

For Immediate Release

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Annual Urban Coastal Research Symposium March 12 to Discuss Social & Economic Benefits of Coastal Resilience

Registration Now Open

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13, 2014 – The well-respected, annual research symposium of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission will focus this year on the social and economic benefits of resilience in urban coastal systems.

The fourth annual Urban Coastal Research Symposium, "Socio-Economic Analyses of Coastal Ecosystem Resilience," will take place March 12 at Loyola Marymount University. The event is co-hosted by the university, the commission and the Center for Urban Resilience at LMU.

This year's diverse lineup of presenters includes a sustainability architect/author, the recently elected mayor of Compton whose background is urban planning, as well as key scientists in the field of coastal restoration. [Registration](#) (\$20) is open until February 28. Space is limited and the event sells out every year.

The symposium will cover a wide range of topics, from wetland restoration to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and watershed-level greening efforts. Four noteworthy presenters are:

- **Christine Whitcraft**, California State University, Long Beach, assistant professor of biological sciences, presenting an economic evaluation of wetland restoration projects in Southern California - what does it mean to our pocketbooks? - and her paper: "Spatial Hedonic Valuation of a Multiuse Urban Wetland in Southern California."
- **Matthew Kahn**, UCLA, professor, Institute of the Environment, Department of Public Policy, Department of Economics, presenting his recent book, "Fundamentals of Environmental Economics: Solving Urban Pollution Problems."
- **Ryan Vaughn**, senior economist at Bank of America, presenting valuation of restoration projects, stormwater diversions and water quality.

- **Amanda Zellmer**, Occidental College, adjunct assistant professor of biology, presenting on long-term pre- and post-MPA commercial fishery monitoring and socio-economic benefits of MPA implementation statewide.

Eric Corey Freed, award-winning “organic architecture” pioneer and author, will present the keynote speech, addressing a range of issues from green building and biomimicry to climate change, and how they relate to the economics of coastal resiliency.

Coastal wetlands, where ocean and land mix, are extremely valuable ecologically, economically, and aesthetically. However, development has eliminated more than 90 percent of coastal wetland systems in Southern California. Increasingly, an important issue in urban ecology has been how coastal restoration and resilient coastlines are vital to our economic and social health, especially in the face of climate change. The symposium will explore this issue as well as opportunities that exist to restore damaged habitats, re-establishing healthy wetland systems that benefit both humans and wildlife.

Opening the event will be Jan Perry, general manager of the city of Los Angeles’ Economic and Workforce Development Department, and Compton Mayor Aja Brown. The day will include morning and afternoon sessions, as well as a student Abstract Poster Session and reception/networking hour at closing. If you are a student or recent graduate who would like to submit an abstract for the student poster session, please click [HERE](#). The deadline is Feb. 15.

The full agenda will be available [on the website](#) prior to the event.

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.

About Loyola Marymount University and The LMU Center for Urban Resilience

Located between the Pacific Ocean and downtown Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University is a comprehensive university offering 60 major programs, 36 master’s degrees and a doctoral degree in education from four colleges, two schools and Loyola Law School. Founded in 1911, LMU is ranked third in “Best Regional Universities/West” by U.S. News & World Report. LMU is the largest Jesuit Catholic university for undergraduates on the West Coast with more than 5,900 undergraduate students and more than 3,000 graduate and law students. For more LMU news and events [please click HERE](#).

The Center for Urban Resilience is an interdisciplinary research and community program with core efforts in urban ecology research, public understanding of science and restorative justice.

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