

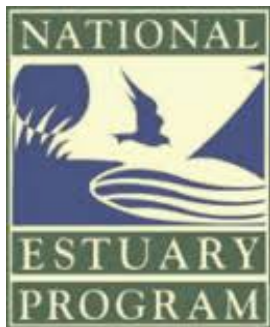


Director's Report

November 7, 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2018 National Estuary Program Fall Meeting



On October 4-6, SFEP was pleased to host the annual Tech Transfer meeting of the National Estuary Program. We had representation from 23 NEPs from around the country as well as staff from US EPA headquarters and three regional offices.

Our full agenda included a keynote speech from Letitia Grenier of SFEI, presentations from NEPs on various topics during tech transfer sessions, an afternoon Bay Boat Tour with guest appearances by the Blue Angels, a panel presentation on integrating environmental justice into the work of NEPs, field visits to restoration sites around the Bay, and a collaboration with the Exploratorium with estuary-themed presentations and interactive demonstrations for their "After Dark" series.

The meeting was a team effort with everyone on the SFEP staff pitching in to help plan, lead field trips, give presentations or sit on panels, and generally filling every need to make sure the meeting was a success. I want to particularly thank Natasha Dunn, Darcie Luce and Ian Kelmartin who formed the core planning team; working for months on all aspects of the meeting. I want to also thank the IC members who sat on panels, attended the meeting, or joined us for the boat tour. Our NEP and EPA colleagues benefited from interacting with the diverse members of our broader community.



Left - Debbie Raphael (SF Dept of the Environment) moderates a panel on Environmental Justice with Nahal Ghoghaie (EJCW and IC member), Heidi Nutters (SFEP), and Pam DiBona (Director of the Massachusetts Bays NEP). Right - Adrien Baudrimont (SFEP), Brenda Torres (San Juan Bay NEP), Curtis Bohlen (Casco Bay NEP), Prassede Vella (Massachusetts Bays NEP), and Misty Clades (Tampa Bay NEP) talk citizen science and innovative technology (Photos by Peter Beeler)



The weather cooperated and meeting attendees and IC members had a wonderful tour of our beautiful Bay (photos by Peter Beeler)



Ian Kelmartin demonstrates the wonders of oyster filtration to an interested member of the public, while I learn that migration is hard through the Osprey Migration game at the After Dark event at the Exploratorium.





Left - 101 Surf Sports generously donated kayaks for a tour along San Rafael Creek to the Bay to learn about subtidal restoration and living shorelines with presentations from partners at the Morro Bay and Santa Monica NEPs, as well as Marilyn Latta (SCC). Right - Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited) and Matt Gerhart (SCC) talk about wetland restoration at Sears Point.

State of the Estuary Conference, October 21-22, 2019

Save the date! The 14th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference will be held on October 21-22, 2019, at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be on the conference steering committee (meets approximately monthly), please contact Karen McDowell (karen.mcdowell@sfestuary.org) and Liz Juvera (liz.juvera@sfestuary.org). Can't be on the steering committee but have an idea for a plenary session or a suggested speaker? Send your ideas to Karen and Liz!



Clean Vessel Act Program Updates

Staff that provide support to the Clean Vessel Act Program have had a busy fall presenting project work on the mobile clean boating app, Pumpout Nav, and on some of the capacity building work getting done within the Delta. Conferences included the States Organization for Boating Access in Duluth, Minnesota, the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains in Marina del Rey, and the Marine Recreation Association in Santa Barbara.

Staff also applied to renew the CVA grant that would fund \$225,000 in education, outreach and marina monitoring work within the Bay and Delta. The new grant would add the two additional counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz. The addition of Liz Juvera (see staff changes, below) means the CVA team is fully staffed and ready for end of the year outreach and monitoring activities!

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority



The six member Independent Citizens Oversight Committee was appointed as the September Governing Board Meeting. They will begin meeting in 2019 to review the SFBRA's annual report and conformance with Measure AA.

Applications for new Advisory Committee members were due at the end of October. The new members will be appointed at the Governing Board Meeting in February 2019.

A new call for proposals was released in September, with proposals due November 26, 2018. Check out the website for full details on the RFP (<http://sfbayrestore.org>).

Wetland Regional Monitoring Program

The Wetland Regional Monitoring (WRMP) program development process has been moving along, with progress from the Steering Committee, Science Advisory Team and Core Team.

A workshop focused on developing monitoring questions, indicators, tools and methods was hosted on August 23 at the Bay Conference Center focusing on physical processes. The technical leads were Christina Toms from the SF Bay Water Quality Control Board and Scott Dusterhoff from SFEI. The findings from this workshop will be carried into the vegetation workshop on October 30. Additional workshops will be help on wildlife response as well as mosquito and vector control. [More info about the workshops is available on the website.](#)

The Steering Committee finalized a list of management questions to guide science content development. [View the management questions here.](#)

To stay up to date on the WRMP, [sign up for the newsletter here.](#)

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Grants

Three additional projects have completed construction, bringing the total completed projects to 20 out of the 36 projects funded under Grant Rounds 2 , 3, and 4.

Round 2

Project 3: Lagunitas Creek Watershed Sediment Reduction & Management

Project Sponsor: Marin Municipal Water District



This project repaired and stabilized a major stream crossing of Jewell Creek. The heavily utilized Cross Marin Trail in the Lagunitas watershed collapsed at the Jewell Creek crossing, increasing sediment loading into Lagunitas Creek; endangered a major water supply transmission line, impacted recreation uses of the trail, and impacted fish passage and winter refugia for salmonids. This project increased the channel capacity at the tributary crossing, and increased the slow water habitat that both adult and juvenile salmonids can occupy, during winter storms.

