

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

Period 1	Period 2									
10/1/2010 – 3/31/2011	4/1/2011– 9/30/2011									
ABAG #102183	ABAG #102183									
\$800,000	\$800,000									
28% spent (\$223,995.25)*	spent Period 2 (\$376,210.75)									
Total Spent	75% spent (\$600,206)									

*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 reporting period included

- Managed and organized the highly successful September 2011 State of the Estuary Conference.
- *ESTUARY NEWS* won the Best Print Newsletter 2011 "Clarion" award from the Association for Women in Communications
- Save the Bay's *Keep It Clean* project was completed. Materials on Styrofoam, plastic bags and other White Paper final products posted on STB's website.
- Richmond Greenway Bioswale project was completed
- Trash Capture Project: the goal of including 65 cities; Contracts are now complete with 44.
- Nearing final production of the *State of the Estuary 2011 Report*.
- Building on the success of 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)

- Held Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to officially open Phase 1 of the Pinole Creek Demonstration Project
- Conducted post construction vegetation monitoring and creek cross-sections surveys
- Constructed trail and lighting improvements for upstream reach from 287 Calais Drive to Pinole Valley Road/ Tennent Avenue intersection and issued notice of completion

Bahia Marsh Restoration (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- 50 to 70% of the leymus rhizomes planted last year have survived and are sprouting.
- Total so far of an estimated 25,000 invasive plants were removed from approximately 25 acres

Yosemite Slough Wetland Restoration (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- Plant Propagation & Planting by youth interns continued for wetlands species including caring for natives in stock, collecting and processing a variety of species of native plant seeds
- QAPP approved by USEPA

Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy (EPA/SWRCB/Aquatic Science Center)

- Continued work on the draft Staff Report for the Regional Boards' policy.
- Work with State Board to coordinate the state and regional policies..
- Attended TAT meetings to develop supporting science and policy language for State policy.
- Continued to maintain the Administrative Record (Task 2).

Aquatic Invasive Species (EPA: Estuary 2100/NEP)

- SFEP provided an additional \$5000 of funding to CRAB to remove additional littorina infestations. A QAPP revision was also completed.
- In May 2011 –a large population of Littorina was detected south of the Dumbarton Bridge and was being addressed
- CRAB worked on revision/addition of Littorina to the Exotics Guide website.
- ISP submitted a draft final report for the project, which included the treatment and monitoring reports from 2008 and 2009. SFEP reviewed the draft report.

Instream Flows (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- The draft QAPP for the stream flow gauging described in Pilot Study #2 in the Task 3 report was submitted.
- EPA is reviewing the QAPP. The QAPP is the project's final deliverable.
- CLSI held certifications and re-certifications in June 2011 in Napa and the Frost Water Conservation BMPs were a requirement for both the certifications and re-certifications. Thirty-two sites were certified, and twenty-five sites were recertified

Stream Management Program for Landowners (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- After review and consideration of potential success of landowner efforts, focus of project shifted to sediment reduction in Arroyo de la Laguna reach of the Alameda Creek watershed.

Watershed Scale Mapping (EPA: Estuary 2100-2)

- Robin Grossinger attended the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium and discussed the project with several stakeholders to whom this project is relevant.
- Initial work developing the shoreline metrics was completed. Methods to measure shoreline change were tested; literature regarding the use of the shoreline measurement tool was reviewed; and results from the test were evaluated.

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

Green Infill Monitoring Project (EPA: Green Infill)

- All comments on draft monitoring report have been addressed and report was finalized and submitted.
- Informational brochure re effectiveness of parking lot LID has been finalized and submitted to SFEP.

Integrated Regional Wetland Monitoring Analysis Project (DWR-Prop 84)

- Outline of Site Characterization Reports completed.
- Existing data from previous IRWM data reports catalogued.
- Chapter 2 (Carl's Marsh) of Site Characterization Report nearly complete.
- Data for fish, neuston, and benthic invertebrates has been compiled for analysis.
- Review of existing fish and tidal wetlands papers has begun
- Some of the data to be used in this project for Task 3 was re-analyzed as part of a revision of a report and manuscript prepared for a previously funded project
- Nutrient and Productivity data supplied to WWR for preparing the site characterization reports.

Estuary 2100 Project Monitoring

- Technical project review and monitoring continued.

