



**NOTICE AND AGENDA**  
Regular Meeting

Board of Directors  
Aquatic Science Center

To Be Held  
March 4, 2010  
**11:30am-2:30pm**

San Francisco Estuary Institute  
7770 Pardee Lane  
First Floor Conference Room

Oakland, CA 94621  
Phone (510) 746-7334

The Business Meeting will be preceded by an informational discussion session with the SFEI Board of Directors at 11:30am, followed by lunch at 12:30pm

**Joint Science Discussion with SFEI Board**

Mercury TMDL Implementation: What have we learned so far? Steps taken to reduce risks to human health and biological resources.

**ASC Business**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consent Items**
  - a) **Approval of Agenda**
  - b) **Approval of December 14, 2009, Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)**
4. **Information and Discussion Items**
  - a) **Quarterly Report (Attachment 2)**
  - b) **New Initiatives and Opportunities**

7770 Pardee Lane  
Second floor  
Oakland, CA 94621  
p: 510-746-7334  
f: 510-746-7300

**Board Members**

*CHAIR* Bruce Wolfe  
*VICE-CHAIR, SEC* David Tucker  
*TREASURER* Frank Leung  
David Williams  
Darrin Polhemus  
Doug Craig  
Alexis Strauss  
Pamela Creedon

- **Linkage between CV SALTS and San Joaquin Basin Monitoring Strategy Implementation**
  - **Aquatic Pesticides Monitoring**
  - **Consideration of CVCWA Membership**
5. **Action Items**
    - a) **Approve Work Plan for Strategic Planning Effort (Attachment 2)**
    - b) **Approve new element and amend 2009/10 Program Plan: San Francisco Bay Risk Reduction Program (Attachment 3)**
  6. **Future Meeting Agenda Items and Meeting Schedule**
  7. **Adjournment**

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## **Attachment 1**

**Minutes of the Aquatic Science Center Board of Directors  
December 14, 2009  
San Francisco Estuary Institute  
7770 Pardee Lane, Floor 2  
Oakland, CA**

### **Members Present:**

Bruce Wolfe, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Doug Craig, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies  
Pamela Creedon, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Darrin Polhemus State Water Resources Control Board  
David Williams, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies  
Mike Connor (Alternate), East Bay Dischargers  
Dyan Whyte (Alternate), San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Amy Chastain (Alternate), Bay Area Clean Water Agencies  
Luisa Valiela (Alternate), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Arleen Navarret (Alternate), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Frank Leung, San Francisco Estuary Institute  
Rainer Hoenicke, San Francisco Estuary Institute

### **Non-Members Present:**

Stephanie Seto, San Francisco Estuary Institute

### **Others Present:**

Trish Mulvey, SFEI Board and CLEAN South Bay

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Wolfe, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

### **Public Comments**

SFEI Board Member, Trish Mulvey, asked if the ASC Regional Board participants might be willing to consider directing some Supplemental Environmental Project funds to projects that would be of benefit to the Regional Monitoring Program. She also suggested the possibility of pooling "mandatory minimum" penalties for such a use. The subject of using SEP funds in this fashion was first broached at the December RMP Technical Advisory Committee meeting, and there seemed to be interest in discussing how such project ideas could be identified and prioritized if the Regional Boards were willing to consider this suggestion.

### **Consent Items**

#### **Review and Approve Agenda**

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve all consent items, including the agenda and September 23, 2009 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Polhemus and passed unanimously.

## **Action Items**

### **Board Resolution for appointing a new Executive Director**

The Board reviewed the Resolution and determined to make the following modification:

- (a) Change *Adopts Resolution 02-09 on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, following the vote on September 23, 2009* to *Adopts Resolution 02-09 on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, following the vote on September 23, 2009 and hereby appoints Dr. Rainer Hoenicke as new Executive Director.*

### **Appointment of Officers**

The Board considered appointment of new Officers. The Board unanimously voted to approve the appointment of Mr. Tucker as Board Chair, Ms. Creedon as Vice-Chair/Secretary, and re-appoint Mr. Leung as Treasurer. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Polhemus and passed unanimously.

### **Information and Discussion Items**

#### **Updated 2009/2010 Program Plan**

Dr. Hoenicke discussed the highlights of projects funded through the Aquatic Science Center. Once the RMP/SFEI/ASC budgets for the coming year have been finalized and approved by the SFEI Board, an email will be sent out to the ASC Board with the Program Plan attached. Dr. Hoenicke provided the Board with a copy of the new and improved SFEI Scorecard. He informed the Board that there has been a switch from the old Scorecard into a newsletter, which is more internal and reader friendly. It will contain the old Scorecard content in addition to Technical Scientific Highlights.

