baywire

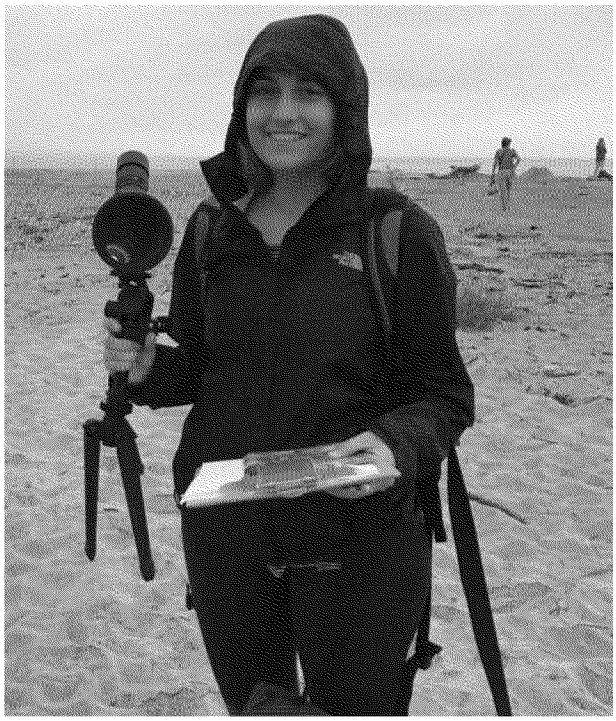
NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE SANTA MONICA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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.

Q2 2017 Edition

Plovers Return to LA County 1st Time in 70 Years! (BTW, they like our sites)

This summer, Oriana Strieleman, a sophomore at LMU is interning with TBF and working on a research project documenting the recent discovery of the federally-threatened western snowy plover nest sites. The first discovered nest was on the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project site. These tiny shorebirds haven't nested in LA County for nearly 70 years. Oriana's project will document nest site conditions at Santa Monica beach, Malibu Lagoon State beach, and Dockweiller beach and investigate possible reasons the plovers have decided to nest in LA this year.



Year 3: Kelp Canopy Up, 6 More Acres Restored

The TBF lead kelp project, restored 6 acres of reef from July 2015-June 2016. The annual report describing the actions and results of this ongoing project was published in June 2017. The results indicate that the kelp forests restored by our partner commercial sea urchin harvesters, over time resemble the natural kelp forests, used as reference sites in this project.

Furthermore, kelp canopy dramatically increased as a result of the restoration. Aerial-based kelp canopy surveys conducted by the Central Region Kelp Survey Consortium show kelp canopy developing in restoration areas starting in 2014 a year after initial project efforts in 2013. Canopy cover percentage has reached 52% for Underwater Arch and 83% for Honeymoon Cove, in 2015, constituting an approximate 250% increase for both of the sites since restoration was completed. For the full report and appendices, click HERE.

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Conservation through Education

The Bay Foundation (TBF) wrapped up an intensive 9-month effort to promote energy, water, and natural gas conservation throughout middle-schools in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). TBF's project, *Educating the Future: Innovative Resource Conservation Strategies*, was supported by LADWP's Community Educational Partnership Program. After developing a suite of new and engaging educational resources to encourage conservation, TBF staff visited 13 middle-school classrooms, working with teachers to engage students on important conservation issues and solutions through presentations, games, and hands-on activities. These resources are free and available to all teachers on the project website. Make sure to check out the video "Water and Energy Conservation for LA Kids" where teen reporter, Kenya, leads a tour of L.A.'s water, electricity, and natural gas systems and investigates why conservation can make a huge difference.

Students at Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS LA) in Van Nuys

SM Patagonia Selects LAX Dunes as Volunteer Project

Every year Patagonia allows its employees up to two months away from their regular role to work at an environmental group of their choice while continuing to earn their paycheck and benefits. The Santa Monica Patagonia store selected the LAX Dunes Preserve as one of the places its employees could collectively volunteer their time and goodwill. Since May 18th, a dozen employees have removed over 70 bags of invasive vegetation including black mustard, iceplant, Russian thistle, Wild radish, and assorted grasses. Their work supports TBF's efforts to promote the growth and expansion of native plants such as Beach evening primrose, Beach bur, and Beach sand verbena in this impacted coastal environment. You can help TBF and Patagonia progress on this important project by joining our monthly LAX Dunes events. The next date is July 8th. More info and to sign up, please click HERE.

