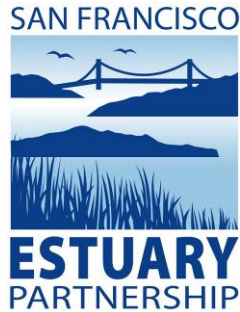


SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 10, Oakland, CA

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions/Approval of November 3, 2010 Meeting Summary** *Attachment 1*
9:30 *Amy Hutzel, Acting IC Chair* **ACTION**
- 2. Public Comments**
9:40 Any member of the public may address the IC on any matter regarding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Time is limited to three minutes per person. Written comments are also accepted.
- 3. SFEP Director's Report** *Attachment 2*
9:45 *Judy Kelly, Director*
- 4. SFEP Activities, Judy Kelly, Lisa Owens Viani, Karen McDowell**
10:00

 - a. SFEP Green Streets forum
 - b. SFEP 2010 Highlights *Attachment 3*
 - c. *State of the Estuary Report* progress
 - d. Planning for State of the Estuary Conference
 - e. Washington trip next week
 - f. Draft SFEP Workplan 2011/2012 *Attachment 4*
- 10:45 **BREAK**
- 5. Status of EPA's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Water Quality Challenges in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (www.epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/sfbay-delta/index.html)** *Attachment 5*
11:00 *Erin Foresman, U.S. EPA*
- 6. Programs, Ideas, and Priorities from IC Members**
11:45 Release and Overview of *Subtidal Goals Report* *Attachment 6*
Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy
- 7. Agenda Items for May 25, 2011, Announcements**
12:20 **ACTION**
- 8. Adjourn**
12:30



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 23, 2011

Feinstein Re-introduces San Francisco Estuary Restoration Act

Senator Dianne Feinstein re-introduced the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act (S.97), which would authorize 10 years of funding for the Environmental Protection Agency to continue wetlands restoration projects and improve water quality in the San Francisco Bay and its watershed. Senator Feinstein was joined in introducing the bill by Sen. Barbara Boxer. A companion bill will be introduced in the House shortly.

SFEP Presents at ANEP Conference in Punta Gorda, Florida

Two staff and I participated in the Association of National Estuary Programs annual meeting in Florida this November, hosted by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. The meeting showcased the best-of-the-best projects and programs from the 28 National Estuary Programs across the country and was a chance for staff to collaborate and inspire. SFEP presented two of our successful projects, the Bay-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project (ARRA) and the PCBs in Caulk Project, to the nationwide audience. We also participated in workshops on outreach, streamlining administration, and leadership.



Proposals Submitted

Since the November IC meeting, SFEP/ABAG submitted these proposals:

- \$1,400,000 to EPA for the San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine
- Concept proposal to Department of Pesticide Regulation: Got Ants? Outreach to Reduce Pyrethroid Impacts on Water Quality
- \$4,565,881 to Department of Water Resources for Regional Green Infrastructure Capacity Building Program (part of Bay Area IRWMP)
- \$1,997,111 to Department of Water Resources for Integrated Water Quality Improvement Flood Management and Ecosystem Restoration in Bay Area Disadvantaged Communities (part of Bay Area IRWMP)

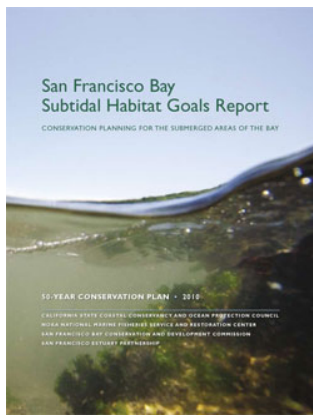
Restoration Authority

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) will be conducting a second round of research designed to develop an overall strategy and timeline for potentially moving forward with a parcel tax ballot measure that might meet with voter approval at the two-thirds level. The study will be completed in summer 2011. The next Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27th at the ABAG office in Oakland. For more information, see <http://www.sfbayrestore.org>.

2011 State of the Estuary Conference Details

The 2011 State of the Estuary conference will be a two-day event at the Oakland Marriott City Center on September 20-21st, with an opening gala at the Aquarium by the Bay on the evening of September 19th. The conference format will include plenary sessions in the mornings and concurrent sessions on the afternoons. The poster session will be held during a reception on the evening of September 20th and during lunch on September 21st. Watch for the call for poster abstracts this spring. All oral sessions will be developed by the conference steering committee and session organizing teams. The session organizing teams usually meet via conference call or email. Please contact Karen McDowell with ideas for a concurrent session and/or if you'd like to join a session organizing team: kmcdowell@waterboards.ca.gov.