### **Project Updates**

Dr. Hoenicke provided a summary of the status of funded, suspended, and proposed projects. Mr. Wolfe recommended that all ASC contracts be grouped together when presented on the Executive Director Report.

### **Initiating a Strategic Planning Process for ASC in 2010**

The Board formed a strategic plan subcommittee, comprised of Mr. Polhemus, one representative each from RB 2 and RB 5, and a BACWA member to set up an efficient planning process, identify environmental priority issues and organizational/administrative improvements, and define desired planning outcomes. Dr. Hoenicke will ask Mr. Polhemus, who chaired the most recent SCCWRP strategic planning effort, and other subcommittee members to share with him their prep documents.

### **Future Meeting Agenda Items and Meeting Schedule**

Future meeting items include Mercury TMDL implementation – risk management approaches in Region 2 and Region 5, Nutrient issues in the Delta and SF Bay – current state of knowledge, early action alternatives, and linkages to BDCP, and Stormwater BMPs and flow reductions– what have we learned in the last three years. The next Board meetings are tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2010, June 3, 2010, September 2, 2010, and December 2, 2010.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Creedon, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER  
and the SAN FRANCISCO  
ESTUARY INSTITUTE

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www.sfei.org

## Executive Director's Quarterly Report

Our newsletter-style report is beginning to catch on as a nifty communication tool among staff - and I hope for board members as well. Our ultimate goal is to place the report on the web. The new year started out with a major emphasis on re-tooling internal operations, planning, and communication. We have emerged from last year's budget crisis with some scratches and scars - but as the saying goes, "what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." Senior staff is in the process of "imagining our future," given both environmental and budget challenges. Results of that process will find a way into our strategic planning effort with the board later this year. The Nominating Committee now has most of the tools ready for active recruitment of new board members, and I am looking forward to a successful transition process.

—Rainer Hoenicke, Executive Director



Q1 • 2010

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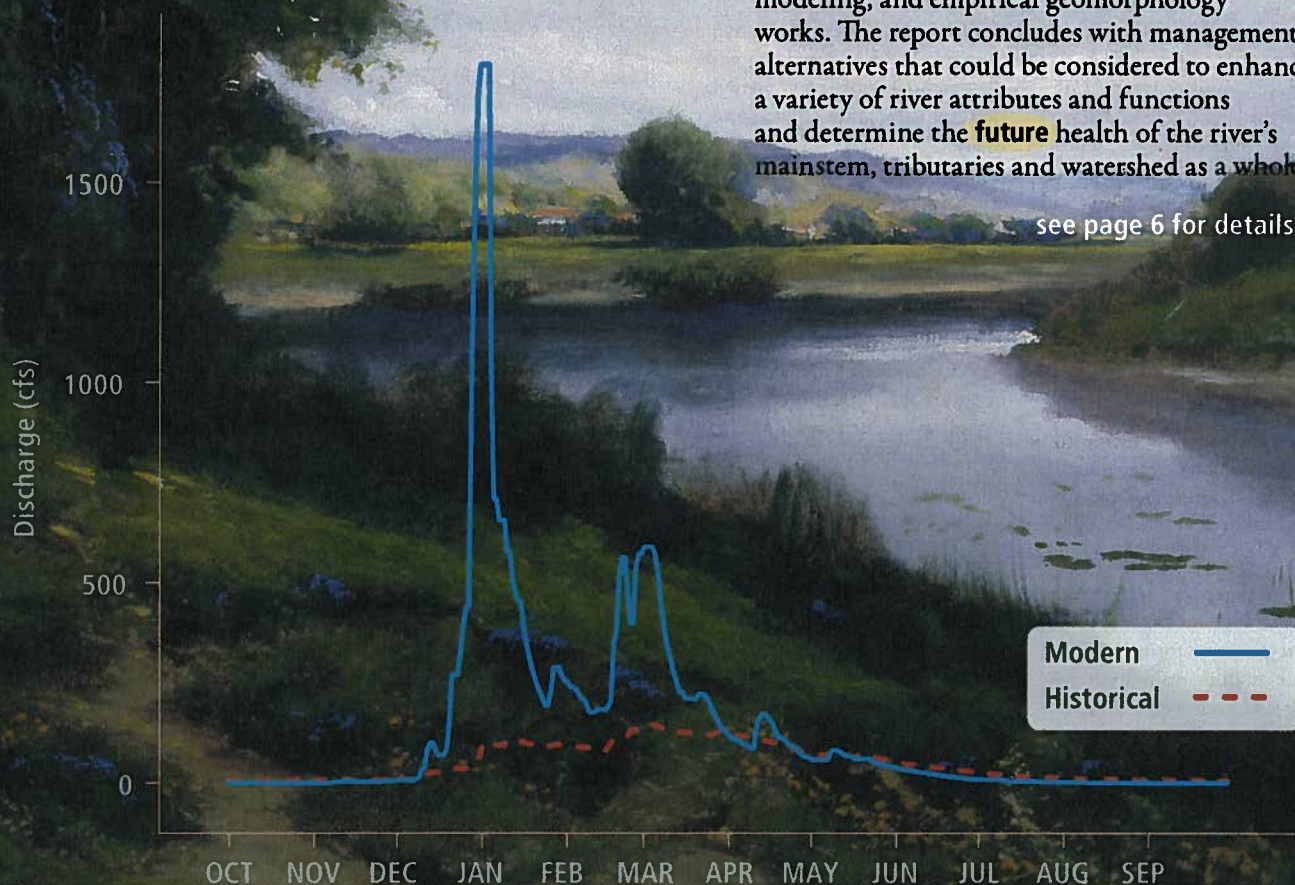
PAGE 12  
OPERATIONS

