The Coastal Research Institute
Loyola Marymount University (LMU)
November 2017

Vision Statement: The Coastal Research Institute (CRI) at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) is a new entity formed to further the goals of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 EPA place-based programs which focus on the local estuary and surrounding watershed. The CRI partnership brings together expertise from the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering (SCSE) at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and The Bay Foundation (TBF), a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. CRI will engage LMU faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in research related to coastal resource management in Los Angeles.

TBF will support this research via project related grants and financial support for faculty and students as defined by the U.S. EPA supported Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Bay Restoration Plan. The projects will be managed by TBF staff dedicated to the CRI program.

CRI will support research across a diversity of scientific and engineering disciplines. CRI recognizes the extensive capacity for environmental research, education and communication that is inherent to the coastal landscape of Los Angeles. CRI further recognizes that research related to informing and monitoring the many projects identified in the Bay Restoration Plan are relevant to global urban coastal resource management. Thus, CRI enables faculty and students and the SMBNEP to conduct research that is vital and responsive to the dynamic needs of the world's highest valued and fastest growing environments.

CRI will be guided by the expertise of the faculty in SCSE in concert with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. A standing sub-committee of the TAC will be populated by two or more faculty affiliates from LMU to ensure clear and meaningful communications.

CRI will publish and present the findings of CRI projects annually, corresponding with Spotlight on Seaver. These annual documents will be titled *Urban Coast*. *Urban Coast* will draw on other research in the region and will be combined and presented every five years, titled *State of the Bay* in conjunction with the TAC and TBF led efforts to comprehensively assess the environmental condition of Santa Monica Bay, its adjacent waters, watershed and other coastal features.

A symposium will be hosted every five years to celebrate, and disseminate this work to a broad audience of stakeholders, municipalities, agencies, academics, and organizations. The five year summary document is a requirement of the U.S. EPA supported efforts to ascertain progress related to the Bay Restoration Plan which is produced in conjunction with a five year performance review by the U.S. EPA of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program.

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Administration of the CRI: The institute will be administered by co-directors, one from TBF and one from the LMU SCSE. The duties of the co-directors will include:

- Identify research projects for CRI involvement.
- Organize and run the CRI Student Summer Internship Program.
- Meet with and work with faculty from Seaver College, from the University, as well as from other Universities to develop interest and involvement in CRI research projects.
- Monitor progress on CRI research projects.
- Review mid-term reports and final reports from faculty, staff, and students involved in CRI research projects.
- Coordinate the production of the annual report on the progress achieved for the CRI research projects.

CRI Programs: The institute will run a CRI Student Summer Internship Program providing funded internships for undergraduate students. These student internships are six weeks in length with a housing option available. Students will work 20-30 hours/week and produce a final paper at the end of the project. Opportunities exist for the students to continue on the research projects during the academic year.

CRI will provide significant support for carrying out the Comprehensive Monitoring Program identified by the TAC and TBF as part of the larger Bay Restoration Plan. This monitoring will include physical, chemical, and biological monitoring components.

Faculty from SCSE and other Colleges and Schools at LMU will be able to be involved: as mentors for summer and academic year research projects, in giving presentations to the LMU community and/or the Santa Monica Bay community on results from research about the Santa Monica Bay, through interactions with city, county, and state agencies and personnel, to develop curricula to support activities of the CRI, to serve as co-author on grants, to receive CRI Fellowships as seed money for follow up with grant proposals as PIs to further their work with the CRI, to serve as Faculty Affiliates for the CRI.

Other Personnel in CRI may include post-docs and/or visiting scholars who may also have some teaching responsibility as part of a PUI, faculty and students from other local universities, and consultants.

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Coastal Research Institute **Strategic Plan for 2017-2018**

2017

Establish CRI summer internship program.

Conduct fall 2017 CRI research symposium.

Formalize leadership for CRI.

Develop and identify 2018 summer faculty fellows and intern projects.

Inform and integrate Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program. comprehensive monitoring program and CRI.

Conduct k-12 teacher training with The Ocean School and CRI-Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program.

Define CRI functional group.

Advance long term strategic planning.

Establish pathways for administrative and financial operation of CRI.

Establish pathways and priorities for development and communications.

2018

Expand CRI summer internship program.

Conduct fall 2018 CRI research symposium.

Develop and identify 2019 summer faculty fellows and intern projects.

Finalize integration of Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program comprehensive monitoring program and CRI.

Integrate CRI and ENVS graduate program curriculum.

Conduct k-12 teacher trainings with The Ocean School and CRI-Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program.

Populate CRI functional group.

Advance long term strategic planning.

Exercise pathways for administrative and financial operation of CRI.

Exercise pathways and priorities for development and communications.

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