Land Use (and Watershed Resources)



The San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report is Complete and Online

This 50-year plan is non-regulatory and presents a strong vision for how to move forward with protecting, restoring, and conducting scientific research into the Bay's important underwater habitat, with detailed and specific objectives and actions for implementation over the 50-year planning horizon. This is the first time comprehensive information about submerged areas in the bay has been compiled. Six subtidal habitat types were considered: soft substrate (mud, sand, and other mobile substrates), rocky areas, artificial substrates (pier pilings, docks, etc.), shellfish beds, seagrass beds, and seaweed beds. SFEP provided funding oversight and editorial assistance for the report. www.sfbaysubtidal.org

Green Purchasing Workshop Shares Success Stories

On October 20, 2010, SFEP, ABAG, and the Responsible Purchasing Network held a day-long workshop on sustainable purchasing called "Buying Green, Buying Smart." Panels covered successes and challenges experienced by local green purchasing programs. Panelists discussed the rationales behind their varying policies, how their programs operate, and resources available to other purchasers. The materials focus on municipal governments in the San Francisco Bay Area but apply to other organizations and other regions.

Materials posted at

http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/bay_area/index.php include video of a session on choosing product categories (e.g. cleaning supplies, computers, light bulbs) which yield greatest sustainable and economic benefits from purchasing green.



Samuel P. Taylor Park Road Repair Reduces Sediment to Coho Habitat in Lagunitas Creek

SFEP subcontractors completed road repair construction in Samuel P. Taylor State Park during the last quarter of 2010 to reduce sediment input into Lagunitas Creek (critical coho habitat) and the San Geronimo tributary watershed to Lagunitas Creek. 2.35 miles of road repair in the Lagunitas watershed included rolling dips, armored fill crossings, outsloping road surface, and replacement of a corrugated metal culvert. These improvements are estimated to reduce 840 cubic yards of sediment going into Lagunitas Creek. Sediment reduction treatments (as above, plus road grading, installation of armored stream crossings, and cattle exclusion fencing) were also implemented along 1.67 miles of non-county

unpaved roads in the San Geronimo tributary watershed, further reducing sediment by an estimated 1,795 cubic yards.

Water Quality

Boater Education Project Compiles Sewage Pumpout Data

Staff compiled a report on pumpout usage over three years for the Department of Boating and Waterways, documenting for the first time the extent of physical pumpout resources (number of pumpout stations, metered pumpouts, signage, etc.). Data from existing meters at pumpouts established a baseline to compare future use levels. The report identified seasonal usage patterns including higher-than-estimated use during the non-boating season. Ensuring pumps were operational throughout the year was identified as an important factor in reducing sewage discharge from recreational boaters. In order to better quantify pumpout usage in the future, SFEP coordinated installation of 22 meters at marinas in the Bay and Delta and replacement of 13 worn or damaged nozzles. SFEP also resolved a pumpout outage at Richardson Bay Marina.

Trash Capture Demonstration Project Collects Partners

Sixty-six municipalities (cities, towns, and counties) from around the Bay have signaled their intent to participate in the Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project. More than 30 have completed the contracting process with ABAG and are now ready to order trash capture devices from the vendor list we developed through a RFP process in 2010.

We have allocated more than \$4.7 million among the participating entities for purchase of devices. Part of the funding is going to our contractor, SFEI, to build a website that municipalities will use to track the efficiency, practicality, and cost of maintaining the devices they acquire through the program. The site will include a Facebook-like "discussion board" that city and county staff can use to share information about their trash capture experience, and build joint orders that will lower the unit cost of devices. We'll have a demonstration of the website at the May IC meeting.



Peyton Slough-McNabney Marsh Railroad Bridge Project Gets Green Light

SFEP staff facilitated the launch of a Mountain View Sanitary District (Martinez) project to enlarge a narrow culvert under a railroad bridge, a hydraulic constriction between Peyton Slough and McNabney Marsh. The widened culvert will facilitate water transfer and restore estuarine condition to McNabney Marsh. The project will be implemented by Mountain View Sanitary District with initial funding from a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The District and the Peyton Slough Wetlands Advisory Committee believe that replacing the railroad bridge may be the lynch-pin effort to successfully complete the transformation of McNabney Marsh after significant earlier work.

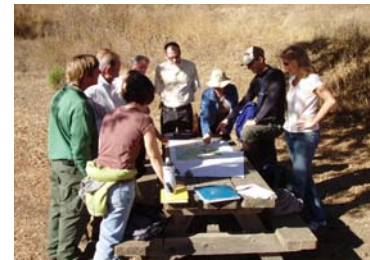


Yosemite Slough

The Yosemite Slough Project awarded a contract for construction management in December and is in the process of procuring a construction firm to remediate toxic sediment and restore tidal marsh habitat. Ground breaking is anticipated for spring or early summer. This restoration project will result in greater mid- and high-marsh cover, more transitional habitat, and reduced invasive plant cover, as well as offer an example of tidal marsh restoration in an urbanized watershed, greater community involvement and stewardship of Candlestick Point, and improved sediment quality. The project also includes extensive youth involvement; local youth have presented information to teachers in partnership with the Exploratorium, and coordinated stewardship efforts at the community garden including hosting students from Sonoma State University.

