



For Immediate Release

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Executive Director Named Chair of National Estuary Programs

(Los Angeles, CA – February 2013) Shelley Luce, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), has been selected to serve a two-year term as the Chair for the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP). The SMBRC has been part of ANEP since 1988 when the State of California and U.S. EPA established the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project (later to become the Commission) as a National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act.

ANEP's mission is to support the nation's 28 local National Estuary Programs and serve as a unified voice for issues affecting them and the nation's vital estuaries. The 28 programs are science-based advocates for their respective estuaries; are collaborative within their local communities, with special focus on public/private partnerships; and share successful strategies among each other to address common ecological and management issues.

"The National Estuary Program fulfills a unique role in fostering collaboration among very broad stakeholder groups," states Dr. Luce. "It's really hard to get people from different perspectives and agendas to work together on one key thing – protecting our precious estuaries – and ANEP is critical in supporting the National Estuary Programs in getting this job done. I'm excited to be chair of this committed group. "

In her role with ANEP, Dr. Luce will be responsible for coordinating outreach to elected officials about the importance of estuaries to local communities and economies. A major goal for her term as chair is increased public understanding of and appreciation for their local estuaries and the NEPs that protect and enhance them.

Open space planning and habitat restoration are key elements in Dr. Luce's approach to resource protection, with environmental policy expertise in developing innovative policies and plans for water supply and conservation, marine protected areas, stream protection, and environmental justice. Her work includes overseeing large-scale wetlands restoration projects; facilitating community-based greenway planning in dense urban Los Angeles; and producing major planning documents such as the Green Solutions report. She advises numerous scientific panels and groups in California. Dr. Luce has a doctorate degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from UCLA.



"I am proud and excited to hand over the reigns to Shelley," says Dr. Holly Greening, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and immediate past-Chair of ANEP. "She is excellent at working with stakeholders, and bringing varying perspectives together. Her obvious passion for native habitats, as well as for addressing climate change through this purview, is going to be invaluable to leading ANEP."

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.santamonocabay.org.

About the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP)

The Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the preservation and restoration of our nation's estuaries. ANEP works with the 28 individual programs in the National Estuary Program (NEP), which was established in 1987 by Congress to restore and protect estuaries of critical importance to the nation. The NEP brings together citizens, scientists, businesses and government officials to solve environmental problems and promote healthy, vibrant communities. The stakeholders of each program voluntarily work in partnership to identify important coastal resources and develop action plans to ensure the estuary's long-term ecosystem and economic health.

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