



# Newsbreaker

CALIFORNIA SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

January 2005

## President's Message

by David Cannon

The second annual Headwaters To Ocean (H2O) Conference was a huge success and I hope you were able to participate. I have summarized the conference below for those of you who could not attend. In addition, I have provided some of my thoughts and observations for your consideration.

The 2004 conference was held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach from October 28 through October 30. Last year we partnered with the California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast), Society of Wetland Scientists, Western Chapter (SWS), and Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP). Because the 2003 conference was such a success in terms of content, location, and attendance, we decided to repeat the event this year. Unfortunately the SCWRP was unable to partner with us this year, but the staff has indicated that the SCWRP will be involved in the 2005 conference. This year, the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council (LASGRWC) expressed interest in collaborating with us, so once again we had four diverse organizations working to put together the conference. We will soon begin planning for H2O 2005, which will be held in Orange County, and we will pass along more information as things develop.

We accepted over 100 abstracts for delivery as technical presentations, posters, and exhibits at the conference. While most of the presenters came from within California, we received relevant conference material from other parts of the United States (e.g., Florida) as well as Australia and Denmark. Even considering the budget cuts and freezes within all levels of the government (federal, state, county, and city), the conference was well attended with just over 300 registered participants throughout the multi-day event.

One of the highlights of the conference was the airing of the KQED documentary titled, "Coastal Clash." The documentary addresses the complex issues involved in trying to strike a balance between the rights of the public to access the beach and the rights of property owners to protect their land from coastal erosion. A brief summary of both issues was presented as part of the conference plenary session and the actual documentary

Continued on Page 2

## Boating Commission Convenes November 2004

by June Iljana

Wednesday, November 7th, 2004, the seven-member Boating and Waterways Commission and a number of California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) employees participated in a long-awaited field trip in San Diego before their regular meeting, scheduled for the following day. They visited the U.S.S. Midway Museum and were treated to a fascinating tour of the aircraft carrier. The next stop was the Sun Harbor Marina, a nearly finished DBW private-loan project. The sites of the third and fourth stops, Shelter Island Boat Launching Facility and Pepper Park Boat Launch Facility, were items on the next day's meeting agenda as proposed grant projects.

At their regular meeting, held at the Marriott Hotel, the Commission approved \$3,503,000 in loans and grants to begin work on five boating infrastructure projects. The projects funded included the Pepper Park and Shelter Island grants in San Diego, as well as the Dana Point Harbor Marina loan and Dana Point Harbor Boat Launching Facility grant in Orange

Continued on Page 3

## President's Message *Continued from Page 1*

was aired as one of the first technical sessions. Both sessions were well attended, indicating a high level of interest regarding this topic. Coastal Clash is currently being aired across the state on various public television stations so you can check your local television listings for dates and times if you are interested in watching this documentary.

I think that the major topics discussed during the conference with regards to shoreline preservation can be grouped into the following categories: shoreline erosion, shoreline protection methods, economics, and coastal water quality. The methods, results, and conclusions of several shoreline/beach erosion studies ranging from shoreline monitoring, to sea level rise, to shoreline sediment supply, and seacliff erosion monitoring, were presented. Conventional shoreline protection methods such as beach nourishment and seawalls were

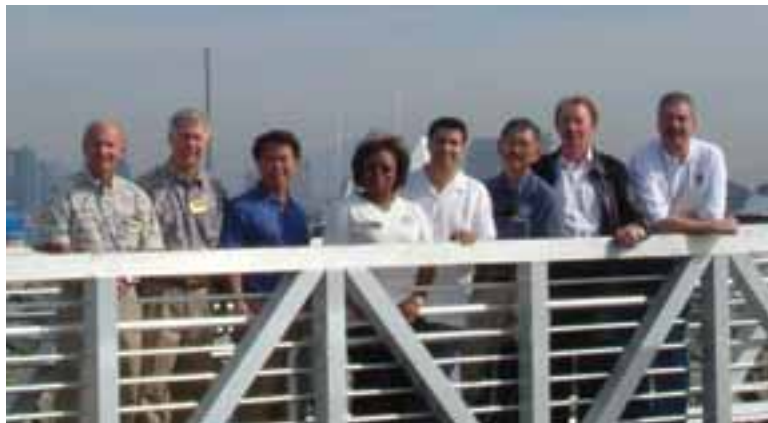
discussed in technical sessions as well as innovative methods such as the deployment of subgrade drain systems to reduce beachface erosion. The importance of beaches to the economy was reviewed in presentations that covered the economics of beaches from the city and state perspectives. Finally, numerous presentations addressed the problems, regulatory background, study methods, and potential solutions related to coastal water quality with particular emphasis on exceedences of indicator bacteria levels in accordance with Assembly Bill 411 requirements.