Senador Mine

On October 26th, we held a kick off meeting for Phase I of the Senador Mine Project with EPA, the Water Board, SFEP, SFEI, and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD). The soil sampling plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan for biological monitoring have been submitted, and we anticipate implementing field activities this spring.



Stonybrook Creek

SFEP and Alameda County Public Works Department (ACPWD) continued to explore potential funding sources to fill the funding gap that resulted from the State’s fiscal crisis. On December 9, SFEP and ACPWD presented the Stonybrook Creek fish barrier report to the Alameda Creek Fisheries Workgroup to solicit feedback and generate support for the project. SFEP and ACWPD have also been in discussion with Water Board staff regarding the potential to use the Stonybrook Creek Project as mitigation for creek impacts. Water Board staff were amenable to using the Stonybrook Creek project as mitigation and requested firm cost estimates. SFEP will continue to work with ACPWD to resolve funding issues.

Wetlands and Clean Stormwater Projects Tour

In November, staff from SFEP, EPA and other agencies visited a number of sites funded under two EPA grants. The visits were to Creekside Park at Corte Madera Creek to learn about Spartina removal and BCDC efforts to understand wave attenuation; Bahia Marsh to learn about invasive species removal and native plantings; and Pinole Creek and Chelsea Wetlands to learn about the restoration accomplished and intended.

- **Corte Madera**

BCDC and team are studying flood control and wave attenuation benefits of tidal wetlands, the vulnerability of tidal wetlands to sea level rise, and potential ways to improve the resiliency of tidal wetlands to sea level rise so that flood control and wave attenuation benefits of wetlands are maintained over time.



- **Bahia Restoration and Revegetation**

Marin Audubon Society coordinated 615 hours of planting and invasive species removal by the Watershed Nursery, the Conservation Corps North Bay, and volunteers. Eight acres of land have been cleared of invasive species.



- **Pinole Creek and Chelsea Wetlands Restoration**

The cities of Hercules and Pinole will restore Chelsea Wetlands and reaches of Pinole Creek (which empties into Chelsea Wetlands). US EPA funds will be used to restore natural creek functions to a flood control channel, expand marsh plain habitat, create a sustainable creek profile, improve recreational access, and enhance flood protection. Non-profit Earth Team trains urban high school students to become watershed stewards; the “Aqua Team” will plant native plants, remove invasives, build low-impact trails, pick up trash, and monitor restoration projects.



Communications

Green Streets Workshop in February

The Estuary Partnership has been planning a Green Streets/Cleaner Stormwater workshop for February 16, 2011, to be held at El Cerrito City Hall. Over 100 people are signed up to date (full house!); we are bringing in a guest speaker from Portland as well as speakers from several local jurisdictions. The forum will bring project designers, engineers, planners, and other interested parties together to discuss projects that have gone in the ground to date around the Bay and elsewhere, and lessons learned from those projects. Landscape architects and engineers will discuss their concerns and perspectives related to green streets, the challenges of retrofitting urban areas, design innovations, and how to move these projects forward in the Bay Area.

Estuary Report Produces More Videos Podcasts

SFEP’s video podcast series, the Estuary Report, has received over 2,000 views to date. We produced and published the following new videos:

Green Streets and Infrastructure

- **Cut the Curbs to Claim the Rain:** How can cities green their streets, making them more livable and attractive, while helping San Francisco Bay? Two pioneers from El Cerrito and two scientists from the Estuary Institute explain how green stormwater treatment systems help slow and filter polluted water before it reaches local creeks and San Francisco Bay.



Less Spray/Better Bay

- **Greener Pest Control:** San Francisco Estuary Partnership Communications Officer Athena Honore and EcoWise Certified Program Manager Ted Shapas talk about the importance of integrated pest management and offer tips for homeowners and building managers.



- **Controlling Ants in Your Home:** Ant pesticides are so toxic that even tiny amounts sprayed in and around your house can kill the microscopic creatures at the base of the food chain in creeks many miles downstream. In this report, we offer environmentally sound methods to deter ants from entering your home.

Upcoming Podcasts

- **Boaters and Pumpout Use:** The boating project is working on a podcast showing how to use a pumpout. This video will be finished in the next quarter and distributed after review by the Department of Boating and Waterways.

