

**SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS  
for  
NEP- SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP  
Cooperative Agreement # CE-00T47801-2/3**

**Period 7: October 1 2013 to March 31, 2014**

EPA Funds Expended	Prior Period	Period 7	Period 7
		10/1/2013 3/31/2014	10/1/2013 3/31/2014
ABAG #	#102216	#102216	#102224
Grant Amount-Amendments 2/3	<b>\$ 597,334.00</b>	<b>\$597,334.00</b>	<b>\$512,000.00</b>
Spent this period		\$143,023.47	\$163,871.73
Total Spent	\$ 454,310.53	\$597,334.00	
% Spent	76%	100%	32%
Grant Balance	\$ 143,023.47	\$ -	\$348,128.27

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

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

- Completed and distributed updated SFEP Strategic Plan 2013-2018.
- Hosted 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial State of the Estuary Conference October 28-29, 2014 with over 850 attendees.
- Five small grant projects completed and final reports posted on SFEP website.
- Initiated CCMP 2016 Update process.
- Initiated State of the Estuary 2015 Report process.

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

Goal

Results so far

Water quality improvements

Completion of the Hicks Flat Remediation Project stabilized and restored 120' of streambank, and prevented approximately 10 pounds of total mass mercury from falling into Hicks Creek, a tributary of Guadalupe creek.

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

### **Objective 1- Promoting integrated watershed stewardship**

#### **IRWMP Implementation Grant (DWR-Prop 84)-*Watershed Coordinator***

- Finalized project and drafted project completion report for review by BACWA and DWR. Waiting for approval of completion report.

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

City of Pinole staff:

- Requested EPA Grant reimbursement funds for restoration monitoring
- Provided a creek restoration update to City Council
- Participated in coordination meetings with project partners including State Resources Agency, SFEI/ABAG, County Flood Control, City of Hercules and Ducks Unlimited, and Friends of Pinole Creek
- Researched Railroad Avenue bridge removal funding opportunities for engineering demolition and reconstruction
- Provided input on Chelsea Wetlands restoration project regarding project components affecting the City of Pinole and Pinole Creek Demonstration Project
- Coordinated continued post-construction vegetation monitoring and supplemental planting

#### **Chelsea Wetlands Restoration (EPA: Green Infill)**

The Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) has developed the engineering plans to a high enough level to start the permitting process. DU, the City of Hercules and its subcontractors have started to develop the CEQA Initial Study, mitigated negative declaration. Several of the permit applications are in draft form and are anticipated to be submitted within the following quarter. The project team has provided Contra Costa Flood District with the requested risk and uncertainty analysis, a pre-application meeting in process of being schedule to determine if additional information will be required. The project team is working diligently on this critical path task.

DU has accomplishing the following milestones:

- Worked with the Sub-consultant to write the Project Description
- Reviewed the NLAA letter and prepared revisions to sub-consultant
- Developed engineering designs for the Chelsea Wetlands Project to 100 percent
- Reviewed and accepted the Cultural Resources Report prepared by the sub-consultant
- Assisted in the development of Air-quality and Noise components of the CEQA document
- Publicly noticed the IS/MND document
- Met with the Section 408 branch of the Army Corp
- Presented project to the City of Pinole
- Worked with PG&E to transfer surplus parcel to City of Pinole
- Drafted 408 permit application for submittal to Army Corp
- Hired a 408 wetlands/levee permitting specialist to assist with permitting process between DU, Army Corp and Contra Costa Flood Control District

#### **Bahia Marsh Restoration (EPA: Estuary 2100- Marin Audubon Society)**

- Continued DriWater replacement supplemented by hand watering to the extent possible

by MAS volunteers

- Removal of invasive species has continued to be a focus of volunteer work days on site. MAS held a volunteer work day on April 10th that focused on the removal of invasive Harding Grass (*Phalaris aquatic*).

