

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 6, 2013

SFEP MANAGEMENT

Funding

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is cooperating in the regional effort to develop excellent project proposals to submit to the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Implementation Coordinating Committee [Round 2 Prop 84 IRWMP]. Our staff is assisting the region in applying for the next round of DWR IRWMP projects to be submitted to DWR in March or April of next year. Approximately \$20 million is available to the SF Region.

SFEP is the lead on submitting the Implementation Grant on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area. The grant application, entitled *the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Enhancement Program*, is a collaborative effort of 19 public agencies and NGOs. The requested grant amount is \$20,000,000 with well over that amount as matching funds. Jennifer Krebs and Paula Trigueros are the SFEP lead staff. Horizon Water and Environment is also providing consulting assistance. Per the Department of Water Resources, selected proposals will be announced in October 2013. The project is estimated to last four years. If awarded, SFEP will manage the projects for the collaboration. Below is a list of projects and their sponsors.

Proponent	Project
Zone 7	Bay Area Regional Conservation and Education Program
EBMUD	East Bayshore Recycled Water Project Phase 2
MMWD	Lagunitas Creek Watershed Sediment Reduction and Management Project
Marin RCD	Marin/Sonoma Conserving Our Watersheds: Agricultural BMP Projects
Napa County	Napa Milliken Creek Flood Damage Reduction & Fish Passage Barrier Removal
Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District	North Bay Water Reuse Program – Sonoma Valley CSD 5th Street East/McGill Road Recycled Water Project
Oakland	Sausal Creek Restoration Project
San Mateo Co.	Pescadero Water Supply and Sustainability Project
Petaluma	Petaluma Flood Reduction, Water & Habitat Quality, and Rec Project for Capri Creek
Redwood City	Redwood City Bayfront Canal & Atherton Channel Flood Improv/Habitat Restor Project
SFPUC	Regional GW Storage & Recovery Project – So. Westside Basin, No. San Mateo County
EBPRD	Richmond Breuner Marsh Restoration Project
Roseview Hgts MWD	Roseview Heights Infrastructure Upgrades, Water Supply & Q. Improve. S.C Co

ABAG	San Francisco Bay Climate Change Pilot Projects Combining Ecosystem Adaptation, Flood Risk Management and Wastewater Effluent Polishing
CCSF Airport Commission	San Francisco International Airport Industrial Waste Treatment Plant and Reclaimed Water Facility
San José	San José Green Streets & Alleys Demonstration Projects
CCWD	San Pablo Rheem Creek Wetlands Restoration Project
St. Helena	St. Helena Upper York Creek Dam Removal and Ecosystem Restoration Project
PRBO	Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed Project—No. & East Bay Watersheds

NEW Action on Federal Legislation

Senator Feinstein has reintroduced her *San Francisco Bay Restoration Bill*, now numbered **S.224**. In the current Bill language, there is a \$5 million annual limit on the appropriation; in previous versions the appropriation level was left undefined. Representative Speier’s office has confirmed that she plans to introduce companion House legislation, and as of this writing, is looking at the last week in February. The Representative has already collected co-sponsorships from others in the Bay Area delegation.

Senator Feinstein’s comments on the floor [in part],

I rise on behalf of myself and Senator Boxer to introduce legislation to further the restoration of the San Francisco Bay. Federal funding in recent years has begun the Bay’s recovery process by investing in projects which improve water quality and restore critical habitat. These investments -- \$28 million between 2008 and 2012 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency alone -- were critical to spurring \$22 million in matching funds and leveraging \$81 million from other partners. But much work remains. This bill was first introduced in the 112th Congress. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works reported favorably on the bill and recommended its passage on January 26, 2012.

This bill recognizes the important restoration work that must be done to restore and protect the iconic San Francisco Bay by authorizing \$5 million a year for restoration work between 2013 and 2017, and prioritizing funding for projects that will protect and restore vital estuarine habitat for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wildlife; improve and restore water quality and rearing habitat for fish; and in turn reinvigorate recreation, tourism, and agricultural activities in and around the Bay.

These Bills would provide authorization through EPA for \$5 million in grant funding (requiring a 25 percent match) each year. The funding would support “activities, projects, or studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the CCMP.”