Swales for Steelhead: Opening of New Codornices Bioswale

With a small grant from the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program, SFEP worked with Four Dimensions Landscaping Company, the Codornices Creek Watershed Council, and a private property owner to install a bioswale near Codornices Creek. A ribbon cutting is being planned for Earth Day.

Oil Spill Response Efforts Continue

Lisa Owens Viani attended an OSPR training on oil spill response and sensitive habitat. The Estuary Partnership continues to support efforts to get better oil spill protection for San Francisco Bay: new legislation will be introduced by Assemblymember Huffman in 2011.

SFEP Staff in the Community

- Lisa Owens Viani gave a presentation on Green Streets to SPAWNERS (San Pablo Creek watershed group) on February 2.
- Athena Honore spoke to the Presidio Graduate School's Sustainable MBA students about SFEP's collaborative model for Bay water quality improvement on December 18 and 19.
- Xavier Fernandez presented information on careers in the environmental field to U.C. Berkeley students on October 19, 2010.

SFEP in the News

Is That a Green Halo Over El Cerrito's Sidewalks?

Charles Burress, September 9, 2010

Not only did the city's new "rain gardens" on San Pablo Avenue sidewalks replace concrete with California native plants nourished by rainwater run-off but they also clean the water before it goes into Bay and beautify the street.

The new "rain gardens" on San Pablo Avenue have given rise not only to native ground plants and red maple trees but also to kudos and recognition from outside the city.

"They look really great," Assistant City Manager Karen Pinkos told the city's Arts and Culture Commission at its most recent meeting. "We've been getting a lot of attention. Other cities are calling Melanie (Environmental Services Manager Melanie Mintz), asking, 'How do you do that?'"

Mintz appeared yesterday in Albany, one of the cities interested in El Cerrito's project, to talk about the rectangular beds of California Fescue, California Fuchsia, Sticky Monkey Flower and other plants now growing where once there was only wide sidewalk.

"We wanted to show that aesthetics and environmental services really could be synergistic," she told a gathering convened by the Bay Area Urban Forest Council at the Albany Community Center.

Part of a joint venture with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, the project consists of a 400-foot-long

section south of Eureka Avenue near Yummy Chinese Restaurant and a 200-foot section south of Madison Street near Big 5 Sporting Goods. Both are on the east side of San Pablo Avenue and encompass 1.3 acres altogether.



Photo: Charles Burress

Installed in the spring this year, the planter beds are surrounded by concrete curbs with notches that allow the rain water to enter the gardens from the street and sidewalk. The water sustains the plants and is filtered through the soil. Beneath the plant beds are sub-drains that carry the water into the regular stormwater drains leading to the Bay.

Similar projects exist in some other cities, notably Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Ore.

"It's bringing a little bit of the Northwest aesthetic down here," Mintz said.

ElCerritoPatch

Emeryville is currently installing rain gardens in sidewalk bulb-outs on Adeline Street between 39th and 45th streets, said Peter Schultze-Allen, environmental analyst for the City of Emeryville.

The cost of construction for the El Cerrito gardens was \$250,000, which doesn't include the design work or the follow-up monitoring to see how much water is filtered and how much cleaner the water becomes.

The gardens, equipped with a back-up irrigation system for the dry months, are part of a long-term plan for establishing "sustainable landscape" along San Pablo Avenue, Mintz said. Other components include the Baxter Creek frontage project and drought-resistant plants in the street median and around City Hall.

Funding for the rain gardens came from federal stimulus dollars under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and from the California Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

<http://elcerrito.patch.com/articles/a-green-halo-over-el-cerritos-sidewalks>

A plan to help life in the bay

Subtidal study calls for underwater habitat restoration and other projects that will lead to healthier ecosystem

By Mike Taugher

mitaugher@bayareanewsgroup.com

A new blueprint for the hidden world beneath San Francisco Bay's shimmering waters calls for thousands of acres of oyster beds and eelgrass, beach replenishment projects and research.

The report, a four-year study by state and federal agencies, is a follow-up to an influential 1999 blueprint that paved the way for a major acceleration of wetlands restoration around the bay, now the largest wetlands restoration program on the West Coast.

