

Director's Report

May 23, 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

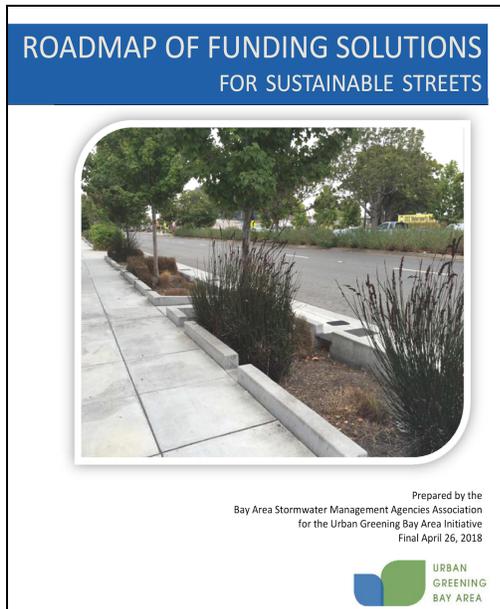
SF Bay Restoration Authority

On April 11 the Governing Board of the Restoration Authority approved nearly \$18 million in the first round of grants for wetland restoration in the Bay. The eight grants approved provide multiple benefits around the Bay region, and include both planning and implementation projects. Details on the funded projects can be found on the [Restoration Authority's website](#). SFEP staff will manage three of the funded projects, as well as continue our work convening and managing the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee and working with Coastal Conservancy staff to support the the Advisory Committee and the Governing Board.

Of additional interest is the [Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018](#), a citizen's initiative water bond that will appear on the November 2018 statewide California ballot. The proposed bond includes an additional \$200 million for the Restoration Authority.

Sustainable Streets - Roadmap

The *Roadmap of Funding Solutions for Sustainable Streets* document is complete and posted on SFEP's Urban Greening Bay Area project and Green Streets Resources webpages. The goal of the *Roadmap* is to identify specific actions that can be undertaken by funding agencies, implementing agencies, and champions from various sectors and levels of government to broaden financial resources for Sustainable Streets: *Complete Streets + Green Stormwater Infrastructure*. The Roadmap recommends immediate (2018-19), short-term (2019-20), and long-term actions broken into three pathways:



- Prioritize Sustainable Streets in Funding Sources
- Improve Conditions for Projects Funded by Multiple Grants
- Additional Funding Options

SFEP intends to convene a standing Roadmap Committee of Participating Agencies to monitor and track progress of the *Roadmap* recommended actions. The roundtable process and document development were funded by the EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund. The completion of the Roadmap satisfies *Estuary Blueprint* Action 24-4.

Wetland Regional Monitoring Program

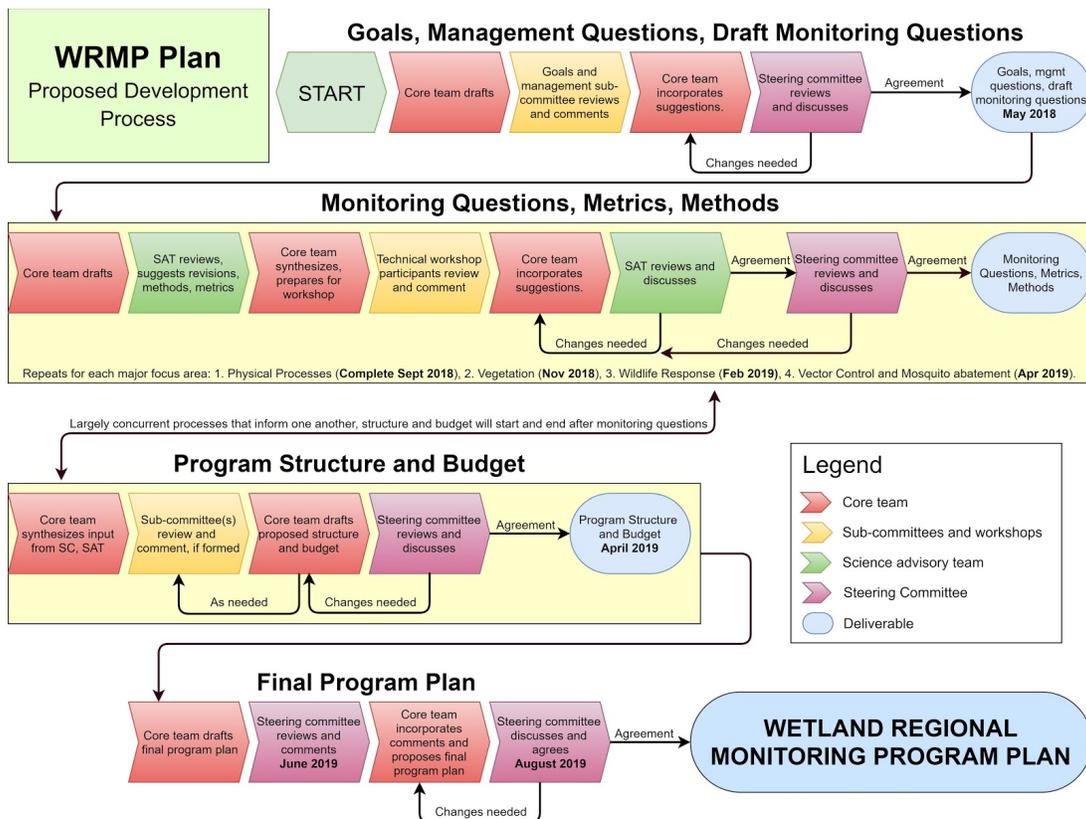
The [Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program \(WRMP\)](#), as recently funded by an EPA R9 Wetland Program Development Grant, is engaging the regional community of tidal marsh scientists and managers to help plan a basic, foundational, tidal marsh monitoring program for the San Francisco Bay Area. This program plan will initiate implementation of Action 2 in the [Estuary Blueprint](#), to help local, regional, state, and federal agencies evaluate the effectiveness of their efforts to sustain healthy tidal marsh ecosystems. The WRMP project will run through the end of 2019.

