baywire | NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE SANTA MONICA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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.

2018 Special Edition: & Annual Report

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Santa Monica Bay Enthusiast,

On the following pages you'll find descriptions, photographs, and links to a variety of projects intended to improve the quality of life for the people and wildlife of coastal Los Angeles County. Your interests in beaches, abalone, wetlands, dunes, reducing waste, and cutting edge research will be addressed. I hope you'll find our work to be reflective of the great diversity inherent in Los Angeles; as a people, a place, and a home to thousands of species. The beauty of Los Angeles continues to inspire my work and dedication to keep California synonymous with opportunity, creativity and progress. Thanks in advance for taking a look at our efforts and please join us at any number events this year to contribute to life in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Tom Ford
Director, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Abalone Restoration

Abalone in southern California have been severely depleted due to overharvest and disease for decades. This project implements a multifaceted approach to research and method development to restore populations of abalone to Santa Monica Bay and adjacent coastal waters. In December, TBF outplanted 1200 juvenile red abalone to kelp forests off the Palos Verdes peninsula. With help from our partners at NOAA and Paua Marine Research Group, we developed short-term abalone fixed enclosures (SAFE's) that will be used for both red and white abalone. The SAFE's give the juvenile abalone initial protection after being translocated to their new homes on the reef. In 2019, we will continue to monitor this site as well as outplant more juvenile abalone in efforts to *restore abalone populations* to our Santa Monica Bay.

ReThink Disposable LA

The Clean Water Action / Clean Water Fund (CWA/CWF) program provides technical assistance to food service establishments for source reduction of single-use disposable items. In 2018, TBF partnered with CWA/CWF to bring ReThink Disposable to Los Angeles. In total, four restaurants (The Conservatory for Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa, Scoops Chinatown, Gus' Tacos Mexican Grill, and Palette Food and Juice) will collectively reduce single-use disposables by 246,570 pieces and prevent 2,637 pounds of waste from entering the waste stream or ending up as litter on our streets and beaches every year. On average, participating restaurants are also each projected to save $2,000 annually from reducing or eliminating targeted disposable foodware.

LAX Dunes Restoration

In partnership with Los Angeles World Airports and Friends of the LAX Dunes, TBF conducts monthly volunteer restoration events at the LAX Dunes to remove invasive vegetation and teach the local community about the importance of coastal dune systems. Additionally, TBF coordinates biological monitoring activities and leads partners in larger-scale invasive plant removal efforts. In 2018, 689 volunteers completed over 2,000 hours and pulled over 650 bags of invasive, non-native vegetation. Additionally, the program had volunteer participants from over 200 unique zip codes. Lastly, Los Angeles Conservation Corps crews weed whacked an additional 7.8 acres of non-native brome grass and removed nearly one acre of iceplant. Two reports were produced in June, the Year 2 Report summarizing community restoration efforts and an Ecological Monitoring Report.

Climate Change Action Planning & CCMP Action Plan

Climate change, including climate stressors for the region such as sea level rise and drought, continue to be important drivers for planning and adaptive management actions. In 2018, SMBNEP released the Action Plan for the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), including actions related to climate change such as filling in important data gaps for our region, or prioritizing projects to increase resilience of our coastal areas such as beach and dune restorations. This Action Plan was a significant collaborative effort by SMBNEP's Management Conference, staff, and interested stakeholders and members of the public. The seven goals and 44 actions it contains represent priorities for our region, established through many workshops and consensus building activities. Work continues on other components of the CCMP, such as the Comprehensive Monitoring Program and the Financial Plan.

For those of you looking to take a deeper dive into the partnerships and efforts of the SMBNEP kindly click here to access the 2018 SMBNEP SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Volunteer with Us!

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 Chris (cenyart@santamonicabay.org) if you'd like to plan such an event.

Financial Summary (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) Click here

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program – BOARDS & STAFF

The Bay Foundation Staff
SMBRC – Staff Assigned
The Bay Foundation Board of Directors
SMBRC Governing Board
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority Board

About Us **Click Here!**

Social Media Connects Us!

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

Facebook: @The Bay Foundation Twitter: @SMBRF
Instagram: @TheBayFoundation YouTube: "The Bay Foundation"
Invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow us!

2019 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

- April 18
- June 20
- August 15
- October 24
- December 12

All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. Meeting location: Del Rey Yacht Club 13900 Palawan Way Marina del Rey CA 90292

Check Out Our Websites

Please check out the SMBRC website: 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 http://www.santamonicabay.org/. It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Dr. Guang-yu Wang at guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov or at info@santamonicabay.org.