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

- Wave attenuation, Bathymetry and Coastal Topography, erosion patterns analysis is complete.
- Wave and flood modeling is ongoing. Calibration and initial sensitivity runs of the WHAFIS and Delft models are underway
- Sediment patterns (marsh accretion) is ongoing. Field cores have been collected, samples processed and analysis has been initiated
- A draft list of potential management measures has been developed along with the data/information that will be used to evaluate measures for inclusion in the conceptual adaptation strategy.

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

- Habitat Evolution Monitoring Project continued analysis of year 2 imagery, habitat classification, input of supplemental data into the model, and ground-truthing.
- Research and investigate techniques for radiometric normalization and atmospheric correction of Ikonos imagery.
- USGS- mercury analysis of American avocet and Forster's tern eggs from four colonies.
- On June 1, the SBSP project held a public ceremony to mark the opening of the new water control structure at Pond A8, reconnecting it to the tidal waters of Alviso Slough and creating 1,400 acres of open water habitat for a variety of species.

Stream Channel Design Curves (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- Data collection at Marin and Sonoma County creek sites continued.

Stonybrook Creek (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- ABAG/SFEP received funds from Jordan Ranch mitigation project to fund some work at Stonybrook or another similar project.
- Discussions underway with Alameda Co. Resource Conservation District re leading the project.

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

- Began consultant team meetings and landowner communication.
- Kathy Boyer, eelgrass lead, has made substantial progress on draft design.
- Each consultant team (eelgrass/fish, oyster, physical, avian and benthic) met several times to develop

individual components of draft design. Full consultant team met 4 times to advance draft design.

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

Senador Mine Remediation (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- Completed Senador Creek Watershed Erosion Control Potential Field Investigation Summary (URS 05/31/2011); Draft Biological Mapping Report (URS 08/31/11); Total Mercury Concentrations in Soils Report (SFEI 08/31/12); Preliminary mercury /availability Sampling Report (URS 09/30/11)

Hicks Flat Mercury Remediation (SWRCB 319h)

- MROSD staff worked with design consultant preparing grading and re-vegetation plans.
- Draft remedial action workplan, and health and safety plan are underway, anticipated from consultant by the end of July.
- Botanical surveys have been completed by MROSD in anticipation of CEQA review, with no rare plants identified at the project site.

State Water Board Statewide TMDL Support: Janet Cox-SFEP (SWRCB)

- Supported the TMDL Roundtable on monthly conference calls.
- Staffed 2-day TMDL Roundtable meeting in May 2011.
- Attended Region 6's Board hearing on the Tahoe TMD; planning meetings for the statewide Mercury Policy; planning meetings for the CEQA analysis for the Mercury Policy (lead for CEQA analysis drafting); statewide training on CEQA for Water Boards and meetings on the Bay Area Mercury Risk Reduction strategy and signage.
- Drafted a stakeholder plan for the statewide Mercury Policy.
- Drafted a revision for the statewide TMDL Internet site (State Board's public site).
- Supported the TMDL Roundtable by preparing meeting minutes from statewide meetings about the Caltrans permit and TMDLs.

Sediment Reduction Projects (SWRCB-ARRA)

- Preparations for the Phase II road repairs in the San Geronimo watershed continued. Project partner SPAWN worked with PWA on the bid packages going through the DBE solicitation process for Phase 2 repair of non-county unpaved roads and the mid-size creek bank stabilization project in the San Geronimo watershed.
- A minority contractor was selected, Ka'pel Construction Inc. SPAWN and PWA worked on the required permits. SPAWN and PWA collecting final landowner access agreements.
- SPAWN has completed two re-vegetation sites, Horne's and Finks.
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District completed construction of the ford crossing across Dennis Martin Creek.

PCBs in Caulk Project (SWRCB-ARRA)

- Sampling was completed, and samples were analyzed at the EBMUD lab in Oakland. Data is currently being reviewed. The QAPP was revised to reflect updated analytical methods at the EBMUD lab.
- Implementation trials are focusing on the Model Implementation Process (MIP), since the project team has not been able to find live sites for trials of the BMPs. The San Francisco Regional Water Board reviewed and confirmed this direction on May 31 and June 23. Implementation Trial workshop on July 2 held in Menlo Park.
- Consultant team produced next drafts of the Best Management Practices, Model Implementation

Process, and Training Program;

- Project manager coordinated review among stakeholders including USEPA, municipal building departments, and wastewater representatives.
- The science team completed last details in its report on sampling results and loadings estimates related to PCBs in caulk in Bay Area buildings; the first draft completed in October 2011.