Thursday's Subtidal Habitat report is less specific than the

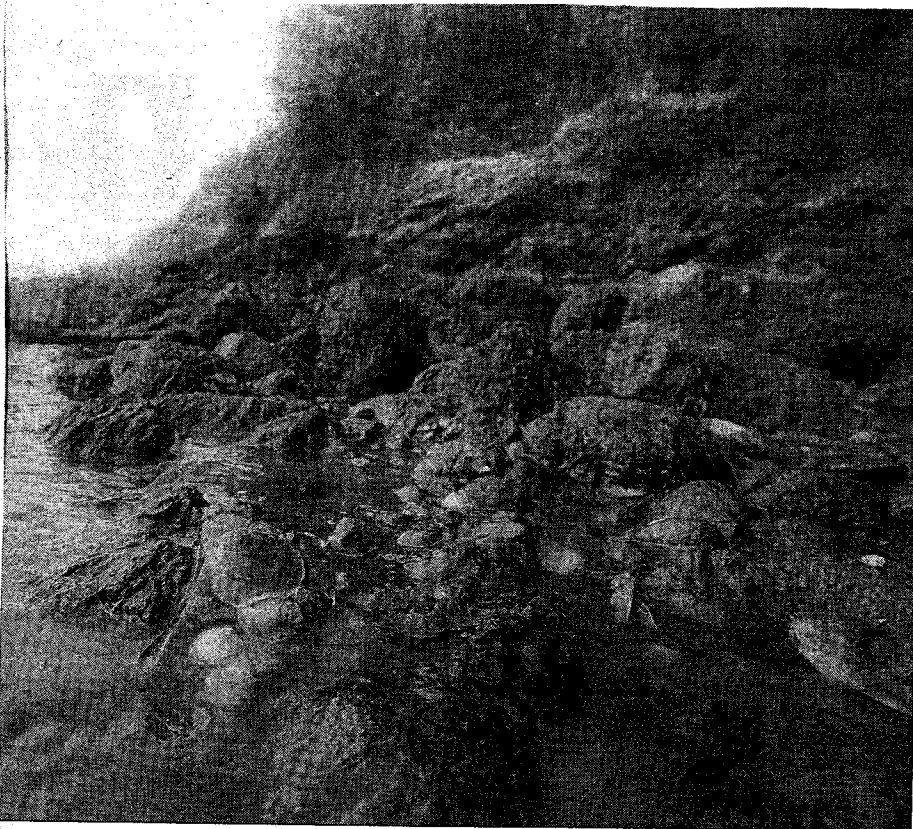
earlier Baylands Habitat Goals report because less is known about the ecosystem hidden underwater.

But researchers hope it paves the way for more study and restoration projects over the next 50 years, leading to a healthier bay for bottom-dwelling organisms and for the salmon, herring, shorebirds, pelicans and sea lions that ride higher on the same food chain.

It contains no cost estimate, mostly because many of the initiatives have not been tried on a large scale. The report suggests trying small projects, such as oyster bed restoration and pilings removal before moving on to larger projects.

No one knows the extent of the bay's oyster beds, mostly because the water's murkiness makes it difficult to see exactly where they are and how far they spread.

But the bay's native Olympia oysters continue to survive and the bay has several hundred thousand tons of fossilized oyster shells, said Marilyn Latta, project manager for the report at the State Coastal Conservancy.



COURTESY OF LORENZ & AVELAR

in rocky intertidal areas of San Francisco Bay.

"The acquisition and protection of shoreline properties has been greatly advanced by the publishing of the habitat goals report because it brought a strong scientific consensus of needs and how to do it."

— David Lewis,
executive director
of Save the Bay

The report calls for expanding oyster beds to 8,000 acres, nearly half of which could be off Contra Costa's shore between Point San Pablo and Point Pinole.

Could that support commercial oyster farming?

"That would be a great dream far off in the future," said Latta. "It is not at all related to our planning now, though. It would not be healthy for people to eat them now."

Because they are filter-feeders, oysters would absorb too many pollutants, including mercury, selenium,

hydrocarbons, PCBs, pharmaceuticals and other toxic materials, Latta said.

The report also calls for tripling the area of the bay's eelgrass beds from 4,000 acres to 12,000 acres.

More eelgrass would mean more places for herring, for example, to lay eggs. The biggest eelgrass bed containing more than one-third of the bay's growth is near Richmond.

"It forms these meadows that do a lot of beneficial things for the bay," Latta said.

The report suggests creating eelgrass reserves but does not say what kinds of restrictions might be needed to protect them from damage by boats, construction or dredging. Latta said it was beyond the report's scope to recommend specific eelgrass reserves.

Some of the areas suggested include Point San Pablo, Crown Beach, Richardson Bay and Coyote Point.

The report also suggests using clean sand from maintenance dredging to build up beaches at Eastshore State Park, Point Isabella Regional Shoreline, San Rafael Shoreline and others.

As a result of the 1999 wetlands report, the amount of wetlands, or baylands, ring-

ing San Francisco Bay has increased. There were about 40,000 acres of wetlands at the time of the report, and nearly that much has either been restored or is on the way to being restored. The earlier report set a goal of 100,000 acres total acres.