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

- Hosted regular volunteer workdays on the first and second Saturday of the month at the Candlestick nursery and throughout the park's native plant habitats with Hands On Bay Area (HOBA) and CSPF's Park Champions
- Completed the RWQCB Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration, Phase I Year 1 Annual Monitoring Report. Project is on track to meet monitoring criterion.
- BYE youth interns and volunteers continued to monitor plants
- BYE interns hosted Park Champions workdays and led environmental service days with the Mayor's Office of Youth Education and Employment Program, UC Berkeley Environmental Justice Student group, Friends of the Urban Forest and the Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative (WALC).

#### **Yosemite Slough Wetland Restoration (EPA: Estuary 2100-2)**

- WRA, Inc. presented the preliminary south side drawings to California State Parks on January 7, 2014. Park staff will review drawings and provide comments. The 100% drawings are expected to be completed by March 2014.
- The Foundation hired consultants Brakeley Briscoe to complete a feasibility study for the completion of fundraising for the Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration project. Findings suggest fundraising goal is achievable and fundraising for the project has resumed.

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

- The title of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Wetland Area Protection Policy (WAPP) has been expanded to *Wetland Area Protection and Dredged or Fill Permitting and Wetland Area Definition* (Wetland Policy).
- The "Demonstration of a Water Quality Control Plan for Wetlands in the San Francisco Watershed Workplan" was completed. The Workplan outlines the study objectives, approaches and deliverables in support of identifying ways of writing Phase 2 of the Wetland Policy such that it can be implemented in a practical and effective way that reflects permitting practices used by the Regional Boards to support wetland protection and conservation goals. Policy demonstration/pilot projects are being conducted with Regional Boards 1, 2, 3, and 6. Supporting documents and submittals related to the four policy demonstration projects were reviewed and comments provided.
- A paper was written in support of objective no. 1 of the San Francisco Water Quality Control Board's policy demonstration project. Objective no. 1 of the demonstration project is to evaluate Phases 1 and 2 of the proposed policy as it would apply to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification permitting process and subsequent certification conditions for the project.
- Supplemental tasks were conducted using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in support of the development of the Wetland Policy Phase 1 Staff Report.
- Phase 2 of the Wetland Policy scoping note was revised in an effort to establish the foundation of the policy. A *Frequently Asked Questions* document that will accompany the policy scoping note was revised.

- Research was conducted on Low Impact Development (LID) options in support of the development of the water quality control options that may be referenced in Phase 2 of the Wetland Policy as activities or practices that can be implemented in response to any activity that may affect the quality of the waters of the state and includes the prevention and correction of water pollution and nuisance.
- Research was conducted and summarized in a paper on aquatic buffers based on the potential inclusion of buffers as a water quality control option in Phase 2 of the Wetland Policy.
- Interagency meetings were attended in support of the Wetland Policy demonstration projects and the plan for the continued development of Phase 2.
- The Regional Board *Stream and Wetland Systems Protection* policy was revised to remove the water quality objectives from the draft policy and as a result, alternative courses of action are being discussed.

#### **Stanley Reach Revegetation Project (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- Completed and received approval from EPA for QAPP
- UCC hosted a very successful kickoff event on October 19<sup>th</sup> that attracted 49 community members, including the mayor of Livermore.
- Planned and led six additional volunteer workdays, with an average of more than 26 volunteers per day.
- Planted Oak woodland area with a total of 1,003 sites planted with three acorns apiece.
- Consulted with experts on planting strategy for native grassland area
- Trained apprentice team in worksite safety, tool and equipment use, and volunteer leadership

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

- SFEI began drafting the local stewardship methodology based on experience integrating SCVWD and Sonoma Creek watershed hydrology data.
- SFEI has continued working with Marin County to assess the possibility of integration their hydrology data into BAARI. The process identified the County as another partner in the Stewardship of BAARI.
- Evaluated USGS conflation tool used to update NHD as a potential tool for the integration of local data into BAARI.
- SFEI begin drafting the report for this component of the E2100-2 program

#### **San Francisco Estuary Partnership Small and Micro Grants Program:**

From October 2013 to March 2014, the following granted projects were completed:

- **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 Sea Party**, Marin County (Greenwood School) – Event organized by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as part of Earth Day Marin Festival: Climate Change Solutions Day of Action.
- **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.
- 7 grantees displayed a poster during the State Of The Estuary Conference held on October 29, 2013. The posters were regrouped in a “SFEP Watershed Small Grants” cluster.
- SFEP Watershed Small Grants webpage (<http://www.sfestuary.org/our-projects/watershed-management/small-grants-release>) has been updated to reflect the status of the selected projects.

