participate in the Commission and its mission to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay.*



**bay restoration commission**  
STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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