

**SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS  
for  
NEP- SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP  
Cooperative Agreement # CE-00T47801-0**

**Period 1**

<b>10/1/2010 – 3/31/2011</b>										
<b>ABAG #102183</b>										
<b>\$800,000</b>										
<b>28% spent (\$223,995.25)*</b>										

\*Project charges began 12/01/10

*Work Plan is organized around the new SFEP Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives*

**Notable Events/Major work efforts for this half year included**

- Subtidal Habitat Goals Project completed
- Watershed Assessment Framework Indicators Project completed; indicators forming basis of work for *State of the Estuary 2011* report.
- Working toward completion of the new *State of the Estuary 2011* Report.
- Adding cities and devices to the Trash Capture Project: underway with the goal of including 65 cities; Contracts are complete with 30.
- Getting additional funding for the El Cerrito Green St. project-extend to other corridor cities.
- Supporting the work of the Restoration Authority in efforts to find more wetland funding.

**GOAL 1: FOCUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ON FOUR KEY OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1- Promoting integrated watershed stewardship**

**Pinole Creek Restoration (EPA: Green Infill Clean Stormwater)**

- Completed resurfaced and widened asphalt Class 1 trail on west side of creek
- Trail amenities including lighting, benches, and trash receptacles were installed
- ADA-compliant pedestrian access from Orleans Drive to the Pinole Creek trail was constructed
- Irrigation system installation completed and native landscaping including trees, shrubs, and ground cover planted
- Finalized interpretative signage design and approved design submittal for fabrication
- Four coordination meetings were held with project partners including: SFEI/ABAG, County Flood Control, City of Hercules and Friends of Pinole Creek
- Two field days were held thus far for the Pinole Valley HS Aqua Team to help monitor and restore Pinole Creek.

**Bahia Marsh Restoration (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- 10,000 plants were removed; 5,000 new plants put in, 20 volunteer hours on weeding invasives.
- Approximately 40 acres are developing into great transitional habitat

**Yosemite Slough Wetland Restoration (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Draft QAPP underway; 200 plants wetland plants begun; interns being selected for coming year.
- Youth hosted several site visits for teachers and students at the community garden; youth and adult volunteers for a total of 200 hours of park stewardship

**Subtidal Habitat Goals Project (BCDC/Coastal Conservancy/NOAA Fisheries)**

- Final report issued January 27, 2011
- SFEP staff assisted throughout project on Administrative Core Committee and provided writer and graphic support for final document
- New companion web site created as part of launch

**Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy (EPA/SWRCB)**

- Staff continued work on regulatory (economic analysis) esp. organize administrative record
- Staff attended numerous meetings with State Board Development Team; Technical Advisory Team; and State Wetland Policy Interagency Coordinating Committee to coordinate state and regional policies
- Draft Policy submitted for legal review

**Aquatic Invasive Species (EPA:Estuary 2100)**

- *Littorina littorea* reduced to very small numbers at all sites, Dumbarton Point (complete removal), Foster City, Ashby Spit, Alameda Naval Base, Coast Guard Island, and Heron Head.
- In December, spartina project began experimental planting of native *Spartina foliosa* at two locations - Elsie Roemer Wildlife Sanctuary in the East Bay, and Colma Creek in the West Bay.”
- Clapper rail surveys in 2011 showed leveling-off of population declines at most treatment sites, at levels similar to what was likely at the sites prior to *Spartina* invasion. At some sites, populations appear to have increased between 2009 and 2011.
- Participated in state and national ANS Task force and in development of the Strategic Framework for the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee; attended the national Fall 2010 meeting.
- SFEP staff McDowell appointed Chair of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species; convenes monthly conference calls of the Executive Committee.

**Instream Flows (EPA:Estuary 2100)**

- CSLI staff presented water saving calculator and frost BMPs to 15 landowners in 3 workshops;
- 37 sites have been certified for Fish Friendly Farming –now also requires frost BMPs.

