Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Watershed Advisory Council Meeting

February 9, 2017

Summary of Comments and Responses

GENERAL

Comment	Response	Follow-Up
Get elected officials more involved to support funding of projects in Southern California and the Santa Monica Bay area.	Though not specifically under the scope of a given aspect of the Work Plan, outreach to elected officials are much needed in order to secure more funding to Southern California in general, and Santa Monica Bay in particular.	Work with the Governing Board members to facilitate the outreach efforts.
Provide progress update to the Governing Board by focusing one specific work plan program area at each meeting, bundling related projects in the program area.	This suggestion will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration when scheduling presentations in future Governing Board meetings.	Forward to Executive Committee for consideration
Pursue Prop 1 funding from multiple state agencies including the Resource Agency, Coastal Conservancy, State Water Resources Control Board, Ocean Protection Council, etc. for green infrastructure, water capture, and restoration projects for wildlife habitats.	Outreach to, and support from the state agencies responsible for allocating Prop. 1 funding are much needed. This is closely related to task 1.1 under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan.	Continue to implement under Work Plan task 1.1.
Recommend a representative from Caltrans be on the SMBRC Governing Board. Land ownership by the agency is high everywhere – especially in Santa Monica Bay, and there are opportunities for many restoration projects on Caltrans properties.	Though not specifically a stand-alone task under the work plan, involving Caltrans is a crucial step to move forward many restoration projects at locations such as Topanga Narrows and Topanga Lagoon under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan(Task 2.2a,b).	Continue to support restoration projects involving Caltrans properties (Task 2.2a,b). Work with Governing Board members and other stakeholders to explore mechanism for Caltrans engagement in the SMBNEP and restoration projects involving Caltrans properties. Consideration

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		of Caltrans joining the GB can be addressed as part of the BRP revision.
Have the Governing Board empower the Technical Advisory Committee. Expand role of the TAC.	The TAC has played a vital role in providing technical guidance to many work plan tasks, such as the BRP climate change vulnerability assessment conducted last year. Its role will become more crucial and prominent in the planned update of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program and the revision of Bay Restoration Plan.	Continue the role of the TAC.

WATER QUALITY

Comment	Response	Follow-Up
Some cities still have ordinances that rainwater must go into street. Those cities should be encouraged to collect and reuse rather than street disposal.	All cities in LA County were required under the municipal storm water NPDES permit to reduce runoff through adoption of LID ordinances. Though not an explicit task, it is consistent with the goal of Task 1.1 under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan.	Promote
Encourage cities to look at developments in their city to ensure these developments install storm water BMPs. Cities have an obligation to monitor development.	All cities in LA County were required under the municipal storm water NPDES permit to install BMPs to ensure no more storm water runoff from the site than pre-development. Though not an explicit task, it is consistent with the goal of Task 1.1 under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan.	Promote
Work in partnership with other non-profits to promote a unified message to encourage installation of rain barrels, infiltration, and capture of runoff.	This is closely related to Task 1.2a in the current Work Plan and recommended for continued inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan. Continue and seek more promotion opportunities.	Continue to implement under FY 2018 Work Plan (Task 1.2a)
Promote more *ocean friendly gardens* and rain gardens. More projects will be helpful. Expand what we can do on public lands. Keep developing new partnerships and cross-promote. Also evaluate benefits of	This is closely related to Task 1.2a in the current work plan and recommended for continued inclusion in FY 2018 Work Plan. Continue and seek more partnership opportunities.	Continue to implement under FY 2018 work plan (Task 1.2a)

these projects provided to wildlife.		
Make the best possible use of resources and make entire watershed water self-sufficient and keep pollutants out of the bay from the watershed. Replicate projects completed by the City of Santa Monica and the City's goal to be water self-sufficient by 2020.	This is consistent with the overall goal of the Bay Restoration Plan. Achieving water self-sufficiency and reducing pollution throughout the watershed is an ambitious but central goal that warrants consideration during BRP revision.	Continue to emphasize BRP actions that improve water quality and maintain this emphasis in the BRP revision process. Continue to consider value of the City of Santa Monica's programs for self-sufficiency and pollution reduction as models for work elsewhere.
Support implementation of EWMP. Periodically report on implementation progress of EWMPs in the watershed.	This is closely related to Task 1.1a in the current and recommended for continued inclusion in FY 2018 Work Plan (1.1a). Work with the County of LA Public Works to develop report on implementation.	Continue to support under FY 2018 Work Plan (Task 1.1a)
Keep in the work plan language about supporting projects that add water quality benefits to flood control projects.	Though not in exactly in the same language, this is consistent with integrated water resource management plan activities participated by SMBRC under the current Work Plan (Task 1.1b) and recommended for continued inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan (1.1b)	Continue to participate under FY 2018 Work Plan (Task 1.1b)
Identify the impacts of changes in water quantity in Ballona Creek, which is effluent dominated. The possible reduction of the flows if city/county takes water out of the creek may impact habitat restoration in the Ballona system.	This is a valid concern that may affect achieving the objectives of Task 1.1 and 2.2 under the current and FY 2018 Work Plan. More information and assessment are needed and will be addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the information and assessment needs during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Capture more storm water, promote understanding about riverways. Promote water that is taken out of creeks /rivers to be treated then be put back in to be a source to freshwater wetlands.	See response above.	See above.
Facilitate treatment of a portion of storm flows through LVMWD's treatment plant for later infiltration/reuse. This is technologically feasible because the plant	This is closely related to Task 1.1a in the current Work Plan and recommended for inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Facilitate