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Boaters & Bay Benefit from New Free Pumpout APP

TBF's Boater Education Program is helping boaters launch this summer with a new *free* app called Pumpout Nav (iOS and Android). This app coincides with the 9th consecutive year of *free* mobile pumpout service, Honey Pot Day program, supported by TBF via the California State Parks Division of Boaters and Waterways' Clean Vessel Act program. The mobile pumpout is available from June 1-August 31 in four SoCal harbors: Marina del Rey, King Harbor, Port of Los Angeles, and Port of Long Beach. For more information, please click HERE.

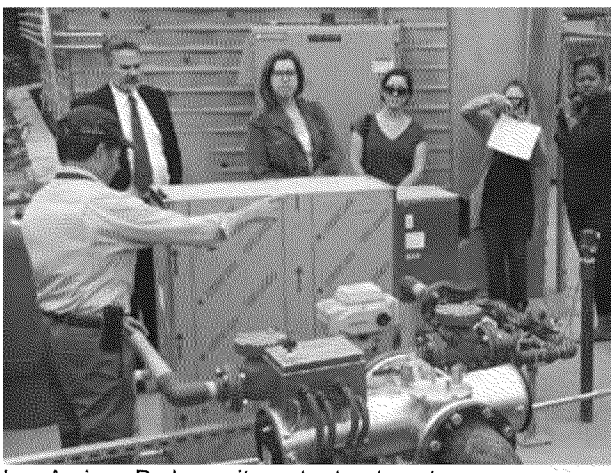
The Pumpout Nav app makes managing boat sewage much more convenient and trackable by helping boaters aboard the vessel geo-locate sewage pumpout stations closest to their present location. The new Pumpout Nav app automatically finds the boater's location, and suggests the closest pumpout stations on a map or as a list. It displays each facility's operational status, cost, hours, and detailed location within the marina for each unit. The app also provides instructions on how to use a pumpout station, and information about the environmental risks and applicable regulations regarding sewage discharge. To download the free app, click HERE.

SMBRC Trades Executive Director for Chief Administrative Director

At SMBRC's March Governing Board meeting, it was announced that the Commission's Executive Director Tom Ford would resign from that post while remaining the Executive Director of The Bay Foundation. Tom's last day serving the SMBRC as its Executive Director will be June 29th of 2017. At the June 15th Governing Board meeting, the MOA between the SMBRC and TBF was amended to reflect this upcoming change. The State Water Resources Control Board, which provides administrative services to the SMBRC, announced that it will provide a Chief Administrative Director to lead the SMBRC in the near future.

City of Santa Monica Helps SM Bay by Harvesting & Reusing Stormwater

As head of the City of Santa Monica's Clean Beaches Clean Ocean Committee, TBF's Tom Ford spoke at the May ribbon cutting of Santa Monica's Los Amigos Park Stormwater Harvesting and Direct Use Demonstration Project. The project is a City of Santa Monica collaboration with the Santa Monica-Malibu School District and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), and marks another first in infrastructure advancement for the City. Los Amigos is the first retrofit project to harvest offsite wet and dry weather runoff from an adjacent, existing storm drain, treat and then use it on-site for beneficial uses, such as toilet flushing and irrigation of athletic fields. Ford spoke particularly to how a project like this serves as a premier example of what cities can do to address water reuse while reducing pollutant loading to our beaches and coastal waters.



Los Amigos Park on-site water treatment

TBF Out in the Community

It has been one busy quarter for our staff, at events across many communities in the Santa Monica Bay watershed. Just to acknowledge a few, and thank them for including us: Nickelodeon Earth Day, Rolling Hills Estates Earth Day, King Harbor Boating Safety Day, Marina Fest, Venice Green Festival, Santa Monica Pier Paddle Event (2nd year in a row we've been a benefitting charity!), Nick Gabaldon Day, Fiesta Hermosa, Shrinking Shorelines (via Sustainable SM), Kids to Parks Day (Rancho Palos Verdes), Southern California Academy of Sciences Symposium, and City of Santa Monica April Bike Ride with the Mayor.