ACTION: New letters of support for the both Bills would be most useful and should be sent to the offices of both Senator Feinstein and Representative Speier.

Staffing

Anticipated new hires. SFEP is just finishing the recruiting process for three new positions that will help the Regional Water Board's permit oversight efforts in Marin County; for the Sonoma County Water Agency; and for Caltrans.

Building Green Infrastructure Support

In the next few months, staff will begin work on the **Bay Area Green Infrastructure Master Planning Project**, a result of a Prop 84 Stormwater grant awarded last year by the State Water Resources Control Board. Ben Livsey and Jennifer Krebs will collaborate with SFEI, consultant Dan Cloak, and advisors to develop an online toolkit to assist local governments in 1) identifying good public-right-of-way sites for green infrastructure, 2) testing the toolkit in several cities around the Bay, 3) developing plans for several sites, and 4) developing a framework for an alternative compliance program.

Project Highlight: Progress on the San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine

As reported previously, this exciting project will retrofit portions of San Pablo Avenue with Low Impact Development (LID) measures in the participating cities of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond, and San Pablo. The design team, led by the civil engineering firm, Wilsey Ham, has completed schematic designs for all sites. Topographic surveys, potholing for underground utilities, and soil investigations have been conducted to further inform the design, which should be complete in June. Construction is expected to begin later this summer. Each site will be rated using the Bay-Friendly scoring system for sustainable landscaping practices.

In addition to implementing the retrofits, the Spine Project includes water quality monitoring, two-years of post-construction plant establishment maintenance, and development of a model Green Infrastructure Ordinance. SFEI is under contract to perform the monitoring activities. Plant establishment activities will be conducted by a private contractor. Josh Bradt, Project Manager at SFEP, is working on the model Green Streets Ordinance.

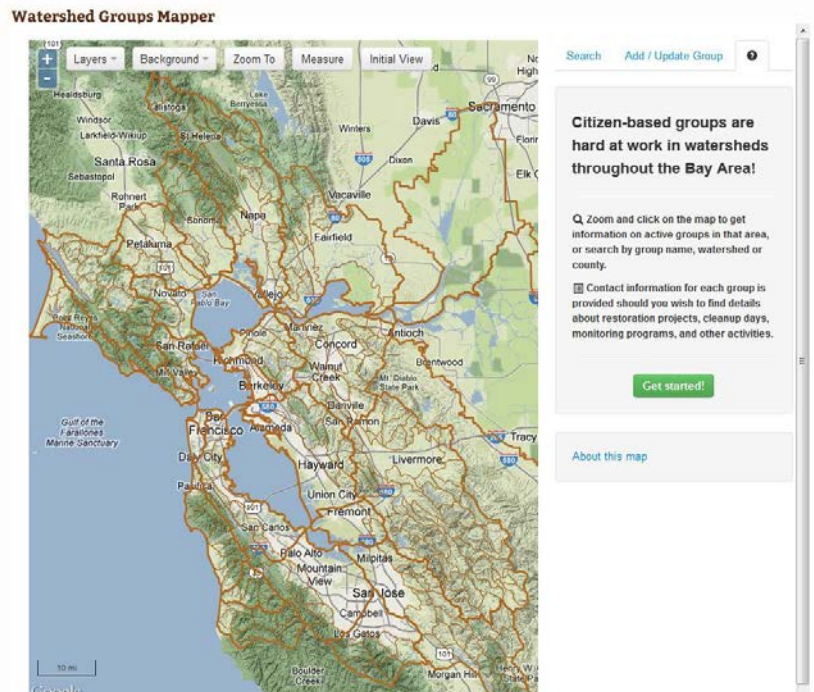
Project Highlight: State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference

The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference will be held at the Oakland Marriott City Center, October 29-30, 2013. As always, the conference provides a biennial assessment of the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. This year, we are working jointly with SFEI to integrate findings from their annual Regional Monitoring Program into the two day conference. A steering committee is working on the morning plenary sessions for the 2-day event. SFEP will host a larger meeting in April to get input on concurrent sessions. If you have

any ideas for the conference, please contact Karen McDowell, kmcdowell@waterboards.ca.gov, or 510-622-2398.

