

**SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS  
for  
NEP- SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP  
Cooperative Agreement # CE-00T47801-1**

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3								
10/1/2010 – 3/31/2011	4/1/2011– 9/30/2011	10/01/11 12/31/11	1/01/12- 03/31/12							
ABAG #102183	ABAG #102183	ABAG #102183	ABAG #102194							
\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$598,800							
28% spent (\$223,995.25) *	Spent Period 2 (\$376,210.75 )	Spent Period 3 \$199,794	Spent Period 3 \$170,787							
Total Spent	75% spent (\$600,206)	100% spent	28.5% spent							

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

**Notable Events/Major work efforts for this reporting period included**

- Held highly successful 2011 State of the Estuary Conference in September.
- Released major milestone of 2011 State of the Bay Report plus ancillary summary documents for use by wider audiences
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Grant Program Bill Reintroduced
- Staff assisting with 34<sup>th</sup> America’s Cup in San Francisco; permitting support for BCDC, advisory team participation

**Key goals/asures of success/results [from Strategic Plan]**

Goal	Results so far
➤ Water quality improvements	Continued work on TMDLs for pesticides and sediment Participate in state and national AIS implementation State of the Bay Report documented water quality status Seek funding for green stormwater treatment projects
➤ Support Estuary resilience	Support wetland restoration efforts and the SF Bay Restoration Authority
➤ Seek new funding sources	Added two new sources to SFEP funding matrix
➤ Increase outreach/ web	Routinely updating website and keeping tab of web usage [baseline]

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

**Objective 1- Promoting integrated watershed stewardship**

### **Pinole Creek Restoration (EPA: Green Infill)**

- Meetings with project partners including County Flood Control and Friends of Pinole Creek
- Met with US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Lower Pinole Creek Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration project and planning process; hosted site visit
- Continued to research Railroad Avenue bridge removal and utility relocation issues
- Conducted post construction vegetation monitoring
- Planted additional native trees along the west bank of Pinole Creek upstream of the Demonstration Project between San Pablo Avenue and Prune Street bridge.

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

- Planting by 20 volunteers working over 78 hours and also by a Conservation Corps North Bay crew of 10 plus supervisor for 77 hours total.
- Invasive plants were removed from approximately 30 acres by 70 volunteers over 184 hours, primarily fennel and cocklebur plants

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

- 90% of Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration, Phase I, No. Side completed
- BYE participated in Coastal Clean Up Day on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Candlestick Point SRA. Approximately 500 volunteers participated park-wide and more than 8,000 lbs. of trash was collected.
- 9 youth interns during monthly volunteer work days continued to care for wetlands species for the Yosemite Slough wetland restoration project
- Focused youth training on native plant communities and how they relate to the restoration work done in the park and nursery.

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

- Participated in State Board Development Team meeting and worked on the policy language and Staff Report
  - Attended:
    - Planning and TMDL division meeting
    - Bioobjective workshop
    - CWMW meeting
    - Status and Trends Technical Advisory Committee meeting
    - SFEP workgroup on developing watershed program
  - Responded to stakeholder inquiries
  - Participated in two State Board Development Team meeting to discuss remaining policy issues
  - Discussed Phase 2 of State Board Policy and with staff from EPA
  - Continued work on the policy language and Staff Report
  - Discussed revised State Board wetland definition with legal staff
  - Developed Staff Report write-up for indicators and benchmarks to assess attainment of the water quality objectives
  - Developed policy options for application of water quality objectives in degraded conditions

### **Aquatic Invasive Species (EPA: Estuary 2100/NEP)**

- CRAB staff worked on updating the Littorina information for the Exotics guide and website. Andrew Cohen of CRAB anticipates completing the project in the coming quarter.
- **Instream Flows (EPA: Estuary 2100)** CLSI completed final Project Report, "Protecting Instream Flow for Fishes in the North Bay" which included study of factors influencing implementation of alternative frost control measures and bmps; a monitoring and coordinated diversions pilot study; and an EPA approved QAPP for Stream Flow Monitoring and Coordinated Diversions Pilot Study.

