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The Bay Foundation to Present on Local Urban Ecology, Coastal Resilience Topics at Southern California Academy of Sciences (SCAS) Annual Meeting at LMU, May 15-16

SCAS Taps The Bay Foundation for 2nd Board Member in 2 Years

Los Angeles, CA (May 5, 2015) – The Bay Foundation (TBF) will present on three major Santa Monica Bay projects—Malibu Lagoon, Urban Coastal Wetlands, and Kelp Restoration—during the Urban Ecology and the Coastal Resilience symposia at the upcoming Southern California Academy of Sciences (SCAS) Annual Meeting. Drawing an audience of scientists and engaged public from across the region, the annual meeting of the prestigious 124-year old Academy takes place on May 15-16, 2015, at Loyola Marymount University. TBF's sessions all take place on May 15th. For more information: <http://scas.nhm.org/annual-meeting/overview.html>

In addition, TBF is the source of two recent additions to the SCAS Board of Directors in as many years. Karina Johnston, TBF Director of Watershed Programs, will be announced as a new member at the Annual Meeting, while TBF Executive Director Tom Ford was elected last year. Board members serve three-year terms.

"I couldn't be more proud that SCAS recognizes both our staff and our work as aligning with the high aspirations and quality of work that SCAS has always represented," says Ford. "I also hope that people in the area take advantage of the conference being at LMU. Coastal Resilience is not only a buzzword but a real concept and current projects, presented this year, address resilience in light of climate change and sea level rise. SCAS provides a forum for scientists with a local focus to share their work and help us achieve our goals for the Southern California Bight."

The three presentations from TBF are as follows:

- The 16-acre shallow water estuarine wetland known as Malibu Lagoon, was one of the few southern California wetland restoration projects to preserve historic seasonal closure dynamics. **"Evaluating the Performance of a Restored Urban Estuary: A Case Study at Malibu Lagoon"**, presented by TBF Watershed Programs Manager Ivan Medel, will be a comparative analysis of pre- and post-restoration baseline monitoring data and evaluate the project's initial success and ecosystem service benefits against fixed restoration goals. The scope of the restoration project included increasing wetland acreage, removing excess sediment and re-contouring channels to increase tidal and wave driven water circulation, and decrease rates of sedimentation.
- Southern California has lost 75-98% of its estuarine habitat due to anthropogenic stressors and impacts from adjacent urban communities. **"An Evaluation of the Regional Health of Urban Coastal Wetlands in Southern California Using CRAM (CA Rapid**



Assessment Method)", presented by Karina Johnston, is based on two years of regional, rapid condition evaluations of multiple coastal estuarine systems in southern California performed using CRAM. The findings will help identify significant restoration opportunities in some of the more impacted, lower-scoring wetland habitats.

- The Palos Verdes Peninsula has lost approximately 75% of the expanse of giant kelp forest canopy since the 1940s. TBF is in its second year of a 4-5 year effort to restore kelp forests across approximately 150 acres (or 61.5 hectares) of reefs that have become drastically overpopulated with purple sea urchins, creating unhealthy 'urchin barrens'. **"Kelp Forest Restoration: Enhancing Ecological and Economic Resilience in Southern California"**, presented by TBF's Ford, will discuss the project's preliminary data and current status, with over 25 acres (or 10 hectares) restored to date; the modeled benefits to the red sea urchin fishery; and what future work could mean for information on water circulation and sediment transport.

Formed in 1891 as the Southern California Science Association, SCAS took its present name in 1896 and was so incorporated in 1907. The organization is often considered the foundation of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. Next year, for its 125th anniversary, the Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Southern California (USC).

SCAS (<http://scas.nhm.org/>) has a membership of approximately 300 professional and student scientists. Its objectives are to promote fellowship among scientists and those interested in science; to contribute to scientific literature through publication of pertinent manuscripts; to encourage and promote scholarship among young scientists; and to provide information to the membership, to the public, and to the public agencies on such matters as may be of joint interest to the sciences and society.

"We are very excited to celebrate our event at such prestigious institutions as LMU this year and USC next, especially bringing SCAS back to its 'roots' near the Natural History Museum for the 125th anniversary," states SCAS President and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Exhibits and Collections Curator, Julianne Passarelli, Ph.D. "I am also looking forward to launching our next year with the range of expertise that our new and continuing Board members bring to the table."

About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation, also known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. The Foundation is the non-profit partner of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the Commission's *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan*. As advocates for the Bay, TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists, to implement innovative policies and projects that clean up the waterways, create green spaces and natural habitats in the Los Angeles region. TBF conducts research and mentors student intern and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University. (www.santamonicaabay.org)

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