



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed News & Updates

Published by the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

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The mission of the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council is to work collaboratively to improve and maintain the watersheds, coastal waters and communities in the Trinidad and Westhaven area for the benefit of all community members.

This first issue of the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council Watershed News and Updates brings you a variety of information about events, partners, projects and other watershed related issues. Thank you to the many people who submitted information and to the Watershed Council for providing input about the contents and format. I welcome your suggestions for the newsletter and invite you to submit material for the Issue 2.

Calendar

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council 2013 Quarterly Meetings

- Monday May 20, 2013
- Monday July 15, 2013
- Monday October 21, 2013

Regular Quarterly Meetings are generally held on the third Monday of the month each quarter. The meeting location is announced prior to the meeting. All are welcome. Please let Becky Price-Hall know if you would like to be added to the TBWC email list. rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov (707) 499-6454

Trinidad Union School Ocean Week May 20 – 24

The Trinidad Bay Watershed Council is supported in part through grants awarded by the California Department of Conservation Watershed Program and the California State Water Resources Control Board Prop 84 Area of Special Biological Significance Grant Program.

Trinidad Bay Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Issues

- **Water Quality Monitoring:**

City Stormwater Discharge: Results of water quality monitoring of the City's stormwater and Trinidad Bay for October 2011 through June 2012 are available in a report prepared for the city and the State Water Quality Resources Control Board. This report was presented at a Stormwater Project public meeting held in November 2012. The report is available from the City by request.

Pier Stormwater: Pier Reconstruction post project water quality monitoring is currently being conducted on the Pier stormwater runoff to calculate the quantity of stormwater pollutants that are being captured and treated rather than discharged to the Trinidad Bay.

- **City of Trinidad MS4 (Stormwater) Discharge permit:**

In March, the State Water Board approved the implementation of the Phase II Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Discharge permits. Because the City's stormwater discharges into the ASBS, this new permit requires the city to regulate all discharges into the city's stormwater system as well as to implement stormwater best management practices for the reduction and elimination of stormwater pollutants. Initially, the city will be developing the ASBS Compliance Plan to meet the requirement to maintain natural water quality, and the Guidance Document that outlines the city's ongoing program to enforce the stormwater permit requirements and to educate the public about reducing stormwater pollution and to promote good practices.



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Invasive Species Removal

- The North Coast Redwoods District of the California State Parks organizes two monthly restoration activities in the Trinidad Area. In both February and March, volunteers pulled English ivy and other invasive plants at Patrick's Point State Park and Trinidad State Beach.
- In September 2012, the Bureau of Land Management organized an Ivy Bash at Luffenholtz County Park.
- The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust is working on ivy management on the 15 properties they manage.
- "Nick's Interns" from the Mattole will be visiting for a week in June to work on trails and weed removal for TCLT and State Parks.

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council Partner Updates

California Coastal National Monument Trinidad Gateway: CCNM projects were discussed at the February 8 Trinidad Gateway Meeting. The Trinidad Gateway Brochure will be revised and reprinted in the next couple of months. The CCNM is supporting the Trinidad Elementary MARE marine month program, and is working on a CCNM activity book for children in the Trinidad area. The CCNM Trinidad Gateway and the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council coordinated an Art Contest for the Trinidad School with the theme "Conserving and Protecting Trinidad Marine Habitats". Artwork was judged on interpretation of the theme, artistic composition and watershed conservation message. The placing artwork can be viewed on the BLM website

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/arcata/trinidad_gateway_to/2013_ccnm_art_contest.html

City of Trinidad Projects & Programs

- **Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Management Program**

The City of Trinidad has adopted an OWTS Management Program in the form of an ordinance and guidelines. This program resulted from community concerns about ongoing bacterial contamination in our creeks and along our beaches. These regulations will require all property owners to obtain an operating permit for their OWTS that requires each system to be periodically inspected and appropriately maintained. Additional information about this program can be found on the 'documents library' section of the City's website under 'waste water' (<http://www.trinidad.ca.gov/>).

- **Luffenholtz Creek Sediment Reduction Project:**

This project will be funded by a California Department of Public Health Source Water Protection Grant. The goal of the project is to reduce the quantity of sediment in Luffenholtz Creek above the water intake of the City of Trinidad Water Treatment Plant. All the pre grant requirements have been completed by the city, Green Diamond and project partners, including permitting, surveys and design work. The project will go out to bid in May. Construction will start in July, 2013.