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

- UCC focused on wrapping up the previous project, restructuring the SFEP contract, initiating CEQA processes, and initial scoping discussions with SFEI, EPA, and SFEP including writing an analysis of the lessons learned from the previously attempted Landowner program.
- UCC continues to work with homeowners along Verona Reach on Arroyo de la Laguna. Members of the Arroyo De La Laguna Collaborative are continuing to work together to develop strategies for abating erosion in the Arroyo de la Laguna.

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

- Worked to develop a concept proposal for science support to Estuary 2100-2 North Bay partners through revised watershed indicators that link to TMDL monitoring.
- Furthered four different opportunities to update or enhance BAARI with local data and information.
- Completed first draft of shoreline analysis methodology and implemented that approach on San Pablo Bay to generate a draft of shoreline morphology for the study area.

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

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

- WWR coordinated with USGS (Brown), Washington State University (Bollens), University of Washington (Simenstad), and ERP and Delta Science Program staff regarding resolution to missing IRWM invertebrate data. Further coordination required with USGS (Brown), Washington State University (Bollens), University of Washington (Simenstad), and ABAG (Trigueros) for contract modifications to transfer fish and invertebrate task from USGS to WSU and UW.
- WWR coordinated with SFSU and GSU on nutrient analyses.
- Completed calculation of spatial extent of photic zone at all six study sites, based on existing GIS data and direction from Alex Parker on depth of photic zone, for nutrient analyses.
- Coordination between GSU (Cohen) and SFSU (Wilkerson, Parker): held small PI meeting regarding manuscript outline and data summaries while at CERF conference in Florida.

Coordinate transfer of vegetation mapping GIS to SFSU. SFSU Coordination with UC Berkeley and PRBO regarding any available GIS data to use to get area cover of 3 distinct wetland ecosystems.

- SFSU/GSUF completed conversion of data to per area basis for all groups of primary producers and associated figures and tables. Continued literature search and making progress on introduction and methods.
- USGS continued data preparation and preliminary data analyses for Task 2.
- USGS coordinated with WWR (Siegel), Washington State University (Bollens), and University of Washington (Simenstad) regarding possible collaboration.
- USGS continued literature search related to Task 4.
- ABAG/SFEP provided grant management, contract amendment emails with WWR, USGS, UW, and WSU to reallocate funds for fish and invertebrate task, confirmation with DFG
- ABAG/SFEP provided financial management; production of financial reports, processed subcontract invoices and completed grant billings.

#### **Estuary 2100 Technical and Scientific for Project Monitoring**

- An analysis of landscape change was conducted to describe the extent and change of wetlands in Coyote Creek and Napa Watersheds.
- A brochure was developed to document the findings of the analysis and was distributed at the State of the Estuary Conference.

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

- Marsh accretion team is continuing to measure feldspar and SET at all stations at Corte Madera and Muzzi Marsh.
- Team will again deploy and collect short-term sediment pads along one transect each at Corte Madera and Muzzi Marsh.
- A framework to present the data/information was reviewed and revised based on input from BCDC staff. BCDC and team finalized the conceptual models for presentation to the TAC for review. They also worked on outlining the draft guidance for municipalities.

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

- Drafted and submitted a quarterly report to ABAG October 5, 2011; worked with ABAG staff on a no-cost extension of the project.
- Provided continued project management and oversight of the Habitat Evolution Monitoring Project and the Pond A8 Mercury Monitoring Project, including processing subcontractor invoices; reviewing reports; and monitoring timelines and deliverables.
- Continued coordination with the South Bay Salt Ponds Project Management Team, including participation in its monthly meetings.

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

- The project team met twice to discuss to work on data analysis as all field data has been collected; completed analysis for two sites and are working on

streamlining the process for the other sites.

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

- SFEP coordinated with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) regarding willingness to undertake the project. ACRCD has indicated initial support
- SFEP has been working with the Alameda County RCD to develop of a scope of work and budget for the project that will be incorporated into a contractual agreement between SFEP and ACRCD.
- SFEP has been working with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and ACRDC to develop a separate contractual agreement for use of the Jordon Ranch Project mitigation funds as match for the project. It is anticipated that next quarter SFEP and ACRCD will sign a contract for the project.