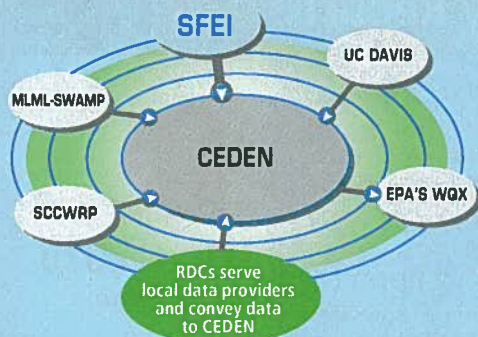
### PROJECT FRAMEWORK

	Past	Present	Change	Future
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES				
SEDIMENT				
WATER				
LANDSCAPE & HABITAT				

**SFEI** has completed work on a three-year study of the Napa River. The study examined land use in the Napa landscape over time. **Past** landscape condition and river function were documented using SFEI's Historical Ecology methods. An analysis of the **change** in land use practices since European arrival was conducted. **Present** day hydrology, sediment, and channel structure were documented. The report is a synthesis of Historical Ecology, hydrologic modeling, and empirical geomorphology works. The report concludes with management alternatives that could be considered to enhance a variety of river attributes and functions and determine the **future** health of the river's mainstem, tributaries and watershed as a whole.

see page 6 for details >



**Feb 11**

Cristina Grosso, John Oram, Rainer Hoenicke, and Thomas Jabusch participated in the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) Work Group meeting at SFEI. Meeting participants included representatives from the State Water Resources Control Board and each of the Regional Data Centers (RDCs) at SFEI, MLML, SCCWRP, and UCD. The objectives of the meeting were to develop a long-term vision and strategy for CEDEN, including better integration of the Central Valley, and to discuss the completion of tasks required for the public release of the CEDEN website and data query tools in June. The CEDEN Work Group will meet again in April.

**Jan 4**

Kat Ridolfi gave a presentation titled Legacy of Pollution: Mercury in San Francisco Bay to Friends of Five Creeks.

**Jan 17-22**

SFEI staff mobilized for a wild week of storm water sampling. Storm water runoff was sampled at Mallard Island, the Guadalupe River, and Zone 4 Line A in Hayward. The rainfall pushed many areas above 100% of normal for this time of year. Although, after three years of drought we still need more rain and snow fall to make up for previous shortages.

**Jan 20**

To assist in informing the design of levees in the Eden Landing area, the Historical Ecology team presented to the Alameda Flood Control District on historical channels and habitats of Alameda Creek.

**Jan 27**

Aroon Melwani gave a presentation at the RMP Hg Meeting on a two year statewide monitoring project to study contaminants in sport fish from lakes and reservoirs being led by Dr. Jay Davis, SFEI. This project was the first under the State Water Board's new SWAMP bioaccumulation monitoring program. Aroon also gave an update on the next

SWAMP bioaccumulation project that began recently to monitor contaminants in sport fish from California's coastal waters, including bay and estuaries, (see page 7 for details).

**Jan 28**

SFEI coordinated the MeHg Symposium for the LTMS on the topic of the potential for mercury methylation from dredging activities and dredged material placement and reuse. The meeting was attended by scientists, managers, and the dredging community. Speakers included Letitia Grenier and Don Yee from SFEI, and Josh Collins was the facilitator. The meeting ended with a panel discussion on possible next steps for answering management questions, particularly questions regarding beneficial reuse of dredged material in habitat restoration projects, (see page 7 for details).