doesn't have industry waste water and the associated contaminants that can't be treated.		
Develop a priority list for water quality improvement projects that are unfunded to know how much funding would be needed.	Lists of storm water quality improvement projects have already been developed and incorporated into the EWMPs by the County of LA and watershed cities, including cost estimates.	Continue to support EWMP implementation (Task 1.1a)
Make a statement regarding potential groundwater contaminants as a result of infiltration. Capture and treatment BMPs are seen at development sites but there are some conflicts: infiltration can be liability for groundwater contamination.	This is a valid concern that may affect achieving the objectives of Task 1.1 under the current and FY 2018 Work Plan. There have been research and studies on this issue. The need for further studies will be assessed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need for further research and monitoring during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Establish partnership/connection between water infiltration and ground water agencies. Research groundwater modeling to demonstrate the connection between infiltration and groundwater recharge. Open up potential funding opportunities from water providers.	See above. The need for research and monitoring partnership further studies will be assessed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to assessing the need for research and monitoring partnership and further research during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Support studies on whether chemical contaminants that wash down and get infiltrated will make into our drinking water supply.	See response above.	See above.
Need to keep pharmaceuticals out of the water. Continue to promote no drugs down the drain program through partnership.	Objective 3.2 of the Bay Restoration Plan calls for reducing loading of emerging contaminants in waterways. Though there is no specific task associated with this objective, SMBNEP will continue to support CEC reduction programs being carried out by local governments and wastewater facilities.	Support

Do more to clean trash flowing into water in creek by sponsoring beach/ creek cleanups. Help improve access to groups to participate in cleanups.	The Bay Foundation has been coordinating and will continue to coordinate Coastal Clean-up Day at LAX Dunes (Task 2.3a under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan), but will also promote more clean-ups of trash on beaches and in creeks.	Promote
Educate and promote alternatives to toxic (i.e. roundup). Look into who uses what and promote alternatives to Pesticide such as Roundup. Reach out not just to the cities but institutions/ universities regarding use of environmentally friendly alternative.	This is consistent with Goal #2 of the BRP (Improve Water Quality through Pollution Prevention and Source Control). Though not specifically under a given aspect of the Work Plan, SMBNEP will support efforts by environmental communities, cities, and other stakeholders to reduce the use of pesticides.	Support
Copper TMDL outreach statement in the current work plan is inaccurate because paints are not primary source of copper in the water and copper is not harmful to aquatic life. The time and effort put into this will not result in tangible benefits.	The amendment to the Marina del Rey Harbor Toxics TMDL (aka MDR copper TMDL) was adopted by the LARWQCB in February 2014 after a lengthy public comment period and became effective in October 2015. Records of comments arguing for and against the TMDL and other relevant information can be found in LARWQCB's website. The County of Los Angeles was awarded a 319h grant to reduce the copper loading to MDR from copper-based antifouling hull paints by providing boat owners with inflatable boat lifts. TBF has supported, and will continue to support the County to carry out this project. Specifically, TBF will design and distribute outreach and education materials regarding the TMDL, integrated pest management solutions, and the County's boat Lift Program (Task 1.2b under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan)	Continue to support boater outreach under FY 2018 Work Plan (Task 1.2b)
Copper is harmful to aquatic life. However, one primary source of copper may be the brake pads.	According to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and EPA, antifouling paints are suspected as being the significant source of copper in watercraft basins, including Marina del Rey. Also see response above	See above
There are ongoing studies regarding copper and people can get the latest information	See response above	See above

from the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board.		
Support the cleanup of copper in bottom paint in Marina del Rey.	See response above	See above
Support the work the SMBNEP is doing, especially multi-benefit projects like Oxford basin restoration.	The Oxford basin restoration project was successfully completed in 2016. Though not an explicit task, this is consistent with the goal of Task 1.1 under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan, and the SMBNEP will continue to promote similar multi-benefit projects in the watershed.	Promote
Oppose the proposed desalinization project by West Basin. Prefer wastewater recycling not desalinization because wastewater recycling will reduce effluent dumped in the bay, and less energy will be used to clean waste water as opposed to clean saltwater.	BRP Objective 1.3 calls for elimination of biological impacts of water intake and discharge from coastal power and desalination plants, and Objective 14.3 calls for further increase of wastewater recycling and reuse. The SWRCB has developed and set criteria for permitting desalination facilities while protecting marine life and water quality. SMBNEP will continue to promote wastewater treatment facilities working together to achieve more wastewater recycling and reduce the need for desalination.	Promote wastewater recycling
Recommend West Basin and Hyperion to work together to achieve more wastewater recycling.	See response above	See above
Promote design of a trash screen for storm drains that separates organic matter (leaves, soil, etc.) from trash and doesn't throw out the organic matter which is a resource and shouldn't be included with trash and disposed of.	Though not feasible to incorporate into the work plan at this time, it is nonetheless an interesting suggestion and SMBNEP would support design of such and other more effective trash capture and separation devices.	Support
Keep track the cleanup of Marina del Rey	Though not explicitly described, this is closely related to,	Continue to support LID and more

and advocate for low development in the marina and along the coast. Promote developments with sustainability and encourage more open space in the area for its environmental and wildlife benefits.	and will continue be addressed under Task 1.1 under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan.	open space (Task 1.1)

