



For Immediate Release

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and Culver City Win LA County Green Leadership Award for Rain Barrel Program

(Los Angeles, CA--April 24, 2013) – The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), with partner City of Culver City, was awarded the Los Angeles County Green Leadership Award for a Public Agency for their Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program (CCRH) program. The annual awards—recognizing outstanding and innovative energy conservation and environmental efforts by the private and public sectors—were presented yesterday by Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, Chairman during the weekly Board of Supervisors meeting.

“We are excited to be selected for this program, the first of its kind in Culver City,” states Damian Skinner, Environmental Programs & Operations Manager for the City of Culver City. “Community response has been really positive, and working with the SMBRC made implementing the program extremely easy and provided us the tools to continue the program in the future.”

CCRH was developed to involve Culver City residents and property owners in local urban water management, through participating in best management practices on their properties. Normally, rainwater flowing over sidewalks, driveways and streets picks up pollutants (lead, copper, nitrate, phosphorous, bacteria) before flowing into storm drains and out to our rivers and beaches. Capturing rainwater from rooftops—before it becomes polluted runoff—protects our rivers and Santa Monica Bay and helps conserve water resources. Residents can use rainwater on their gardens and cut down on their water bills as well.

CCRH installed 396 rain barrels and redirected rainwater to gardens and lawns, while providing individualized landscape consultations to residents. CCRH also provided direct education to more than 1,000 residents at public events and through the distribution of literature online and in print. The rain barrels installed capture between 175,000 and 400,000 gallons of storm water that otherwise would have flowed into the Santa Monica Bay each year. The pilot program was also implemented to evaluate the overall cost and effectiveness of an ongoing rainwater-harvesting program.

Says Ivan Medel, SMBRC Field and Research Coordinator, and CCRH Program Manager, “It was amazing to see how excited residents were to contribute to the protection of our watershed.”



The Green Leadership Awards press release is available at http://file.lacounty.gov/green/cms1_193330.pdf

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.santamonica.org.

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