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

### **Flood Control 2.0: Rebuilding Habitat and Shoreline Resilience through a New Generation of Flood Control Channel Design and Management (EPA: WQIF)**

- Held quarterly Core Team Meetings
- Refined the project communication and outreach strategy and created a communications plan spreadsheet for use by all project partners
- Compared the geographic setting of streams around the Bay to the historical data to develop five initial historical stream classifications and began to map modern channel designations and classifications. Held a Technical Advisory Committee meeting to present work completed to date, solicited comments and review from TAC members, and discussed next steps.
- Collected and collated data from flood control agencies and published reports regarding available sediment supply data. Reviewed and analyzed data from seven creeks as a proof of concept for developing sediment supply budgets..
- Planned and held a workshop with the Regional Science Team to advance conceptual designs for the Novato Creek project.
- Completed regulatory case study for Napa River, and initiated case studies for San Francisquito Creek, Novato Creek and Lower Walnut Creek.
- Completed the historical ecology study of Novato Creek
- Released the first three podcasts. The podcasts include one on the overall FC 2.0 project and two on sediment. The podcasts are available at <http://www.yourwetlands.org/podcasts.php> and links are also provided on partner websites.
- Presented project at various conferences, workshops and meetings.

### **Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan (Department of Boating and Waterway funds)**

- Activity on hiatus, proposal to funders for additional funding to analyze and recommend

a governance structure for regional sediment management issues for the San Francisco to Pacifica ocean coastline and to provide public outreach for the planning process and the publication of the final report.

#### **Creek Mouth Assessment Project (Section 320 funds)**

- Finalized the Final Report for the Phase 1 of the project.
- Applied to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Program Office grant opportunity. [6/14 update: just notified we did not get the funding].

#### **Integrated Regional Wetland Monitoring Analysis Project (DFG)**

- WWR completed updates to Site Characterization Report with fish/invert addendum
- Preparation and review of synthesis manuscript (prepared under USGS lead)
- Prepare maps for publications
- Review and revise EcoAtlas data for publication maps
- Revise Central and South Bay tidal marsh polygons with restoration projects implemented since 2003
- Create Delta Historical Tidal Marsh boundary for publication figures
- SFSU and GSU submitted revised manuscript in January 2014 to *Wetlands*, “Ecosystem-Scale Rates of Primary Production within Wetland Habitats of the Northern San Francisco Estuary”
- USGS completed preparation of synthesis manuscript for submission to *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, “Tidal wetlands revisited: An update on the importance of tidal marshes to native fishes of the San Francisco Estuary”

#### **Estuary 2100 Technical and Scientific Support for Project Monitoring - SFEI (EPA: Estuary 2100)**

- SFEI and the ACRCDC have finished the QAPP and have submitted it to the EPA for approval

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

- Submitted and received approval from EPA of the QAPP.
- Continued to monitor stream gages that have been installed to monitor flows in Stonybrook Creek to begin to provide information on the amount of water present in the creek
- Completed CEQA.
- Continued work with permitting agencies to secure needed permits.
- Received concurrence from CDFW regarding design and can now resume work on finalizing designs.

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

- SCC continued to conduct several types of post-project monitoring including: physical (sediment, ), water quality (temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll a), avian surveys, benthic and epibenthic invertebrates, fish surveys via trapping, oyster and eelgrass recruitment, growth, density, and survival.