The project will include three primary development teams working to advance toward a Program Plan. The WRMP Steering Committee (SC) is made up of partners that represent land management, regulatory, science and community outreach institutions working on restoration and enhancement of tidal wetlands in the San Francisco Bay. The primary goal of the Steering Committee is to develop a program plan for the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). The Steering Committee will ensure that the WRMP Plan identifies the science and technology, institutional relations and governance structure, and budget necessary to address key questions shared by the environmental regulatory and management community about tidal marsh protection and

restoration. The SC will work in close coordination with a Core Project team to provide facilitation and staffing, and a Science Advisory Team to provide technical guidance. The Core Project Team includes representatives from EPA R9, SFEP, the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the State Coastal Conservancy, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and SFEI.

In addition to these forums, the WRMP Core Team will host a series of workshops to develop the suggested metrics, indicators, tools and methods for science content areas. The primary technical focus of the grant will be on physical processes (sediment and tidal regimes), tidal wetland vegetation, wildlife response and vector control. Workshops will be attended by experts in these fields. Please contact the project manager if you are interested in attending.

To find out more about the project, check out the newly updated [website and sign up for the newsletter](#). You can also contact Heidi Nutters or Ian Kelmartin with questions.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants

Since the March 2018 meeting, four additional projects have completed construction. This means that 17 out of the total 36 Projects under Grant Rounds 2, 3, and 4 are now fully built.

Round 2

Project 5. Napa Milliken Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Passage Barrier Removal

Project Sponsor: County of Napa, Division of Watershed and Flood Control

This Project removes an earthen dam, restores a half acre of stream, and through construction of a weir bypass and regrading will reduce flooding for adjacent neighborhoods. The Project opens upstream access to an additional 2.5 miles of habitat suitable for existent anadromous fish.



Live Willow Staking for Bank Stabilization and Restoration



Slope Stabilization and Stream Regrading to Provide Easy Passage for Anadromous Fish

Project 6. Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District 5th Street East/McGill Road Recycled Water

Project Sponsor: Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District and Sonoma Water Agency

This Project constructs roughly 9,400 linear feet of new pipeline for distribution of recycled water throughout the City of Sonoma to replace the use of potable water for residential, athletic and agricultural field irrigation. The additional distribution system will supply about 200 acre feet per year of recycled water. Significant economic benefits will be accrued through the replacement of potable water with recycled water. The Sonoma High School alone is expected to save approximately \$80,000 annually by using recycled water in lieu of potable water to irrigate its athletic field.



Recycled Water Redistribution System for Agricultural Irrigation Standing Proudly Purple in the Landscape

Project 16. San Jose Green Street Demonstration Project

Project Sponsor: City of San Jose, Departments of Environmental Services and Public Works

This Project will use low impact development techniques to reduce stormwater runoff volumes and sediment loads into the Guadalupe River, along with natural filtering of pollutants and heavy metals. Additionally the filtration systems installed in the streets will provide traffic calming measures for increased pedestrian and vehicular safety.



Chenoweth Avenue Green Street Traffic Calming System



Low Impact Development for Stormwater Runoff, Sediment and Pollutant Reduction to the Guadalupe River

Round 4

Project 4. City of East Palo Alto

Project Sponsor: City of East Palo Alto, Public Works Department

This Project upgrades a treatment system for and increases production capacity of the Gloria Way Well as a local groundwater source that will provide 300 gallons per minute of potable water, or roughly 600 acre feet per year of additional water supply for the adjacent disadvantaged communities.



