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.

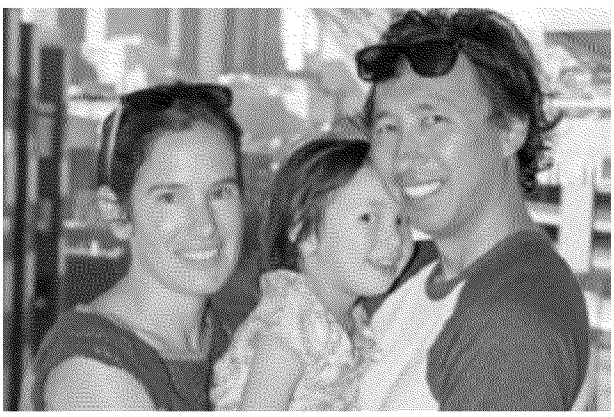
Q3 2017 Edition

Join us tomorrow!

Our Coastal Connections 3 annual family-friendly fundraiser returns to Pacific Park at the Santa Monica Pier, bringing together our most passionate and informed advocates for clean water and healthy cities. Tickets are available until tonight at 7:00 pm! Help us honor Loyola Marymount University, Patagonia stores (Pasadena and Santa Monica) and the film "A Plastic Ocean"!

SMBNEP News: A Warm Welcome

At the June 2017 SMBRC Governing Board meeting, we welcomed Erica Yelensky, Watersheds Office, U.S. EPA Region 9. Erica works closely with us to develop and support our work plans, the BRP, represents our needs within the EPA and keeps the SMBNEP current with the EPA regulations that govern the National Estuary Programs. Welcome aboard Erica!



Erica Yelensky and family

Erica Yelensky has worked at the US EPA Pacific Southwest regional office in San Francisco since 2006. Prior to her current positions, she supported Native American tribal environmental departments with developing household hazardous waste programs and enhancing their overall environmental protection programs. Currently in the Watersheds Office, Erica has been a grant manager for the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund program, focused on working with local governments and non-profits in Napa and Sonoma counties to develop and implement riparian and wetland restoration and Low Impact Development projects. Erica is excited about this new opportunity to work with the Santa Monica Bay NEP/The Bay Foundation and learn about the possibilities and challenges the watershed has to offer. She has an MA in geography and wrote her thesis on the evolution of California's graywater code. When she's not working, you can find Erica gardening, hiking, or exploring her neighborhood with her almost 4-year old.

BRP Revision

The Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) is the strategic plan for the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program. The Bay Foundation, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), and the many partners engaged in this work will revise this strategic plan over the coming months. The revised BRP will build from the current BRP with a greater focus on climate change resilience and sustainability. Members of the SMBRC, the Technical Advisory Committee and Watershed Advisory Council will discuss their concepts and priorities through a variety of public meetings to inform and develop this plan. Please pay close attention to Baywire and other communications to make sure you remain up to date and participate in the revision process.

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'What I did as a Summer Intern'

TBF launched a new summer intern program with the Fred Seaver College of Science and Engineering at Loyola Marymount University. Six paid internships were awarded to LMU students to advance projects and research related to the Bay Restoration Plan. These undergraduates gained real world experience while conducting applied science with TBF staff and LMU faculty. Planning for next summer's interns is underway, with TBF and LMU supporting up to 12 interns in 2018. Please read up on all the students and their experiences in their own words, click here.

Intern Valeria Ceja of LMU at Malibu Lagoon

Coastal Cleanup Day!

Nearly 50 volunteers attended TBF's 3rd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day at the LAX Dunes on September 16, 2017. LMU Students, local Girl and Boy Scout troops, LAX employees, California Native Plant Society members, concerned citizens, and TBF employees pulled 43 bags of Russian thistle (Salsola tragus), 11 bags of iceplant (Carpobrotus edulis), and 2 bags of non-native grasses (Brome spp.) weighing about 550 pounds. Patagonia provided raffle prizes, California Native Plant Society provided free copies of "Flowering Plants: the Santa Monica Mountains, Coastal & Chaparral Regions of Southern California," and every attendee who stayed for the whole event received a Chipotle food voucher card. Staff time and outreach provided by a California State Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast Grant.

