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.

January-March 2017 Edition

TBF to Expand Efforts in Protecting and Restoring LAX Dunes through LAWA-SMBRA Partnership

We are pleased to be continuing and expanding upon our work at the LAX Dunes! On January 10th, the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) approved a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority (SMBRA) to continue habitat maintenance and restoration efforts in a 48-acre northern portion of the LAX Dunes.

The LAX Dunes Preserve is the largest remaining coastal dune area in Southern California, and "restoring the LAX Dunes is a once in a lifetime opportunity," noted Tom Ford, Executive Officer of the SMBRA. "LAWA's care of this valuable ecosystem has given rare dune species a chance to thrive, and we are thrilled to be an active partner in this important habitat restoration project."

The Bay Foundation, as the non-profit partner within the SMBNEP, conducts monthly volunteer restoration events at the LAX Dunes to remove invasive vegetation and teach the local community about the importance and resilience of coastal dune systems. This program is a partnership with Los Angeles World Airports and the Friends of LAX Dunes. Last year, 435 volunteers removed 700 bags of invasive plants weighing over 7,000 lbs (3.5 tons) from the LAX Dunes across 12 community restoration events. To volunteer for the next event, please visit http://www.santamonicabay.org/events/. To learn more, please click here.

LAX Dunes Volunteers

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Final Report on Invasive Iceplant Removal through Community Restoration

In 2016, TBF implemented a community restoration project to remove invasive iceplant from south of Culver Blvd. in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The goal of this important interim stewardship project was to improve the ecological condition within the Reserve, and study the effects of the removal efforts to help native plants and animals. The final report for the first phase of the project is now available HERE.

Iceplant is a creeping, mat-forming group of species that forms dense monocultures, steals water from native species, alters soil chemistry, reduces biodiversity, and provides little-to-no protection or usable habitat for native birds and wildlife.

With help from over 180 community and student volunteers who devoted over 500 hours to this effort, TBF removed 0.88 acres of iceplant from September to December 2016. Over 15 tons of iceplant (more than 200 cubic yards) were removed from the restoration area and green-wasted (5 dumpsters!). In addition to participating in restoration efforts, volunteers were provided an educational introduction to the Reserve. TBF hopes to expand the restoration efforts to encompass up to 3 acres this year.

Palisades Charter High School, November 15, 2016

TBF Launches Table-to-Farm Composting for Clean Air

TBF's Clean Bay Certified (CBC) team is adding another layer to its efforts by launching a "Table-to-Farm Composting for Clean Air" pilot program, thanks to an Environmental Champions Grant from SoCalGas. Partnering with the community-based Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI), TBF's pilot program will address methane generated by landfills by connecting restaurants with compost hubs, urban farms, community gardens and schools for a multifaceted food waste reduction program in the City of Inglewood. Inglewood became a CBC participating city in 2016.

TBF will implement food rescue programs and compost wasted food from two Inglewood restaurant kitchens at a local community composting hub. The compost will be available for building healthy soil at local farms and gardens throughout South L.A.

Landfills generate a slew of environmental hazards, releasing gases like methane and carbon dioxide, as well as foul-smelling compounds into neighborhoods. This waste reduction program will tackle air quality

and food insecurity issues that impact disadvantaged communities by implementing these hands-on efforts: (a) organic waste recovery and composting partnerships between South L.A. food establishments and urban farms, and (b) outreach about food rescue, local food sourcing, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). To find out more or get involved, contact Grace Lee,glee@santamonicabay.org

SMBRC News: Elections, Thank you's and Farewells

At the December 2016 meeting, the Chair of the SMBRC Governing Board Enrique C. Zaldivar was re-elected for 2017. The Chair is elected for one-year terms, with no term limits, and presides over the Executive Committee. Zaldivar has served on the Governing Board since 2008.

Along with Zaldivar, six Vice-Chairs were also elected to serve as the SMBRC's Executive Committee (in alpha order by name):

- Fran Diamond, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board
- Gloria Gray, West Basin Municipal Water District
- Timothy Lippman, County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office
- Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper
- Sam Schuchat, Coastal Conservancy
- Sarah Sikich, Heal the Bay

SMBRC Governing Board Members (majority), Dec 2016

At the February 2017 meeting of the SMBRC Governing Board, Charlie Caspary was appointed by the Governing Board to serve as its representative on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority Board. Congratulations Charlie!