- Acoustic receivers were deployed at the San Rafael site for a 2nd year in December 2013, to gather data on any tagged fish (as part of the state acoustic fish consortium project) that have visited the restoration site; and fish seining also continued at the San Rafael site. Monitoring activities are ongoing.
- 2.2 million native oysters had settled on the reefs as of October 2013 (18 months post-construction). SCC has documented settlement and use of the reefs by other species, including juvenile Dungeness crabs, bay shrimp, white sturgeon, and a wide diversity of other fish, birds, and wildlife. Initial data shows that the reefs reduce wave energy by 30-50% at certain water levels. More details can be found at [www.sfbaylivingshorelines.org](http://www.sfbaylivingshorelines.org)

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

#### **IRWMP Implementation Grant (DWR-Prop 84)-Regional Green Infrastructure**

- SFEP released the Construction Management Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on October 1, 2013.
- Monitoring sites selected by SFEI (Oakland, Emeryville, and the previously built rain gardens in El Cerrito) in October 2013, with preliminary lists of equipment needs provided.
- Conceptual designs revised and submitted for review and approval to the City of El Cerrito (November 20 and December 5, respectively).
- SFEP staff presented on project at a Bay Friendly Coalition landscaper certification workshop on October 2, 2013.
- SFEP staff convened the LID Leadership Group and presented the draft Model Green Streets Ordinance on October 7, 2013.
- Project designs presented by SFEP staff at two City of Richmond Neighborhood Council meetings (Oct 23 and Nov 4, 2013).
- Project presentation by SFEP staff to Streets Alive program event on December 5, 2013.
- Harris & Associates selected as Construction Manager on December 17, 2013. Contract negotiations begun on December 20, 2013. Executed contract with Harris & Associates on February 25, 2014. Start date of contract is January 1, 2014.
- Resolved opposition to bus stop bulb proposal for Richmond site. Final meeting with Richmond Neighborhood Council representative on January 15, 2014.
- Presented project status report to City of Berkeley Public Works Commission on March 6, 2014.
- Developed LCP application package and manual for California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) approval. Released RFQ for Legal Support Services for LCP on March 14, 2014. Selected Justice-At-Work Law Group on March 31, 2014.
- Reviewed SFEI's latest proposed monitoring plans with San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board staff on March 21, 2014.
- SFEP presented and participated in two Green Streets Working Group meetings (January 25 and February 25, 2014) convening both regulators and the regulated to help inform the level of Green Infrastructure requirements will be included in the next Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit.

## **Guadalupe Watershed Mercury**

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

- The Biological Assessment was completed in January, but will need additional modifications as the designs are corrected to address RWQCB and SCC concerns
- It should be noted that due to the delays in the design plans, this project will go into construction in 2015. This will coincide with the calcine paved roads removal project, allowing all hazardous wastes to be moved to the San Francisco Open Cut all at once, decreasing earth moving costs.

### **Hicks Flat Mercury Remediation (SWRCB 319h) This project is now completed.**

Implementing partner, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) completed Draft and Final project reports on the project.

### **Calcine Paved Roads Remediation Project**

- This project was awarded funds by the EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund to remove and sequester mercury laden pavement within the Almaden Quicksilver County Park in Santa Clara County (SCC). Approximately 3 miles of calcine pavement will be removed and replaced with durable hiking surface. The grant was awarded January 07, 2014. Contracting with SCC has been ongoing and is expected to be completed by June of 2014.

## **North Bay Watersheds**

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

- CLSI has submitted their final project report to SFEP and the EPA. Upon request, Mike Napolitano, a Regional Water Quality Control Board's staff person and author of the Napa River Sediment TMDL, wrote a memo exploring the outcomes of the FFF project within a TMDL contextual framework [previously sent].

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

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

*Marin Municipal Water District*

Submitted 3 project invoices.

*North Bay Watershed Association*

- NBWA continued coordination through e-mails, Habitat / Floodplain Technical Committee meetings and first progress report to NBWA Board (April & May). NBWA has been working with project partners to consolidate invoicing across all TMDL implementation projects.

