



For Immediate Release

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Hosts GOOD Exchange Global Citizenship Project Fellows at Malibu Lagoon

Los Angeles, CA (August 22, 2013) – Yesterday, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) gave a tour of the restored Malibu Lagoon to five fellows selected from a worldwide competition to participate in the GOOD Exchange Global Citizenship Project. The participants who are high-achieving international innovators working for social change in their home countries of South Africa, Ghana, Brazil, Mexico and New Zealand, are in Los Angeles for a weeklong exchange of ideas with prominent local community activists.

The GOOD Exchange Global Citizenship Project, which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, contacted SMBRC to have the Lagoon project presented to the fellows. The project's goal is to have those involved brainstorm if the ideas that work in southern California can be adapted to their respective locations and issues.

"One of the purposes of our fellowship is to ... underscore just how universal many of our problems are, and how productive it can be to share ideas about solutions," said Casey Caplowe, Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer. "We want the best of what is going on in Los Angeles to inform projects half a world away, and vice versa. Our hope is that we can help entrepreneurial community leaders to take what they do and expand it on a global scale."

The five fellows were selected from a worldwide competition, The Global Neighborhood Challenge, which is part of the GOOD Exchange Global Citizenship Project. They include Regina Agyare of Ghana; Bruce Good of South Africa; Kurt Shaw of Recife, Brazil; Maria Morfin of Tepoztlan, Mexico; and Coralie Winn of Christchurch, New Zealand.

"We're honored to have this group of innovators come and learn about the lagoon restoration project," states Dr. Shelley Luce, SMBRC Executive Director. "Restoration projects are vibrant examples of all the things that each of these innovators will probably need to deal with at some point on own projects—from working with stakeholders to looking at fresh options and the science that leads the way. If our tour helps provide guidance that can be translated locally, I'm thrilled." Malibu Lagoon restoration project managers Mark Abramson, Sr. Watershed Advisor for SMBRC, and Suzanne Goode, Sr. Environmental Scientist for California Department of Parks and Recreation, led the tour.



Other organizations the fellows will be engaging with in their Los Angeles stay include CicLAvia, Homeboy Industries, the East LA Community Corporation, the Watts Towers, and the Santa Monica Farmers Market.

PHOTO CAPTION (l to r): Jessica Rivera, GOOD, Coralie Winn of Christchurch, New Zealand; Maria Morfin of Tepoztlan, Mexico; Mark Abramson, SMBRC; Suzanne Goode, CA State Parks; Bruce Good of South Africa; Kate Montague, GOOD; Kurt Shaw of Recife, Brazil; and Regina Agyare of Ghana.

About Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC)

The SMBRC is a State Commission established in 2002 by the California State legislature. It replaces the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, which was established in 1988 by the State of California and U.S. EPA as a National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act. The SMBRC is a non-regulatory, locally-based state entity charged with overseeing and promoting the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) by securing and leveraging funding to put solutions into action, building public-private partnerships, promoting cutting-edge research and technology, facilitating stakeholder-driven consensus processes, and raising public awareness. The BRP focuses on three priority areas—water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans—to ensure the long-term health of the 266-square mile Bay and its 400-square mile watershed. (<http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/>)

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation site is www.santamonibay.org.

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