

The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program. TBF is a non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. The SMBRC is a locally-based, non-regulatory state entity which is charged with overseeing and promoting the SMBNEP's Bay Restoration Plan.

## Feb-Mar 2016 Edition

### SMBRC Governing Board Elects New Chair and Vice-Chairs

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, the SMBRC Governing Board elected LA Sanitation (LASAN) Director and



*Pictured above (L to R): Zaldivar, O'Leary and Ford.*

General Manager Enrique C. Zaldivar, P.E., as its new Chair. The Chair is elected for a one-year term, with no term limits, and also presides over the Executive Committee. Zaldivar, on the Governing Board since 2008, replaces the outgoing Micheál O'Leary who has served as Chair since the end of 2012, and is departing due to being termed out of his position on the Culver City city council. (Full announcement [HERE](#).)

Six Vice-Chairs were elected to serve as the

Bay Restoration Commission's Executive Committee, along with Zaldivar. They are:

- Joan Cardellino, CA State Coastal Conservancy
- Fran Diamond, CA Regional Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
- Gloria Gray, West Basin MWD
- Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
- Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper
- Sarah Sikich, Heal the Bay

We thank you, Micheál, for your years of service to the SMBRC!

Congratulations to our continuing and new Chair and Vice-Chairs!

### **SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee is Reappointed for 2-Year Term**

The SMBRC Governing Board reappointed the existing members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to another two-year term. The eight members of the TAC are drawn from universities, research institutions, and agencies in the region and are all renowned experts in a range of scientific fields such as water and sediment quality, intertidal ecology, stream and wetland, fish biology, and environmental toxicology. The TAC functions as an unbiased scientific panel that provides reasoned recommendations on research projects and project implementation priorities to the Governing Board. They led the development, and authored a majority of the *State of the Bay 2015* report. One of the top priorities for the TAC during its new term is to assist the SMBRC in understanding the potential impacts of climate change in Santa Monica Bay area and what steps can be taken to address these impacts.

#### **TAC members:**

- Rich Ambrose, UCLA, Environmental Health Sciences
- Steve Bay, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
- Mas Dojiri, City of LA Environmental Monitoring Division
- John Dorsey, LMU, Civil Engineering; Health & Human Sciences
- Rainer Hoenicke, Delta Stewardship Council
- Karen Martin, Pepperdine University
- Dan Pondella, Occidental College, Vantuna Research Group
- Eric Stein, SCCWRP

We also had an election within the TAC of a new Chair and Vice Chair. Steve Bay, Environmental Toxicologist with SCCWRP is the new Chair and Dr. Mas Dojiri, City of Los Angeles Environmental Monitoring Division will serve as Vice Chair. Thank you for your service!

### **Update: RFP for Prop. 84 Funds**

The SMBRC TAC serving in its official capacity as the Clean Beach Task Force has reviewed ten projects submitted in response to a request for proposals, making technical recommendations. State Water Board staff and staff assigned to the SMBRC are in the process of further evaluations of the proposals. A suite of recommendations will be brought before the Executive Committee and Governing Board in the coming months. Approximately \$9 million dollars are available to support the proposed projects which are designed to reduce pollution and enhance habitat values for wildlife.

### **The WAC is Back! Mark your calendars for March 30**

We are pleased to announce an upcoming meeting of the SMBRC's [Watershed Advisory Council](#) (WAC). The meeting format allows WAC members to review the progress on work plan priorities to date and to provide valuable input regarding priorities for the upcoming annual work plan and future updates to the Bay Restoration Plan.

An [online survey](#) from March 21 through April 8 provides the opportunity for additional and convenient comments and input from the WAC members and the general public.

What: **Watershed Advisory Council Meeting**

When: **10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday, March 30, 2016**

Location: **Westchester Community Room (Council Member Mike Bonin's Field Office), 7166 West Manchester Ave, Westchester, CA 90045**

Representatives of local, state and federal elected officials, public agencies responsible for protecting the resources and water quality of the Bay, the business community, environmental other community groups all serve on the Council.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this meeting, please contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org). We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Rodenticides and our Watershed**

During the public comment period of the October 2014 SMBRC Governing Board meeting, Kian Schulman and Joel Schulman from Poison Free Malibu voiced their concern regarding anticoagulant rodent poisons spreading throughout the ecosystem, fatally impacting large carnivore populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. Governing Board members and TBF Executive Director Tom Ford recognized the issue's value and quickly requested that TBF staff explore options to address this problem.

The Bay Foundation responded through various initiatives including:

- adding the non-use of poison bait boxes to the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification options and supporting this action through outreach to restaurants and city staff;
- contributing expertise to the construction of a wildlife corridor that will allow mountain lions, bobcats, and other wildlife to cross the 101 freeway, which will promote wider geographic distribution and genetic diversity; and
- supporting partner municipalities, like the City of Malibu, to prohibit the use of anticoagulant rodenticides locally and regionally.