*Marin County*

- Construction was completed in October of 2013. Since then, STRAW has worked with Marin County to install a host of native species (list of species and photos/videos is on basecamp). Three local schools have participated in this vegetation project. A presentation to NBWA was made in March, 2014 and is posted on Basecamp. In addition, updates were posted to [http://www.marinwatersheds.org/southern\\_marin.html](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/southern_marin.html). Post construction monitoring reports were completed and submitted at the end of 2013.



### *Napa County RCD*

- 1,000 linear feet of road surface were treated with an estimated sediment savings of 185 cubic yards over the next decade. The property manager and staff, now trained to properly shape their roads, continues to implement the practices and additional road surfaces, beyond the 1,000 linear feet have been treated.
- NCRCD coordinated and delivered two LandSmart Heavy Equipment Operator Trainings to share best management practices to reduce erosion from unpaved roads. A total of 23 heavy equipment operators were trained in the importance of and practices to shape and maintain roads to reduce erosion.
- NCRCD is working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop a farm plan template and resource workbook that can be used during farm planning workshops.

### *Sonoma Ecology Center*

- All three QAPPs have been approved
- SEC has maintained all restoration sites including: weed control, irrigation removal (for winter storms), repairs and photo documentation
- SEC continues to conduct regional capacity building and project integration with the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program, North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative, North Bay Watershed Association, and SCWA

### *Southern Sonoma RCD*

- SRCD worked collaboratively with UCCE to provide assistance to eight landowners for the conditional grazing waiver.
- SRCD achieved 100% design plans, has submitted permit applications, and is conducting the bidding process for a construction contractor for the Vineyard Stormwater Enhancement Project
- SRCD staff continued the development of a regional farm conservation planning program, LandSmart™, which is available for vineyard waiver and general farm water quality planning compliance.
- SRCD attended two North Bay Watershed Association Technical Committee Meetings, two Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program TAC meetings, a South Bay Salt Ponds Tidal Wetland Restoration workshop, a Zone 3A Advisory Committee Meeting, a Sonoma City Watersheds Public Meeting and a NBWA workshop on Bay Area IRWMP

### **Trash Capture Demonstration Project (SWRCB-ARRA/Bonds) This project is now completed.**

- Assisted municipalities in entering maintenance data into Trash Tracker and returning Maintenance Tables to SFEP
- Completed and submitted the narrative draft certification report and the PAEP-related appendices, and submitted them to the Division.
- Compiled additional appendices to the final report.
- Chaired Trash breakout session at the State of the Estuary Conference October 28, 2013.
- Prepared item for the SFEP Director's Report to the IC, November 2013.
- Created a final press release for use by partner municipalities.
- Submitted draft appendices to the final certification report to the Division.
- Revised drafts per Division comments, and submitted final report on CD.
- Janet Cox presented project results to the San Francisco Bay Water Board as part of a Trash Workshop, November 13, 2013.

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

- SFEP visited Pillar Point Marina in December to discuss the environmental program Scott Grindy, the harbormaster, wants to implement at both San Mateo Harbor District Marinas (Pillar Point and Oyster Point)
- SFEP attended the Marina Recreation Association Conference in November where staff met with marina operators to discuss environmental concerns and industry trends. Key sessions attended included tips for operating an eco-friendly marina and the Clean Marinas preparation workshop.
- The Bay Honey Pot Day was held in October. 13 boats were serviced, properly disposing of approximately 200 gallons of sewage. During this event, SFEP staff were notified of issues with the pumpouts at the host marina, South Beach Yacht Harbor, and passed on these concerns to the harbormaster.
- Conducted two quarterly pumpout surveys that assess the functionality of pumpouts and record their use.
- The Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held in December, where new programmatic ideas were the subject of most conversation.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

