

Director's Report

May 17, 2017

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2017 State of the Estuary Conference

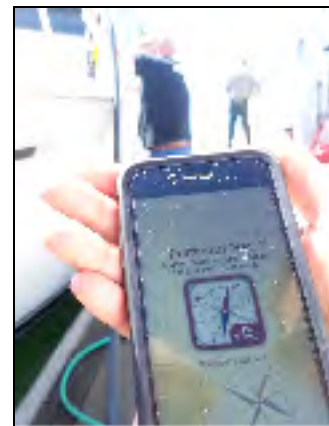
*State of the
San Francisco Estuary Conference*



Planning is well underway for the 2017 State of the Estuary Conference. Make sure your calendars are marked for October 10-11, at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. Save the Date postcards will be mailed and available soon!

Pumpout Nav Released!

Earlier this month SFEP and our Santa Monica Bay NEP counterpart The Bay Foundation released Pumpout Nav, a free smartphone app meant to revolutionize how we provide boaters with sewage disposal information. Using a map interface, boaters can find the nearest pumpouts to their location, report non-operable pumpouts, and access information about pollution prevention and sewage management. The app is also designed to be used by Clean Vessel Act Program staff for monitoring pumpout stations as well as generating reports on monitoring results. The app is funded through a Clean Vessel Act Outreach and Education grant, from the CA Division of Boating and Waterways.



Green Infrastructure Round Table



The Urban Greening Bay Area project, funded by the EPA's SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, continues to bring partners together to promote widespread Green Streets implementation by developing and/or improving watershed-based planning tools, GI retrofit design guidance, LID tracking software, and funding streams.

On March 28, the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) hosted the first of a series meetings of the Green Infrastructure Roundtable, comprised of key natural resources agency and transportation program funding managers. The purpose of this series is to share real-world obstacles and identify solutions facing the local agencies who seek grants to finance Green Street projects. The ultimate output will be a "Road Map" report that prioritizes programmatic and legislative actions needed to increase the availability of funding for multi-benefit street improvement projects. The second meeting will be on May 23, 2017. Meeting materials can be found on the [SFEP project webpage](#).

Earth Day Event for North Richmond Community Vision Process

The overall goal of the North Richmond Community Vision Process is to develop a community-based Vision for the North Richmond shoreline with a particular focus on the upland transition zone, environmental justice and climate resiliency. SFEP staff Heidi Nutters and Josh Bradt are working closely with The Watershed Project, SFEI and Urban Tilth to complete a community charrette/input process, engage partners and conduct shoreline analysis. The final vision document will be released Fall 2017.



On April 22, The Watershed Project tabled at the Richmond Earth Day festival to collect input from North Richmond residents about the ways they use the shoreline, their vision for a future shoreline, and barriers to visiting the

shoreline. More outreach events are planned for the Spring and Summer, and the survey results will be incorporated into the vision document.

Intern to Assist With Sewer Lateral Repair Project

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership submitted a project proposal to an internship program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and was selected to participate. Kelly Miller will be joining us in June for two months as he works to complete Estuary Blueprint tasks 26.1 and 26.2. This work will inventory all Bay Area jurisdictions for ordinances pertaining to sewer lateral repair, target 30% of jurisdictions without ordinances for engagement and implementation, and will write a white paper on possible funding sources for sewer lateral repairs for private landowners. The Partnership is excited to have Kelly work with us to implement the Estuary Blueprint!

SF Bay Restoration Authority

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Governing Board met in Palo Alto on April 14th, and will meet again on June 9th in San Rafael. The Governing Board is currently focused on preparing to release their first Request for Proposals for Projects in the Fall. The Authority has begun to rotate their meetings around the entire region to engage local communities and to learn about restoration opportunities around the Bay. The April meeting included a shoreline tour at the Bayfront Bedwell Park in Menlo Park (see photos below) and the June meeting will include a field trip to the Hamilton Restoration Site.

The Advisory Committee to the Authority met for the second time on May 12th. They are also hosting a series of webinars, which are available to the public. The first webinar was focused on San Francisco Bay Water Quality and Wetlands, presented by Phil Trowbridge and Jeremy Lowe, San Francisco Estuary Institute. The second webinar, "Turning the Tide: Restoring the Wetlands of San Francisco Bay," was presented by Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. The third webinar, "40+ Years of Wetland Restoration in SF Bay: Lessons Learned and Future Directions" will be presented on June 12th by Michelle Orr, ESA. Visit the Authority's website to get links to meeting agendas, meeting packets, and webinars (www.sfbayrestore.org).