In a letter of support to the City of Malibu Planning Commission and City Council, Ford asked that the Planning Commission and City Council “recognize the importance and sense of urgency” behind approving the amendments to their Local Coastal Program (LCP) Land Use Plan and Local Implementation Plan to prohibit the use of anticoagulant rodenticides. Currently, the City of Malibu’s Planning Commission is considering options for amendments to the LCP that will prohibit the use of rodenticides, which went before the Planning Commission at their February 16 meeting.

Thanks to the work and leadership of organizations like Poison Free Malibu, former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, State Assemblyman Richard Bloom, and Malibu Mayor John Sibert, Los Angeles County and many cities have already passed resolutions to prohibit the use of rodenticides. And TBF would like to thank the restaurants, property owners, and merchants who no longer use rodent poisons.

### **Inglewood & Culver City Join ‘Clean Bay Certified’ for Your Dining Pleasure!**

Going out? Two new cities have signed on to encourage their restaurants to be Clean Bay Certified. We welcome Culver City and Inglewood! Please check out our [Clean Bay Certified list of restaurants/bars/eateries](#) across nine cities that are making the extra effort to manage waste and protect the health of the Santa Monica Bay. When choosing between a certified and non-certified restaurant, we hope everyone will support those who have committed to helping...and let them know that their commitment makes a difference.

### Everyone Wants to Know about the Kelp

The Marine program is invited regularly to speak about the Kelp Restoration project out in the community...and they're always pleased to do so.

On Feb. 25, TBF was invited to speak at "LA EcoTalks" at [G2 Gallery](#) in conjunction with [Climate Cents](#). The kelp restoration project is a model project for Climate Cents. Heather Burdick presented.



And on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Tom Ford presented to guests at Rancho Palos Verdes' Terranea Resort. The hotel's head chef, Bernard Ibarra, is an enthusiastic supporter of our project...and a big fan of uni.



### Rain Garden Installations and Water Conservation

In 2013, the Metropolitan Water District awarded an Innovative Conservation Program grant to TBF to install four rain gardens on residential properties and assess potable water savings and stormwater capture potential. After several months of monitoring conventional outdoor water use at each site, TBF completed full lawn removals and rain garden installations using California native drought-tolerant vegetation. Over 5,000 square feet of heavily-watered grass was removed, sprinkler systems were removed, the ground was contoured to create bioswales, and native vegetation was planted. All downspouts were retrofitted to flow into the bioswales and tested. Over 100 individuals contributed over 700 volunteer hours to help implement these gardens. Post-implementation monitoring has already shown average potable water savings between 73 and 94%, and the gardens have easily captured all runoff from multiple one-inch storms this winter. See below “In the News” for our NBC4-TV segment.

### Community Outreach and Habitat Restoration Grant

Southern California Edison awarded TBF a grant to continue monthly community restoration events, particularly at the LAX Dunes Preserve. At over 300 acres, the LAX / El Segundo Dune complex is the largest remaining fragment of contiguous dunes in southern California and provides habitat for many species, some of which are uniquely endemic to the area. Invasive vegetation such as mustard, filaree, iceplant, and Russian thistle out-compete and limit native plant propagation. On the first Saturday of each month, hundreds of volunteers have removed, and continue to remove, **several tons** of invasive vegetation at this important and scenic location. To help and for more information: <http://friendsofthelaxdunes.org/>.

### Join TBF Outside

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations:

- Culver City Rain Garden
- LAX Dunes
- Malibu Lagoon
- Stone Canyon Creek

Please check <http://www.santamonicabay.org/events/> for dates, times, brief descriptions, and who to contact.

TBF also works with corporations and other organizations for group volunteer days. Please contact Rod Abbott ([rabbott@santamonicabay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonicabay.org)) if you'd like to plan such an event.

### In The News

The State of the Bay 2015 report garnered attention in January, with Tom Ford speaking on [KABC 790 AM](#) radio several times, and being interviewed by [KPCC](#) radio for “All Things Considered”. There were articles online at [Santa Monica Lookout](#), [Santa Monica Mirror](#), [L.A. Daily News](#), [WestsideToday.com](#), [TheFrontPageOnline.com](#) (Culver City), [Patch/Palos Verdes](#), and [Maven's Notebook](#) (one of the go-to blogs on water and policy in CA). There was an announcement about it in CalCoast WAVE and Sustainable Santa Monica, and Planet Experts featured it in their weekly eblast.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) published an OpEd by Tom Ford on dealing with the “potentially overwhelming nutrient load in our coastal waters”.

With rain a big focus the last couple of months, TBF's Watershed Programs Coordinator Rod Abbott was featured in a [NBC4-TV news](#) post-rain segment (6pm news) about TBF's residential rain gardens (see full explanation above).



TBF Outreach Programs Assistant Georgia Tuniola, an alumna of U. of Redlands, was highlighted in her quarterly alumni publication, [OchTamale](#), which happened to have an environmental focus this issue.

[UCLA IoES newsletter](#) reported on students' Senior Practicum work with TBF on intertidal zone study.