- SFEP's long term work through the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (WRP) and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) led to the formation of a joint workgroup of the ANSTF and the National Invasive Species Council for addressing aquatic invasive species issues at federally managed water bodies. The first product of this group will be a federal policy option paper with recommendations addressing movement of species into and out of federally managed water bodies. This document is in draft form and should be released for review within the next year. In addition, the WRP and many other organizations have developed model legislative provisions and guidance to promote reciprocity among state watercraft inspection and decontamination programs (participating organizations on this effort include the WRP, National Sea Grant Law Center and the National Association of Attorneys General, along with many other organizations).
- SFEP's ongoing participation on the oversight of the implementation of the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (Q-ZAP) has continued to result in additional funding to one of the top priorities in the plan: preventing the spread of invasive species through inspection and decontamination programs, with focus on the Lake Mead region and surrounding infested water bodies.
- Karen McDowell has served as a member on the Coastal Committee for Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. The focus of the committee has been to work on biofouling issues and in particular invasive tunicates. A workshop is being planned for August 2014 on the west coast.
- McDowell attended the Aquatic Invasive Species Vector Risk Assessment Forum on January 13, 2014. Provided input on next steps for management recommendations.
- Ballast Water Management Program, California State Lands Commission's Marina Invasive Species Program. Karen McDowell continued to work with the Technical Advisory Group to develop a plan to help expedite the implementation of the ballast water discharge standards.

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

- SFEI monitored five storm events in Fremont for the tree well filters (fall 2013 – winter 2014). SFEI is currently analyzing data collected from piezometers.
- The outreach sign is currently being designed and will provide information on the purpose and operation of the tree well filters.
- Maintenance on the filters was conducted at the end of October and data was collected regarding the quantity of materials removed from the filters. The table below shows the data collected with a percent difference from one year to the next

	Fall 2012		Fall 2013			
	Trash (pounds)	Sediment (pounds)	Trash (pounds)	Percent Change	Sediment (pounds)	Percent Change
<b>Subsurface loaded tree well filter</b>	12	4	2	-83.33	46	1050
<b>Surface loaded tree well filter</b>	24	10	4	-83.33	62	520
<b>Curb inlet</b>	8	Not Reported	1	-87.5	9	N/A

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

- Mitch Avalon, consultant with the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, conducted a detailed cost estimate of the various alternatives for the pilot diversion project. These estimates were much higher than expected, triggering a series of meetings that resulted in the decision to implement a non-permanent diversion alternative dubbed a “soft” diversion. Plans are moving forward on this diversion and are expected to occur in late summer/early fall of this year (2014).

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

- CCSF has continued its scheduled maintenance that includes weeding, trimming, debris removal, lifting and pruning tree branches and irrigation repair.
- The signage has been developed and reviewed by SFEP and the EPA they will be ordered next quarter.
- SFEP and Newcomb have been working to amend their contract and expand their scope to encumber the final funds in contract. This additional work will include site maintenance, stewardship training, and will host a group of students to the site to teach them about the concepts of LID and introduce them to site specific details.

**Got Ants (DPR)**

- The project transitioned from paid advertising to partner promotion and social media outreach in this period. The project concluded at the end of March, 2014.
- A final report presenting project achievements and conclusions was delivered to DPR. Its highlights:
- **The project generated 18.5 million impressions** through advertising; earned media, partner work, and social media. **6848 web visitors** were logged from project launch in May 2013 through the completion of the DPR grant in March 2014.

- **Advertising:** Print ads on transit and in Sunset Magazine, and online ads through Facebook and Google Ads garnered 17 million impressions (12.6M transit, 1.25M magazine, 2.8M Facebook, 169K Google).
- **Earned media:** 1 press release generated stories across 52 websites and 3 radio stations, resulting in 1.1 million impressions
- **Partners:** support from 63 partners included
  - 21 websites linking to Got Ants? webpage
  - Flyers and magnets distributed by 23 partners at offices and 39 tabling events
  - Printed mailers reached 173,000 people
- **Social media:** mentions from 17 Twitter and 8 Facebook accounts accounted for 42,000 impressions
- A cost-effectiveness analysis found the lowest cost per click (\$1.65) came from Facebook ads, but the highest click-through rate came from Google ads (0.004).
- The Got Ants project transitioned to post-DPR funding with BASMAA taking on funding to maintain the URL for the Got Ants? website, and SFEP maintaining the site and preparing a revised workplan for future activity under EPA funding through the SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund.