Natural Resources

Comment	**Response**	**Follow-Up**
WETLANDS		
Continue work on removing iceplant at Ballona because native species are returning.	The Ballona Reserve – Community Stewardship Project recently completed by TBF achieved removal of over 15 tons of iceplant and restoration of 0.88 acres habitat. In FY 2018 TBF plans to continue post-restoration project monitoring and additional community restoration events as feasible and pending availability of additional funding.	Continue to lead the invasive removal effort (Task 2.2a)
Expand community restoration efforts and engagement similar to the iceplant removal project.	SMBNEP has made efforts to engage local community organizations in restoration projects and will continue to do so in the future.	Continue to engage local community organizations in all applicable restoration activities included in the FY 2018 Work Plan
Cooperate with BWLT, who is willing to fund iceplant removal and monitoring at Ballona.	Comment noted and see response above.	See above.
Disseminate more results and information about ongoing projects and the iceplant removal project in particular.	TBF already completed the finally report summarizing the results of the iceplant removal project and made the report available online. TBF will continue to disseminate new information related to planned restoration activities in FY 2018 (see response above)	Continue to lead and disseminate information (Task 2.2a)
Need accountability for non-native species returning to iceplant-removing area and accountability about each and every thing that happens for all projects.	Comment noted and see response above.	See above.

More recognition for slow, careful restoration. Need an alternative for restoration of seasonal freshwater wetland at Ballona.	Comment noted. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and federal Army Corps of Engineers are the lead agency for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project and responsible for preparation of the environmental review. According to CDFW, release of draft DEIR/EIS for the project is anticipated in mid-2017.	Noted
Evaluate whether the Ballona wetlands should be a salt water or fresh water restoration.	See response above.	See above
Make Ballona a freshwater marsh	See response above.	Noted
Want to see hydrology studies.	See response above. Hydrology studies are part of the DEIR/EIS process.	Noted
Conduct additional monitoring at Ballona Reserve to catalog the plants that are emerging after the recent rains.	See response above. Monitoring at Ballona Wetlands are overseen by the CDFW and through project specific permits.	Noted.
Link and evaluate data on how oil and gas under Ballona Wetlands will affect wildlife, especially if sediment is removed.	See response above. Evaluation of oil and gas under Ballona Wetlands is part of the DEIR/EIS process.	Noted
Provide information on all species at Ballona Wetlands.	See response above. Inventory of species at Ballona Wetlands is part of the DEIR/EIS process. Results of baseline monitoring at Ballona Wetlands are also available online at http://www.santamonicabay.org/explore/library/reports/	Noted
Research what rainwater harvesting and rain garden projects do for topsoil – microbiota and how do these things tie to Ballona Wetland Restoration.	Though not feasible to incorporate into the work plan at this time, the need for research in this area can be addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the research and information needs during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Have a plan to inform about Ballona's EIR/EIS. Need an interface and a better	SMBRC is not the lead agency with regard to BWER restoration and is not responsible for or in control of	Noted

instrument to inform the public.	public participation opportunities. CDFW is the lead agency for that project. CDFW's environmental review process has provided and will continue to provide opportunities for public comment.	
Present to SMBRC on the history of Ballona Wetlands.	See response above.	Noted.
Have briefing on Ballona draft EIR for April Governing Board meeting.	See response above.	Noted.
Make clear that TBF staff operates the website www.ballonarestoration.org and specify the process by which changes to the website are authorized.	See response above.	Noted.
Better outreach from Project Management Team re: Ballona DEIR timeline. Include both the most up to date projected release date and status of interim milestones.	See response above.	Noted.
Publish a document describing the purpose, size and scope of the proposed parking garage in all Ballona restoration alternatives.	See response above. CDFW is the lead agency for the Ballona Wetlands restoration project.	
Conduct active, not passive outreach with face-to-face events for Ballona wetlands restoration. Contact via social media, not just website.	See response above.	Noted
Have the Army Corps be part of the conversation.	See response above. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency for the Ballona Wetlands restoration DEIR/EIS process.	Noted.
Have some TAC role on the Ballona DEIR when it comes out.	See response above. SMBRC staff provides update on the Ballona Wetlands restoration planning to the SMBRC Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee on a needed basis. Both meetings are open to the public.	Noted
Find funding to continue Ballona Wetland	Funding is much needed for restoration efforts at the	Recommend inclusion in FY18