Coastal Cleanup Day 2017

CDFW Releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Report

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/ EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project on Monday, September 25, 2017 at the following website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR. To view the Notice of Availability (NOA), click here.

Replenishing Water and Soaking up Pollutants—Tales from the Ballona Creek Rain Garden

During 2011, TBF constructed one of the region's largest rain gardens running along the bank of Ballona Creek in Culver City. At 1000-ft in length, this biofiltration system collects runoff from approximately 11 acres of industrial buildings and parking lots. During the past two wet seasons (2015-16 and 2016-17), Professor John Dorsey and his graduate student, Jamie Burkhard, in partnership with TBF, lead a team of Loyola Marymount University (LMU) students to measure

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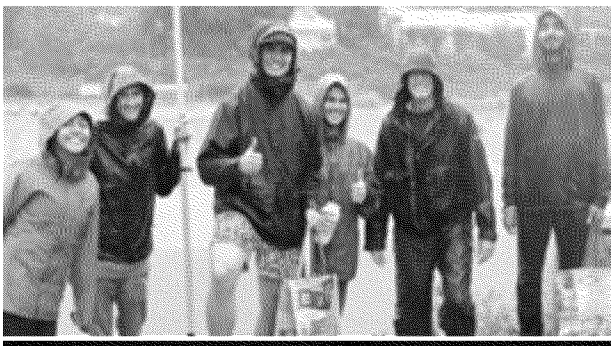
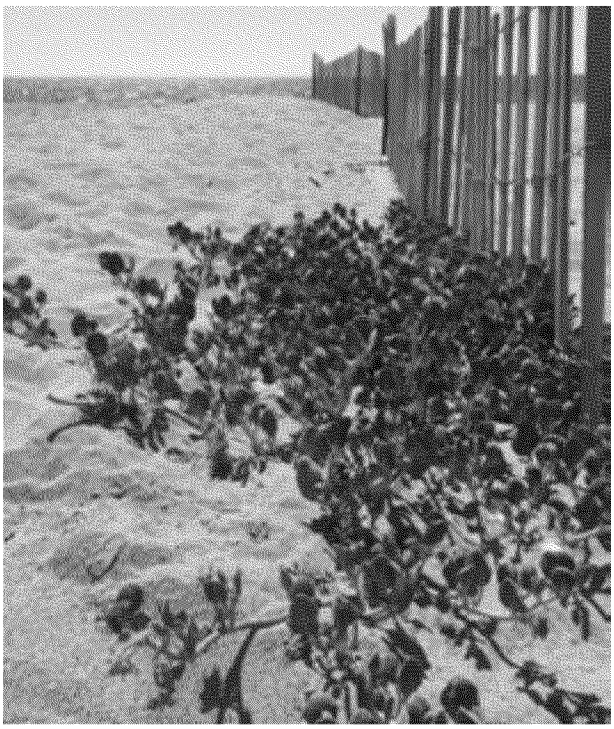
how much water infiltrates into the garden, and the mass of pollutants sequestered during storms. The team found that 73%-100% of the runoff was infiltrated into the garden, depending on the size of the storm. Just over 1 million gallons was infiltrated during the largest measured storm. For pollutants, the garden truly soaked them in. An average of 83% were retained, with metals and organic pollutants achieving an average of over 90%. Knowledge gained through these projects is essential in helping environmental engineers and scientists design and implement rain gardens watershed-wide to more effectively recharge groundwater and reduce pollutants that would flow to our Bay.



Prof. Dorsey & LMU students at rain garden

#CAWildBeach – Year One Report

The Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project had a successful first year of implementation, culminating in the publication of the Year 1 Annual Report which highlights some of the projects' successes and learning opportunities. The project installed sand fencing, restricted grooming in an approximately 3-acre area, allowed vegetation to grow and sand hummocks to form along fence lines, positively engaged the public, created new partnerships and outreach connections, provided comprehensive science-based monitoring data to inform soft-scape beach restoration solutions, and began bringing back a rare coastal habitat type to the Los Angeles region. Throughout the summer, purple and yellow flowers bloomed from the thousands of germinated seedlings and small plants. Additionally, the increased functions within the restoration area included benefits to several notable species, such as providing nesting habitat for the federally threatened western snowy plover, which had not nested in the Los Angeles region for almost 70 years. The first nest was found within the restoration area and contained three eggs. Please read the Year 1 Report for more details and pictures.