"The acquisition and protection of shoreline properties has been greatly advanced by the publishing of the habitat goals report because it brought a strong scientific consensus of needs and how to do it," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay, an environmental group.

A third report on the Bay Area's upland habitat, which will include the nine Bay Area counties, is nearing completion, Latta said.

The report released Thursday, San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report, was developed by the State Coastal Conservancy, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. It was expected to be available Thursday at www.sfbaysubtidal.org.

Mike Taugher covers the environment. Contact him at 925-943-8257.

Thursday, January 27, 2011

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

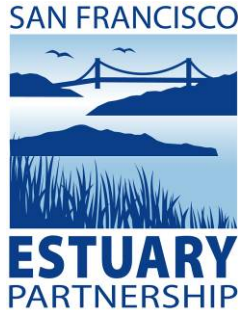
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CONTRA COSTA TIMES



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1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 10, Oakland, CA

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introductions

Amy Hutzel, Acting Chair of the Implementation Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:40 am with a round of introductions. The Meeting Summary for November 3, 2010 was approved.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Director's Report

Athena Honore, acting for Judy Kelly, Director, who is ill, highlighted items from the Director's Report:

- a) Senator Feinstein again introduced the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act to authorize funding for wetland restoration and water quality improvement projects. There would be an annual priority list of projects to be funded by US EPA and SFEP is named as one entity to participate in compiling the priority list to assure CCMP compliance.
- b) Athena, Judy, and Janet Cox attended the fall ANEP (Association of National Estuary Programs) meeting in Punta Gorda, Florida, hosted by the Charlotte Harbor NEP last November. Athena did a presentation on the PCBs in Caulk project and Janet presented on the Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration project.
- c) Staff has submitted a number of proposals for project funding including the San Pablo Stormwater Spine project for EPA funding; an IRWMP submittal to DWR; and a proposal to DPR to reduce pesticide use to control ants. Bruce Wolfe said he has seen the project list for EPA funding and there are many good projects. Unfortunately at this time there was \$24 million in requested funding for a \$2 million available amount. There is a possibility more funds could be added from the FY 2012 budget.
- d) The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority has completed Phase 1 polling for local wetland restoration funding and a parcel tax was found to be the most likely tax to pass, and then, just barely. Phase 2 polling will determine language for a ballot measure and if the 2012 election would be an appropriate time. It is a huge expense to put an item on the ballot in the 9 counties.
- e) Brief mention was made of the Green Purchasing workshop hosted by SFEP and ABAG, and the boater project which researched pumpout station usage to monitor ongoing usage.
- f) The Trash Capture Demonstration project funded by \$5 million in ARRA funds from the state SRF allocates funds to Bay Area cities and counties to install trash capture devices in their storm drains. Athena noted this relates to requirements in the MRP. To date 66 municipalities have committed to participating. About 30 contracts have been executed. There was a question as to the maintenance of these devices since it appears cities do not maintain them now. Athena noted as a condition of the grant funds, cities had to commit to maintaining the devices for 20 years and identify a source of funding for maintenance. Janet Cox will give a presentation on the trash project's new web site at the next IC meeting.

- g) The Peyton Slough/McNabney Marsh project has received some funding from a supplemental environmental project to enlarge a culvert under the railroad bridge. Bruce Wolfe noted additional funding of \$1.25 million is needed to complete the project.
- h) Athena briefly described the SFEP podcasts available on our website, www.sfestuary.org/podcast. The page includes instructions for how to link to these podcasts from your webpage.

Will Travis stated Rep. Jackie Speier will introduce the companion bill for the SF Bay Restoration Act in the House and Tom McClintock is not Chairman of the House Water and Power subcommittee.

4. SFEP Activities

a) Green Streets Forum – Lisa Owens-Viani described the forum SFEP sponsored with the City of El Cerrito to inform practitioners about the El Cerrito Rain Gardens project and other green streets type projects. Attendance was at capacity with 51 public works staff, 18 landscape architects, and regulators, engineering firms and others. Speakers were green street implementers. Lisa noted Portland has over 1,000 of these projects in the ground. She requested ideas for other venues and other cities doing these kinds of projects. Travis noted not only were these projects good for water quality but they have huge aesthetic impact on a built-out environment. Lisa stated projects should use California native plants as they are more drought tolerant. Travis stated she should prepare a paper on lessons learned from this project.

Lisa stated SFEI is monitoring of the pollutant uptakes of the rain gardens and when there is more data next year she will do another forum. She noted that Seattle and Portland both have ordinances that mandate any time a street is dug up, green stormwater treatment must be included in the project. She hopes to work on a policy that could be used locally to create similar ordinances in the Bay area.