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At the February 2017 SMBRC Governing Board meeting, we bade farewell to a valued member of our team. Molly Martin, Coastal Watershed Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 9, has worked closely with us over the last 2-plus years to help support our work and represent our needs within the EPA. She has been an incredible ally and we wish her the best in her next endeavor in Region 2. Thanks to her and Sam Ziegler, Chief, Watersheds Section, U.S. EPA Region 9, Water Division, for joining us at the meeting.

UCLA IoES Students Focus Senior Practicum on Kelp Forests and OA

Students at UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability are working—as their Senior Practicum—with TBF to monitor our restored forests in order to assess the feasibility of kelp forests as refuge for marine life from the harmful effects of ocean acidification. You can read more about their project HERE, and follow their team and adventures at their blog: https://kelpteam.wordpress.com/blog/.

ClimateCents.com Launches with TBF's Kelp Restoration Project as Carbon-Offset Project

A new carbon-offset company, Climate Cents, has selected TBF's kelp restoration project as the featured project for its launch. Just as land forests sequester carbon (CO2), the ocean and its forests of kelp play a significan,oft-overlooked role doing the same, and maybe even better. Climate Cents, a new online platform that connects Angelenos to local projects that fight climate change by reducing carbon in the atmosphere and having positive community impact, saw the project's benefit as a new climate change tool. To support the project and offset your carbon, please go to thekelp page directly, or ClimateCents.com to learn more.

Check Out our New PSA and Share!

We are grateful to PS260 for the beautiful and poignant Public Service Announcement video they created for The Bay Foundation. We hope you will view it HERE (or click on image below), and share it on all your digital channels – social media, email, etc. and help support our work. Thank you!

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Join TBF Outside DURING EARTH MONTH!!!!

Start your Earth Day on the Beach Supporthing TBF with Yoga!

On Saturday, April 22nd, Angela Parker of Body Inspired Fitness will be hosting a special Earth Day Yoga-on-the-Beach class to benefit TBF! Come out and learn about our Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project, then restore yourself with a gentle 75 minute class, suggested donation $15 (100% goes to TBF!). Thank you, one and all! Click HERE for more information. Registration begins at 9:15a.

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations, and April 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

The Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project was widely covered by the following outlets:
Santa Monica Lookout
Santa Monica Daily Press
CurbedLA
KPCC 89.3
Time Out Los Angeles
Canyon News
Santa Monica Mirror
KQED (NoCal public radio)
The Sustainable Santa Monica eNews shared the beach project, as well, in their January edition.

The end of the year offered up a fun visual story by Mashable on a member of our marine team, as part of the news site's series entitled "How She Works".

KCRW's DnA show each week highlights "5 Design Things to Do". Tom Ford's talk at Loyola Marymount University on the kelp restoration project was featured.

The OsideNews.com shared information for Dockwalker training sessions for this Spring.

And Dr. Guangyu Wang participated in a New America Media symposium re: California's Coast, and was noted in the coverage of several outlets – US China Press, the World Journal, and Sing Tao

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?

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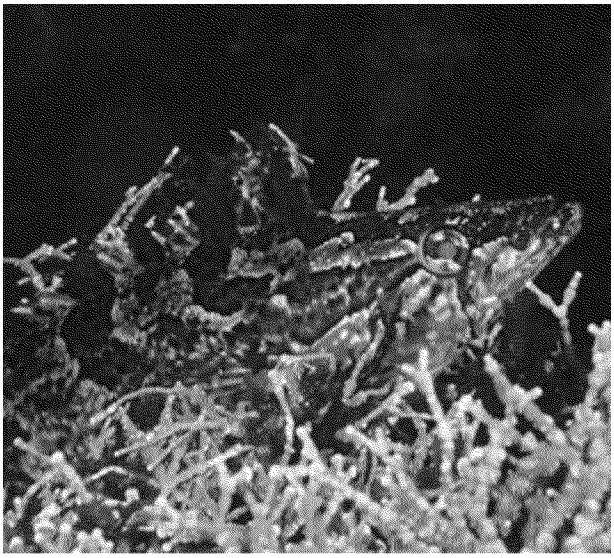
TBF INSTAGRAM PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

Sowing seeds on the Santa Monica Beach Dunes just in time for the rain.



The Giant Kelpfish (Heterostichus rostratus) showing off her red camo on the reef.

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:

- April 20
- June 15
- 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. Guangyu Wang at 213-576-6639 or by e-mail at guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also visit the SMBRC website at http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/.

Check Out Our Websites

Please check out the SMBRC website: 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 http://www.santamonicabay.org/ It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

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

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