As I write this, it is the middle of December. I wish you all a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable holiday season as well as a happy new year. I look forward to serving as your president for another year, and I hope to see you all in 2005. As always, I wish you good luck in your continued efforts to preserve our shorelines and beaches.

## Boating Commission

*Continued from Page 1*

County, and the San Francisco Marina West Harbor loan. During the meeting, the commissioners also re-elected Joseph P. Sharpe as Commission Chair and Warren Rupf as Commission Vice-Chair. The meeting also included a presentation about the DBW Oceanography Program by Dr. Reinhard Flick, a DBW staff member who runs the program from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla.



*Left to right: Commissioners Bud Johnson, Sandy Purdon, Robert Nagata, Lenora Clarke, Jon Fleischman, Boating and Waterways Director Raynor Tsuneyoshi, and Commissioners Joseph Sharpe and Warren Rupf.*

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CSBPA wishes to thank Avoca Designs, of Chatsworth, for their excellent work in updating the look of the *Newsbreaker*! We also wish to thank John Silverman and the rest of the group at Ideal Services in San Diego for their expertise in printing our new product. We think it looks great!

## From the Editor

Holly Celico-Lee

Hello CSBPA members and colleagues! To kick off the new year, we have updated our look. I hope you like it, and that you will enjoy this and future issues of the *Newsbreaker*.

I urge you all to make a contribution to a future issue, as you and your work are the backbone of this fine organization. Please let us know what you are working on, what you have accomplished in shore and beach preservation, and what is newsworthy in your coastal area. I am sure *Newsbreaker* readers are always glad to hear from their colleagues about their work.

The 2005 publication schedule is presented below so please submit your contributions to the *Newsbreaker* by the posted deadline.

April issue deadline: March 28

July issue deadline: June 27

October issue deadline: September 26

Let us continue to use this publication as a forum for California shore and beach preservation news and science! I hope you like our new look and hope you will continue to enjoy receiving the *Newsbreaker*!



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member of CSBPA, please visit  
[www.asbpa.org/membership.html](http://www.asbpa.org/membership.html).

## Revisiting the Topic of Coastal Hazards...Again

*by Holly J. Celico-Lee*

When we published the October 2004 issue of the *Newsbreaker*, with an article addressing the active 2004 hurricane season in the Atlantic and the Gulf, who could have imagined what was still yet to come in 2004?

Southeast Asia, and probably the world, is reeling from the latest events there. It's impossible to imagine the magnitude of the earthquake that caused the December tsunami in the Indian Ocean, and even more difficult to fathom the destruction, loss of life, and current living conditions for the millions of people affected.

Now, early in the year 2005, we, too, are in the throes of disaster right here at home in coastal California. Incessant rain has soaked much of the state, and the storms have brought tidal surges, flash flooding, mudslides, and bluff collapse. The devastating mudslide in the coastal town of La Conchita, in Ventura County, seems to thus far be the worst of these recent crises.

Again, we are reminded of just how great an impact coastal disasters can have, and how important it is to be prepared and to have a plan for dealing with them. It's timely that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will hold its Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference this May, in Charleston, South Carolina. Please visit the conference website (<http://www.asce.org/conferences/cd05/index.cfm>) for more information, and for information on coastal hazards in California, visit <http://ccs.ucsd.edu/coastalhazards>.