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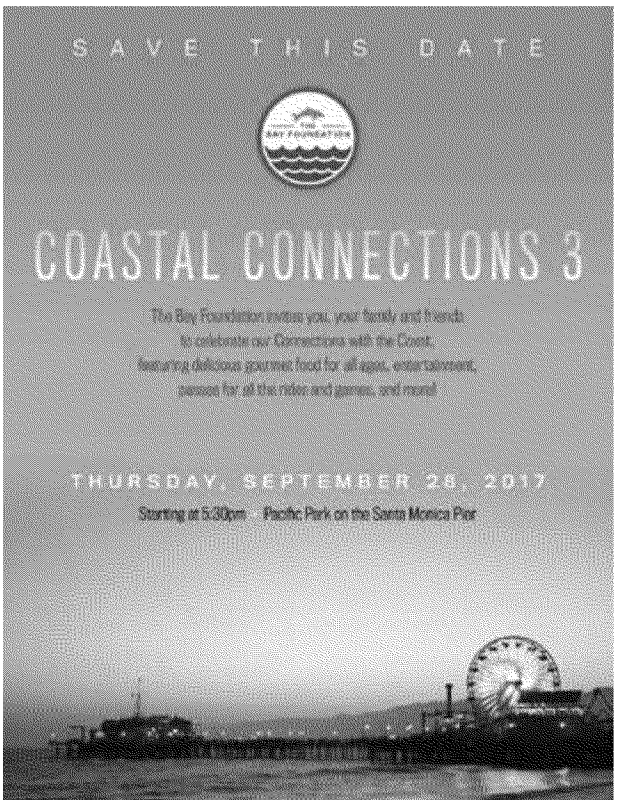
COASTAL CONNECTIONS 3 – Save the Date!!

Our Coastal Connections 3 annual family-friendly fundraiser returns to Pacific Park at the Santa Monica Pier, and will again bring together our most passionate and informed advocates for clean water and healthy cities. For sponsorship or to receive more ticket information, please contact Julie, jdubrow@santamonicabay.org. To purchase tickets, please click HERE. See you Sept 28th!



Join TBF Outside!

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations. The summer beckons – bring a friend!!

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

Please check TBF's Events Page 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) if you'd like to plan such an event.

TBF Offers Discount to Annual 'Women in Green Forum', August 30

TBF is proud to be an endorsing organization of the 8th Annual Women In Green Forum (WIGF) in Los Angeles on August 30th. WIGF is the premier network and conference series for women in the environmental industry bringing together an international audience of environmental leaders ranging from corporate sustainability officers to academic researchers to technology developers. The WIGF also appeals to regulatory agencies involved in developing the policies and legislation which will further the development and propagation of green technologies. Take advantage of a 10% registration discount for Bay Foundation friends! Register HERE and use "partnerBay" when prompted to "Enter Promotional Code". This event sells out early, so we encourage everyone to register as soon as possible. For more information, go to http://womeningreenforum.com/ or email info@womeningreenforum.com.

In The News

The Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project continued to receive wide and valuable coverage. In May, that coverage included the western snowy plovers' exciting nesting presence:

Next City
KCET "Earth Focus"
Los Angeles Times (lead story, CA section)
KPCC 89.3
Ventura County Star
KSCI-TV / LA18
Daily Breeze
Santa Monica Daily Press
Whole Life Times (p. 11)
Neighbordhoods.com

Both the Malibu Surfside News and the Malibu Times took at look at Malibu Lagoon with TBF, as the project nears its fourth year monitoring report.

The Daily Bruin connected with students at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA to write about their Sr. Practicum work with TBF in the kelp forests.

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The Acorn shared the discovery of evidence of reproduction in the SM Mountains of the CA red-legged frog.

Whole Life Times spoke with TBF's Grace Lee about TBF's Clean Bay Certified restaurant program, along with the new "Table to Farm" pilot program of composting scraps from restaurants in Inglewood.

TBF's work with 6th-8th graders, offering free tools to students and teachers to teach about water and energy conservation was reported by WestsideToday.com. (Project mentioned above.)

This spring, The Argonaut wrote about the "a Ballona superbloom", and spoke with TBF's Karina Johnston.

OCA News Splash, HomeTown News and CalCoast WAVE shared variously about TBF programs, accomplishments and volunteer opportunities.

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: @The Bay 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 us.

And did you know you can check out your local dining options via an interactive map of certified Clean Bay Restaurants on our site?

TBF INSTAGRAM PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

Stunning Spanish shawl protecting her eggs, among many animals with new babies off PV

We are all in the same boat – Happy #WorldOceansDay from TBF

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2017 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

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

The remaining 2017 meeting dates are:

- August 17
- October 19
- December 21

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 Dr. Guang-yu Wang at 213-576-6639 or by e-mail at guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also visit the SMBRC website at www.smbrc.ca.gov.

Check Out Our Websites

Please check out the SMBRC website: 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. It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Dr. Guang-yu Wang at guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov or Julie Du Brow at jdubrow@santamonicabay.org.

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