

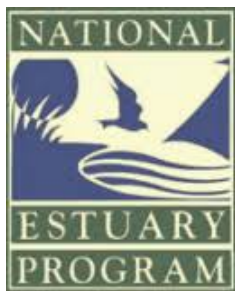


Director's Report

August 22, 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2018 National Estuary Program Fall Meeting



On October 4-6, SFEP will host the fall Tech Transfer meeting of the National Estuary Program. NEP directors and staff from around the country, as well as EPA staff, are expected to attend this three-day event. Please consider attending all or some of what will surely be an interesting and fun-filled meeting! Registration is anticipated to open Friday, August 17; watch for an announcement via email.

Highlights of the meeting include:

- Bay tour and dinner at the Exploratorium, including NEP-led program during the Exploratorium's "After Dark" event.
- Fast-paced presentations on resiliency and multi-benefit projects, green infrastructure and stormwater management, collaboration and partnerships, environmental justice, communication, citizen science and technology, and more.
- Field trips to tour wetland restoration sites, living shorelines, and salt ponds.

Bay Delta Science Conference - Registration Open



Registration is now open for the 2018 Bay Delta Science Conference! Early bird registration ends August 17. [Register now!](#)

Horizon Initiative Launched and Request for Transformative Projects

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have recently developed a new initiative, called Horizon, to explore the pressing issues and possible challenges Bay Area residents may face through 2050.

The Horizon initiative will be the first comprehensive Bay Area planning effort to look not just at transportation and housing but economic development, resilience and the effects of emerging technologies. There will be many opportunities to be involved and provide input, including a [Request for Transformative Projects](#). Due by September 6, MTC and ABAG encourage proposals that meet any of the following criteria:

- Transit projects that improve capacity, frequency or coverage; have a lifecycle cost exceeding \$1 billion; AND were not evaluated in Plan Bay Area 2040
- Roadway projects that improve capacity; have a lifecycle cost exceeding \$1 billion; AND were not evaluated in Plan Bay Area 2040
- Projects that make existing transportation infrastructure more resilient to rising sea levels or seismic hazards [no cost threshold]
- Operational strategies with transformative regional impacts, such as all-lane tolling or transit fare simplification [no cost threshold]

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

As staff for the Restoration Authority in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy, SFEP is managing several of the projects selected for the first round of funding from the [San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority](#). The following are updates on two of the SFEP staff-managed projects.

1. San Leandro Treatment Wetland

SFEP staff recently attended a kickoff meeting of the San Leandro Treatment Wetland project. The City of San Leandro will work with a project team to prepare detailed designs, permit applications, and environmental documentation for the conversion of a 4.3-acre wastewater storage basin at the City of San Leandro's Water Pollution Control

Plant to a multi-benefit treatment wetland, and to develop a community-based shoreline resiliency and tidal marsh restoration plan for the surrounding area. The project was recently featured in a KQED News article. Read more [at this link](#).



2. Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW)

Point Blue Conservation Science will work with students, teachers and regional partners on restoring wetland-upland transition zone habitat at multiple sites in the North Bay through their STRAW program (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed). SFEP staff attended a site visit to one of the locations slated for work beginning this fall. Point Blue Project Manager John Parodi provided a tour of the site and an overview for KQED's California Report, which can be found [here](#).



Wetland Regional Monitoring Program

The Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) has been moving along at a rapid pace this quarter. The WRMP Steering Committee have an approved set of Guiding Questions. These will shape the management and monitoring questions, indicators, methods and cost analysis that will take place. These questions are:

Q1: Where are the region's tidal wetlands and wetland projects and what net landscape changes in area and condition are occurring?

Q2: How are external drivers, such as accelerated sea level rise, development pressure and changes in runoff and sediment supply, impacting tidal wetlands?

Q3: How do policies, programs, and projects to protect and restore tidal wetland affect the distribution, abundance, and health of plants and animals?

Q4: What new information do we need to better understand regional lessons from tidal wetland projects and emerging/evolving science to improve projects in the future?

Q5: How do policies, programs, and projects to protect and restore tidal wetlands benefit and/or impact public health, safety and recreation?