# CSBPA Members

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### Coastal Lagoons: Ecosystem Processes and Modeling for Sustainable Use and Development

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List Price: \$129.95  
Cat. #: L1686  
ISBN: 1566706866  
Publication Date: 11/24/2004  
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- Describes rich and diverse ecosystems under threat from development activities
- Considers the hydrodynamic and ecological conditions of coastal lagoons that are critical for handling development and protection of these sensitive ecosystems

- Refers to the fundamentals on ecosystem modeling of lagoons, and model analysis, selection, and implementations
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- Discusses economic evaluations, cost-benefit analyses, social impact assessment tools, and the importance of public input

Based on a project conducted under the auspices of NATO-CCMS (North Atlantic Treaty Organization - Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society), the authors show that by understanding the physical, biogeochemical, and ecological processes and the impact of human land and water uses, policies can be designed and implemented to allow for balanced and sustainable coastal lagoon management. The authors use case studies from their own experience and step-by-step methodologies that illustrate what short- and long-term changes can be expected, based on nutrient inputs and water renewal rates. By integrating science and management, this book emphasizes the basic processes and criteria to be considered in any modeling task, thus creating a framework for adaptive management and sustainability.

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# Erosion Control, Access Addressed

by Terry Rodgers, San Diego Union-Tribune

The real precious resource that makes the Golden State so golden is California's 1,100-mile coast. The solar-heated coastline is an economic incubator and home port of the state's tourism industry.

Whatever your concept is of "the California lifestyle," it undoubtedly includes at least a few images of surf, sun and sand. Eighty percent of Californians live within 30 miles of the beach.

But with everyone vying to firmly grasp their piece of the coast, conflict is inevitable.

The struggle between California's historic policy of public beaches versus the influence of wealthy private interests is thoughtfully explored in "Coastal Clash," an hourlong documentary airing tonight at 8 on KPBS/Channel 15. The producers pose the provocative question: "Whose coast is it, anyway?"

They peel the onion on the most pressing issues: erosion, loss of open space from development and efforts to preserve the best of what's left, including the magnificent Hearst Ranch on the Central Coast and the scenic 76-mile Gaviota shoreline in Santa Barbara County.

Solana Beach is among the erosion-related hot spots prominently featured in the documentary. The coastal suburb in North County has become Ground Zero for those who favor a new "planned retreat" approach versus "coastal armoring" with sea walls.

The Surfrider Foundation contends that erosion is natural and necessary to restore equilibrium to sand-starved beaches.

But California law explicitly allows coastal homeowners to protect their property from imminent disaster. For Solana Beach resident Gail Steel, the owner of a bluff-top condominium, the argument isn't an academic exercise, it's a fight for survival.

The sea cliff along the western border of Steel's condo has been falling away in incremental chunks that eventually break down into fresh beach sand. That's nice for sand crabs and sunbathers, but not for nervous property owners.

"You don't put waves above the needs of people," Steel argues in the documentary. Half of the Solana Beach shoreline is already fortified by a patchwork of sea walls. Some are well-crafted and blend into the natural color and contour of the cliffs. Others are as ugly as a state penitentiary.

Coastal activists argue that armoring exacerbates erosion, eventually making portions of the shoreline inaccessible to the public. "We're ruining our sandy beaches (to the benefit of) 1 percent of our population," says Mark Massara, a coastal policy expert for the Sierra Club.

Is this a struggle between maximum access for the public and the rich and privileged, who want to keep the flip-

flop wearing masses from ruining their aura of exclusivity? The viewer is allowed room to ruminate on such points.

The producers pose the provocative question:

**"Whose coast is it, anyway?"**



The flow of the documentary is point versus counterpoint, yin for yang. One disgruntled developer even refers to the state's Coastal Commission, created in 1976 to maximize public access, as "a bunch of thugs."

Co-producer Elizabeth Pepin, who made the documentary for San Francisco-based KQED, said the whittling down process was difficult because her team captured enough interviews and material to make four one-hour documentaries. "We tried to give each of the different viewpoints a voice, and we tried to turn it into a story," Pepin said. "I hope it will get people participating no matter what side of the issue they are on."

*This article first appeared in the San Diego Union-Tribune on December 1, 2004. Reprinted with permission.*