Shoreline tour at the Bayfront Bedwell Park in Menlo Park. Executive Officer Sam Schuchat, State Coastal Conservancy; and Governing Board Members: Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco; Dave Pine, Supervisor, County of San Mateo; John Gioia, Supervisor, County of Contra Costa; Kate Sears, Supervisor, County of Marin; Susan Gorin, Supervisor, County of Sonoma



Shoreline tour at the Bayfront Bedwell Park in Menlo Park. Staff for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority: Anulika White, State Coastal Conservancy (SCC); Jessica Davenport, SCC; Karen McDowell, San Francisco Estuary Partnership; and Kelly Malinowski, SCC.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

E2100 II - Building Partnerships for Resilient Watersheds

This seven-year EPA grant was completed in March, 2017, totaled \$3,613,704 and implemented nine projects. These were comprised of pollution control projects, restoration efforts, and support for water conservation in the North Bay, as well as scientific studies and monitoring. A list of the projects completed under this grant and the partner agencies are listed below.

1. Shoreline Change Pilot, Sediment Monitoring for RMP, and three Scientific Manuscripts - San Francisco Estuary Institute
2. Fremont Low Impact Development Tree Well Filter Pilot - City of Fremont
3. Fish Friendly Farming - California Land Stewardship Institute
4. North Richmond Pump Station Diversion Project - Contra Costa County
5. Living Shorelines Oyster Restoration Project - Coastal Conservancy
6. North Bay TMDL Project Coordinator - North Bay Watershed Association & Marin Municipal Water District
7. Sediment and Pathogen TMDL Implementation - Marin County
8. Sediment and Pathogen TMDL Implementation in the Napa River Watershed - Napa County Resource Conservation District
9. Sediment TMDL Implementation for Sonoma Creek - Sonoma Ecology Center
10. Sediment and Pathogen TMDL Implementation in Southern Sonoma County - Sonoma Resource Conservation District



Boyle Park Creek before and after restoration

IRWM Projects

Four projects from Round 2 of the Integrated Regional Water Management Grants have been completed.

1. East Bay Shore Recycled Water Project Phase 1A (Emeryville)

The project provides approximately 40,000 Gallons per Day/50 Acre Feet per Year of recycled water to north Emeryville developments and businesses.



Project Engineer An Bartlett and DWR's Mehdi Mizani discuss construction challenges.

Recycled Water Transmission Line suspended over Temescal Creek.

2. Oakland Sausal Creek Restoration

The project daylights approximately 180 linear feet of the Sausal Creek and adds approximately 47,000 square feet of new habitat, erosion control and flood reduction.



The natural stream meander is restored and banks replanted with native shrubs and trees.



Flooding for adjacent residences did not occur, despite heavy rainfalls in the winter of 2017.

3. Richmond Breuner Marsh Restoration

The project restores approximately 164 acres of tidal wetland habitat and adds 1.5 miles to the Bay Trail.



A tidal slough at the restored Breuner Marsh



Concrete "boardwalk" extends the Bay Trail

4. San Pablo -Rheem Creek Wetland Restoration Project

The Project creates approximately 3.2 acres of seasonal wetlands adjacent to Rheem Creek mitigates flood impacts to upstream neighborhoods.



The creation of islands within the wetlands to provide additional habitat.



Native perennials and wetland plants replaced invasive and exotic plants.

OUTREACH

Estuary News



The March issue of Estuary News debuts a new guide to how to repair and renew the Delta and examines stresses on Delta species, especially pesticides. Two stories explore innovations in flood control and restoration, ranging from online tools to custom equipment. Others cover what scientists do to collect data during a big storm and what they think will happen to Central Valley waterbirds based on climate change models. A final story describes key steps in the creation of the Bay's new restoration authority. [Explore the March issue online.](#)

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

National Estuary Program Spring Tech Transfer Meeting

Darcie Luce and I traveled to Washington, DC for the National Estuary Program Spring Tech Transfer meeting. The Tech Transfer meeting was well attended, with 27 of the 28 NEP's represented, as well as several EPA staff and other close partners. The meeting included a series of "lightning talks" on communications, CCMP updates, funding, regional partnerships, and State of the Estuary reports. I presented on our Estuary Blueprint tracking tools and processes, and Darcie presented on the Bay/Delta partnership challenges and opportunities.



A full room at the NEP Tech Transfer Spring 2017 Meeting: "Strength through Adaptation"

The National Estuary Program week in DC also included the Inaugural Reception of the new House Estuary Caucus as well as an Estuary Caucus House Staff Briefing, where Directors of five National Estuary Programs and one National Estuarine Research Reserve provided presentations on the importance of Estuaries and the work of the two programs. The Estuary Caucus was founded and is co-chaired by Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).



