



Director's Report

March 6, 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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.

Have an idea for a plenary session or a suggested speaker? Send your ideas to Karen and Liz! (karen.mcdowell@sfestuary.org, liz.juvera@sfestuary.org)



New Initiative: Transforming Urban Water, from Grey to Green Shorelines

SFEP staff is building upon the successes of the Oro Loma Experimental Horizontal Levee to engage the wastewater community with re-imagining how nature-based shoreline infrastructure can address flood risk and water quality concerns while providing critical ecosystem benefits. This Initiative 1) disseminate results from the experiment at Oro Loma, 2) manages ongoing funded planning projects (Palo Alto Horizontal Levee, San Leandro Multi-benefit Treatment Wetland), and 3) seeks funding to advance potential projects towards implementation.

We are seeking funding to build this initiative out to include additional design, permitting and implementation, and to support regional capacity building working with wastewater treatment facilities, designers, engineers, and planners on nature-based shoreline infrastructure. We are currently developing the [project website](#). For questions, please contact Heidi Nutters (heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org) or Adrien Baudrimont (adrien.baudrimont@sfestuary.org).

Wetland Regional Monitoring Program

The Wetland Regional Monitoring Program has kicked off its second year of program development. In March, the Core Team will be hosting two workshops. The Mosquito and Vector Control Workshop will be March 21, 2019 at SFEI. Workshop leads are Karl Malamud-Roam (SFEI) and Wes Maffei (Napa County Mosquito Abatement District). [More information here](#). The Wildlife Response Workshop (postponed from January) will be March 26, 2019 at the Bay Conference Center. Workshop leads are Steve Culberson (IEP) and Julian Wood (Point Blue). [More information here](#). We welcome participation in both workshops by the IC and other interested parties. For questions, please contact Ian Kelmartin (ian.kelmartin@sfestuary.org).

This will be a big year for the WRMP, as we are completing our Program Plan and seeking funding for implementation in 2020 and beyond. We are beginning to develop science content and detailed Program Plan outline and content. Our Steering Committee meetings bi-monthly and our Science Advisory Team currently meetings monthly to guide science content development.

To stay up to date on the WRMP, [sign up for the newsletter here](#). For general questions or if you would like to discuss your programmatic interests with WRMP staff, please contact Heidi Nutters, Project Manager, at heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org. We look forward to continuing to engage the IC through this exciting year for our project.

Environmental Justice and Racial Equity

As part of an ongoing effort to incorporate racial and social equity into our work, two additional SFEP staff, myself and Josh Bradt, are participating in the next Learning Year cycle of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). In addition, Heidi Nutters is continuing with the Implementation Year cycle of GARE, supporting agency-wide implementation of actions identified by previous GARE co-horts.

The informal Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group, consisting of staff from SFEP, the Coastal Conservancy, and the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, has organized a Metro Talk Speaker Series event on March 7, [“Indigenous People and Land in the Bay Area: a film screening and discussion.”](#) These events are held at the Bay Area Metro Center and presented by the Bay Area Regional Collaborative. The event is FREE; please attend and bring a friend or colleague.





**2019 SPEAKER SERIES EVENT AT
THE BAY AREA METRO CENTER**



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LAND IN
THE BAY AREA: A FILM SCREENING
AND DISCUSSION**

This panel and film screening will be an opportunity to learn and engage with tribal voices and representatives.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street,
Yerba Buena Conference Room

For More Information visit BayAreaMetroCenter.com

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Grants

Round 1

Round 1 of DWR IRWM program grants to the Bay Area was closed on December 31, 2018. This grant program (initially managed by the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, then by SFEP/ABAG) included 31 separate projects addressing the areas of: 1) Bay Area Regional Water Conservation, 2) Regional Recycled Water Treatment & Distribution, 3) Wetland Ecosystem Restoration, 4) Regional Green Infrastructure, and 5) Water Quality Improvement, Flood Management, and Ecosystem Projects in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Local project sponsors expended \$28.5M of the \$30.2M allocated from the state's Proposition 84, originally awarded in 2011. SFEP took on grant management duties in 2017 after the state agreement was extended to allow for completion of the suite of DAC projects and the Regional Green Infrastructure projects. See the "New Funding" section below for the latest on the San Pablo Ave Green Stormwater Spine project.

Rounds 2, 3, 4

One additional project has completed construction, bringing the total completed projects to 19 out of the 36 projects funded under Grant Rounds 2, 3, and 4. Two projects that were previously reported as completed received additional funding that would have otherwise gone unspent in round 3 and have additional construction activities to complete.

Supplemental Environmental Projects

For many years, SFEP has provided third-party oversight for Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) undertaken by dischargers entering into settlement agreements with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. We are pleased to note the successful completion of these recent SEPs.