Urban Pesticides Prevention (SWRCB-ARRA)

- The Urban Pesticide Pollution Prevention Project held a meeting on May 4, 2011 and distributed eight UPC NEWS email updates from April through June.
- Web traffic for the UP3 Project held steady during this period.
- The UP3 Project did preparatory work for the October 18, 2011 meeting.
- Five UPC NEWS email updates were distributed during this period, and web traffic continued to hold steady.
- IPM trainings for municipal staff in Contra Costa County (held 10/25/11) and San Mateo County (to be held 11/9/11).

Implementing the Fine Sediment TMDL in the Napa River Watershed (Fish Friendly Farming)

(EPA: Estuary 2100-2)

- CLSI currently redoing the aerial imagery QAPP to be a SOP.
- CLSI is also working on a QAPP for sediment load estimating.
- CLSI staff created maps, conducted site visits, and drafted and reviewed farm plan documents for 48 sites in Napa County during this reporting period.
- A total of 55 sites went through certification visits in June 2011. 31 sites were newly certified and 24 sites were re-certified.

North Bay TMDL Implementation: (EPA: Estuary 2100)

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

Sonoma Ecology Center completed initial site prioritization process. Landowner contact information research and outreach conducted. Site assessments initiated.

- Prepared and submitted BMI and Sediment/Turbidity QAPPs. Finalizing turbidity-sediment QAPP, responding to EPA review comments on BMI.
- Maintained and upgraded automated continuous monitoring station (on Sonoma Creek at Sonoma Developmental Center called "Station A") probes and data-logger, examined long-term dataset for gaps and to plan a database for data review and analysis.
- **NCRDC** completed a QAPP for photo monitoring of a road improvement project implemented in the Heath Canyon Watershed.
- Released a request for bids for contractors to implement the road erosion reduction treatments in the Heath Canyon watershed.
- Selected a contractor and entered into a construction agreement.
- Completed pre-project photo monitoring; completed road treatments in the Heath Canyon watershed.
- **SSCRCD** discussed QAPP development with NBWA colleagues and addressed project feasibility, permitting issues, and developed landowner & subcontractor agreements.
- Staff reviewed conceptual project design options.
- Working through project feasibility issues, landowner agreements, subcontractor agreements and

determining monitoring protocols.

- **Marin County** has been working to develop watershed health monitoring to support watershed-level planning; the grant project will be designed this winter.

Trash Capture Demonstration Project (SWRCB-ARRA/Bonds)

- 55 out of a potential 66 municipal contracts executed
- 12 vendor contracts executed
- Installation of devices proceeding
- Trash Tracker website operational for tracking installations.

Keep It Clean (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- STB completed the project. The draft final report was reviewed by EPA and SFEP.

Recreational Boating Pump-out Project (DBW)

- 12,165 maps of marina boating pump-out stations were distributed this period.
- Staff attended the Strictly Sail Boat Show in Jack London Square April 14-17. A total of 806 maps were handed out during this event. Staff also attended the Summer Sailstice and partnered with DBW to distribute clean boating material to event attendees. Thirty maps were handed out at the Sailstice.
- Staff met with DBW staff, San Francisco Department of the Environment, and America's Cup sustainability planners to explore the possibility of recreational boating pollution being released into the Bay during the America's Cup event.
- Staff responded to requests for informational material and have visited a number of marinas and boating supply shops personally to deliver materials and to network.
- SFEP staff drafted and distributed an RFP for a vendor to implement a free mobile pump-out day; received proposals, rated them and selected BayGreen to service boaters during our Honey Pot Day in the Delta and Bay. Notice was given to all parties that participated and a contract was drafted and signed by the selected company.

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

- Green Solutions Project submitted a draft final report. EPA, SFEP, and SFEI reviewed and commented on the report. It is being finalized by CCI.

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

- Construction for the tree well filters started on June 5, when the pits were dug to accommodate the tree well filters.
- Six separate site visits conducted by city staff and SFEI to scope monitoring siting and address installation and soils issues.

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

- QAPP was finalized.
- SFEI completed two seasons of dry weather sampling; began review of sampling data, however, the data has not been through QA, nor are all results back.
- SFEP planned, coordinated and held a green streets forum and tour February 16, 2011 will featured the El Cerrito stormwater planters.

El Cerrito Rain Gardens (SWRCB-ARRA)

- ABAG/SFEP and consultants finalized and publicized the Making of a Rain Garden video.