The [Argonaut](#) interviewed TBF Dir. of Watershed Programs Karina Johnston for an article on Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve iceplant removal project, one week prior to the Coastal Commission meeting. And the [Daily Breeze](#) followed the project's approval with an article on the iceplant removal and the release of the "[Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve: Comprehensive 5-Year Monitoring Report](#)", assessing the ecological condition of the Reserve. [Maven's Notebook](#) also shared both the iceplant and report via her water-focused daily newsletter.



*Iceplant to be removed at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.*

[UCLA Bruin](#) launched its “Hidden Treasures” (on Campus) series with a story on Stone Canyon Creek and TBF’s work there with TBF Sr. Watershed Advisor Mark Abramson.



*Stone Canyon Creek on UCLA campus.*

And in SMBRC news, [Santa Monica Mirror](#) shared the announcement of the new Governing Board Chair, Enrique Zaldivar. And Santa Monica Mirror, Santa Monica Lookout, Canyon News and Patch/Santa Monica shared news about Kevin McKeown, of City of Santa Monica, taking on the seat of Westside cities’ representative on the Governing Board. SMBRC also received a nod in an [Argonaut](#) article about a new park funded by Prop. 84 funds, which were recommended for use on the park by the SMBRC.

### **Social Media IS Important, Fun and Connects Us!**

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: [“Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”](#)

Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: [@TheBayFoundation](#)

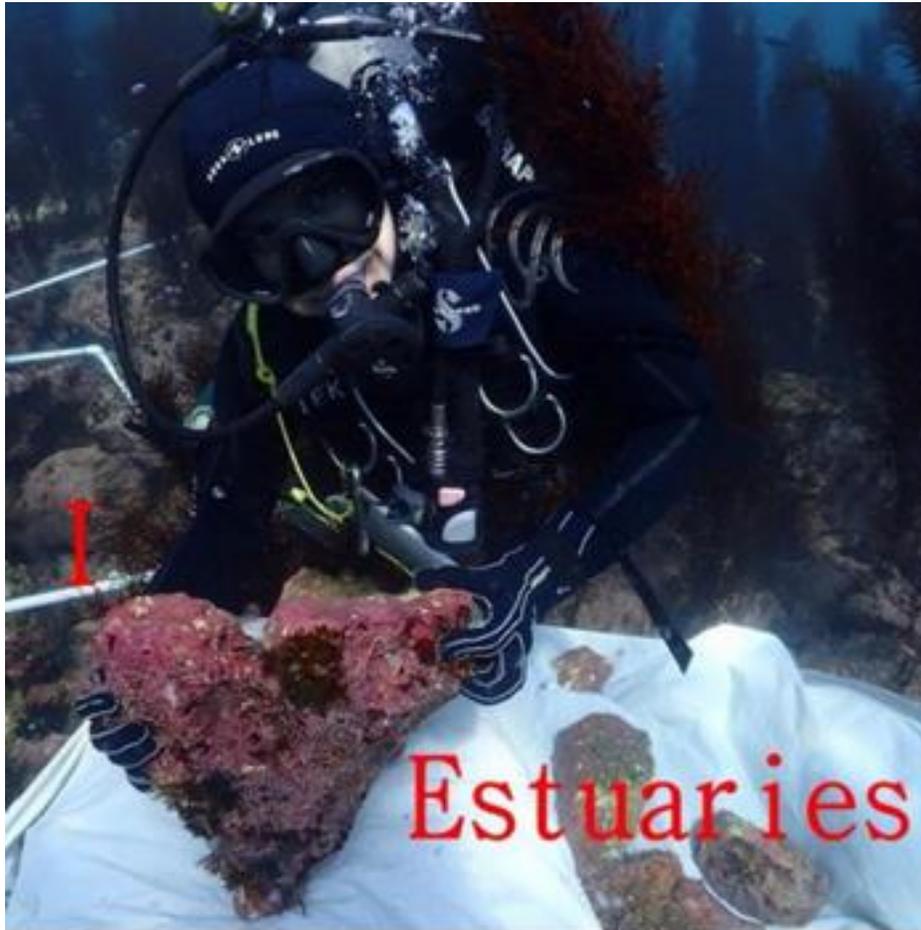
YouTube: [“The Bay Foundation”](#)

\*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow. Watch our FB for “Restaurant Thursdays”

And did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by The Bay Foundation on our site? Check out your local DINING options at <http://www.santamonicabay.org/learn/our-work/clean-bay-restaurants/>

### **TBF INSTAGRAM PHOTO OF THE MONTH**

A new feature! We'll start scouring Instagram pictures that tag @thebayfoundation, and yours may be the one featured!



### **2016 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates**

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2016 meeting dates are:

- April 21
- June 16
- August 18
- October 20
- December 15

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any SMBRC Governing Board meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 808-631-6118 or by e-mail at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org). You may also visit the SMBRC website at [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov).

### **Check Out Our Websites**

Please check out the SMBRC website: [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov). To streamline access to the Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's bodies.

The Bay Foundation's website can be viewed at [www.santamonicabay.org](http://www.santamonicabay.org). It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) or Julie Du Brow at [jdubrow@santamonicabay.org](mailto:jdubrow@santamonicabay.org).