#### **Greener Pesticides for Cleaner Waterways (EPA SFBIF 2012)**

- Our Water Our World less-toxic pest management information “launched” into the Chinook Book app in late March 2014, with partner support and a press release to support the launch. Metrics will be available next report.
- IPM Advocates continued activities to support IPM in 11 retail stores: training employees, staffing outreach tables to speak directly to customers, providing Our Water Our World materials, and creating promotional displays of less-toxic products for seasonal pest issues.
- Efforts to review advertising plans included assessment of effectiveness from the Got Ants project and coordination with project partners about current outreach through the Our Water Our World program and Home Depot stores.

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

- Judy Kelly attended a very successful September meeting with the new U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and five other NEP directors, to brief her on the National Estuary Programs and familiarize her with our work, our partnerships, and our value in our estuaries. The Director was very supportive of the NEPs.
- Jennifer Krebs presented on regional and integrated approaches to stormwater permit compliance and associated IRWMP stormwater projects at the California Association of Stormwater Quality Agencies conference in September at Lake Tahoe.
- **The 11th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference, October 29th and 30th, 2013**  
The very successful Opening Gala for the conference was held on Monday, October 28th at the Oakland Museum of California. 250 participants attended the Gala and viewed the special exhibit, *"Above and Below: Stories from our Changing Bay,"* which will run August 31, 2013–February 23, 2014. The conference itself was attended by over 875 participants over two days, a high water mark. We had over 50 presentations and 185 poster presentations. All conference abstracts are posted on the conference web site:  
<http://www.sfestuary.org/SOE/>

- The Jean Auer Environmental Awards was presented to Dr. Howard Shellhammer, a longtime champion of the Bay Area’s wetland and marsh ecosystems, will receive the Jean Auer Environmental Award on Tuesday, October 29. His efforts were behind the listing of the salt marsh harvest mouse as a federal endangered species in 1970. His work as ecological steward, researcher, planner, and activist has been essential to nearly all of the region’s most important conservation projects.
- Five Outstanding Environmental Project awards went to:
  - Phase One of the Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration at the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area
  - The Big Break Visitor Center at Big Break Regional Shoreline.
  - The Tidewater Service Area Outreach Project, by East Bay Regional Park District
  - The Ramsar designation (“Wetland of International Importance”) for the San Francisco Bay’s waterfowl habitats, led by San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Audubon California, and Greeninfo
  - The Western Recycled Water Coalition (formerly the Bay Area Recycled Water Coalition)’s current \$3.4 million planning project to provide 120,000 acre-feet of reliable local water supplies for agriculture, industry, wetlands, and urban centers
- SFEP speakers included Josh Bradt on Urban Watershed Planning and Sustainable Management and Janet Cox, who moderated a panel on trash.
- Judy Kelly and James Muller attended the Association of National Estuary Programs meeting in Mobile Bay, Alabama in November where they gave a presentation on South Bay mercury issues.
- Also in November, James and Karen McDowell went to the Marina Recreation Association conference to talk about boating outreach in Santa Monica.
- Judy Kelly went to Washington, D.C., during the last week of February for the annual meeting between EPA and the National Estuary Programs and to meet with our legislative delegation. She briefed our Bay Area representatives on the Partnership’s activities, accomplishments, and challenges.
- Flood Control 2.0 Project Podcast Released! The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture released the first of a series of podcasts on Flood Control 2.0. The podcast features Robin Grossinger, Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute. He describes the project and how the Bay Area is rethinking ways that flooding can be managed while also providing increased ecosystem benefits. The podcast can be accessed at [yourwetlands.org/podcasts.php](http://yourwetlands.org/podcasts.php).

***ESTUARY NEWS October 2013***

This special issue of *ESTUARY News* magazine celebrated the CCMP’s 20th anniversary. Like the black skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) that frequents San Francisco Bay, it barely breaks the surface of the myriad activities that have either grown out of the CCMP, or contributed to its implementation. Even just a snapshot review suggests that almost 600 projects, undertaken by diverse partners, have implemented the CCMP in some way or another in the last 20 years.