Jamie Kooser announced the SF NERR in its coastal training program is having a water quality focus. As part of their action plan for the year, Marina Psaros will be putting together workshops with this emphasis.

b) SFEP Highlights Flyer – Athena stated the highlights flyer for 2010 was available and refocused to address SFEP achievements over the past year. She stated Judy would be attending the NEP meeting in Washington DC next week and distribute to our elected representatives.

Amy Hutzler stated Sam Schuchat is in Washington this week meeting with elected officials. Beth Huning passed out the joint venture flyers and said the JV is keeping track of who is going and when so they can take joint venture flyers with them to distribute. She requested anyone going notify the JV. Jamie Kooser said she will be going next week for the NERR meetings. Steve Goldbeck is attending the NOAA Coastal Program meetings. Korie said Steve Edmondson was in DC a few weeks ago. Sam Ziegler is going back for the EPA and coastal program meetings.

Luisa Valiela asked if anyone had commented on the Suisun Marsh EIR (comment period ended mid-January). She will send Athena a copy of the EPA comment letter to distribute.

c) State of the Estuary Report progress – Paula Trigueros gave a brief summary of progress; most indicators have been chosen and evaluated. Luisa and Amy noted social

indicators remain to be determined; there will be a conference call with Judy, Luisa and Tom Mumley to discuss. The intent is still to have a detailed technical report with data posted online; a practitioner's report, and a one-page report card. Members requested a more complete update at the May meeting. Harry Seraydarian asked if the tributaries are being included. It was stated the report is focused mainly on the state of the Bay, but there is some work in the tributaries related to fish health.

d) Planning for the State of the Estuary Conference – Karen McDowell stated the conference is scheduled for September 20-21, 2011 at the Oakland Marriott again this year. There will be an opening night gala at the Aquarium of the Bay the evening of September 19. She showed a slide of the current schedule and noted the plenary sessions are set for the two mornings to be followed by concurrent afternoon breakout sessions (up to four). The concurrent sessions will be invited; no call for abstracts. There will be a call for abstracts for the poster session. There will be a poster session reception the first night (Sept. 20) and a session at lunch on the second day. The committee is looking for a broad spectrum of topics for the concurrent sessions from restoration to water quality. Please email Karen with any recommendations for sessions. Sponsorship letters have gone out; please encourage your agency to support. The Save the Date notice is coming soon.

Amy Chastain thought there should be a session on mercury, since there are lots of data and a good story to tell about dental amalgam efforts in the Bay Area that may be rolled out nationwide. Stephanie Hughes is the contact.

e) Draft SFEP Work Plan – Athena described the significant evolution in the format of the work plan. It is now aligned towards the structure of the Strategic Plan and the SFEP team structure. The final version will be presented at the May meeting and after to EPA. There is a focus on new activities; current projects are described in detail in the attachment section and also online. Beth Huning felt the partners were not included clearly in the text. Korie Schaeffer stated it should be clearer how the work plan elements tie to the strategic plan objectives (it does on some places but not all). Amy Hutzler felt the work plan should be more tied to the CCMP. Tom Kendall said the preamble should show where the efforts come from and reinforce the CCMP connection.

Harry Seraydarian thought the 4 objectives under Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan should be the topics for the concurrent sessions at the SOE conference.

John Klochak would like to see the outline of the State of the Estuary Report. All members agreed they would like to see the outline.

There was discussion of the work plan, strategic plan, and SOE Report. SFEP should ensure the attribute areas in the SOE report to tie to the CCMP program areas. The introduction to the work plan should have a description of how it relates to the CCMP. There is not enough context between the work plan and the CCMP. Jaime Kooser asked for a roadmap, a graphic or diagram that maps how the CCMP ties to the Strategic Plan and to the Work Plan. Include a pie chart of program areas. Athena requested written comments be emailed to Judy.

5. EPA ANPR on the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary – Erin Foresman gave a detailed presentation on the ANPR issued on February 10: why it was issued, the process, focus on water quality issues, and next steps. The background for this review is the poor water quality of the estuary; all waterways are 303d-listed. Although EPA has delegated enforcement and permitting to California through the State and Regional Water Boards, as part of

the Interim Federal Action Plan signed by EPA and five other federal agencies, EPA will evaluate water quality plans to determine if they are sufficiently protective of aquatic resources. The ANPR acts as a summary of the science, identifies issues, and evaluates the regulatory framework. It does not propose new rule making but is an information-gathering mode. Following a 60-day comment period, comments will be synthesized and a final assessment report issued in late 2011 or early 2012.