Native plants on Santa Monica Beach

Kelp Restoration Hitting 4-Years, 40 Acres

The Palos Verdes Kelp Restoration Project has restored 40 acres of rocky reef since 2013. This successful effort is showing increases in algal, invertebrate, and fish biomass and biodiversity across all restoration sites. The year 4 annual report will be available on TBF's website in October.

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Let's Spawn (Some Abalone)!

TBF is ramping up spawning efforts in the field and lab this fall. Larvae and juveniles produced from these experiments will be outplanted to help restore abalone populations within Santa Monica Bay.

New Reports

A number of reports were generated since our last Baywire. Please use the following links to learn more!

Ballona Wetlands Restoration: Community Iceplant Removal Project, Year 1 Annual Report
Coastal Dune Community Stewardship Project – Year 1 Report
Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project – Year 1 Report
Malibu Lagoon Comprehensive Monitoring Report (Year 4)
California Clean Vessel Act Pumout Performance Report
Educating the Future: Innovative Resource Conservation Strategies

Join TBF Outside!

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations. Fall 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.

In The News

TBF's LAX Dunes event for Coastal Cleanup Day was fleshed out for readers by Rod Abbott in a full CCD area story by The Argonaut.

The Argonaut announced the impending draft EIR release for Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Tom Ford spoke at the groundbreaking of City of Santa Monica's Clean Beaches initiative, as reported by the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Santa Monica NEXT announced TBF's Coastal Connection 3 event, as did SM Mirror and Westside Today.

The Clean Bay Certified program and participating restaurants in Malibu were highlighted by the City of Malibu, and published by Westside Today and Canyon News, with Grace Lee quoted.

Storm Water Solutions published an article by Melodie Grubbs on the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project. Additionally, the project was noted, with a quote from Grubbs, in a story on sea level rise ramifications and the LA coastline in The Argonaut.

Regarding Malibu Lagoon, The Inertia published a Mark Abramson-authored point-by-point response to a Malibu Times article.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press shared our release about Tyler Rasmussen joining the TBF Board of Directors.

The Mariner (p. 8) wrote about our Pumpout Nav App, helping boaters do their duty. The Log also included the app as part of its 'boating apps'.

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.

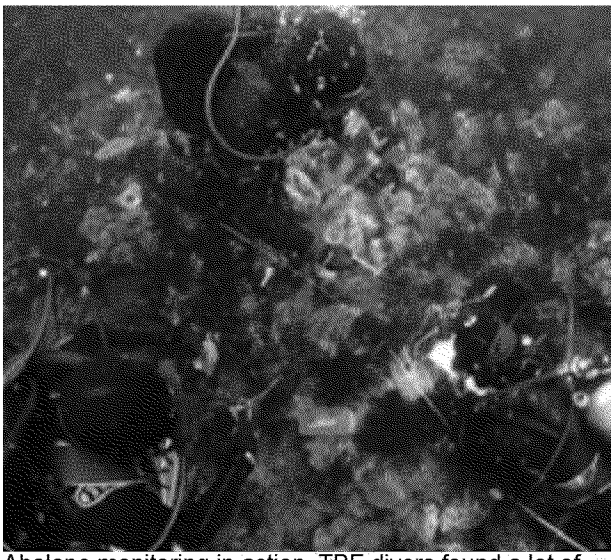
Facebook: @The Bay Foundation
Twitter: @SMBRF
Instagram: @TheBayFoundation
YouTube: "The Bay Foundation"

*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

Mango Tango, Tashanda & son from ECMS-I with organics collection buckets for Table to Farm Composting



Abalone monitoring in action, TBF divers found a lot of abalone at our outplant site.

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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:

- 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 atguangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov or Julie Du Brow at jdubrow@santamonicabay.org.

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