Project 7: Oakland Sausal Creek Restoration

Project Sponsor: City of Oakland Public Works

The Sausal Creek Restoration Project restored approximately 800 linear-feet of creek channel and included the removal of 180 linear-feet of buried creek culvert and 75 linear feet of concrete spillway and created a hydrologically-stable creek channel. The project revegetated the site with a palette of native trees and plants that included 110 trees, 500 shrubs, and 2,400 herbaceous perennials. Additionally, the installation of new landscaping that includes a ADA-compliant, educational creekside pathway will foster public engagement with and appreciation of the creek environment. The project resulted in approximately 47,000 square feet of new habitat that will foster the creek's population of native rainbow trout and other local native fauna.



Project 14: San Francisco Bay Climate Change Pilot Projects

Project Sponsor: San Francisco Estuary Partnership, Oro Loma Sanitary District

The Oro Loma Horizontal Levee project at the Oro Loma Sanitation District (OLSD)'s Water Pollution Control Facility in San Lorenzo is a first of its kind project in the Bay Area, advancing a regional strategy to assist Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and populations around the Bay to recognize benefits of climate change adaptation strategies and implement large-scale ecotone projects. The project successfully constructed a dual use wet weather equalization basin (7.4 million gallon capacity) incorporating a 1.2 acres treatment wetland to provide initial polishing of treated wastewater prior to discharge to a 1.7 acre horizontal levee replicating an engineered equivalent of rare native moist grassland/baylands ecotone.



The project included a robust monitoring program to demonstrate project benefits to habitat, sea level rise adaptation, and water quality improvements. The project also include an outreach component that provided technical assistance and capacity building to project stakeholders and POTWs. This assistance included informational documents, presentations, tours and videos focusing on the concepts and benefits of the horizontal levee. Design guidelines and implementation recommendations were developed in addition to conceptual designs for two additional sites.

Bay-Delta Science Conference



SFEP helped coordinate the 2018 Bay-Delta Science Conference, which had over 250 speakers, 150 posters, and 1000 registered participants. The conference received excellent and good reviews and the program and abstracts are available on the conference website (<http://scienceconf2018.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>).



NEW FUNDING

2018-19 National Estuary Program Sec 320 funds - \$710,000

In addition to \$600,000 in base funds, this year's NEP award includes an additional \$25,000 to retain a consultant to undertake a review and analysis of the organizational, financial, and governance structure of SFEP (as reported in the May Director's Report), and an additional \$85,000 for a Climate Ready Estuaries project with the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant (as reported in the August Director's Report) .

SF RWQCB Permit Assistance - \$110,290

We've entered into a six-month extension with our longtime project partners at Alameda County to provide permit assistance to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, with the intent to negotiate a longer agreement.

COMMUNICATIONS

Estuary News



The September [issue of Estuary News](#) issue explores the latest on the twin tunnels and invasive species, details the ambitious experiment at Dutch Slough, and examines salmon resilience and dioxin persistence in the Estuary watershed. It also samples California's late summer climate change action events, previews a new environmental justice policy for the State Lands Commission, and reports on recent drinking water victories in the San Joaquin Valley.

25 Years of the CCMP

We are celebrating 25 years since the first Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary! Check out the “legacy notes” sprinkled throughout the September issue of Estuary News.

National Estuaries Week

On October 5, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution designating the week of September 15 through September 22, 2018 as National Estuaries Week. Sponsored by U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and 26 others, the bipartisan legislation recognizes the importance of coastal and estuarine regions to our national economy, and reaffirms the Senate's continued support for protecting and restoring these vital resources.

Communications Plan

A reminder that as of the August IC meeting, we now have an approved [Strategic Communications Plan](#) that we are now implementing. Look for regular implementation updates in future Director's Reports.

As discussed at the August meeting, a large proportion of our IC members do not reference the Estuary Blueprint, SFEP, or IC membership on their websites or other materials. This is a friendly reminder to consider making these additions where possible. SFEP staff have identified those websites and pages where potential exists, and will be happy to work with you to make the changes. Contact Darcie Luce (darcie.luce@sfestuary.org).

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

IC Changes

Lucas Patzek, Director of the Napa RCD, replaced Leigh Sharp as the RCD alternate.

Melanie Strum, Program Assistant, replaced Anna Wearn as the NRDC alternate.

Julie Ekstrom, [Regional Climate Change Specialist](#), replaced Michelle Selmon as the DWR alternate.

Deb Callahan has resigned as Executive Director of the Bay Area Open Space Council, leaving both the primary and alternate designations currently vacant.

A complete list of IC members can be found on the SFEP website on the [Governance and Committees page](#).

Staff Changes



I am pleased to announce that Liz Juvera joined SFEP as an Environmental Planner in October. Liz comes to us most recently from NASA and the Bay Area Environmental Research Institute where she coordinated logistics for research missions and conferences supported by NASA's Earth Science Division. Liz has a B.S. in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an M.S. in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco. Liz will be working with SFEP's Clean Vessel Act Program as well as providing support for other projects and programs.

Eva Bedford has joined SFEP as our new Section Administrator. Eva is providing administrative support for SFEP and the Energy Programs section, both within the Local Government Services Department of MTC. In her previous position with MTC's Business Operations section, Eva provided significant support during the Bay Delta Science Conference and we are thrilled to now have her as part of the SFEP team.