- Lisa Owens Viani participated in El Cerrito’s “Spring Fling” event on May 14, 2011, handing out flyers and talking about the rain gardens to approximately 50 participants, including the Mayor of El Cerrito.
- El Cerrito Public Works Director Jerry Bradshaw at a presentation about the project on September 26, 2011, CASQUA conference in Monterey.

Newcomb Avenue Green Street (EPA: Estuary 2100)

- Project is under construction.
- All pre-improvements data has been collected per approved QAPP protocol. Once streetscape project is constructed, data will be collected again (rainy season 2011-12).

Richmond Greenway Bioswale (EPA: Green Infill)

- The project is complete. The final report is available for download.

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)

- Three *Estuary News*-publications (April, June, August) distributed to elected officials and agency staff.
- *ESTUARY NEWS*, in its 20th year of publication, has won the Best Print Newsletter 2011 "Clarion" award from the Association for Women in Communications.
- The latest scientific findings about the health of San Francisco Bay were presented at the 10th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference hosted by the Estuary Partnership on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 20-21, 2011, at the downtown Oakland Marriott . --Conference topics ranged from restoration to pollution to beavers and watershed health to green streets and sustainable communities. Featured speakers included Phil Isenberg, Delta Stewardship Council; Fran Spivy-Weber, State Water Resources Control Board; Jerry Meral, California Natural Resources Agency; and Peter Gleick, Pacific Institute
- The State of San Francisco Bay 2011 report was released at the conference, with a summary presentation given on the first day by Andy Gunther from the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration.
- SFEP hosted formational meetings of the Regional Bay Protection and Behavior Change group in June and July including representatives from stormwater and wastewater. Discussion centered around developing a regional brand for unified outreach efforts by permitted agencies, which would be the unified platform from which future joint work on behavior change campaigns on individual pollutants of concern.
- SFEP’s video podcast series, the Estuary Report, has received over 2,700 views to date.

SFEP produced and published the following new videos:

Trestle Trouble: Most of the train trestles over creeks and marshes at the Bay’s edges were built in the late 1800s or early 1900s and are seriously undersized, causing creek waters to back up behind them, resulting in localized flooding. When tides are high and as sea level rises and/or storms become more severe, the problem will only worsen. Some experts say that many costly federal and local flood control projects on the Bay's creeks have been necessitated by undersized trestles and culverts.

Cleaner, Greener Boating: Recreational boaters are lucky enough to experience the beauty of the San Francisco Bay and Delta up close and personal. Yet those same people can have

huge impacts on the Bay's water quality, especially if they flush untreated sewage into the Bay or don't maintain their boats properly. But there are easy solutions, and James Walter, San Francisco's South Beach Harbormaster, shares some of them in this video.

Pump It, Don't Dump It! Over 1 million recreational boaters make it critically important for those who enjoy California's 1.4 million acres of water to do our part and pump out our marine storage devices. In this video, James Muller demonstrates how to use a pump-out properly.

Picking Off Periwinkles: *Littorina littorea* is an introduced exotic snail that can have big impacts on Bay native species.

Marsh Magic: The Estuary Partnership and Marin Audubon society are working to enhance the habitat of seasonal and tidal wetlands at Bahia Marsh by removing invasives and planting native plant species.

Taming Mercury: Mercury pollution is one of San Francisco Bay's most troublesome legacies. The video describes how scientists and resource managers are working to control it.

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

Implementing the SP:

- 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.

Ongoing Activities:

- Drafted/processed 14 new contracts and 12 contract amendments.

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

SFEP/ABAG submitted these proposals:

- The San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine project, approximately \$1,400,000, was submitted to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Strategic Growth Council.
- The Got Ants? Outreach to Reduce Water Quality Impacts from Residential Urban Ant Control project was submitted to EPA 's PRIA 2 (\$250,000) and DPR (\$200,000).

- Contracts Awarded
- \$100,000 from State Coastal Conservancy for State of the Estuary Conference support
- \$107,000 contract amendment from State Water Resources Control Board for continuing Statewide TMDL Support
- \$200,000 from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for the Got Ants? Outreach to Reduce Water Quality Impacts from Residential Urban Ant Control project
- \$100,000 from the Aquatic Science Center for Wetland Protection Policy work
- \$50,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for staffing the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species
- \$230,000 from USGS for State of the Estuary/Delta Science Conference support