A series of workshops will be hosted by the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the San Francisco Estuary Institute:

- **Physical Processes** Technical leads: Christina Toms (SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board); Scott Dusterhoff (SFEI). Date: August 23
- **Vegetation Management** Technical leads: Mike Vasey (SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve); Iryna Dronova (UC Berkeley). Date: October 30
- **Wildlife Response** Technical leads and date TBD (slated for January 2019)
- **Vector Control and Mosquito Abatement** Technical Lead: Karl Malamud-Roam. Date TBD (slated for March 2019)

If you'd like to stay more plugged into the WRMP Development Process you can sign up for our newsletter on the [project website](#) or contact [Heidi Nutters](#).

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Wetland Climate Change Policy Project

In partnership with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), SFEP concluded the wetlands planning grant on policy recommendations for permitting multi-benefit climate adaptation projects. Outcomes from this grant are anticipated to help inform the State's wetland protection policies, pertaining particularly to the permitting of multi-benefit projects that require bayland fill to support climate adaptation projects, including tidal marsh enhancement and protection, flood protection that provides ecosystem services, endangered species protection, and the beneficial use of treated wastewater and dredged sediment.

Regional Water Board staff will continue to work beyond the life of this grant, including potential regulatory policy options that will be workshopped and further refined. Final suggestions on regulatory approaches will be brought to the Board for its consideration within the next one to two years. More information will be presented at the August 22nd IC meeting and can also be found on the Regional Water Board's website [here](#).



NEW FUNDING

Climate Ready Estuaries

EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program has provided funding in the amount of \$85,000 to support nature-based shoreline infrastructure efforts in the San Francisco Bay. This funding will go to advance Estuary Blueprint Action 14: *Demonstrate how natural habitats and*

nature-based shoreline infrastructure can provide increased resiliency to changes in the Estuary environment. The planning project at the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant will include an innovative design that builds off of recently completed work by the Oro Loma project team as well as Resilient by Design. The project will focus on sea level rise adaptation, public access improvements, habitat restoration and use of recycled water along a highly visited area of the shoreline.

IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Round

SFEP staff met with The Watershed Project (project lead) and the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (grant manager), to further refine the collective scope of work for IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) in Richmond. The overall grant award is \$80K, with SFEP budgeted for \$21K, to develop and implement community and stakeholder-based water-related needs assessments, capacity building, and technical assistance. In addition to advancing elements of the North Richmond Shoreline Vision and Resilient By Design proposals (such as dispersed green infrastructure, improved local access, and a horizontal levee), this effort will also likely include community tap water quality confidence surveys and chronic flood risk reduction planning for the Rollingwood area.

OUTREACH

Estuary News



The [June issue of Estuary News](#) takes a deep dive into the 2017-2018 Resilient by Design Bay Area Challenge, previews what Delta planners are thinking about climate change, and gets answers to questions about regional governance, integrated permitting, and financing for restoration and adaptation.

Don't miss the [Two Way Bay video](#), featuring several IC members and SFEP staff!

National Estuaries Week

This year, National Estuaries Week will be held September 15-22, 2018. We encourage everyone to participate – share your projects on social media, organize a community event, and talk with your local representatives about the importance of healthy, vibrant estuaries. Check out [Restore America's Estuaries website](#) for more information about how to get involved.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Staff Changes

Following the departure of Rebecca Darr in July, SFEP has undergone several staff shifts. James Muller has been promoted to Principal Planner and has taken over management of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program. Adrien Baudrimont has filled the gap that James left in the Clean Vessel Act Program and is now the managing that program. We are currently in the process of backfilling for Adrien and hope to have a new staff person on board in September.

Summer Intern

Yeymi Rivas, a rising senior at Bates College, joined SFEP this summer as part of MTC's College Internship Program. We wish to thank Yeymi for all the amazing work she did over the summer for SFEP, including filing and contract management tasks, helping to plan the fall NEP meeting, assisting the CVA program, and working closely with Darcie Luce on the communications plan. Thank you, Yeymi!