Rep Bill Posey addressing House staff at Estuary Caucus Briefing

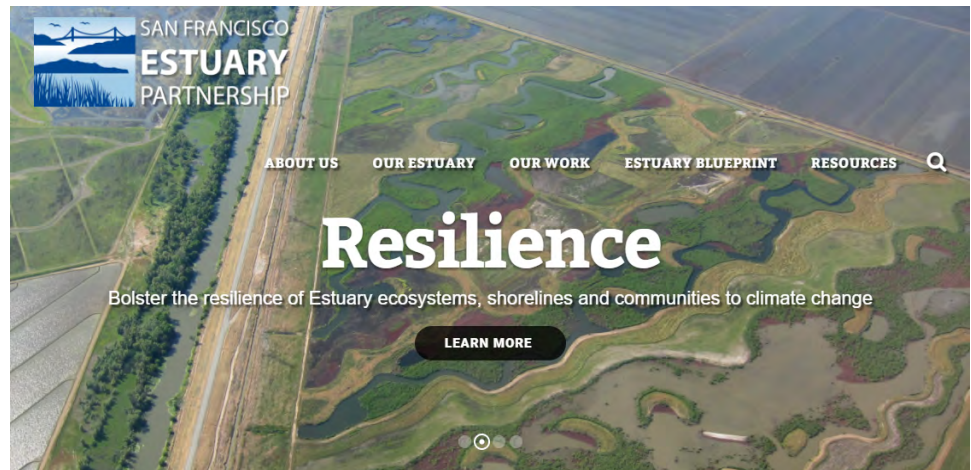
NEP Funding

During the first week of May, an omnibus spending bill for FY 16-17 was approved by Congress and signed by the President. The omnibus included level funding for NEPs from FY 15-16, at \$600,000 per NEP. As SFEP operates on an allocation from EPA from the previous fiscal year, the omnibus means that we will be able to apply for (and expect to receive) \$600k from EPA for use during FY 17-18 (October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018). Of note, not only did the omnibus include level funding for the NEP program, the bill included language specifically prohibiting the application of rescissions for cost savings to the National Estuary Program. Funding status for NEPs for FY 17-18 is unknown, though there is strong bipartisan support for the NEP program within the House and Senate.

Of additional interest to many of us, the omnibus also included funding for the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, the competitive grant program through EPA Region 9.

SFEP Website Revision

Building on the release of the 2016 Estuary Blueprint, we are busy overhauling our website to better integrate the Blueprint as our foundational planning



document. The website will also reflect a more modern look and will incorporate new tools for easier navigation on various types of devices. The new website will go live in early June.

ABAG/MTC Consolidation Update

Both MTC and ABAG have approved the Contract for Services and MOU that guides the consolidation. Employment offer letters to individual ABAG staff are expected in late May, and the staff of ABAG are scheduled to transition to MTC on July 1st.

IC Changes



Julie Pierce has stepped down from her position on the IC as the representative for the Association of Bay Area Governments. As the current President of ABAG, Julie is extremely involved in the ABAG/MTC consolidation and has assumed a high level of responsibility for facilitating a successful process with her ABAG and MTC colleagues. In addition to providing an important local government perspective, Julie's tenure on the IC has provided a critical voice for SFEP during the consolidation discussions at the ABAG Executive Board level. We thank Julie for her participation and contributions to the IC.

Julie has appointed Pat Eklund as her replacement. Pat is currently on the Novato City Council and serves on the ABAG Executive Board. She also serves on ABAG's Regional Planning Committee and Administrative Committee. Pat previously spent over 35 years with EPA, overseeing environmental protection programs including EPA's NPDES Section. Pat participated in the National Estuary Program with EPA when SFEP was first created.



You may have noticed that we haven't seen much of Marc Holmes over the past year. Marc has been slowly reducing his work schedule and his corresponding commitments to various boards, committees, etc. With some reluctance, Marc has now officially resigned from the Implementation Committee. Marc has been a member of the Implementation Committee representing the Bay Institute since the IC was first convened in 1994. He has been a key partner of SFEP over the past 23 years, from working on the initial CCMP in 1993 through the most recent 2016 Estuary Blueprint. He has helped steer the Partnership through many organizational permutations and guide our response to myriad emerging Estuary issues. Marc always brought to the table a deep understanding of the Estuary, both ecological and political, and was a calm, focused, and strategic problem-solver. I'm confident that I speak for the entire IC as well as all SFEP staff in stating our sincere and profound thank you to Marc for everything he has contributed to the IC and to the Partnership. He will be missed!

Remaining 2017 IC Meeting Dates

August 23, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

November 15, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm