

News Advisory



MEDIA ALERT
April 29, 2013

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Malibu Lagoon to Reopen May 3

Assemblymember Richard Bloom and Sen. Fran Pavley to Speak

One of the Most Ecologically Significant Wetlands Restorations on the West Coast Brings New Life to Formerly Stagnant Pools

WHAT: Grand Opening and first tours of restored wildlife areas, speeches and school groups celebrating reopening and rebirth of Malibu Lagoon.

This event is being held by California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), with project partners State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM), and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC).

When: Friday, May 3rd from 11:00am – 12:00pm.

WHERE: Malibu Lagoon, entrance at Pacific Coast Highway and Cross Creek Rd.

DIRECTIONS: From Santa Monica, follow the Pacific Coast Highway 13 miles west to the light at Cross Creek Road. Turn left into lot.

From the 101 Freeway, exit at Las Virgenes Road, proceed 10-miles west through Malibu Canyon, turn left at Pacific Coast Highway, travel 1.5-miles east. Entrance for parking and the nature area is at Cross Creek Road.

WHO:

- State Assemblymember Richard Bloom (District 50)
- Senator Fran Pavley (27th District)
- L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (3rd District) (Invited)

Representatives from the partner organizations:

- Shelley Luce, D.Env., Executive Director, SMBRC (emcee)
- Suzanne Goode, Senior Environmental Scientist, DPR
- Sam Schuchat, Executive Director, State Coastal Conservancy
- Clark Stevens, Architect/Executive Director, RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Mark Gold, D.Env., Associate Director and Adjunct Professor, UCLA

A Photo Opportunity Story:

Multiple Photo Ops at event: Restored lagoon and wetlands, birds and wildlife, school groups touring wetlands, speakers, ribbon cutting (using kelp + shears), local Audubon group providing tours and information to public at new interpretive, bird-watching, educational and rest spots around the Lagoon.

- ✓ **Surfer's Express:** 1,800-foot long path that provides surfers quick access to Surfrider Beach, bypassing all the areas where people or groups might be lingering.
- ✓ **Winter Ramp Summer Clock:** Works similarly to a sundial but using tides.
- ✓ Several bird-watching stops include the **Bird Observation deck**, closest to PCH and great for morning watching; the **Birder's Nook** with whimsical egg-shaped seating colored to match eggs laid by birds in the lagoon; and the **Bird Blind**, made from sandbar willows interwoven on a steel frame, where interested watchers can watch birds up close without being seen.
- ✓ The **Watershed Fountain** is an interactive 30-inch diameter 3D version of the Malibu watershed, featuring varying shapes and geographic contours.

WHY: Before the restoration the Malibu Lagoon—on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency list of impaired water bodies for over a decade due to excess nutrients and low oxygen levels— was filled with contaminated soil and trash built up over many decades, including fill dumped from past road construction work. Resulting choke points impeded regular tidal flow in and out of the lagoon, causing little “flushing” of the lagoon channels. This created a build-up of nutrients and fine sediments (mud) in the lagoon, which in turn caused low oxygen levels in the water. Without oxygen, aquatic life cannot breathe, so very little was able to grow in the lagoon

The restoration addressed and has safely and successfully completed:

- ✓ Removal of the old fill and trash
- ✓ Improvement of the tidal flow and connection so there is natural cleansing and flushing of wastes from animals, and healthy levels of oxygen for creatures
- ✓ Better habitat connectivity and less disturbance of wildlife by humans
- ✓ Attracted returning fish, birds and other animals and increased the habitat diversity
- ✓ Enhancing the visitor experience for surfers, students, birders, and residents

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=835

State Parks web site for information about Malibu Lagoon

<http://www.restoremalibulagoon.com>

Web site for detailed information and pictures on the restoration of the lagoon.

PARKING: The State Beach parking lot is located on the west side of the Malibu Creek Bridge—parking will be limited, RSVP is REQUIRED FOR MEDIA FOR PARKING. A county parking lot is located directly in front of the Adamson House.

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