Completion of the Phillips 66 (Previously Conoco) Pinole Creek Fish Passage Improvements at I-80 Culvert

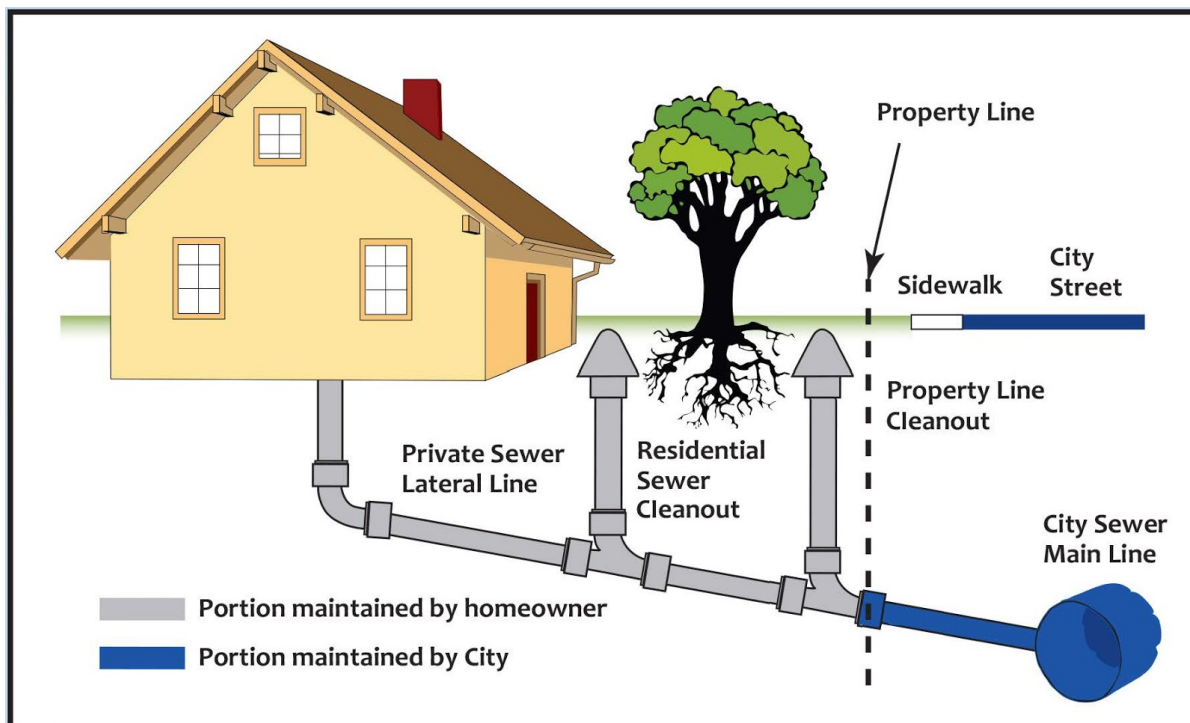
This project sought to improve fish passage in Pinole Creek. Construction was successfully completed in 2016, for a design including a fish ladder, a curb at the downstream end of the culvert, and an engineered channel with rock weirs downstream. Post construction spawner surveys in 2017 and 2018 observed multiple redds built by steelhead and/or rainbow trout, indicating that the infrastructure is achieving its goal of providing passage for adult steelhead returning to spawn in Pinole Creek, upstream of the culvert. All financials and reporting requirements were completed for this project.



Pinole Creek Fish Passage Improvements at I-80 Culvert, Photo: Adrien Baudrimont

Completion of the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM) Private Lateral Replacement Supplemental Environmental Project

Private lateral replacement projects have been a common type of SEP over the past decade. Functioning private laterals are critical to ensure sewage doesn't leak to storm drains or other points that might reach creeks or the Bay. Many Bay Area sewer laterals are made of clay pipe that are subject to breakage as soils shift or as roots intrude. Private lateral repair/replacement projects set up funds to assist private property owners with the cost of bringing the private portion of the sewer system into good repair. This project funded over 250 inspections of private laterals leading to 160 repairs or replacements. Another major outcome of this effort was the adoption of private lateral ordinances by all SASM member agencies. These ordinances require a private lateral inspection and repair before a property can be sold. All financials and reporting requirements were completed for this project.



Private lateral graphic. Source: City of Redwood City

NEW FUNDING

Horizons - Water Management and Green Infrastructure - ~\$75,000

Partnership staff will work with ABAG/MTC's Plan Bay Area update team to incorporate water supply and demand management and green infrastructure planning into Plan Bay Area, through analyses of impacts to water supply and green infrastructure planning in the three futures scenarios of the Horizon initiative, and stakeholder-informed development of policy recommendations for Plan Bay Area. Funding will come from ABAG/MTC and will support Partnership staff time on the project as well as consultant work.

