



Director's Report

May 15, 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2019 State of the Estuary Conference

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. The call for concurrent session and poster abstracts has been sent to the SOE Steering Committee members, the IC, and others. Concurrent session abstracts are due to the team on May 15th, and poster abstracts are due June 24th. Registration will begin in August. Efforts to secure sponsorship have begun and will continue throughout the next few months of conference planning.

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

Would you or your organization like to sponsor the conference? Contact Sarina Seaton (sseaton@bayareametro.gov).

*State of the
San Francisco Estuary Conference*



Wetland Regional Monitoring Program

The Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) had a successful Winter/Spring with the completion of four outreach workshops. Following completion of the workshops, the core project team is now working with experts to develop the science content that will represent

the foundation of program development. In addition, the project team submitted a grant proposal to EPA Regional 9 Wetland Program Development to fund Phase II of the WRMP. This work will focus on data and information management, regulatory coordination and program governance and administration.

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.

IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program

In 2016, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) granted \$6,500,000 for the San Francisco Bay Region through its IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (IRWM DACIP). Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) was selected as the grantee to administer the regional grant funds for IRWM partners' work with disadvantaged, underrepresented, and tribal communities throughout the Bay Area to conduct needs assessments to identify water-related needs and solutions related to Water Supply & Water Quality, Wastewater & Recycled Water, Flood Protection & Stormwater Management, and Watershed Management & Habitat Protection. The goal of this work was to identify projects in these communities that could be proposed in future rounds of funding and to integrate these communities into the IRWM funding and management process. This work included significant outreach to local community groups and was to be followed with technical development of projects for proposals as early as 2020.

DWR has determined that EJCW was not able to fulfill its grantee role under the IRWM DACIP, and issued a stop work order to EJCW. On an emergency basis, DWR and the Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee have requested that SFEP take on the grantee role for remaining funding (up to \$3,020,000) and manage remaining work under the DACIP. All parties are working expeditiously to transfer grant funded activities from EJCW to ABAG, to minimize disruption to the partners and delay of the deliverables.

Plan Bay Area: Water Demand and Green Infrastructure Policy Recommendations

SFEP has executed a contract with Brown and Caldwell, a national engineering firm, to conduct analyses of water demand and green infrastructure under the three fictional futures of the [Horizon](#) initiative. These analyses will drive the development of policy recommendations, which then will be used to inform the update to Plan Bay Area (2050). SFEP will be seeking input on the policy recommendations from stakeholders including Bay Area water agencies and the IC; please look for a request for your feedback from SFEP staff toward the end of this month.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Grants

Round 2

Milliken Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Passage Barrier Removal

Project Sponsor: County of Napa

The Milliken Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project included three integrated elements along Milliken Creek to remove a passage barrier for steelhead and reduce flooding in a neighborhood of 56 homes. The three elements included in the design were: 1) removal of a summer impoundment dam in Milliken Creek and restoration of the creek, 2) construction of a flood bypass to create an additional release point from the flood detention area within the adjacent golf course and lower the risk of overflow onto neighboring properties that has impacted homes, and 3) installation of drop-structure/rock



slope protection at the East Fork Milliken Creek culvert to reduce localized street flooding.

A total of 0.78 acres of riparian habitat was restored and an additional 2.5 stream miles were opened up to anadromous fish with the removal of the impoundment dam. A total of 100 homes were protected from flooding resulting from storm events.

Round 3

Stinson Beach Water Supply & Drought Preparedness

Project Sponsor: County of Napa

The Stinson Beach County Water District (District) provides drinking water to the isolated Town of Stinson Beach (less than 1,500 residents) in coastal Marin County. The District's water resources are limited and highly vulnerable to climate conditions and seasonal water demands. The District's critical water needs relate to the isolated location of the District's Service Area with no existing or feasible possibilities for inter-tie connections or water transfers with other water agencies and limited local water supplies.

This project increased water supply reliability through implementation of several components that included pipeline replacement, supplemental groundwater supply development, and the replacement of 741 traditional water meters with AMI meters that are capable of providing daily water use information and early leak detection services. Laterals were also replaced as the meters were installed on an as needed basis. The photo

shows a replaced lateral that corroded, causing substantial water loss. These components delivered benefits including improved drinking water supply reliability for periods of drought or emergency conditions; reduced water system losses associated with leaking water pipelines; improved the District's ability to promptly identify, locate, and repair leaks in pipelines; and provided additional



benefits for environmental considerations. This project resulted in the development of 72.6 AFY additional water supply and 35.5 AFY of water savings.

NEW FUNDING

North Richmond Horizontal Levee - \$30,000

With the close of the Resilient By Design (RbD) process on April 31, 2019, \$30,000 of unused funds from the Rockefeller Foundation are available to SFEP to continue advancing the Horizontal Levee system concept identified in the North Richmond Community Vision and RbD's "ouR-Home" Team (Mithun) final report. On April 17, County Supervisor John Gioia led a presentation to the WCWD Board to invite WCWD participation in a year-long, multi-stakeholder working group process. The Rockefeller funding would support SFEP staff to convene the working group with the objective to reach a shared understanding of desired benefits, alignment, and extent of a potential horizontal levee system. By the end of the process, the hope is that the partners will be ready to apply for funding to advance a project, based on conceptual/schematic designs developed under the auspices of the working group. This effort will benefit from the [Transforming Urban Waters \(TRUW\)](#) initiative that has emerged from the other horizontal levee projects associated with wastewater treatment facilities.