The Many Wonders of Modern Water Treatment



***The Wonderful People Who Help to Make it All Happen!
From L to R: N. Dunn, SFEP, J. Arm, DWR, T. Deng, East Palo Alto,
and J. Tarantino, Construction Manager, Freyer Laureta, Inc.***

NEW FUNDING

CVA Grant

The Clean Vessel Act Program at the Partnership was just awarded an additional \$250,000 to continue its work with boaters, marinas, and industry stakeholders meant to reduce sewage discharge from recreational vessels in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Delta. In the past year, SFEP has released **Pumpout Nav**, an app to help boaters find pumpouts, report broken units and for staff to survey pumpouts quarterly; convened a stakeholder group in the Delta to begin the work on addressing the unique challenges there; and assessed the opportunities for installing pumpouts in Tomales Bay. This program will build off of these successes in the past year to increase the usefulness of Pumpout Nav for boaters and surveyors, continue to develop capacity in the delta, and to conduct outreach throughout the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

In addition to these new grant funds, SFEP has also been asked to work with Southern California partners (The Bay Foundation) to update the state's Vessel Waste Management Plan. This document was last updated in 2004 and does not reflect the current status, trends, or needs of California boaters in terms of sewage management resources. SFEP will work over the next year to collect and analyze data for this report.

IRWM DACI Funding Round

SFEP is partnering with The Watershed Project, an environmental education non-profit, to reach out to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) – including Under Represented Communities (URCs), Tribal Communities, and Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs) – in the Richmond area for inclusion into the Bay Area IRWM governance structure and plan updates. This work will consist of conducting needs assessments, capacity building, and technical assistance to identify and develop potential implementation projects and encourage long term engagement with the IRWM process. In addition to gathering new information, this project will build on the North Richmond Shoreline Vision completed in 2017 and may advance elements of the recently completed site proposal developed through the Resilient By Design process.

Similar outreach and capacity building efforts are planned throughout the Bay Area DACs, under the State’s Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP), administered by the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) through 2019. These outreach projects and the needs assessment will help inform IRWM funding granted in subsequent awards for implementation projects.

EPA Supplemental Funding for Organizational Study

EPA is providing SFEP with \$25,000 in supplemental funding to our 2018-19 NEP award. The supplemental funding is to be used to retain a consultant to undertake a review and analysis of the organizational, financial, and governance structure of SFEP. The consultant will deliver a final report summarizing the analysis and providing recommendations for improving the efficiency, success, and long term sustainability of SFEP as a National Estuary Program. The additional funding is captured in the final 2018-19 Budget and Workplan included in the meeting materials.

OUTREACH

Estuary News



The March issue of ESTUARY News explores Bay cycles, from the rivers of rain falling on California and the pollutants washing out of watersheds into Bay margins to the yearly visit of Pacific herring. Stories also cover the value of art in communicating science, local sailing schools for young people, and restoration along Napa riverbanks, Alviso levees, and North Richmond shores. This quarter’s photo essay looks at how sailing in the bay can teach far more than how to tack and jib while Bay Area youth navigate waterways. [Explore the March issue online.](#)

New ABAG/MTC Blog: The Bay Link

MTC and ABAG have rolled out a new blog to provide information to the public on the work of both agencies, including SFEP. Topics include housing, land use, transportation,

economic development, social equity, the environment, sustainability, climate change and resilience. SFEP is working with the blog manager to include our success stories and highlights from our Estuary Blueprint newsletter as well as other newsworthy items. A blog post in March highlighted SFEP's role in staffing the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. Find The Bay Link at <https://blog.bayareametro.gov/>.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

IC Changes



Carol Mahoney has been selected as the new Chair of the Implementation Committee. Carol joined the IC in 2014 and is the primary representative for the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association. As the Manager of Integrated Water Resources at Zone 7 Water Agency, she focuses on the integration of water supply, groundwater management, flood protection, and environmental planning. Carol has been working on local watershed protection and Integrated Regional Water Management since 2006. She acted as the chair of the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association from 2012 to 2014. At Zone 7, Carol continues to be an advocate for watershed-wide planning and initiated the agency's "Start Green, Stay Green" motto for flood protection projects and maintenance. We thank Carol for stepping in to the Chair position!

Tom Mumley will serve another term as Vice Chair. Thank you, Tom!

Staff Changes

Rebecca Darr has resigned from her position at the Partnership, effective July 1. Rebecca joined SFEP almost two years ago to manage the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program and has done an excellent job working with the Department of Water Resources, consultants, and dozens of local project sponsors, successfully facilitating the completion of 17 projects! We wish Rebecca well on her next adventure.

SFEP to Host 2018 National Estuary Program Fall Meeting

This Fall, directors and staff from National Estuary Programs around the country as well as EPA staff from Washington DC and Region 9 will be coming to San Francisco for the annual NEP Meeting. The meeting will be held October 4-6 and will include presentations, panels, field trips and social events. We invite Implementation Members to consider attending all or some of what will surely be an interesting and fun-filled 3-days! More information will be as planning for the meeting progresses.

Anniversaries: CCMP 25th anniversary / SFEP 30th anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the CCMP, and the 30th anniversary of SFEP. We will be looking for opportunities to celebrate these milestones with our partners throughout the year and welcome your ideas. If you have a particularly fond memory of your work with us or accomplishments in implementing the Estuary Blueprint, please let us know.