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

- Progress has been made on finalizing all consultants and subcontracts for the Project. The project team has met three times to work on the draft design from July-September 2011.
- The team has made substantial progress on site selection, overarching goal, specific objectives, and hypotheses they plan to test with this project. Three combined oyster/eelgrass reefs will be installed at two sites. A larger experiment that includes combined oyster/eelgrass reefs and a small oyster substrate experiment will be installed at a site on the San Rafael Shoreline owned by The Nature Conservancy, and the small substrate experiment will be installed at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve site in Hayward owned by the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- Completed final design on 2/10/12, submitted permit applications on 2/14/12.
- The project team has met five times to work on the final design and construction planning from October 2011- March 2012.
- The State Coastal Conservancy approved an additional \$550,000 for the project construction and monitoring at the Coastal Conservancy Board meeting on 3/29/12.
- Science Lead Katharyn Boyer submitted a draft QAPP to EPA staff on 3/16/12.

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

**Senator Mine Remediation (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- A hard copy of the biological mapping report was produced.
- Soil sampling data were compiled for presentation at the October 6 team meeting.
- The Admin Draft Site Prioritization Report was prepared and submitted for review on January 25, 2012. Work included data management, implementation of quantitative site prioritization algorithm, and mapping tasks. Agency comments were received by URS on March 19, 2012. URS addressed the

comments and submitted a preliminary final version of the report to SCCPRD on March 23, 2012.

- SCCPRD submitted this draft to the agencies for review. SCCPRD and URS decided to delay finalization of the report until after the team meeting scheduled for April 3, 2012. SCCPRD and URS were informed at the April 3, 2012 meeting that additional agency comments would be submitted soon. Final report pending.

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

- During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012 period MROSD completed the write-up of the botanical surveys that were conducted in 2011.
- MROSD also researched and responded to revegetation/compaction question raised by Grant Manager. Environmental Review (CEQA) for the project was researched and initiated during the reporting period. It was determined that categorical exemption-Class 30 was appropriate. The categorical exemption was filed after the Q1 reporting period. The finalized categorical exemption will be submitted with the Q2 progress report.

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

- Prepared minutes and action items list for a two-day TMDL Roundtable meeting on September 28-29, 2011 and November 30 – December 1, 2011. Supported the TMDL Roundtable on conference calls, January 25, February 7, and March 28; prepared minutes and action items for all meetings
- Wrote stakeholder plan materials for the statewide Mercury Policy development process
- Drafted the Mercury Policy website; revised several times per comments
- Drafted a Scoping Document for Mercury Policy CEQA Scoping meetings; reviewed and revised; attended several meetings of the communications team and the steering committee for Mercury Policy development. Developed an outline for the Mercury Policy's CEQA Project Description. Revised and refined CEQA scoping documents for statewide Mercury Policy
- Attended Bay Area Mercury Risk Reduction meetings
- Planned and established a wiki on the State Water Board intranet, for the statewide TMDL Program; Maintained and updated the TMDL Intranet
- Worked with Region 5 on multi-cultural risk reduction strategies for Stockton
- Reviewed, edited, and commented on the CEQA analysis for R9's Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Sediment TMDL;
- Chaired meetings of the Ca Mercury Policy stakeholder communications team
- Wrote and/or edited powerpoints for the CEQA scoping meetings; attended, and recorded notes from, CEQA scoping meetings for the Mercury Policy in Sacramento, Redding, and Riverside
- Drafted the CEQA Project Description for the Mercury Policy project, following meetings with Rik Rasmussen and the project's attorney
- Attended NPS/TMDL training on Watershed-based Plans containing the Nine Key Elements. Briefed SFEP staff
- Revised and distributed CEQA training modules to the TMDL Roundtable

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

- PWA staff conducted visual inspections and post construction photo documentation of the project area after larger storm events.
- Annual monitoring to assess project performance was evaluated through visual inspections of the project and post construction photographic documentation. Inspections did not reveal any significant adjustments in the implemented treatment areas nor was any sediment delivery or turbidity detected at any of the treatment sites.

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

- CLSI staff sent out enrollment and workshop announcements to numerous organizations, websites, lists and newsletters in the Napa River watershed.
- CLSI enrolled 58 sites in the FFF program. Maps were developed for each site and FFF binders were printed and distributed at workshops.
- Four workshops were held on 1/19/12, 1/26/12, 2/2/12 and 2/9/12.
- CLSI conducted 5 site visits, scheduled site visits through the end of May and prepared farm plan maps for visited sites; assisted growers to complete pans.

