

## **FACTS ABOUT THE MALIBU LAGOON RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN**

**The project is not intended to “clean up” the water quality for recreation, but it will have water quality benefits for the aquatic ecosystem.**

### **The lagoon is not healthy**

- The lagoon is listed on the federal 303(d) list of impaired water bodies, due to excess nutrients and low oxygen levels.
- Data collected continuously since 2006 show oxygen levels are frequently below 5 mg per liter, a level that causes stress to aquatic organisms.
- Excess nutrients and bacteria attach to fine sediments that settle on the bottom of the channels.
- The excess sedimentation is due to poor circulation.
- The poor circulation is caused by the pinch points of fill that support the pedestrian bridges, and by the unnatural alignment of the channels, perpendicular to the main lagoon channel.

### **The only way to correct the poor circulation is to remove old fill and reconfigure the channels to a more natural pattern.**

- The three channels will be reconfigured into a single branched channel that angles towards the ocean.
- A single branched channel will cause the water to move faster and will help prevent excess sedimentation. This is similar to the Venturi effect, where the velocity of a fluid increases as the cross section of the tube carrying it decreases.

### **The work will occur only in the western channels and the Adamson boat house channel, not in the main body of the lagoon.**

- The sand berm beach will not be changed.
- The surf break will not be impacted.
- The location of the breach and the timing of breaches will not change.

### **Wildlife will be protected.**

- Prior to the work, the western channels will be dewatered.
- Filters will prevent fish and other organisms from being pumped out
- Prior to and during dewatering, biological monitors will relocate fish and birds.
- Biologists will be present at all times during construction.

### **Timing of the project**

- The timing is determined by the permitting agencies, June 1-October 15
- No grading allowed in rainy season, October – March
- Tidewater goby peak breeding season is April

### **Proposal by project opponents, use of hydro-rake is inferior to the plan**

- Hydro-rake is a backhoe with a rake attachment that removes excess vegetation and sediment. This will not address the poor topography
- Regulatory agencies will not allow work in wet channels
- Hydro-rake would stir up sediments and harm fish
- Hydro-rake solution would need to be repeated every few years. The proposed project is self-sustaining

### **Planning process.**

- 1991: Malibu Creek Watershed Council established
- 1994: Malibu Creek Watershed mediation effort identified 44 action items for improvements to the watershed
- 1995: Malibu Lagoon Task Force, a subcommittee of the watershed council, is formed to address problems of the lagoon.
- 2000: UCLA study identified short- and long-term restoration options for lower Malibu Creek watershed and lagoon.
- 2001: After 12 mediated meetings in a one year period Malibu Lagoon Task Force unanimously recommended its highest short-term priority for restoration, the creation of an engineering design to accomplish:
  - increased tidal flushing in the wet season
  - improved water circulation
  - increased holding capacity
  - reduced predator encroachment
- September 10, 2001: recommendations were presented to City of Malibu. Presentation has been shown on cable TV many times.
- 2003: Malibu Lagoon Restoration Working Group formed to create the Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Plan
- 2003: Technical Advisory Committee formed to advise on scientific decisions
- 2005: Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Plan complete
- 2006: EIR certified

### **Malibu Lagoon Task Force – 12 meetings held 2000-2001**

- Mark Abramson – Heal the Bay
- Chuck Almdale – Santa Monica Bay Audubon
- Barbara Barsocchini – Malibu Knolls HOA
- Shirley Birosik – Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Gary Busted – National Park Service
- Barbara Cameron – PARCS
- Geoff Gee – Serra Canyon Property Owners
- Cathy Goldsberry – Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Suzanne Goode – California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Miriam Goodman – Malibu Surfing Association

- David Gottlieb – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Marcia Hanscom – Sierra Club
- Nancy Helsley – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Christopher Kroll – State Coastal Conservancy
- Leslie London – Mariposa Land Company
- Sean Manion – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Stephanie MacDonald – Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project
- Rick Morgan – City of Malibu
- Grant Neie – Surfrider Foundation
- Randal Orton – Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Mary Prismon – Santa Monica Bay Audubon
- Bob Purvey – Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy
- David Reznick – Malibu Bay Company
- Roy van de Hoek – Sierra Club
- Miki Warner – Malibu Colony HOA
- Lori Willis – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

**Lagoon Restoration Working Group that created the overall plan – 4 public meetings held**

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- California State Parks
- State Coastal Conservancy
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Mountains Conservation and Recreation Authority
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- State Assemblymember Fran Pavley
- State Senator Sheila Kuehl
- Caltrans
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- City of Malibu
- Malibu Bay Company
- Mariposa Land Company

- CoastWalk
- Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy
- Heal the Bay
- Santa Monica Audubon
- Sierra Club
- Malibu Surfing Association
- Surfrider Foundation
- Santa Monica Baykeeper
- Wetlands Action Network – Marcia Hanscom and Roy van de Hoek
- Las Tunas Homeowners
- Serra Canyon Property Owners
- Malibu Colony Homeowners
- Interested local residents

**Technical Advisory Committee that advised on science – all were volunteers – 4 meetings were held**

- Dr. Richard F. Ambrose, University of California, Los Angeles, Environmental Science and Engineering
- Dr. Andy Brooks, University of California, Santa Barbara, Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology
- Dr. John Callaway, California State University, San Francisco, Department of Environmental Science
- Kimball Garrett, Los Angeles County Natural History Museum
- Dr. Robert Gearheart, Humboldt State University, Department of Environmental Resources Engineering
- Dr. Martha Sutula, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

**Agencies that reviewed the project and issued permits. All of the agencies employ scientists.**

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Coastal Commission

**Project Lead: California Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Project Partners**

- State Coastal Conservancy
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Santa Monica Baykeeper
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

**Project Supporters**

- State Senator Fran Pavley
- State Assemblymember Julia Brownley
- Sierra Club, Santa Monica Mountains Task Force
- Sierra Club, West Los Angeles Group
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
- City of Malibu
- Los Angeles Audubon
- Heal the Bay
- Surfrider Foundation
- Santa Monica Baykeeper
- Caltrout
- Malibu Surfing Association