San Pablo Green Stormwater Spine Project - \$2,000,000

With the expiration of the DWR IRWM Round 1 Grant program on December 31, 2018, SFEP staff sought funding from the MTC's Bay Area Toll Authority to ensure construction of four sites of the San Pablo Ave Green Stormwater Spine project. In November 2018, MTC approved SFEP's request of \$2,000,000 to supplement funding in hand from Caltrans (\$1,627,298), and the State's Strategic Growth Council (\$482,372) to cover anticipated construction costs, utility relocations, and other professional services for green stormwater infrastructure retrofits at sites in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, and El Cerrito. Construction is now scheduled to start in April. Construction plan sets were developed for additional city staff-selected sites in Albany, Richmond, and San Pablo from previous funding from DWR and EPA. However the Albany and San Pablo sites designs are undersized to qualify for water quality treatment credit and the Richmond site faces significant utility relocation expenses to move forward.

2019-2020 Clean Vessel Act Program - \$225,000

SFEP was awarded a grant from the California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways to continue its Clean Vessel Act Program work. In this new cycle, SFEP staff will extend its work to the Santa Cruz/Monterey area, and will improve its popular iOS/Android free app: Pumpout Nav.

COMMUNICATIONS

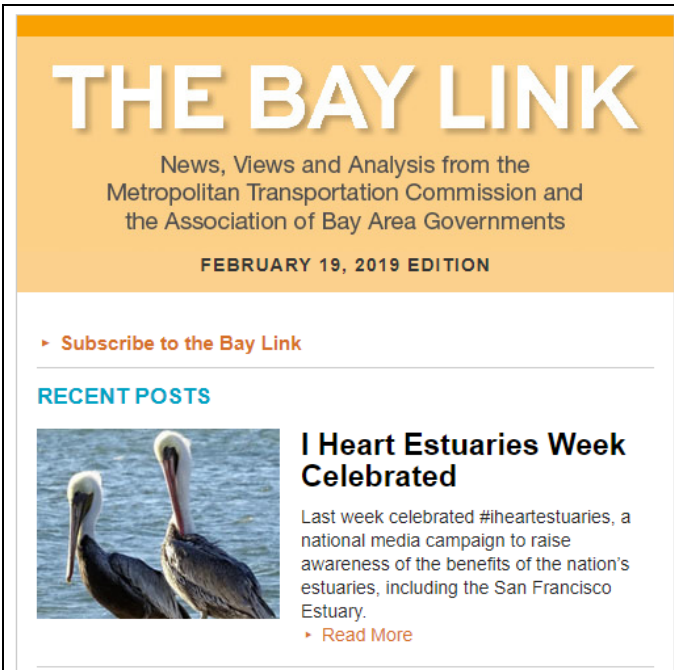
I Heart Estuaries

SFEP staff worked with the National Estuarine Research Reserves Association, Restore America's Estuaries, and the Association of National Estuary Programs to share the importance of estuary ecosystems throughout the nation during the #iheartestuaries social media campaign February 12-14. SFEP staff developed a social media toolkit for the National Estuary Programs and provided a robust online presence with 30 posts on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, including a Facebook Live Video.

We also worked with local partners MTC, SF Bay Joint Venture, SFEI, and Point Blue Conservation Science to host videos and photos from around the bay on a large digital display in the lobby of the Bay Area Metro Center. These efforts were written about on the ABAG website, the MTC blog, MTC's internal intranet site, and the SFEP



website. The video compilation of the photos can be found online at the YouTube link below (set to music by SFEP staff Adrien Baudrimont!), and SFEP staff is now working with SFEI and SF Bay Joint Venture to create a more complete online version of the display.



ABAG Website:

<https://www.abag.ca.gov/>

Video of Photos on Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/Fv6DoSSsO2k>

SF Bay Joint Venture Videos:

<http://www.sfbayjv.org/videos.php>

MTC Baylink Blog:

<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/i-heart-estuaries-week-celebrated>

Estuary News



The December [issue of Estuary News](#) dips into varied estuarine experiences, from recreational swimming and shark fishing to stresses affecting the health of green sturgeon, Hunter's Point communities, and other coastal ecosystems. Readers will also find out about green bonds for climate adaptation, anti-erosion plantings in North Bay wetlands, and the drug cocktail medicating our Bay via our toilets. The issue also looks back 20 years over trends resulting from impaired freshwater flows, and ahead to where harbor seals may still find haul outs in a rising Bay.

Communications Plan Implementation Highlights

Here are some highlights of implementation of our approved [Strategic Communications Plan](#).

Regional Communications Workgroup: SFEP staff has worked with SF Bay Joint Venture, SFEI and others to develop a Regional Communications Workgroup with a regular monthly call-in meeting to help share and boost relevant communications efforts and build communications skills. The team has now held three monthly calls, and has grown to represent 11 organizations.

MTC/ABAG Collaboration: In addition to the I heart estuaries campaign, SFEP has been featured in recent publications by ABAG and MTC, including the ABAG October-November e-newsletter and website posts, and in at least one post per month on the MTC Bay Link blog. In addition, SFEP has shared interesting news stories on the work of our partners, leading to the feature of two partners in the Bay Link.

ESTUARY News Magazine Visibility: SFEP received approval to post the current edition of ESTUARY News around the Bay Area Metro Center, and it is currently prominently featured at the reception area on the 7th floor.

