



MEMORANDUM

To: South Bay Council of Governments

From: John Rea, City Councilmember, Palos Verdes Estates
Governing Board Member, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC)

Re: Summary of June 16, 2016 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting

Date: June 16, 2016

The SMBRC Governing Board met on June 16, 2016 in Marina del Rey. Key items presented are summarized below.

Work Plan for FY 2016-17

The Commission considered the draft Work Plan for the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program for the fiscal year 10/1/16 through 9/30/17. The Work Plan was prepared by SMBRC in collaboration with The Bay Foundation and the Watershed Advisory Council. Its purpose is to accomplish the goals and objectives of the 2013 Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) Update.

The Work Plan devotes significant efforts to carry out water quality improvement and habitat restoration programs and projects, aimed at achieving the milestones and objectives in the Water Quality and Natural Resources sections of the BRP, with an increased focus on climate change and monitoring activities.

The Work Plan includes the following items of interest:

1. Improve water quality through Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation, funded through Prop. 84 bond and other grant programs. Promote and participate in integrated watershed-wide water quality improvement planning and implementation (EWMP, IRWMP, etc.). Continue overseeing Boater Education Program, and promote the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program. Implement green infrastructure and low-impact development (LID) projects in targeted watersheds.

2. Support natural resource protection policies and programs. Promote marine ecosystem protection through outreach and information sharing, which includes increased assessment,

management and aerial monitoring of Marine Protected areas (MPAs) off the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Facilitate adoption of stream protection ordinances (preserving the few remaining natural streams is considered critical and urgent). Restoration of wetlands and streams (Ballona wetlands and Malibu lagoon) including fish barrier removals in the Santa Monica mountains.

Restore coastal bluffs, dunes and sandy beaches. The plan looks to increase native vegetation and re-establish endangered species, including the recovery of the El Segundo blue butterfly population.

Restore intertidal and subtidal habitats. Promote protection of intertidal habitats on Palos Verdes peninsula. Since 2013, The Bay Foundation has cleared more than 3.3 million purple sea urchins from 34 acres of reef on the Palos Verdes shelf. In FY 2016-17, The Bay Foundation hopes to restore 15 acres of kelp forest. The Bay Foundation also plans to reintroduce and restore green and pink abalone on the Palos Verdes shelf.

3. Promote climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development. Conduct research on local impacts of climate change, including deployment of pH and CO₂ sensors in Santa Monica Bay.

c: Palos Verdes Estates City Council