



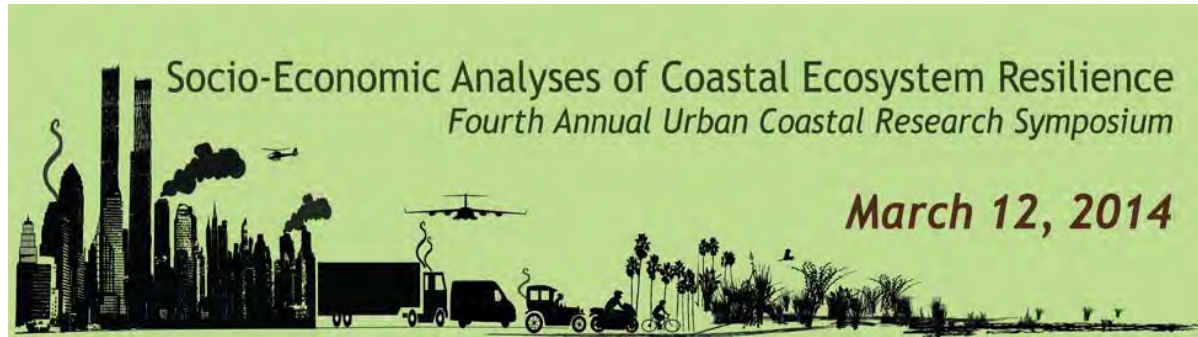
March 2014 Newsletter

Inside:

- [Only a Few Seats Left for Our 4th Annual Symposium!](#)
- [The Ballona Restoration Project Update](#)
- [Outreach & Education News](#)
- [MRCA's Junior Naturalists Graduation](#)
- [Woodman Avenue Multi-Beneficial Stormwater Capture Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#)
- [What is the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project?](#)
- [Internships and Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Stay Connected!](#)

**Only a Few Seats Left for Our 4th Annual Symposium!**

Registration Extended to March 9th



Please join us for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual urban coastal research symposium entitled “Socio-Economic Analyses of Coastal Ecosystem Resilience (SEACER),” at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) on March 12. This event will highlight current and pressing issues, taking a deeper scientific look at the social and economic benefits of resilient coastal systems. Presenters from throughout California will discuss a diverse array of topics from wetland restoration to Marine Protected Areas, green building, and watershed-level greening efforts.

A selection of the distinguished speakers includes Dr. Matthew Kahn, UCLA Professor and environmental economics book author; Shelly Backlar, Executive Director of the Friends of Los Angeles River; architect/speaker/author Eric Corey Freed of Organic Architect; Tom Ford, The Bay Foundation’s Director of Marine Programs; Dr. Amanda Zellmer, Occidental College fisheries researcher; Dr. Richard Shope, LMU Professor of environmental education; Dr. Ryan Vaughn, California State Fullerton; and Dr. Christine Whitcraft, California State University Long Beach.

Symposium [Details](#) (423k PDF) and [Website](#)

---

## The Ballona Restoration Project Update

The Ballona Restoration project team is currently drafting the proposed Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S). The Administrative Draft EIR/EIS is currently scheduled for completion at the end of summer or early fall. Although the local district office of the United States Army Corps of Engineers is one of the public agencies involved in preparing the EIR/S, the Corps’ headquarters has to review the internal administrative draft document in its entirety prior to release to the public.

The current estimate for releasing the draft EIR/S for public comment is the end of 2014. Please note that this schedule is a draft schedule, subject to change. The Ballona Restoration project team will update the schedule if it changes, on a regular basis.

August 2012	Initial Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation
August 16, 2012	Scoping Meeting
Aug. – Oct. 2012	Scoping Comment Period
Jan. 2013	Revised Notice of Preparation
Jan. – March 2013	Second Scoping Comment Period
March 2013 – June 2014	Prepare Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S)
Feb. – Sept. 2014	Internal Agency Review & Revision of Administrative Draft EIR/S
Fall – Winter 2014	Internal Review by Army Corps of Engineers
Winter 2014	Release Draft EIR/S for Public Review
Winter '14 – Spring '15	Public Comment Period
TBD during Public Comment Period	Public Comment Meeting on the Draft EIR/S

---

## Outreach & Education News

---

### MRCA's Junior Naturalists Graduation

---



Proud graduates of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Junior Ranger program.