restoration efforts.	Ballona Wetlands. This is closely related to Task 2.2a in the current Work Plan and recommended for inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work Plan to facilitate funding of restoration efforts. (Task 2.2a)
Continue the crucial post restoration monitoring at Malibu Lagoon.	The SMBNEP (SMBRA and TBF) has been conducting and will continue to conduct post restoration monitoring at Malibu Lagoon (Task 2.2a under the current and proposed FY 2018 Work Plan)	Continue to participate in the post restoration monitoring at Malibu Lagoon (Task 2.2a)
Work with State Parks on more projects in the North Bay like Topanga Lagoon restoration, and Topanga Narrows restoration. Help to find funding for these restorations. Topanga Lagoon restoration is approved but needs support to get the project started.	The SMBNEP has worked and will continue to work with State Parks and other organizations in support of more stream and wetland restoration projects in North Bay, especially at Topanga Lagoon and Topanga Narrows. (Task 2.2a and b) under the current and the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan)	Continue to support restoration efforts in North Bay (Task 2.2a & b)
Emphasis on habitat restorations inland that also benefit pacific flyway – storm water basins that are neglected could be great opportunities for habitat restorations. City of Torrance is a good example – having 14 sumps that provide freshwater wetland opportunities. Include these types of projects in the work plan.	Prop. 84 funding recommended by the SMBRC allowed the City of Torrance to successfully complete restoration of three inland storm water basins last year. This is closely related to Task 1.1 of the current Work Plan and recommended for inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan to support funding for restoration of more inland storm water basins in the watershed.	Recommend inclusion in FY 18 Work Plan to support more inland storm water basin restoration (Task 1.1)
Look at wetlands as a bacterial filter for marine habitats.	There are ongoing research and studies related to this issue. The existing information and need for further studies will be assessed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need for further studies during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Review Playa Vista DEIR.	Comment noted. LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors and Department of Public Works are land managers in the area.	Noted
RIPARIAN HABITATS		
More fish barrier removal projects and small estuary restoration projects like	Over the years SMBNEP has successfully carried out several fish barrier removal projects in partnership with	Continue participation and support (Task 2.2b)

Trancas and Topanga for steelhead.	California State Parks and other organizations, including the one completed most recent at Arroyo Sequit. This is closely related to Task 2.2b of the current Work Plan and recommended for continued participation and support under the FY 2018 Work Plan.	
Keep prioritizing fish barrier removal projects with the State Parks – continue investigation for Prop 1 funding, and more collaboration.	See response above	See above.
Expand work at Arroyo Sequit to other streams and lagoons to provide more steelhead passages.	See response above.	See above.
Support upland and inland restoration opportunities in urbanized areas – e.g. Inglewood, Centinela Park in Ballona Creek Watershed, with Baldwin Hills Conservancy support. Recognize more watershed components and connectivity; Stone Creek at UCLA is a good example. Connect communities to other types of environment. Partner with NMH habitat restoration program and projects.	This is a great suggestion and is closely related to Task 2.2b under the current Work Plan. Recommended promotion of inland stream restoration opportunities for inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan	Recommend inclusion in FY 18 Work Plan to support more inland stream restoration (Task 2.2b)
Continue support to remove Rindge Dam because sediments behind the dam would benefit beaches and make a great fish reef. Engage elected officials more. Make sure Army Corps gets good suggestions for Rindge Dam DEIR. Help facilitate getting information out about the DEIR for Rindge Dam removal.	The SMBNEP has supported and will continue to support Rindge Dam removal. Specifically, SMBRC and TBF will support the project through continued communications with the lead agencies to finish public review of the feasibility study and explore the next steps for the project. (Task 2.2b of the current Work Plan)	Continue support Rindge Dam removal (Task 2.2b)

Need to examine the sediment TMDL for Malibu Creek and see if the TMDL eliminates sediment flow to beaches and adversely impact sand resources in SM Bay.	The US EPA established the Malibu Creek & Lagoon TMDL for Sedimentation and Nutrients to Address Benthic Community Impairments, based on evidence of impairments caused by excess sedimentation from various point and nonpoint sources. The TMDL is not established to eliminate natural sediment load. To the contrary, it acknowledges the need for the removal of Rindge Dam and other artificial barriers in order to restore natural water and sediment flow throughout the creek system.	Noted.
BEACH AND BLUFFS		
Explore other areas for beach restoration pilot projects. Expand monitoring efforts – make sure to include ecological benefits + climate change + recreational / trash issues, if any. Conduct other beach restorations and evaluate all together.	This is a great suggestion. It is closely related to Task 2.3b under the current Work Plan. It is recommended for inclusion in the FY 2018 Work Plan to explore new funding, partnerships, and opportunities to expand and/or conduct new beach and dune restoration projects throughout the Santa Monica Bay.	Recommend inclusion in FY18 Work Plan to explore more beach restoration opportunities (Task 2.3b)
Evaluate Zuma Beach and include the County in discussions for beach restoration and dune restoration work.	See response above. Recommend for inclusion in FY 2018 specifically communication with the County and evaluation of Zuma Beach.	Recommend inclusion in FY18 Work Plan (Task 2.3b)
Support Santa Monica bluffs restoration which was held up because it is on CalTrans' property.	Comment noted. Will gather more information about the bluff restoration project.	Noted
Need to replenish supplies of sand to beaches through barrier removals. Anything impacting flow of sand needs to be evaluated and fixed. Evaluate holistically so that it doesn't solve one problem but create another.	BRP Objective 12.2 calls for development and implementation of a comprehensive regional sediment management plan for restoring natural hydrological functions of river systems. Though not specifically under a given aspect of the Work Plan, SMBNEP will continue to promote a holistic approach in sediment management including the need for beach replenishment.	Noted
Explore opportunities for climate change	BRP Milestone 4.5c calls for promotion of climate change	Continue to promote "softscape"