### **North Bay TMDL Implementation: (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

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

##### *Marin County*

- Worked to develop a QAPP and monitoring plan for rain gages to assist with watershed restoration and monitoring and responded. Awaiting further comments or final approval.
- Topographic surveys and engineering designs were developed for the Boyle Park creek restoration.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being developed between Marin County and the City of Mill Valley.

##### *Napa County RCD*

- Construction bids and contracting completed; Heath Canyon road erosion reduction project completed. Major road treatments were completed along 4.71 miles of road in the Heath Canyon Watershed resulting in a long-term sediment savings of 1,440 cubic yards from specific treatment sites (stream crossings, and direct discharge points) and a savings of 4,605 cubic yards per decade for treatment of more chronic sources of sediment (road surface, cutbanks, ditches)
- NCRCD is working on developing monitoring protocol and QAPP for gravel permeability and stream scour, indicators and targets within the Napa River Sediment TMDL
- Additional landowners in high priority tributaries have been identified for future road assessment and planning; and coordination among the north bay project partners continues.

##### *Sonoma Ecology Center*

- Of the three QAPPs required for the project, one is approved, one is nearly approved, and one remains to be submitted to EPA.
- Ongoing attendance and participation in regional events, meetings, and partnership building with regional agencies and watershed partners to address flooding, water-quality compliance, land acquisition, sediment-reduction, groundwater management implementation, surface-groundwater interaction, and watershed health.

#### *South Sonoma RCD*

- SSCRCD worked with subcontractors to develop agreements, determine project feasibility, and develop access agreements with landowner and reviewed QAPP protocols and discussed requirements with subcontractors and grant partners.

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

- In December, SFEP executed contracts with the Cities of Clayton; Oakland.
- Received purchase orders from the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District and the cities of Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Pinole, Oakland and San Mateo, totaling \$534,119.14.
- Received fully executed Notice of Acceptance forms and supporting documentation for devices installed in Dublin and Pinole, totaling \$66,712.29.04.
- Contracts have now been executed between ABAG and 64 cities, towns and/or counties.

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

- SFEP staff worked with six different marinas to organize a Bay Area Honey Pot Day. Staff partnered with DBW to provide information on sewage related issues and resources. On October 23, two boats visited three marinas each.
- Staff presented information to 45 boaters, pumped out 37 vessels and removed a total of 635 gallons of sewage.
- Staff also wrote about the event in Emeryville's newsletter, the Slack Tides and plans to write an article for the Changing Tides in January. Staff presented information on articles for the Slack Tides to approximately 35 individuals from the boating industry at the December meeting of the Northern California Clean Boating Network meeting.
- Over 240 maps were distributed this quarter via site visits, email solicitations, and the coast guard material order form created last year.
- Prepared and staffed the Sacramento Boat Show, speaking with over 200 boaters and distributed 490 Pumpout Guides and Maps for Boaters.

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

- Construction of the tree well filters and associated sampling pad was completed on February 10.
- Shannan Young conducted a site visit of the tree well filters with Jennifer



Krebs and Erica Yelensky on November 16, 2011 to check the progress of construction and to review how the tree well filters are designed.

- SFEI submitted the draft SAP to the EPA in February, 2012, and conditional approval was given by the EPA to conduct visual monitoring on February 13, 2012. SFEI is tasked with conducting water quality monitoring of the Tree Well Filters.
- Conference call On March 23, 2012 discussed the schedule for the City of Fremont monitoring program for its Tree Well filters.

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

- SFEI completed all water quality monitoring and sent all samples to the laboratory for analysis
- Contra Costa County initiated discussions with West County Wastewater District to commence the next phase of this project, the feasibility study and construction.
- Contra Costa staff met with SFEP, SFEI and EPA staff on April 18, 2012, to provide a project update.