"The MRCA Junior Ranger Program is a coed program for youth ages eight to sixteen that uses our parks as its classroom and playground. Specifically designed for children with little or no experience in the natural world, the Junior Ranger Program offers a unique combination of environmental science, outdoor skills, experiential learning and leadership activities, and is structured using the best methods of traditional youth organizations. In addition to the classes and camping trips, Junior Rangers must complete twenty four hours of community service, in

both urban areas and at local parks and beaches. Citizenship skills, including communication, responsibility, trust, critical thinking, and teamwork are threaded throughout the curriculum" ([source](#)).

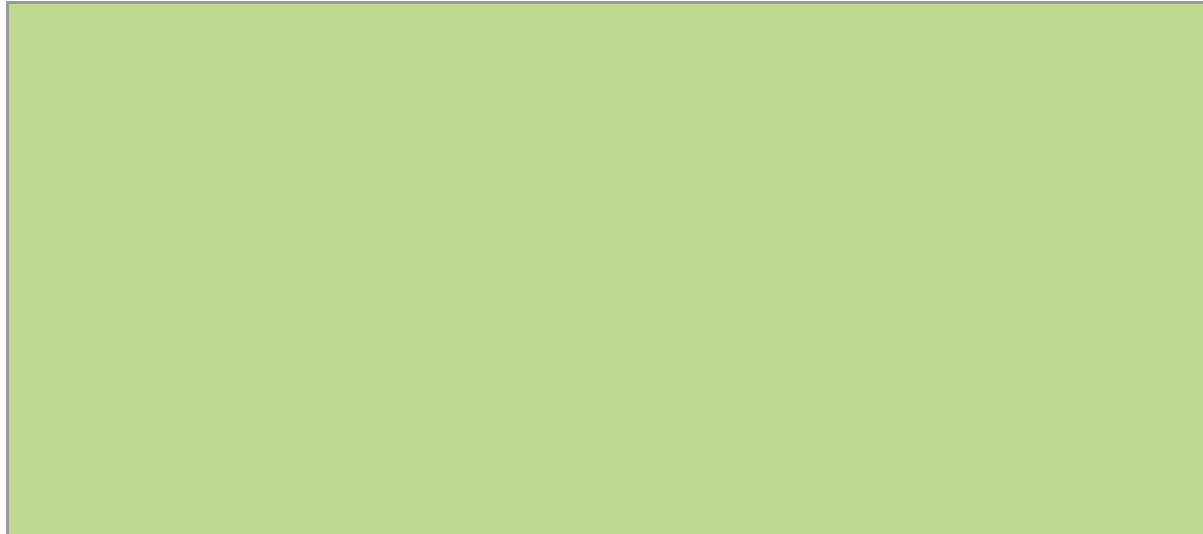
(Photo: TBF/Rod Abbott)

---

## Woodman Avenue Multi-Beneficial Stormwater Capture Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Located at the intersection of Woodman and Strathern in Panorama City, the Woodman Avenue Multi-Beneficial Stormwater Capture Project is designed to recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin, improve water quality, alleviate local flooding, increase habitat, promote environmental stewardship, and enhance the walkability and aesthetics of the 3,500 foot long Woodman Avenue median. The \$3.4 million dollar was funded by a State Proposition 50 grant and with funding from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Sanitation ([source](#)).

For more info and how to get involved, go [HERE](#).





(Photo: TBF/Rod Abbott)



Friends of Ballona Wetlands

Protecting and restoring the Ballona Wetlands for over 35 years with the help of more than 75,000 volunteers.

## What is the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project?



Stretching from Playa del Rey to Venice, the Ballona Wetlands once occupied a 2000-acre expanse of critical coastal habitat. Currently covering an area of 600 acres, the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is the largest and most promising opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County.

(Photo: TBF/Ivan Medel made possible by LightHaw k)

The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project is a long-term, science-based plan to return the Ballona Wetlands into a thriving ecological

reserve. By healing this highly degraded site, the restoration project will create a diverse, resilient and dynamic ecosystem while providing a unique opportunity for the community to reconnect with southern California's natural heritage.

(Photo: TBF)



---

## Internships and Volunteer Opportunities

Assist with Scientific Monitoring and improve watershed health with the SMBRC.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and its partners have many programs and projects happening at any one time so there is always something great to participate in! Weekday and weekend opportunities available.

If you're interested in becoming an intern or volunteer, email Rod Abbott at [rabbott@santamonicabay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonicabay.org)

(Photo:TBF)



## Stay Connected!

Fanatical about Facebook? Ticked with Twitter? Join the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and Instagram to stay informed and up-to-date on the exciting phases of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.





Website



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube



Flickr

Copyright © 2014 The Bay Foundation, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)