The content of the ANPR:

- 1) Summary of Clean Water Act Programs
- 2) Status of estuarine resources—the POD
- 3) Critical water quality issues impacting aquatic resources
 - a) Describes scientific knowledge
 - b) Describes regulatory framework
 - c) Requests public input

Water quality challenges focused on aquatic resources designated uses; contaminants, habitat, estuarine conditions, migratory conditions, wetlands. Someone asked why mercury was not included; because it is not implicated in the POD. Readers may comment on this omission. Major issues examined in ANPR:

Ammonia: Impact on aquatic organisms; regulatory framework; follow-up actions. There are no water quality criteria specific for ammonia. Presently there is only a narrative effluent limitation. Central Valley Water Board required tertiary treatment for the Sacramento Treatment Plant due to ammonia, which is presently on appeal. The question is, do we need site-specific criteria? At the national level, EPA is updating ammonia criteria, which have been in draft since 2009.

Selenium: Since Kesterson, there is a strong regulatory framework including numerical water quality criteria. The major problem is irrigation return flow from Grasslands Bypass. BMPs and TMDLs are in place. Once mobilized in the system, there are no control measures for selenium. EPA may consider tissue criteria since water column is not a good measure.

Pesticides: A widespread and complex water quality problem in the Bay and Delta. A USGS report in 2008 found 160 pesticides in the estuary. Of these, 80 are monitored. There are narrative criteria for water quality for most pesticides, although organophosphates have numerical criteria. Again, there is an issue with irrigated lands. Erin noted toxicity testing focuses on one contaminant; research on multiple exposures and the synergistic or additive effects of multiple exposure is not well studied.

Emerging Contaminants: There is insufficient data to assess ecological effect, and EPA's work is presently pre-regulatory. There is a need to increase scientific knowledge and monitoring. ORD is working on an endocrine disruption plan, possibly including effluent testing for these compounds.

Estuarine Habitat: Examining impacts on aquatic resources, and the sharp drop in open water species. There is also recent focus on the low salinity zone in the fall. The criteria for estuarine habitat calls for a low salinity zone in the spring. It may be needed for fall also. Migratory corridors, another designated use, shows long-term decline in chinook salmon. Forty kilometers in Sacramento River are impaired. The low DO in Stockton ship channel disrupts migratory corridors. Vernalis doesn't address the migratory problem; The State Board flows report does. There is a need to identify the salinity gradient for migratory corridors we want to protect. Migratory corridors are also impaired in San Joaquin.

Wetlands: There is 95% wetlands loss in the Delta. This loss impacts their water filtering function. Wetlands protection under CWA section 404: permits issued by COE and water quality certifications (401) by Regional Boards or State Board if the area in question is multi-regional. Next steps: 60 day public comment period ends April 25; EPA collects public comments, evaluates water quality implications, and issues assessment.

6. Subtidal Habitat Goals Report – Marilyn Latta of the Coastal Conservancy gave a presentation on this regionwide plan for protection of the subtidal habitats of the San Francisco Bay. It is intended to better understand the subtidal habitats and protect and restore them. It is non-regulatory, a vision. The report examines the function of subtidal habitats, and intertidal habitats, with a focus on science. Quite a few data gaps exist: mapping of subtidal habitats is not complete nor is understanding of the shifting of habitats. The bay bottom is 90% soft muds, and six subtidal types were identified. There are conceptual models, visual diagrams that describe the ecological function, stressors, and recommendations. The report lays out the baseline at 2010, and the intention is to review the plan every 10 years. A web site, www.sfbaysubtidal.org includes several maps; including a basic habitat distribution map, a stressors map, a restoration map, and a parcel ownership map (many parcels are privately owned). The report has specific objectives and actions related to the goals. One goal is to reduce habitat fragmentation and buffering upland edges with living breakwaters and natural bioengineering techniques. Next steps include working with agencies towards implementation.

7. Agenda Items for May 25 2011 IC Meeting

- Janet Cox on the trash project
- Update on SOE report
- Beth Huning – update on Joint Venture

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Meeting Attendees

IC Members

Amy Chastain	BACWA
Korie Schaeffer	NOAA, NMFS
Beth Huning	SF Bay Joint Venture
Amy Hutzel	Coastal Conservancy
Tom Kendall	US Army COE
John Klochak	US FWS
Barbara Kondylis	Solano County
Jaime Kooser	SF Bay NERR
Barbara Salzman	Marin Audubon
Harry Seraydarian	North Bay Watershed Association
Will Travis	BCDC
Luisa Valiela	US EPA, Region 9
Bruce Wolfe	San Francisco Regional Water Board
Erin Foresman	US EPA (partial)
Marilyn Latta	Coastal Conservancy (partial)

SFEP Staff

Elina Coulter

ATTACHMENT 1

Debbi Egtervanwissekerke
Athena Honore
Karen McDowell
James Muller
Lisa Owens Viani
Paula Trigueros