**Stream Management Program for Landowners (EPA:Estuary 2100)**

- Meetings held with perspective private land owner partners.
- The Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply and 30 percent design plans were completed for a 5,000-foot reach of Arroyo de la Laguna.

### **Watershed Scale Mapping (EPA:Estuary 2100-2)**

- Primary tasks include mapping and analyzing shoreline change; interpreting geomorphic shoreline trends; establishing and coordinating the Technical Advisory Group (TAG); and coordinating and communicating methods and results to Bay Planning Agencies and NGOs
- SFEI contract finalized.
- SFEI did an internal review of project objectives and resource assignments.

### **Objective 2: Support Estuary resilience in the face of climate change**

#### **Watershed Assessment Framework Indicators Project (DWR)**

- Completed development of goals, targets, reference conditions.
- Completed development of screening table for indicator evaluation, application of screening table to draft indicators, refining indicator selection.
- Completed analysis of selected indicators against goals, targets, reference conditions, documenting analyses and final report submitted to DWR.

#### **Green Infill Monitoring Project (EPA: Green Infill Clean Stormwater)**

- Data have been graphed and interpreted by SFEI.
- Results have been compared to peer reviewed literature by SFEI.
- Draft version of technical report has been written and is currently under internal review at SFEI.

#### **Integrated Regional Wetland Monitoring Analysis Project (DWR\_Prop 84)**

- Grant received October 2010; NTP held by DFG due to internal issues until March 3, 2011.
- Began negotiating subagreements with grant partners, Wetlands and Water Resources (WWR) ; US Geological Survey; San Francisco State University; Georgia State University Research Foundation.

#### **Wetland Tracker Support (EPA-NEP) (on-going thru grant – will not be included in future reports)**

- Provide intern services for Water Board data entry into wetland tracker

#### **Estuary 2100 Project Monitoring (EPA)**

- Worked with Senator Mine partners to align monitoring approach with project goals. Field trip to site October 26.
- Responded to technical queries from project partners
- SFEI worked on QAPPs for Senator Mine, Yosemite Slough
- SFEI evaluated alternative approaches for data management for transitional ecotone monitoring; completed preliminary report of Newcomb stormwater data.

#### **Corte Madera Creek Wetland Adaptation Project (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Marsh accretion work begun by John Callaway (USF); modeling underway by USGS on wave and flood and sediment transport [in a leveraged task] -- wave attenuation data analyzed. Report to be finalized in 2012

#### **South Bay Salt Ponds Habitat Evolution Monitoring (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Soil sampling & analysis plan was approved by EPA on 2/9/2011; QAPP on 2/28/2011.
- In February, 252 samples taken and 254 samples were sent to TestAmerica laboratory for mercury test.
- In Feb. URS did field work for erosion potential & preliminary digital maps

### **Stream Channel Design Curves (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Data collection continues for Marin and Contra Costa Counties. Data collection will continue for another quarter as the process was delayed due to heavy winter rains limiting access to the creeks.

### **Stonybrook Creek (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- In late 2010, SFEP and ACPWD presented Stonybrook Creek fish barrier report to the Alameda Creek Fisheries Workgroup to solicit feedback and generate support for the project.
- Project currently on hold while Co. seeks new match funds.

### **San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines (EPA: Estuary 2100-2)**

- Contract with State Coastal Conservancy completed. CCC staff limitations have delayed start of project but matching fundraising continues:
- Despite delay, CCC raised an additional \$700,000 for the project. [On 8/5/10, the State Coastal Conservancy approved \$300K, and on 12/2/10 the Wildlife Conservation Board approved \$400K].

### **Objective 3: Promote green infrastructure, reduce pollution from stormwater runoff**

#### **Senador Mine Remediation (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Kick off meeting held in October, attended by SFEP, URS, SFEI, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, RB-2, and the USEPA.
- Digital basemaps of vegetation and topography were compiled with Arcmap GIS software; Soil sampling SAP and Project schedule completed.