tied to beach management including sediment management plan.	adaptation strategies using environmental friendly "soft" solutions or other solutions with minimum negative environmental impacts. This is closely related to Task 3.1a of the current Work Plan and SMBNEP will continue to promote the use of "soft", minimum impact approach in beach management. Also see response above.	measures in beach management (Task 3.1a).
Observe, support, monitor and protect Broad Beach Restoration.	See response above. The SMBNEP will promote the same comprehensive sediment management approach in addressing specific beach protection issue at the Broad Beach	Noted.
OPEN SPACE		
Use non-parkland for new low income developments. The existing park lands should be enhanced for natural resources.	Though not specifically under a given aspect of the Work Plan, support to this policy may be recommended pending gathering of more information.	Noted.
Work to reduce homeless impacts in the open space areas. Address homelessness not only as a social issue but as an environmental problem. Make sure actions are appropriate for all community needs as well as environmental needs.	There have been a few studies in this area. Though not specifically under a given aspect of the Work Plan, the need for more information through further studies will be assessed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need for further studies during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Explore study and evaluation of factors regarding the association of bacteria exceedance and connection to homeless camps. Look into the environmental benefits of decreasing homelessness. Review the findings from the Bight '13 debris study.	See response above.	See above.
MARINE		
Increase habitat in Santa Monica through restoration efforts and artificial structures	A new subtidal reef restoration project is planned to begin in 2017 along the Palos Verdes Shelf, which will	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the

(i.e. artificial reefs) that may attenuate sea level rise. Find data on existing artificial reefs in the Bay and examine if they enhance the fish and reef habitat.	provide a good opportunity to assess the effectiveness of using artificial reef structure to enhance fish habitat and attenuate sea level rise. The SMBNEP will take a look at this opportunity during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	need for further studies during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Ensure future artificial reef consider dual purpose of habitat benefits and surf breaks.	See response above.	See above
Ensure regular communications with coastal commission staff on reefs and kelp forests status.	Comment noted. TBF staff will continue to ensure communication with State resource management agencies on needed basis under Task 2.4b of the FY 2018 Work Plan	Noted. Continue to lead the kelp restoration project (Task 2.4b)
More education and collection of data on the impact of irresponsible fishing and fishing debris on wildlife.	Though no feasible project can be incorporated into the Work Plan at this time, SMBNEP (TBF) will continue to seek opportunities to revise similar effort in the past in partnering with community organizations in fishing debris removal and cleanup.	Promote.
Study and demonstrate impact of fishing lines and hooks on marine life, including fishing along the Ballona Creek.	See response above. Along with cleanup effort, TBF will also seek opportunities to demonstrate and communicate to local jurisdictions the harmful impacts of fishing debris on wildlife.	Promote.
Study impact of plastic debris on birds and fish. Examine if a lot of fish and birds within the Santa Monica Bay have plastic in them.	See response above.	Promote
Pass along information about the effect of marine debris on wildlife to local jurisdictions to inform their management plans	See response above.	Promote
Evaluate the impact of plastic straws have on environment to inform statewide ban of their use.	Clean Bay Restaurants Certification Program promotes the nonuse of plastic straws at participating restaurants (Task 1.2c). SMBNEP also supports effort by local	Continue to support through Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program (Task 1.2c) and other

	environmental communities in collecting Information on the quantities and impacts of plastic straws have been collected during Coastal Clean Up Day and other clean up events to inform the proposed statewide ban.	efforts.
Organize cleanup efforts after rain event when trash is pushed towards the coast.	Beach management agencies boost trash cleanup efforts after rain events. There are also post-storm cleanup efforts mobilized by local environmental and community organizations. Though not specifically under a given aspect of the Work Plan, the SMBNEP continues to support these efforts and participate whenever possible.	Support
Investigate new technologies such as the "Sea Bin" to help clean up trash in marinas, harbors and other water bodies.	Though not specifically under a given aspect of the Work Plan, the SMBNEP continues to support development and test of new trash and other pollutant reduction technologies.	Support pending more information on recommended device.
Recognize Marina del Rey as a significant nursery for fish.	Marine and wildlife habitats are designated beneficial uses for the region's harbors including MDR.	Noted.
More protection of Mothers Beach from runoff as there are many leopard sharks, halibut, corbina that use it as a refuge.	Though there is some existing information, more data are needed to assess the biological community and impact of water quality. The data and assessment needs can be addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need for further studies during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Promote "Greening the gray" urban environments such as marinas and harbors which can be looked at as habitat for many species.	Though not specifically fall under the scope of this Work Plan, SMBNEP has supported and will continue to support efforts by City of LA and other local agencies and community organizations in restoring native habitats and species in urban environments including, but are not limited to marina and harbors.	Continue to support native habitat and species restoration in urban environment.
More education on how harvest impacts marine life and birds and promote the message that mussels should be left for wildlife.	Though no feasible project can be incorporated into the Work Plan at this time, SMBNEP (TBF) will seek for more information and explore research, education, and restoration opportunities with interested stakeholders.	Promote.