Horizontal Levee as depicted in the ouR-Home final report for the Resilient by Design Challenge

Nutrient and Ocean Acidification Data Analysis and Communication - \$25,000

SFEP received supplemental funding from EPA's National Estuary Program to build on the previously reported work to improve baseline monitoring of ocean acidification and hypoxia effects in the Estuary with the deployment of BOB (Bay Ocean Buoy) and MARI (Marine Acidification Research Inquiry). The additional funding will allow for additional data analysis and communication of the results.

COMMUNICATIONS

ESTUARY News Magazine



The [March issue of ESTUARY News](#) explores past and future water quality monitoring programs in San Francisco Bay, ranging from the 50-year old USGS program now facing an uncertain future to new buoys monitoring ocean acidification due to climate change and a proposal for a regionally coordinated effort to track wetland outcomes. Other stories chase salmon scientists up Putah Creek, reveal problems of sycamore hybridization with plane trees, review the latest on flows rulings and lawsuits, and more.

Pearls



Did you catch the latest [Pearls](#)? Pearls are short stories of interest published between issues of ESTUARY News. The May release of Pearls highlights the “new kids on the block” -

introductions to the folks new to the helms of various organizations and programs. Part I focuses on people now leading key science, restoration and resiliency programs. Part II to come later will focus on policy and planning.

Communications Plan Implementation

At the adoption of SFEP's Strategic Communications Plan in August, staff identified the opportunity for broader presence of the [Estuary Blueprint](#) and [State of the Estuary Report](#) in partner materials, especially on websites. Staff will be reaching out to IC members with specific suggestions, where appropriate, based on an analysis of member websites. This is also an opportunity for partners to suggest ways that SFEP can better showcase their work on its website.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

National Estuary Program Spring Workshop and Congressional Visits

Darcie Luce and I went to DC in March to attend the EPA NEP Spring Workshop and to visit with our Congressional delegation. Our trip coincided with MTC's Hill visits, which provided us with the opportunity to meet MTC's new Executive Director, Therese McMillan, connect with elected officials like ABAG Immediate Past President Julie Pierce (pictured here with Darcie Luce), and chat about the nexus between transportation, infrastructure, and the San Francisco Estuary.

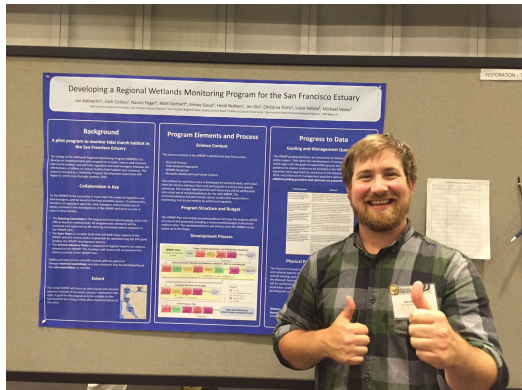


The two-day NEP meeting covered sessions on a range of topics. I presented on a panel that discussed how NEPs are effectively addressing excess nutrients in estuaries. In addition to the NEP Workshop, Darcie and I managed to meet with the offices of twelve Bay Area Representatives and both our Senators. We updated them on projects and programs of note (supported by our 2019 Informational handout and map of projects) and answered questions.

As in previous years, the NEP program has been zeroed out in the President's budget for FY2020, but I am pleased to report that congressional support for the NEP program

continues to be strong and bipartisan. A record 80 Members signed on to a letter to the House Appropriations committee requesting that the NEPs be fully funded at the authorized level of \$750,000 each for FY2020. A similar letter in the Senate was signed by 25 Senators.

Staff Changes



Although we were able to extend his Fellowship by four months, it is now time to say our good-bye to Ian Kelmartin, our California Sea Grant Fellow. Ian has done a tremendous job advancing the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program during his time with SFEP and his contributions have been significant. They included supporting the project Core Team, Steering Committee and Science Advisory Team, undertaking an ambitious analysis

and findings report on regulatory drivers of wetland monitoring in the SF Bay, and supporting science content development.

While we are sad to see Ian go, we are thrilled to welcome our 2019 California Sea Grant Fellow, Jillian Burns. Jillian is currently finishing up her master's as a part of the Zooplankton Ecology lab at the Estuary and Ocean Science Center, SFSU in Tiburon, studying larval longfin smelt diets and zooplankton communities in different habitats of the northern SF Estuary. Before going back to school for her master's, she worked in San Francisco at ICF as an aquatic biologist.



Sarina Seaton has replaced Eva Bedford as our Section Administrator. Sarina had been supporting the ABAG/MTC integrated planning team and is now splitting her time between SFEP and ABAG's Energy Program. Sarina has already jumped in with both feet providing both day-to-day support and longer term project work such as the upcoming State of the Estuary Conference.