#### **Hicks Flat Mercury Remediation (SWRCB 319h)**

- SFEP completed subagreement with partner, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD).
- MROSD completed and submitted PAEP and QAPP/Monitoring Plan and drafted and advertised an RFP for planning and design services and contracted with GeoCon Consultants.

#### **State Water Board Statewide TMDL Support-SFEP Staff-J. Cox (SWRCB)**

- Supported the TMDL Roundtable on monthly conference calls. **On-going thru grant – will not be included in future reports**
- Staffed 2-day TMDL Roundtable meetings in October 2010, December 2010, and February 2011.
- Prepared and training modules (power points and backup materials) on preparing CEQA documents for the Water Boards' Certified Regulatory Programs; presented to the Roundtable and also to Region 5 staff.
- Attended Basin Planning Roundtable meetings to discuss CEQA and the new approval process.
- Worked with State Board staff and the regions on development of a work flow schedule for State Board's new approval process for Basin Plan amendments submitted by the regions.
- Participated in planning meetings for the statewide Mercury Policy affecting reservoirs in California; Bay Area Mercury Risk Reduction meetings.
- Worked with Region 5 on multi-cultural risk reduction strategies for the Stockton area.
- Helped to prepare Region 6 staff for a Board hearing on the Tahoe TMDL.
- Maintained and updated the TMDL Intranet (on the State Board website).

### **Sediment Reduction Projects (SWRCB-ARRA)**

- SFEP/ABAG staff coordinated with subcontractors, submitted ARRA jobs reports, quarterly progress reports, invoices, annual MBE reports and provided project management, coordination and oversight, managed contract files and provided accounting services. **On-going thru grant – will not be included in future reports**
- Under contract to SPAWN, Wylatti Resource Management completed phase I of the San Geronimo Road repair projects on October 14, 2010 rehabilitating 1.67 miles of non-county maintained private unpaved roads.
- SPAWN and Prunuske, Chatham staff coordinated field reviews to review six bank stabilization sites previously inventoried to discuss enhancement options and prioritize sites. Two additional sites were inventoried with restoration options developed. A Bank Assessment Summary with Selection Criteria was developed to combine landowner and general site information with the PCI Erosion and Sediment Source Inventory for bank project ranking and selection.
- On the Thornewood project, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District completed the earthwork portion of the project and nearly completed construction of low seasonal crossing across stream channel to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

### **PCBs in Caulk Project (SWRCB-ARRA)**

- Project team continued to meet twice a month to review the BMPs, Training Program, and Model Implementation Plan developed by LWA and to plan for sampling and field trial implementation.
- Held a stakeholder meeting on October 26, 2010, to introduce the draft documents and solicit feedback. Twenty-one municipal implementers, construction and demolition representatives, regulators, and stormwater and wastewater agencies attended. The feedback is being incorporated into revisions of the documents.
- The Sampling and Analysis Plan is complete and several samples have been acquired.
- Project team drafted two “Request for Participants” fact sheets to recruit participants for implementation trials and sampling.

### **Urban Pesticides Prevention (SWRCB-ARRA)**

- The Urban Pesticide Pollution Prevention Project held a “virtual” Urban Pesticides Committee meetings in December, provided three set of talking points (Carbaryl, Copper, and Cyfluthrin registration reviews), completed a review of municipal implementation of the Bay Area Urban Creeks Pesticide TMDL (through the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit section C.9).
- Distributed eight email updates from October through December.
- Constant web traffic for the UP3 Project held steady during this period. Implementation tools summaries were provided to the Grant Manager.
- The BIRC team presented EcoWise Certified program information to the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) at their September 22, 2010 meeting in Oakland, CA.
- The team worked with ABAG/SFEP contractor Jerry Kay to produce a video for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership website on ant control and the use of EcoWise Certified pest management professionals, “Greener Pest Control” and “Controlling Ants in Your Home.”
- The team continued to certify companies and individual Practitioners. The team fielded telephone and email inquiries from PCOs, including follow-ups. A list of potential candidates for future EcoWise Certified Orientation sessions was created.