Promote the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to formulate a halibut fishery plan, which is needed to see why halibuts are not doing well in Santa Monica Bay.	This is closely related to Task 2.1a under the current Work Plan. Department of Fish and Wildlife is the lead agency in developing FMP and SMBNEP will continue to promote and encourage the DFW to complete development of fishery management plan for California halibut and other high priority fisheries.	Continue to promote (Task 2.1a)
Investigate the impact of nutrient levels on hypoxia and ocean acidification.	This is an important research topic and studies are being conducted by local wastewater treatment facilities and research institutions. This will be a focus point and additional study needs will be evaluated and addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need for further studies during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Conduct studies of marine sediments in the Bay to look at the effects of sewage pipe leaking directly in the shallow water habitat.	As required under NPDES permits, wastewater treatment facilities investigate all sewage pipe and report the results of the investigation leaks extensively	Noted
Monitor of firework displays and look at their effects in water.	There is little evidence of adverse impact on water quality from firework displays and no further monitoring seems to be necessary at this time.	Noted

Climate Change

Comment	Response	Follow-Up
Supports continued research like ocean acidification studies, wave action studies, and promotes regional communication.	This is already a component of current Work Plan with a lot been done or initiated, including the deployment of pH sensors and kelp hydrodynamics study. These efforts will continue be carried out under the FY 2018 Work Plan (Task 3.1b).	Continue to implement (Task 3.1b)
Connect effects of inland flooding and coastal flooding - how inland and coastal efforts enhance, relate to, and complement each other.	This is an important research topic that is the focus of modeling efforts by many research institutions in the region. The need and approach for research in this area will be addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need and approach for further research during CMP update (Task 3.3b)

	Plan.	
Look into Infrastructure vulnerabilities in relation to climate change and endorse activities that examine it on a regional approach.	This is closely related to Task 3.1a under the current Work Plan. It fits well with the objective and is recommended for inclusion in FY 2018 Work Plan as part of Phase 2 of the BRP climate change vulnerability assessment project.	Recommend inclusion in FY18 Work Plan (Task 3.1a).
Continue monitoring and evaluating recreation uses vs restoration benefits vs climate change buffering from storms.	See response above.	See above. Recommend inclusion in FY18 Work Plan (Task 3.1a).
Look into the Envision Rating System on sustainableinfrastructure.org., a new rating system for infrastructure like roads and bridges.	This is a good suggestion. The Envision Rating System will be looked at during Phase 2 of the BRP climate change vulnerability assessment project (Task 3.1a) as a valuable tool helping local municipalities adapting climate change in infrastructural planning.	Recommend inclusion in FY18 Work Plan (Task 3.1a).
Monitor shifting species or change species composition due to warming water i.e. Baja species coming north. Examine how this affects Santa Monica Bay.	These are important climate change-related topics. The need for further research and monitoring on these topics will be looked at during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need and approach for further research and monitoring during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Collaborate among groups to fill date gaps and identify key areas that could be affected by climate change, specifically storm water. Increase collaborative research through the SMBRA.	SMBNEP recognize the importance and benefit of collaboration in advancing climate change related research and monitoring and has collaborated with academic institutions and local agencies in carrying out the hydrodynamics study, the ocean pH monitoring project, etc. (Task 3.1b under the current Work Plan). SMBNEP will continue to promote such collaboration through SMBRA and other mechanisms.	Continue to participate and promote (Task 3.1b)
Support the Santa Monica Bay beach restoration pilot project.	The Santa Monica Bay beach restoration pilot project (Task 2.3b under the current Work Plan) broke ground in December 2016 and has received overwhelming support from local communities and stakeholders. It will be continued and possibly expanded to other locations under the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan.	Continue to lead in implementation and expansion (Task 2.3b)

More outreach, not just passive outreach, but have active outreach about the exceptional dune restoration projects. Conduct monthly outreach. Utilize the huge opportunity provided by being so close to the bike path to tell people about this project. Do walks with neighboring clubs and explore funding opportunities by reaching out to club members.	TBF has conducted extensive outreach both prior and after launching of the Santa Monica Bay beach restoration pilot project, which to a large degree is credited for the overwhelming support received on the project. More and active outreach would definitely be helpful and TBF will make efforts to engage more stakeholders and explore all form of outreach opportunities under the proposed FY 2018 Work Plan.	See above.
Work with the City of Santa Monica's education team that can help with outreach on Santa Monica beach restoration project.	See response above. The SMBNEP is grateful to the key supporting and collaboration role the City played in initiating this project and will work more closely with the City's education team in conducting outreach on the project.	See above.
Supports more climate change education (i.e. Santa Monica beach restoration pilot project). Fill the communication gap as a lot of people still don't know the real impacts of climate change.	This is closely related to Task 3.1a under the current Work Plan. There are many ongoing climate change and outreach efforts by multiple organizations in the region, including the AdaptLA participated by the SMBNEP. In FY 2018, the SMBNEP will continue to participate these efforts and seek to expand efforts to disseminate the results of the BRP climate change vulnerability assessment projects as well as the results of climate change impact studies.	Continue to lead, participate, and promote (Task 3.1a)
Encourages all the communication we can do to relay climate change information especially on how we can address sea level rise.	See response above. The impacts and adaptation to sea level rise will be an important part of outreach and communication conducted by SMBNEP in FY 2018.	See above.
More effort spent on educating people about ocean acidification impact and temperature changes.	See response above. The SMBNEP will make more effort to educate people by disseminate information collected from the ongoing ocean acidification and hydrodynamics studies.	Continue to lead, participate, and promote (Task 3.1a & b)
Consider creating a one sheet for "These	See response above. These are potential creative and	See above.

