



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 22, 2013

FUNDING

NEP Funding Cut

SFEP and the other 27 national estuary programs received some alarming news just recently. Instead of the 5.2% sequester cut the programs were told to expect, the cut is closer to 15% from U.S. EPA. This revised budget amount will necessitate a close reconsideration of the SFEP work plan and budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1.

Application for Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Funding

On March 29, 2013, SFEP submitted a proposal to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for "The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Enhancement Program," a four-year, \$20 million package of projects developed by 19 public agencies and NGOs. SFEP coordinated development of the package, working closely with the consulting team at Horizon Water and Environment and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Coordinating Committee.

Jennifer Krebs and Paula Trigueros are the SFEP lead staff on this effort. DWR will likely announce its decisions on applications in October. SFEP will manage the grant. The 19 projects include:

Proponent	Project
Zone 7	Bay Area Regional Conservation and Education Program
East Bay MUD	East Bayshore Recycled Water Project Phase 2
Marin Municipal Water District	Lagunitas Creek Watershed Sediment Reduction and Management Project
Marin Resource Conservation District	Marin/Sonoma Conserving Our Watersheds: Agricultural BMP Projects
County of Napa	Napa Milliken Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Passage Barrier Removal
Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District	North Bay Water Reuse Program – Sonoma Valley CSD 5th Street East/McGill Road Recycled Water Project
City of Oakland	Oakland Sausal Creek Restoration Project
San Mateo County	Pescadero Water Supply and Sustainability Project
City of Petaluma	Petaluma Flood Reduction, Water & Habitat Quality, and Recreation Project for Capri Creek
Redwood City	Redwood City Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Improvement and Habitat Restoration Project

Proponent	Project
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project - South Westside Basin, Northern San Mateo County
East Bay Regional Park District	Richmond Breuner Marsh Restoration Project
Roseview Heights Municipal Water District	Roseview Heights Infrastructure Upgrades for Water Supply and Quality Improvement, Santa Clara County
Association of Bay Area Governments	San Francisco Bay Climate Change Pilot Projects Combining Ecosystem Adaptation, Flood Risk Management and Wastewater Effluent Polishing
City and County of San Francisco Airport Commission	San Francisco International Airport Industrial Waste Treatment Plant and Reclaimed Water Facility
City of San José	San José Green Streets & Alleys Demonstration Projects
Contra Costa Water District	San Pablo Rheem Creek Wetlands Restoration Project
City of St. Helena	St. Helena Upper York Creek Dam Removal and Ecosystem Restoration Project
PRBO	Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Project—North and East Bay Watersheds

New Contracts

SFEP finalized a contract with the Sonoma County Water Agency to assist with Regional Water Board permit oversight for projects within the agency’s jurisdiction. Contract is for \$336,628 for two years.

SFEP finalized a contract with the State Coastal Conservancy for support of the 2013 State of the Estuary Conference. The Conservancy has been a premier sponsor of the past three conferences. Contract amount for this year is \$50,000.

STAFF NEWS

SFEP welcomes new staff members. We are delighted to welcome several new staff to SFEP this quarter. Paul Modrell, Derek Beauduy and Melissa Gunter were recently hired to assist the SF Bay Water Board’s permit oversight efforts in Marin County, for Bay Area Caltrans permitting, and for the San Francisco Public Utility District, respectively. Melissa will also work on state and regional wetland policy issues.

And, some current staff are shifting their responsibilities. Brendan Thompson has shifted his focus from Caltrans permits in the Bay Area to permits in then North Bay; he now works out of the Santa Rosa Water Board office. Ben Livsey has taken the lead for permit assistance to the Sonoma County Water Agency.

SFEP AND PARTNER PROJECTS

News from the Watershed Program

SFEP and The Bay Area Watershed Network (BAWN) will hold a Watershed Assessment workshop in May. The Bay Area Watershed Network and SFEP, together with StopWaste.Org, the San Francisco Bay Water Board, the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, and the Alameda Creek Watershed Council (with support from the US EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund), is sponsoring a Watershed Assessment Workshop on May 20, 2013. As the Director's Report is being written, the workshop plans to include speakers from around the nation and a panel of Bay Area experts. The workshop is fully subscribed, with approximately 80 people expected to attend the all-day event.

Small and Micro Grants Program. In an exciting new effort, SFEP has awarded \$50,000 in grant funds to 11 non-profits and special districts working in watersheds across the Bay Area. This first round of awards for our Watershed Program was designed with two goals in mind: to build support for community-based watershed protection work, and to increase the capacity of Bay Area watersheds to adapt to climate change impacts. Grantees were selected based on several criteria, including how well proposals met the program goals, level of local support and capacity, and project sustainability and originality. We issued a press release about the awards on April 15. Grants have been awarded to the following projects:

- **Citizen Science for the Stevens and Permanente Creek Watersheds**, Santa Clara County (Acterra) - Monthly water quality monitoring, macro invertebrate sampling, education events for children, students, and local residents.
- **Permanente Creek Watershed Tour**, Santa Clara County (Committee for Green Foothills) – Watershed tour for community members, elected officials and environmental activists, highlighting watershed management, habitat restoration, current issues, climate change impacts and the historical ecology.
- **The Petaluma River Cleanup**, Sonoma County (Friends of the Petaluma River) – Petaluma River cleanup event with extensive community outreach and coordination with multiple partners.
- **Supporting Volunteer-led Efforts at Sausal Creek Restoration Sites**, Alameda County (Friends of Sausal Creek) – Train and mentor volunteer leaders who will lead restoration work at several locations on Sausal Creek watershed.
- **Increasing Community-Based Watershed Stewardship in the Gallinas Creek Watershed and Facilitating Collaboration among Marin County Watershed Groups** (Gallinas Watershed Council) – Sponsor family activities, hikes, bike tours, and creek cleanups, and coordination of work with other watershed groups.
- **The Sea Party**, Marin County (Greenwood School) – Event organized by 7th and 8th grade students as part of Earth Day Marin Festival: Climate Change Solutions Day of Action.