**Featured stories** included [The CCMP: Long Story Short](#); [Fish Down Invasions Up, Flooding Soon A Giant Step from Species to Landscapes](#), [Keep It Out or Clean It Up, From Bay Mud to Building Material](#), [From Lockdown to Smooth Sailing](#); [Thinking Like a Region, No Walk in the Park](#); [More Efficiencies, But Not More Water](#) and [Getting People On the Bandwagon](#) .

### ***ESTUARY NEWS January 2014: State of the Estuary Conference Summary***

This special online issue of ESTUARY News magazine sums up two days of presentations and discussions on the health of the San Francisco Bay estuary. The October 28-30, 2013 State of the Estuary Conference drew more than 850 people to hear dozens of speakers describe everything from wetland restoration to contaminants of emerging concern, not to mention the latest politics of water development and conservation. Due to reduced federal funding in 2013, there was no paper version of this issue. Officially, this is the final 2013 issue. In 2014, the magazine went quarterly starting with March.

### ***ESTUARY NEWS March 2014***

It was so dry this winter Bay marshes browned, Sierra reservoirs dropped, and Delta waters cleared. California's climate may still be Mediterranean but this year's extremes are stressing fish, farmers and wildlife, leaving water and ecosystem managers planning for the worst. In this issue, ESTUARY explores the decline of longfin smelt, the innovative acquisition of a North Bay ranch for public wetlands, changing nutrient conditions in the Bay that could spur harmful algal blooms, and efforts to stave off drought impacts on salinity intrusion in the Delta. Other articles cover a new book on Suisun Marsh, a new community-supported fishery, and the retirement of the first woman hired to guard San Francisco's water supply. You'll also find a special section describing California efforts to help park, forest and wildlife managers cope with climate change.

### **Outreach Presentations on the Benefits of Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Treatment**

- SFEP staff made Green Infrastructure/Watershed Management Planning presentation at the State of the Estuary Conference on October 30, 2013.
- SFEP spoke on Green Infrastructure projects around the Bay (including those of the San Pablo Spine and City of Campbell) at the Alameda Creek Watershed Conference on March 13, 2014.

### **Bay Protection and Behavior Change**

- The Executive Group met to review options, and decided to close the project until sufficient resources should become available to meet its goals.
- Notice of the project closure went out to the partners in January of 2014, including a recap of efforts to date. SFEP will maintain the archive of project materials and refund remaining contributions to the funding partners.

### **Outreach- Boating**

SFEP and the Department of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Program partnered with BayGreen in the San Francisco Bay and worked with South Beach Yacht Harbor to have a Honey Pot Day on the docks.

- A total of 13 boats were pumped out representing
- A total of 200 gallons of sewage was removed from the boats serviced

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

**Ongoing Activities** managing 40+ implementation projects. This reporting period:

- Initiated CCMP Update with production of the CCMP Update Work Plan, complete research document on relevant agency planning documents for reference in revised CCMP, finalize CCMP Update Steering Committee and hold initial meeting 02/14/14, provide regular briefings to quarterly Implementation Committee meetings.
- Initiated 2015 State of the Estuary Report with development of Work Plan and selection of Advisory Committee members in March 2014.
- Drafted/processed 12 new sub-recipient/consultant contracts and 16 contract amendments.
- Completed 2 ABAG Executive Board staff report items and 1 draft resolution.
- 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**

- Grant award from U.S. EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund on January 13, 2014 for the project, "Guadalupe River Watershed: Remediating Calcine-pave Roads and Jacques Gulch" for \$800,000 federal funds and match of same from implementing partner, County of Santa Clara, Recreation & Parks Dept.
- Award of \$20 million in IRWMP (Prop 84) funds from the California Dept. of Water Resources to manage and implement 19 regional projects for water supply, water recycling, and habitat restoration. Includes \$750,000 for ABAG/SFEP for grant management.