are the effects of climate change" for general education about climate change and get people to understand the impacts. Share varying organization's efforts on communicating. Partner on hosting a workshop for enviro groups to create a one page fact sheet on climate change.	effective outreach tools and will be looked at in future outreach efforts.	
Provide information that local cities and agencies can find out how to cope with climate change impacts at when designing projects.	See response above. Providing to local municipalities information on adaptive project planning will be an important part of the future outreach efforts.	See above.
Promote getting a consensus on climate change.	Comment noted. There is general consensus on climate change in our region. The primary challenge and the need to promote is planning for adaptations.	Noted
More education about the benefits of dense development near public transit.	Though more education is needed to promote the use of public transit for its environmental benefits, this does not specifically fall under the scope of this Work Plan.	Noted.
Clarify the extent to which SMBNEP can engage in prevention in addition to adaptation.	Comment noted. The Phase 2 of the BRP climate change vulnerability assessment project will identify and recommend both prevention and adaptation strategies.	Noted.
Look into potential wave generators or offshore energy projects.	There is no information on any potential plan for wave generation or offshore energy projects in the Santa Monica Bay area at this time.	Noted.

Outreach

Comment	Response	Follow-Up
Increase public education (children and adults) regarding what happens to our water, how things work, and how to capture water on your land.	SMBNEP has increased its effort in educating the public on water recapture and conservation, most noticeably the recently project completed by TBF and supported by LADWP's Community Partnership grant that used a	Continue to lead and implement under Task 1.2a.

	diverse outreach strategy to educate the public about energy efficiency and water conservation throughout our region (Task 1.2a under the current Work Plan). In FY 2018, TBF will seek new partnership and funding opportunities to continue and expand similar efforts.	
Conduct tours of Hyperion treatment facility.	City of Los Angeles has an environmental education center at Hyperion and conducts tours of the treatment facility. SMBNEP can help to contact the City and promote the event if needed.	Noted.
Need macro, micro, and multilingual communication plan.	This would be ideal but very ambitious. The SMBNEP's capacity is limited and can only conduct more focused or targeted outreach at this time.	Noted.
Inform the public about the successes of our programs and efforts.	This is a good suggestion and is closely related to Task 3.2a under the current Work Plan. The SMBNEP uses many outreach mechanisms including, but are not limited to website, social media, BAYWIRE newsletter, and annual report to inform the public about the status and successes and gain public support for on-going and planned projects. The SMBNEP will continue to explore other mechanisms for better reporting in the future.	Continue to lead and implement (Task 3.2a)
Produce more fact sheets (infographics) including a general "Who is SMBRC and what do we do" factsheet. Also consider producing factsheet on project and study results, which can be modeled after the factsheet the City of LA Environmental Monitoring Division developed on what they found in their monitoring during the one-mile outfall diversion. Present and share research and monitoring results with simple, public friendly publications similar to the snapshots produced by the California Ocean Science Trust.	This is a great suggestion and is closely related to Task 3.2a under the current Work Plan. The SMBNEP has increased the use of these types of outreach materials and hope to learn from the cited examples and develop and use simpler, more public friendly publications in the future.	Continue to lead and implement (Task 3.2a)

Expand outreach and try to recruit high school teachers and develop lesson plans on marine biology for their classroom. Make lesson plans available on website for teachers and youth counselors.	TBF conduct direct school outreach based on available resources and will explore opportunities to do more either directly or collaborate with, or support other partner organization for various types of school outreach.	Support
Conduct aquarium outreach.	All local aquariums have various ongoing outreach on marine environmental issues.	Noted
Educate people to understand bacterial testing and show results. Raise awareness on Ballona creek TMDL.	Though there is no specific education project focusing on bacterial contamination and Ballona Creek TMDLs under the current and FY 2018 Work Plan, SMBNEP supports efforts and projects in this area by partner organizations.	Support

Research and Monitoring

Comment	Response	Follow-Up
Increase public knowledge of the science that is happening here in SMB. More public outreach and information on the monitoring of beaches, fish, and other habitats and who are doing the monitoring.	This is closely related to Task 3.3b under the current Work Plan. SMBNEP communicate to the public the environmental condition and the science behind the information primarily through the State of the Bay issued every five years, but agree with the comments that more can be done to make the results of monitoring and scientific research more available and timely to the public.	Continue to lead the development of the State of the Bay report and other outreach materials (Task 3.3b).
Share the monitoring results to the public. Make monitoring data more available and in a timely fashion.	See response above.	See above.
Work on creating a story and narrative to support efforts making data relevant and understandable to the public. Explain to the public the whys and communicate it within a story.	See response above	See above.

Promote more studies of the coastal interface of our drainage and storm water system with regard to how the system is impacted by rainfall and storm events throughout the watershed.	These are good suggestions and will be looked at during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need and approach for further research and monitoring during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Try to meld the estuary and marine systems in research.	See response above.	See above.
Complete restoration projects with scientific reports on top of it. Continue expanding with other research questions from current projects.	See response above.	See above.
Look "up" the watershed. Look at how upstream can affect downstream, e.g. what happens east of Centinela, and bringing the topic of Ballona Creek to upstream communities.	See response above.	See above.
Focus on the economic side of our work and make an economic evaluation with regards to investments and long term cost savings.	See response above. Economic and cost-effectiveness evaluation are important part of the equation and will be looked at during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need and approach for further research and monitoring during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Support ongoing Mussel Watch program by NOAA which now includes analysis of emergent contaminants. The program collects good data because mussels are filter feeders. More sampling locations should be added near outfalls.	Mussel Watch program has provided valuable long-term data used to demonstrate and analyze status and trends of pollutant loading and impacts. The current status of the program and the need for addition of stations will be evaluated during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the value of the Mussel Watch program during CMP update (Task 3.3b).
Provide an interface for monitoring	Freshwater element will be looked at during the	Work with TAC to evaluate the