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

- ABAG/SFEP continued to respond to requests for information about the project
- El Cerrito Public Works Director Jerry Bradshaw presented the “Making of a Rain Garden” DVD about the project at the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) conference on September 26, 2011 in Monterey.
- Site performance monitoring by SFEI continues

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

- Pre-construction stormwater samples were all collected according to QAPP protocol.
- A majority of LID construction was completed. Contractor addressing last issues in LID components.
- The post-construction flow data received to date covered the period from mid-February and mid-March.
- SFEI notes that “the sensors were installed later than last year because of construction activity. There was very little precipitation during that time frame; only one very small storm on February 15. There appeared to be some anomalies in the data, possibly sensor related. Additionally, the rainfall gauge at the nearby treatment plant failed in February. We need rainfall data to do runoff correlations. We can use rainfall data from other gauges at locations further away, but this will introduce more error into runoff coefficient calculations. On March 12, 2012 the SFPUC calibrated all four sensors at the site so we're optimistic about the quality of the data we'll receive going forward.” SFEI has been working closely with SFPUC staff to coordinate the effort.

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

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

- **State of the Bay Report**

The State of the Bay Report received significant news coverage, including stories in the San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News (reprinted in the Contra Costa Times, and Oakland Tribune), Sacramento Bee, and East Bay Express. Radio interviews with Andy Gunther were broadcast on KGO, KCBS, KQED, KNBR, and San Jose's KLIV. KQED's TV program This Week in Northern California also featured discussion of the report by panelist Paul Rogers of the Mercury News.

News of our report also appeared on a number of news aggregator sites and blogs, including News Fix, KQED's Bay Area News blog. *The Chronicle and Mercury items were shared and reposted about 100 times through Facebook and Twitter.* For a list of the articles, see the Communications section, below.

#### **State of the Bay Report Goes to Santa Monica**

Karen McDowell gave a presentation about SFEP's State of the Bay Report at the Santa Monica Association of National Estuary Programs Directors and Administrators Fall Meeting during the week of October 16-20.

- **Clean Boating: New Honey Pot Day and America's Cup Outreach**

SFEP staff worked with six different marinas in the East Bay to coordinate a Bay Area Honey Pot Day, held October 23. To conduct outreach, SFEP partnered with DBW and the Dock Walkers, a volunteer group created to educate boaters, dockside, about the effects of marine pollution.

SFEP staff has also been working on America's Cup issues, together with DBW, the Port of San Francisco, the AC34 Event Authority, and the City of San Francisco to ensure that all potential boating pollution issues and invasive species were addressed in the draft EIR and the subsequent Implementation Plans.

- **ESTUARY NEWS**

A new issue was released in October, featuring articles about a carbon credit concept for "farming" tules, the tunnel being dug through the South Bay to replace the existing SFPUC drinking water delivery pipelines as part of their system overhaul, and highlights from the September State of the Estuary Conference and State of the Bay Report.

The December issue of ESTUARY NEWS contains a summary of the 2011 State of the Estuary conference, thanks to managing editor Ariel Rubissow-Okamoto and writer Joe Eaton, who attended the sessions and wrote up concise summaries

- **SFEP's Annual Migration to Washington, D.C.**

Judy Kelly and Caitlin Sweeney traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with our Bay Area Congressional delegation and provide them an annual briefing about the Partnership, its accomplishments, and needs in our region taking with them copies of our Highlights of the Partnership's work in 2011. While in D.C., they attended a meeting held by EPA to provide insight into current budgetary and programmatic priorities for the Office of Water and

Watersheds, share successes and lessons learned from NEPs' work throughout the country, and highlight climate change-related activities and opportunities.

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

##### **Ongoing Activities:**

- SFEP provided overall program management as well as oversight and grant/contract management for 40 grants/contracts.
- Managed 40+ implementation projects.
- Drafted/processed 22 new sub-recipient contracts and 23 contract amendments.
- Completed annual MBE/WBE reports.
- Completed two ABAG Executive Board staff report items.
- Support Implementation Committee and Friends of the Estuary.

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

##### **Grants/Contracts Received**

- \$230,000 from USGS for State of the Estuary/Delta Science Conference support
- \$598,800 from USEPA for Section 320 NEP funding for FFY 2012
- \$307,646 from USEPA for Phase I of the San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine project.
- \$30,000 IRWMP Planning Grant, for outreach