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- **Stormwater Management Improvement Project:**

This project is funded by the Prop 84 ASBS Grant Program through a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. The purpose of the project is to reduce the quantity and improve the water quality of stormwater discharged to Trinidad Bay by eliminating sources of pollution and making structural improvements to the City's Stormwater system. In November of 2012, GHD presented the results of the Geophysical Evaluation of Trinidad's subsurface. Since that presentation GHD has completed calibration of a surface hydrology model and groundwater model including incorporation of groundwater level data monitoring in 8 of the wells installed for the project. The groundwater models are being used to design improvements to the city's stormwater system to reduce polluted runoff into Trinidad Bay. The preliminary designs will be completed in early June.

- **Low Impact Development Workshop**

In January, the city co-sponsored a Low Impact Development workshop in Eureka put on by the North Coast Stormwater Coalition to provide information to city & county staff, building trades and the public about techniques to reduce stormwater pollution. Low Impact Development (LID) is a feature that can be used in landscapes, driveways and parking lots to contain and treat stormwater runoff, which can contain harmful water pollutants. LID features prevent stormwater from impacting creeks or entering the stormwater system – in Trinidad, the Stormwater system discharges directly into the Trinidad Bay.

HSU Telonicher Marine Lab: The Marine Lab continues to work toward our NPDES permit for stormwater and seawater discharge into Trinidad Bay, under our Special Exception to the requirement for no discharge into ASBS areas. The draft permit was adopted at the May meeting of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in Eureka. We have been working with the City and the Rancheria to share monitoring resources. In other news, we are currently conducting a search for a permanent director of the lab.

NOAA Trinidad Head Observatory: This weather station monitors various aspects of air quality at Trinidad Head, and is linked into a global monitoring system. Lots of information is available at <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/obop/thd/>

Trinidad Rancheria: Trinidad Pier Reconstruction Project: Reconstruction of the Pier has been completed and it's open for business. Stormwater runoff from the pier is now collected and treated, rather than running into the bay – see the Rancheria Stormwater item above.

North Coast Redwoods District of the California State Parks: State Park monthly restoration activities in the Trinidad area are held on the 2nd (Patrick's Point State Park) and 4th (Trinidad State Beach) Saturday of each month from 9am to 12pm. The annual Patrick's Point State Park Earth Day event was held on Saturday, April 13th from 9am to 1pm. For more information on volunteering please contact Michelle Forsy, Environmental Scientist, at (707) 677-3109.



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Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (TCLT) is working with the Trinidad Art Cooperative, hired Tom Sheen to remodel the Trinidad Art building at 490 Trinity Street, which was donated to TCLT by former owner and TCLT Board member, the late Ned Simmons. The Trinidad Art Coop had its grand opening in November. The front half of Trinidad Art is leased to the Trinidad Art Coop and the back half and garage are leased to a leather worker named Cornelius. TCLT is also raising funds to add an office on to the Trinidad Library, located at TCLT's Saunders Park property. The foundation has been poured but TCLT has been waiting for the library to be completed and occupied to avoid impacting the library's completion and opening.

Green Diamond Vice President Neal Ewald has approached TCLT about accepting ownership of the trail leading to, and property around, Strawberry Rock, where a tree-sitting protest has been occurring. Details of the size and boundaries are being worked out while funds are sought for the acquisition. TCLT is also participating in the Little River Trail Feasibility Study, being conducted by Redwood Community Action Agency and funded by the State Coastal Conservancy. The study will look at a connection from Little River State Park on the south side of Little River to the end of Scenic Drive on the north side of the river. Green Diamond owns a parcel along the trail corridor and is a project partner and willing seller.

The California Coastal Commission sent notice of offers to dedicate easements that are approaching their expiration dates and TCLT expressed interest in 3 OTDs – one in Trinidad that accesses Trinidad State Beach from the meadow and bluffs west of the Marine lab, one along the beach just south of Patricks Point, and one from Loop Place (Westhaven Terrace south of the west end of 6th Ave.) to Scenic Drive. TCLT owns and maintains a number of popular beach-front properties and access trails, including an easement at Moonstone Beach; fee title at Pilot Point (the big rock at the north end of Moonstone Beach), Houda Point (also known as Camel Rock), Baker Beach, the Bruno Groth Grove, and Saunders Park; and 3 easements along the Old Home Beach Trail, open space and timber easements at the Baker Ranch subdivision, the Replogle (Frame) easement, and the Lost Whale Easement.