elements, e.g. fresh water management in urban sub-watersheds.	Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	existing information and assess the need and approach for further research and monitoring during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Continue monitoring and data collection on steelhead and state listed species.	Continued monitoring of these species is very important. The mechanism to ensuring long-term monitoring of these species will be addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan	Work with TAC to develop long-term monitoring mechanism during CMP update (Task 3.3b).
Focus on knowledge gaps in many areas of the comprehensive monitoring program, e.g. marine mammals.	The CMP update will provide a comprehensive and categorical review of knowledge gaps. Marine mammals are acknowledged as a data gap. This suggestion will be addressed during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the data gap during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Need monitoring of marine mammals. Collect more tissue samples and conduct more tests. Work with Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro and California Wildlife Center's Rescue Team to conduct testing of stranded mammals. Embed staff member to work with these agencies. This will fill gap for the State of the Bay report.	See response above.	See above.
Tap into knowledge of marine mammal experts and resources at local universities for marine mammals.	See response above.	See above.
Work to fill other data gaps: pelagic areas, slopes in deeper water, and fish.	Pelagic system especially condition of pelagic fish, and deeper canyon and slopes are all data gaps initially identified in the CMP that still require greater consideration and development. These gaps will be looked at along with others during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY	Work with TAC to evaluate these data gaps during CMP update (Task 3.3b)

	2018 Work Plan.	
Get master students from LMU, UCLA, or USC to work on data gaps, for instance gaps on the pelagic system.	TBF encourages and actively supports the development of internships and research opportunities via grants with graduate students and undergraduates. We support this concept and will continue to do so in the future. The value of this approach is best recognized via the establishment of the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University.	Continue to work with LMU and other Universities on the collaborative research efforts to address data gaps and identify need for further research.
Need a countywide database and map for water quality so that all data collected under the coordinated storm water monitoring program are assembled and analyzed.	This is a good suggestion and will be looked at during the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Update under Task 3.3b of the FY 2018 Work Plan.	Work with TAC to evaluate the existing information and assess the need and approach for further research and monitoring during CMP update (Task 3.3b)
Include monitoring in the work plan that are part of the EPA grant.	Comment noted. Task associated with addressing the monitoring need (Task 3.3b) is already part of the Work Plan	Noted

Program Management

Comment	Response	Follow-Up
Have the NEP inform the status of projects and who is doing what, beyond the Ballona area.	Comment noted. SMBNEP regularly inform the public on work plan and project implementation status through its websites, newsletters, progress reports, and annual reports.	Noted.
Need accountability in WAC. Need organized breakout groups to facilitate discussion of specific projects.	Comment noted. Staff received good and large amount of comments and recommendations at the annual WAC meeting, and therefore does not see the need for additional organized group discussion at this time.	Noted.
Need accountability for projects that SMBRC approves (i.e. Oxford Lagoon, prop 84 projects).	Comment noted. Work plan progress reports and annual report provides clear information on all programs and projects overseen by all entities of the SMBNEP.	Noted.

Have subcommittee to monitor how a grant proceeds.	Comment noted. SMBNEP does not see the need to form any subcommittee at this time, but is open to such possibility in the future.	Noted.
More opportunities for dialog rather than just input.	Comment noted. The breakout session format of the annual WAC meeting is specifically designed to promote dialogue among stakeholders.	Noted.
Need more consensus and take a one-voice approach on topics.	Comment noted. SMBNEP is formed as a consensus-based organization and has used consensus decision making throughout its history.	Noted.
Include in the work plan of projects that SMBNEP would need funding to complete in order to raise awareness of need for increased resources.	Comment noted. The Work Plan includes ongoing and planned projects as well as projects that the SMBNEP actively seek funding for implementation.	Noted.
Discuss in the work plan methodology for balancing various legitimate public interest that sometimes conflict with one another such as biodiversity, recreation, education, flood control, health codes, etc.	Comment noted. The purpose of the Work Plan is to lay out specific tasks to be accomplished each fiscal year, not analytical methodology or results.	Noted.
Cite in the work plan relevant federal regulations governing the National Estuary Program and the roles of each entity pursuant to those regulations.	Comment noted. As stated in the introduction of the Work Plan, the federal regulation governing the National Estuary Program is Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.	Noted.
Clarify in the work plan which entity or entities are awarded EPA Section 320 grant funds.	Comment noted. The Work Plan already clarified that TBF is awarded EPA Section 320 grant funds.	Noted.
Have all EPA funding go to the Commission.	Comment noted. EPA funding has been used to support SMBRC activities.	Noted
Same person should not be the Executive Director for both positions for the TBF and the Commission.	Comment noted.	Noted
Allow the public to speak and have responses to input.	Comment noted. There are public comment period at the SMBRA and the SMBRC Governing Board, TAC, and WAC meetings.	Noted

Respond to and work with the public.	Comment noted.	Noted
Be inclusive, work with groups like the BLTT.	Comment noted.	Noted