**Implementing the Fine Sediment TMDL in the Napa River Watershed (Fish Friendly Farming)  
(EPA: Estuary 2100-2)**

- Site visits have been completed to 25 sites: 14 from the 2011 enrollment and 11 from the 2010 enrollment.
- Reports on outreach and enrollment efforts (Task 3) were completed for both 2010 and 2011 as well as the list of landowners (Task 4).
- The Draft QAPP has been submitted for Aerial Imagery has been submitted.

**North Bay TMDL Implementation: (EPA: Estuary 2100-2)**

**Marin County/Napa County RCD/Sonoma Ecology Center/South Sonoma RCD**

- SFEP Worked with MMWD to establish contracts with all partners. Initiation of QAPP development and coordination.
- Sonoma Ecology Center – developing QAPP from previously approved versions. Also working on DFG permits & identifying sites for work.
- Marin County Public Works - Staff assisted with contract document preparation, permit research, and regional watershed monitoring development for the QAPP. The Boyle Park Restoration design will be completed this year with construction planned for the summer of 2012. Watershed monitoring activities will be determined for the development of the QAPP.
- Napa RCD – contract signed. QAPP development underway.
- Southern Sonoma RCD - SSCRCD has begun work with landowners and subcontractors in determining project feasibility and in developing agreements. SSCRCD staff and subcontractors have participated in reviewing monitoring protocols with EPA and partners.

**Trash Capture Demonstration Project (SWRCB-ARRA/Bonds)**

- 66 municipalities from all Bay Area counties have indicated intent to sign or have signed ABAG contract agreement; contracting proceeding slowly with much attorney negotiations.
- Refining device fact sheets.
- Completed vendor purchase order forms for cities to order trash capture devices.
- Developing password protected Trash Tracker website to monitor installations.
- Held meetings with Technical Advisory Group on reallocating remaining funds and website.
- Planned, wrote, rehearsed and presented Web Ex trainings for municipal staff.
- Met with cities and vendor on large capacity, high flow devices.

**Keep It Clean (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- STB has updated all six case studies to address input from SFEP staff -- completed case studies posted on the Save The Bay website. STB re-launched its blog: “Wonky Wednesdays” highlighting developments in on, plastic bag, and polystyrene campaigns. Recent Wonky Wednesday blogs have discussed the San Mateo County polystyrene ban and common questions about bag ordinances.

**Recreational Boating Pump-out Project (DBW)**

- Surveyed 70 marinas
- Installed 22 meters on pump-out systems to monitor future usage.
- Replaced 13 damaged nozzles.
- Worked closely with 8 marinas to address non-functioning equipment.
- Created a relational database to store all marina, pump-out system, and survey information.
- Operational status of pump-out usage for 2010 boating season was 367.57 hours an increase of 45% from 2008.
- Worked on two video podcasts: Cleaner Greener Boating and Pump It, Don't Dump It.

### **Green Solutions [Alameda Co-wide green stormwater opportunity evaluation] (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Green Solution Project submitted an outline extensively reviewed and commented on by SFEP, and then a draft final report that is currently in review by SFEP & EPA

### **Fremont Tree Well Filters Monitoring (EPA: Estuary 2100-2)**

- City staff and SFEI finalized the number and locations for the tree well filters (TWF), details for the sampling pad, and develop a draft monitoring plan. Two tree well filters [included in the City of Fremont's Osgood Road rehabilitation project], will be monitored- one surface-loaded and one subsurface loaded design.
- Monitoring will be conducted in two phases.-first year, photo monitoring will be done to understand the hydrograph of the TWFs. Year 2 full suite of water quality samples

### **North Richmond Pilot to Treat Dry Weather Flows (EPA: Estuary 2100-2)**

- Contra Costa County finalized the agreement with ABAG. Second agreement finalized with SFEI for the water quality monitoring component of this grant agreement;
- SFEI completed one dry season and one partial wet season of water quality monitoring at the North Richmond pump station.

