



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 16, 2023

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Estuary Youth Council's First Summer Session



The Estuary Youth Council held its first Summer Session with eight youth recruited by Mycelium Youth Network, Nuestra Casa, and Restore the Delta. Summer Sessions are in-person, all-day events that prioritize relationship & community building and an in-depth educational emphasis on a particular challenge the Estuary faces. Summer Sessions this year will focus on topics such as: sea level rise, harmful algal blooms, wetland restoration, and more.

Breaking Ground Project Kickoff



Funded by the US EPA's San Francisco Water Quality Improvement Fund, the Breaking Ground Project leverages years of experience with the development and monitoring of NBS around the SF Bay and moves the needle for the entire Estuary by implementing a first-of-its-kind solution – the horizontal levee.

The Breaking Ground Project will achieve the following: (1) Construct the Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Pilot (PAHLP) Project; (2) Co-create NBS education and monitoring programs focused on sea level rise adaptation and water quality in partnership with community-based organizations and underserved communities; and (3) Catalyze

additional on the ground nature-based solutions, particularly horizontal levees, at the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District and the City of Hayward.

The project team will partner closely with the City of Palo Alto, Save The Bay, Nuestra Casa, CSU Channel Islands, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, the City of Hayward and the East Bay Dischargers Authority.

The project grant total is \$4.3 million and spans March 2023 – December 2026.

Wetland Migration Workshop Announced

A [two-day workshop focused on wetland migration areas](#) will be held September 18-19. The workshop is hosted by the Coastal Conservancy, Save the Bay, and the Estuary Partnership and will be taking place at the Bay Area MetroCenter and via a webinar. In-person space is limited and expected to fill up quickly. Register to attend either in-person or virtually here: [Wetland Migration Workshop - San Francisco Estuary Partnership \(sfestuary.org\)](#)

COMPLETED PROJECTS

IRWM Prop 84 Round 2

Round 2 of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program funded under Proposition 84 (the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) through the Department of Water Resources formally closed out in December 2021, with final retention paid out in June 2023. Partnership staff administered 18 implementation projects for a total of \$17,178,00, documenting \$10,976,473 in matching funds.

Projects included in this funding round spanned the nine-county Bay Area and included water conservation, water supply, fish passage, ecosystem restoration, and flood control projects.

Before and after photo of the Upper York Creek Dam Removal and Ecosystem Restoration Project funded under Prop 84 Round 2. Credit: SFEP and City of St. Helena.



NEW FUNDING

IRWM Prop 1 Round 2 - \$32,214,479

SFEP has accepted an award for just over \$32 million from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for an implementation grant from the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. Legislation for Proposition 1 allocated funding for each hydrologic region in the State, as identified in the California Water Plan. The San Francisco Bay Area Region grant funds will help with the implementation of twelve regional projects that include water conservation, water supply, flood damage reduction, habitat restoration, and stormwater management.

COMMUNICATIONS

TruW Featured on International NBS Website



The Transforming Urban Water Initiative (TRUW) was featured on a site highlighting nature-based solutions from across the globe. Nature-based Solutions is a professional organization working in the field of Nature-Based Solutions with expertise in engineering, community planning, natural resource management, and research, who work together to overcome social-climate related challenges through innovation and sustainability.

The website highlights the TRUW Initiative work of SFEP and our partners, especially the Oro Loma Sanitary District, East Bay Dischargers Authority, US Environmental Protection Agency, East Bay Regional Parks District, Environmental Science Associates and the City of Palo Alto.

Learn more here: <https://www.nature-basedsolutions.com/page/921/transforming-urban-water-initiative-horizontal-levees>

WRMP Summer 2023 Newsletter

The [Summer Newsletter](#) of the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program highlights key accomplishments during the second quarter of 2023, including workgroup progress and Tribal engagement best practices.

Sustainable Silicon Valley WET Talk

SFEP participated in a Water Environment and Technology (WET) talk on East Bay Infrastructure Projects. The talk featured East Bay Dischargers Authority's Jackie Zipkin, SFEP's Heidi Nutters and Cargill's Don Brown to discuss the Transforming Shorelines Plan, the First Mile Horizontal Levee Project and the Cargill Solar Salt Facility Pump station and Pipeline Project. A video of the talk can be found here: <https://www.sustainablesv.org/events-2/>.

IC NEWS

BAFPAA Changes



After many years serving on the Implementation Committee (including serving a term as Chair) due to the demands of her new position as Government Relations Manager at Zone 7 Water Agency, Carol Mahoney is no longer able to represent the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association on the IC. Please join me in thanking Carol for her years of focused engagement, active participation, and critical representation of the flood protection agencies.

Though we will certainly miss Carol, I am pleased that two new people have stepped up to represent BAFPA on the IC: Tess Byler of the San Francisco JPA as the primary representative and Carlos Diaz of the Sonoma County Water Agency as the alternate. Welcome, Tess and Carlos!

New SF Bay Joint Venture Coordinator

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture has announced their new Coordinator – Kelli McCune! Kelli brings 15 years of conservation experience working in the nonprofit sector, most recently with the World Wildlife Fund and prior to that with Sustainable Conservation. Kelli officially begins at the Joint Venture on August 28th so we will welcome her to the IC at our next meeting in November.

