**Santa Monica National Estuary Program & Coastal Research Institute Briefing**
**November 2, 2017**
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**Purpose:** Prepare for November 9 CRI kickoff event

**Background:**

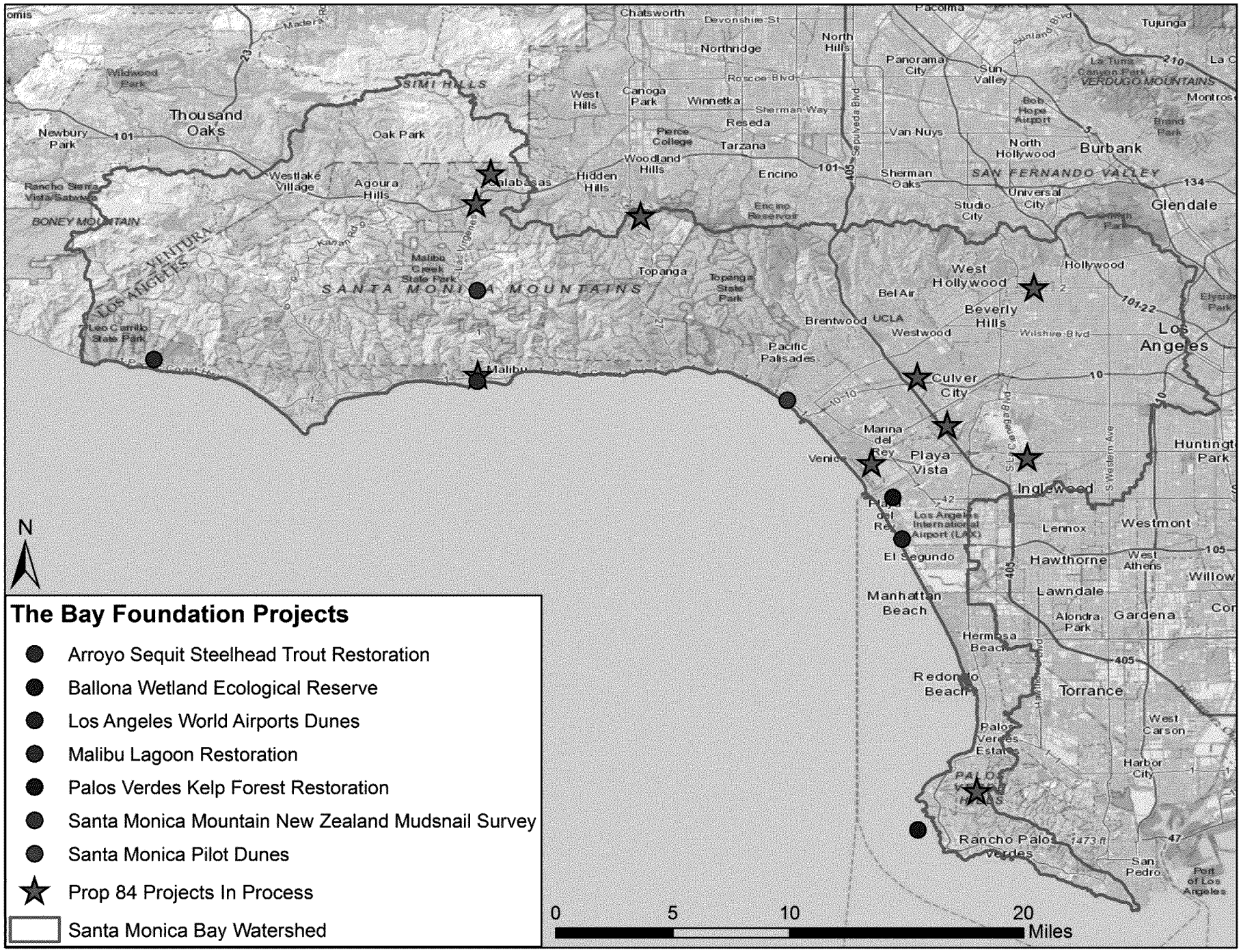
- One of 28 National Estuary Programs, (CWA Section 320)
- 6 West Coast NEPS
    - R10- Puget Sound, Lower Columbia River, Tillamook Estuaries
    - R9 - San Francisco Estuary, Morro Bay, Santa Monica Bay
- SMBNEP started in 1988 as the Santa Monica Restoration Project based at LARWQCB.
- Currently comprised of multiple entities- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority (SMBRA), and The Bay Foundation (TBF)
- Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies established at LMU Fred Seaver College of Science and Engineering in 2005 to assist in research targeting Santa Monica Bay
- Two physical locations: RB4 Downtown offices and Loyola Marymount University

**SMBNEP Program and EPA:**

- Guiding document is the "Bay Restoration Plan" (Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan) guiding document lasted updated in 2013 and to be revised by 2019.
- The Bay Foundation receives ~$600,000/year to plan and implement. Leverage ~funding ~17:1
- EPA funding provides: administration, communication, project development, project implementation, supplies and travel.
- Governing Board of SMBRC and EPA together approve changes to the Bay Restoration Plan and annual workplans. The Board is currently chaired by Enrique Zaldivar Director of City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation. There are 35 members in total comprised of federal and state agencies, state and local elected officials, and local agencies. EPA NEP Coordinator is a non-voting member.

**Current Projects and Priorities:**

- Continuing implementation of core programs such as: Clean Bay Restaurants Program, Boater Education Program, LID/Prop 84 projects, kelp and wetland restoration.
- Initiating process of revising Bay Restoration Plan to take Climate Change into account.
    - Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (Phase 1 Completed Sept. 2016)
- Ocean Acidification (on the Palos Verdes Shelf and in kelp beds)
- Fore-dune pilot project in Santa Monica to address sea level rise adaptation
- Kelp and abalone restoration and technical support to Palos Verdes Shelf
- Malibu Lagoon restoration and monitoring for benthic macroinvertebrate TMDL
- Pursuing Ballona Wetland Restoration and TMDLs for hydromodification, sediment and invasive species.

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