### **El Cerrito Rain Gardens (SWRCB-ARRA)**

- During the reporting period, SFEP staff and consultants finalized and publicized the Making of a Rain Garden video ([www.sfestuary.org/podcasts](http://www.sfestuary.org/podcasts)); further publicity is planned.
- SFEP conducted site visits of both rain gardens.

### **Newcomb Avenue Green Street (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- A contractor has been selected for construction and a notice to proceed has been granted. All pre-improvements data has been collected per approved QAPP protocol. Maintenance costs are in the process of being estimated.

### **Richmond Greenway Bioswale (EPA: Green Infill)**

- Construction begun on the 268ft X 5ft channel.
- First planting of 68 native plants completed.

### **Local Agency Permit Processing Assistance (Local/State Agencies)**

- ABAG and SFEP staff continue to assist the SF Regional Water Quality Board with the City of San Francisco, Alameda Co. Flood Control, CALTRANS, and Santa Clara Valley Water District with permit reviews.

### **Objective 4: Champion the Estuary (EPA-NEP and grants)**

- Two *Estuary News*-publications (December and February)
- New projects added and old ones updated on SFEP website [www.estuary.org](http://www.estuary.org)
- Distributed over 11,000 pump-out maps to marinas around the Bay Delta.
- Assisted ABAG in organizing an LID agenda for the Oct 2011 ABAG General Assembly.
- The boating project is developing a podcast showing how to use a Marina pumpout station.
- Staff attended a four-day boat show in Sacramento where staff conducted outreach to hundreds of boaters and handed out 488 Pumpout Maps and Guides for Boaters.

- The Estuary Report (video podcasts), has received over 2,000 views to date. Completion of X videos for publication on the website; Total YouTube podcast hits for 2010 was 815.
- SFEP produced and published the following new videos:
- **Cut the Curbs to Claim the Rain:** Two pioneers from El Cerrito and two scientists from the Estuary Institute explain how green stormwater treatment systems help slow and filter polluted water before it reaches local creeks and San Francisco Bay.
- **Less Spray/Better Bay/Greener Pest Control:** San Francisco Estuary Partnership Communications Officer Athena Honore and EcoWise Certified Program Manager Ted Shapas talk about the importance of integrated pest management and offer tips for homeowners and building managers.
- **Controlling Ants in Your Home:** Environmentally sound methods to deter ants from entering your home.
- SFEP presented two of our successful projects, the Bay-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project (ARRA) and the PCBs in Caulk Project, to the nationwide audience at the ANEP meeting in Florida.

## GOAL 2: REORGANIZE SFEP FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS (EPA-NEP)

### Implementing the Strategic Plan:

- Created and keep current a Grant Assistance Center on shared drive for staff including grant information and an Invoice Tracker.
- Invoice tracker indicates improvement in speed of invoice processing.
- Established draft project evaluation protocol (July 2012).

### Ongoing Activities :

- Program management/oversight and grant/contract management for 40 grants/contracts.
- Managed 40+ implementation projects. Support Implementation Committee and Friends of the Estuary. Submitted project billings, processed invoices, and completed progress reports.  
**On-going thru grant – will not be included in future reports**
- Drafted/processed 22 new contracts and 14 contract amendments.
- Completed annual NEPORT habitat and leveraging reports and MBE reports.

## GOAL 3: INCREASE FUNDING AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SFEP AND ITS PARTNERS TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (EPA-NEP)

- Proposed on 4 grant opportunities for a total of \$ 8 million.
- Received grant from California Department of Fish and Game for the Integrated Regional Wetland Monitoring Project for \$420,000.
- Received contract from the Aquatic Science Center for continuing work on the Stream and Wetland Protection Policy for \$100,000.