



Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation 25th Anniversary Gala on Oct. 17 to Highlight Stories of the Bay, Local Sustainable Seafood

Honorees include Mel Levine, David Nahai, Sen. Fran Pavley

(Los Angeles, CA – October 10, 2013) The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation will celebrate 25 years of advocating for the Santa Monica Bay on October 17, 2013. This is the first anniversary event the organization has ever held, and many who were instrumental in its creation will be celebrated. The fundraiser gala will be held at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, CA, from 6:00-9:00 pm. Its theme is the accomplishments and stories about the Bay itself told through the eyes of many—from environmental advocates, recreators and patrons to scientists, businesses and government officials—who have a strong connection to the Bay.

Sheila Kuehl will emcee the evening. As state senator in 2002, she presented the legislation (SB 1381) that created the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, the non-regulatory, locally-based state entity charged with overseeing and promoting the organization's guiding document, the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). SMBRF is the non-profit partner of the Commission.

The event will honor its dedicated partners who have helped the SMBRF accomplish its far-reaching environmental goals:

- *Mel Levine* - In 1988, US Rep. Mel Levine (D-Santa Monica) succeeded in getting Santa Monica Bay, one of the country's most polluted, recognized as a National Estuary Program and eligible for annual federal funds, thereby founding the SMBRF's unique, collaborative program.
- *David Nahai* - David is an attorney and former chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board. He is also former head of the LADWP, where he increased the renewable energy portfolio to 14%. David is a long time supporter of SMBRF.
- *State Senator Fran Pavley* (27th District) - Senator Pavley serves as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. She has made the environment one of her key issues, including authoring landmark laws combating climate change by capping greenhouse gas emissions. Senator Pavley has been a longtime member of the SMBRF.



The first-ever Urban Coast Environmental Hero Award will be presented to Suzanne Goode, Senior Environmental Scientist for California Department of Parks and Recreation, for her years of dedication to protecting and restoring the wetlands and other habitats of the Santa Monica Bay watershed. Suzanne successfully manages complex open space issues on the urban fringe, steadfastly protected habitats and species while remaining committed to public access and education in the great outdoors.

The menu at the event will include signature dishes created for the 25th Anniversary Celebration featuring sustainable, locally caught seafood from in and around Santa Monica Bay. Organic wine compliments of Frey Vineyards and sustainable craft beer donated by Ninkasi Brewery will be served.

Sponsors for the 25th Anniversary gala include Chevron and Southern California Gas Company at Donor Level; and CenterCal Properties, LA Department of Water and Power, Metropolitan Water District, RMC Water & Environment, and Southern California Edison at the Supporter Level.

Special thanks to DJ Trent, Brandon Wise Photography, Lindsey Byron Photography, and EnviroTote.

The Host Committee is led by SMBRF President Laurie Newman, who staffed the original SMBRF legislation when she worked for Ms. Kuehl.

Individual tickets options, ranging from \$150-\$500, are available at <http://www.eventbee.com/v/smbrf25>. For questions about sponsorship, please contact Grace Lee at glee@santamonica.org, or 310-462-2987.

As science-based advocates for the Bay, the SMBRF spearheads high-profile projects throughout the region. The SMBRF is transforming degraded habitats into beautiful public open space amenities at Ballona Wetlands and Malibu Lagoon, and bringing back healthy kelp forests, rivers and parks, while supporting community improvement and education efforts. The SMBRF also creates more sustainable fisheries; runs the Clean Bay Restaurant program; hosts an annual kayak-based Coastal Cleanup Day in Los Angeles; and publishes the *Southern California Boater's Guide*, the annual *Urban Coast* journal, and an in-depth *State of the Bay* report every five years. The SMBRF conducts research and mentors student intern and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

About Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF)

www.SantaMonicaBay.org



bay restoration foundation
STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

The SMBRF is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. The Foundation is the non-profit partner of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the Commission's *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan*. As advocates for the Bay, SMBRF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists, to implement innovative policies and projects that clean up the waterways, create green spaces and natural habitats in the Los Angeles region. (www.santamonica.org)

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