- **New Leaf Watershed Science Projects**, Contra Costa County (Martinez Unified School District) – Support eco-literacy projects, monitoring, public engagement, and climate change education initiatives.
- **Building a Community Rain Garden, Growing Community Stormwater Awareness**, Napa County (Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) – Build community rain garden around an existing storm drain on the Vintage High School campus. The first demonstration garden in the Napa River watershed.
- **The California Phenology Project**, Solano County (Solano Land Trust) – Measure climate change and its biological impact using Citizen Scientist volunteers and share data with the USA National Phenology Network.
- **“That’s the Tuolumne in my Tap!”** San Francisco, San Mateo and Alameda County (Tuolumne River Preservation Trust) – Implement education program for grades 4 through 6 in areas where the majority of the drinking water comes from the Tuolumne River.
- **Rheem Creek Restoration Project**, Contra Costa County (The Watershed Project) – Volunteer removal of invasive species and creek revegetation with native plants. Educate volunteers about stormwater pollution prevention and the relation of creek stewardship activities with climate change adaptation.

Pesticide Outreach: Got Ants?

SFEP’s pesticide reduction outreach project, *Got Ants?* went live this month with a new website, www.gotantsgetserious.org. The site provides easy, step-by-step help for the average resident, whose home has been invaded by ants, promoting less-toxic solutions. Traditional ant control methods are one of the biggest contributors to pesticide toxicity in streams around the state. The project will also launch a companion facebook page, provide more interactive support and solutions; advertising around the Bay Area; earned media; and partner promotions through the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group, and others. SFEP will appreciate any support IC members can offer in terms of promoting the new site on your own websites or Facebook pages: for a sample blurb or posts, please contact Janet Cox at (510) 622 2334.

SFEP’s Website is a success!

Since launching in December, site visits have increased 320 percent (and those are “unique visitors” – ie the same user is not counted twice in one day). The site now includes over 100 pages with new content and supporting documents. To date, 10 individuals have contacted SFEP staff through the website regarding a variety of different topics from tabling events to fundraising information. In addition to referrals from within the website itself, referrals come from ABAG, BCDC, and EPA websites.

Clean Boating Program

Under a Clean Vessel Act grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways, SFEP manages a dynamic education/outreach program aimed at encouraging boaters to use pumpout and dump stations rather than discharging sanitary waste directly into the Estuary. The 2013-2014 Pumpout Guide and Maps for the Bay and Delta were printed in April with detailed information on the locations and cost of the sewage pumpouts for boaters in the region. Over 800 of these maps were distributed at the *Strictly Sail Boat Show* in Jack London Square in April, and several thousand maps will be mailed out to marinas and boating supply stores as part of our annual distribution. We are also planning on a series of Bay and Delta Honey Pot Days for the 2013 boating season, where boaters receive a free mobile pumpout and clean boating information.

Corte Madera Sea Level Rise Adaptation Study

This project, funded by the San Francisco Bay Area Water Quality Improvement Fund and led by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), studied the Corte Madera Marsh just east of Larkspur in order to develop sea level rise adaptation techniques that could be used in other baylands throughout the region. BCDC has received all final technical reports and is in the process of finishing the final report for the study, expected in June. BCDC has presented its findings to the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium at its meeting in April and plans on presenting more extensively once its final report is complete. BCDC also plans on developing a 2-4 page outreach document that will be used to inform planners, managers, and local governments how this report can be used to inform their efforts to adapt marshes to sea level rise.

Senador Mine TMDL Implementation Project

This project, also funded by the San Francisco Bay Area Water Quality Improvement Funds, is implementing the Mercury TMDL in the Guadalupe River Watershed in Santa Clara County. Work will stabilize mercury-laden soils in the historic Senador Mine region of Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Completed site studies assessed mercury concentrations and erosion potential on the site and prioritized the top 10 site features for remediation. Construction, planned to take place between June 2013 and October 2014, will address all 10 features, stabilizing an estimated 290 pounds of elemental mercury.

Mark your calendars for the 11th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference – October 29th and 30th

This year's theme, "***20/20 Vision: Past Reflections, Future Directions,***" celebrates the 20th anniversary of SFEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, and focuses our attention on the many challenges ahead. Our expert speakers will discuss the Estuary's current and emerging issues— such as climate change and sea level rise, Delta inflows, contaminants, invasive species, and other threats to our fish and wildlife populations. Together, we will debate and discuss the actions needed as we anticipate the major changes coming to our Estuary.

Presenters will also examine the ways in which government and decision-makers can better engage Bay Area communities in critical decision-making around these challenges.

A wonderful evening at the Oakland Museum is being planned for October 28th, to mark the opening of the conference and highlight and celebrate the Museum's Year of the Bay exhibit. The gala, along with the October 29 afternoon poster-session reception, will offer opportunities to gather and talk informally with colleagues and other leaders engaged in current research and restoration activities.

The premier sponsor for the event is the State Coastal Conservancy. Anchor co-sponsors that have committed to date include: Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, Cargill, City of San Jose, the Delta Science Program, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, and the Regional Monitoring Program. A full list of co-sponsors will be available on the conference web site soon.

The call for posters abstracts and a call for nominations for the Jean Auer award and CCMP Awards will be released soon. Please check the conference web site for updates:

www.sfestuary.org/soe