Project Highlight: Bay Area Watershed Network NEW Grants Program and Meeting

The Bay Area Watershed Network (BAWN) held its annual meeting on February 21, 2013. Caitlin Sweeney serves as the coordinator for the BAWN. Meeting agenda items included presentations by SFEP staff and other BAWN members on land use (specifically on Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure), restoration and monitoring tools, policy issues, and funding opportunities. Additionally, there was a significant emphasis on climate change with a presentation on the links between watershed health and climate change resilience, and a three-person panel presentation on “blue carbon” and the role of watershed stewardship in the carbon market. Finally, the meeting included the unveiling of the new BAWN website (www.sfestuary.org/watershed-network) which includes an online interactive map showing watershed groups at work throughout the Bay Area, and the launch of SFEP’s Watershed Program’s Small Grant Program which will disperse \$50,000 in grants of \$1,000-\$5,000 in 2013 to those undertaking work that supports the goals of the Watershed Program.



Project Highlight: Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Wrapping Up

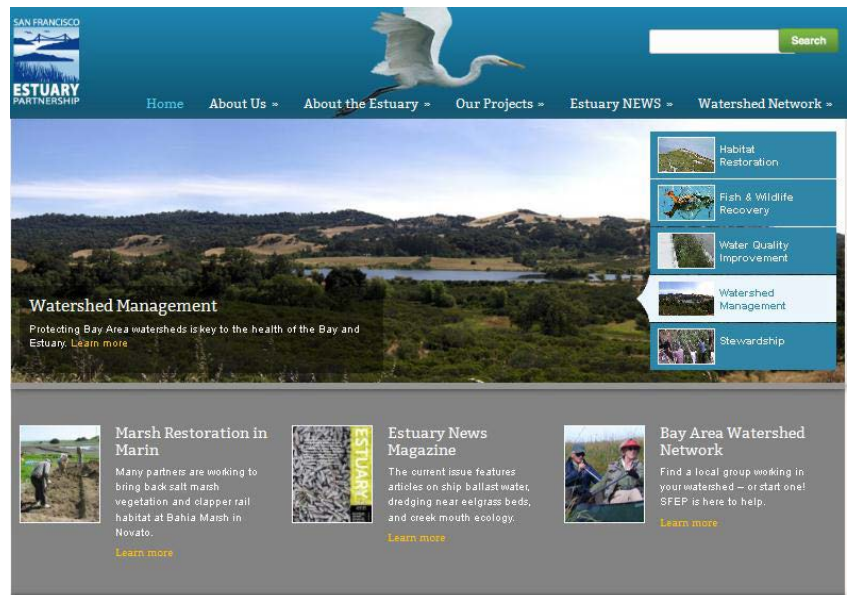
The construction deadline for trash capture devices purchased for 65 participating municipalities by SFEP’s trash project passed at the end of February. As of this writing (mid-February), we expect to spend ALL of the construction funds (\$4,245,000) on devices and installation. At mid-month we estimated the final tally would be about 3,700 catch basin retrofit devices and 42 large hydrodynamic separators or trash nets.

What’s Next? In light of the fact that the demonstration grant made only a small down payment on the Bay Area’s trash capture requirements, SFEP is considering, and discussing with the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA), using ABAG’s purchasing apparatus to assist ABAG members in acquiring additional devices using their own funds.

We are also moving ahead on the Proposition 84 Planning and Monitoring grant awarded to BASMAA. SFEP's portion of this grant will expand the Bay Area Trash Tracker GIS tool (built by SFEI with trash project funds) to include trash hotspots, cleanup events, and cleanup results, as well as an eventual Trash Portal for the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's My Water Quality sites.

Website Revamp Is Complete: Visit www.sfestuary.org and Update Your Links

Our website has completed its transition to a new content management system and has a new look with additional features and a more graphical presentation. See particularly the new video on our homepage, the latest in a series of collaborations with Jerry Kay. Efforts are underway to bring more traffic to our site by linking external sites to our page; please consider placing links to www.sfestuary.org to your own website. If you already have links to one of SFEP's many project webpages, note that you may need to update the links with the new URLs.



Be sure to check out our new project pages on the revised website for current status of many of our nearly 50 ongoing projects: www.sfestuary.org