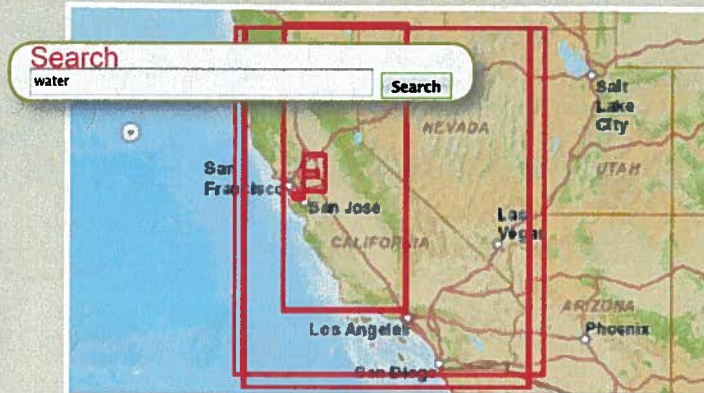
April Robinson and Letitia Grenier erect mistnets to capture songbirds.

**Anticipated release in May 2010**

From the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) group, Kristen Cayce, Shira Bezalel and Gregory Tseng are developing a data management plan that streamlines organization and accessibility of SFEI's spatial data. The latest geospatial tools available through Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) are being utilized to optimize performance of spatial data and improve data management. Users will be able to search SFEI's data library by keywords or geographic extent through an on-line data catalog. Release of the on-line data catalog to SFEI staff will happen in May 2010 and plans for a public release are scheduled for the end of the year.

**Geoportal Extension 9.3.1**

HOME SEARCH ADMINISTRATION REPOSITORIES

**Feb 6-7**

Meredith Williams organized a 2-day Wetlands Monitoring Group Volunteer Monitoring Workshop, held February 6-7, 2010 at the UC Richmond Field Station. Featured in the workshop was the California Rapid Assessment Method for wetlands (CRAM). Letitia Grenier and Sarah Pearce presented an introduction of the method and a detailed description of the estuarine module. The highlight of the weekend was the afternoon spent in Western Stege Marsh, conducting an example estuarine CRAM assessment. This workshop exposed the Level 1-2-3 framework and the CRAM methodology to a wide cross section of local volunteer coordinators, agency staff, and environmental organization staff, (see page 8 for details).

**Feb 9**

Michael May presented in Sacramento to the state 401 program coordinating committee (CORCOM) news on the re-branding of the Wetland Tracker as the "California Wetlands Portal" in keeping with its new role as part of the state board My Water Quality portal. Mike also reviewed the application workflow for the Online 401 Application project, currently in development, and discussed Portal-CIWQS coordination issues with Jarma Bennett, CIWQS Coordinator.

**mid-Feb**

Letitia Grenier released a final report that will be used in decision-making for the restoration of the South Bay Salt Ponds. The South Baylands Mercury Project, a three-year collaboration between SFEI, USGS and SCVWD, studied how the restoration of managed ponds to tidal habitats likely will affect accumulation of mercury in the local food web. The study focused on the Alviso area, which is downstream of the largest legacy mercury mine on the continent, in South San Francisco Bay.

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- Brown Bags
- Upcoming Events

Jan 4 **The Washington Post**

[News article: Susan Klosterhaus interview/quote]

**Use of Potentially Harmful Chemicals Kept Secret Under Law**

by Lyndsey Layton, Washington Post

Story on the trade secret provision in the US Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The reporter was specifically interested in Susan's 'couch story' and how she acquired the Firemaster 550 flame retardant mixture from Chemtura. And how the fact that 17,000 chemicals listed under TSCA as confidential business information impacts our work.

*"My concern is we're using chemicals and we have no idea what the long-term effects might be or whether or not they're harmful," said Susan Klosterhaus, an environmental scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute who has published a journal article on the substance with Stapleton.*

Feb 21

[News article: Rainer Hoenicke interview/quote]

**Dead Sea**

by Peter Jamison

An unpublished study shows the surprisingly lethal effects of the Cosco Busan oil spill. Rainer Hoenicke, an environmental scientist who heads the nonprofit **San Francisco Estuary Institute**, said he was puzzled about the reluctance to make a complete study available.

*"It's perfectly fair for the defendants to look at the information," he said. "What is strange in this case is that the agency, in this case [the state department of] Fish and Game, wasn't willing to release the report that was finished. I would say that the public has the same right as the defendant to look at the data — and not just the data, but the interpretation and analysis — at the time they came out."*

Jan 12

[News article: SFEI mention]

**Restoration Project in Alviso Key to Restoring San Francisco Bay Wetlands**

by Paul Rogers  
San Jose Mercury News

Construction on the notch is scheduled to be completed in December. The tidal gates will be opened early next year, slowly at first, with scientists from the nonprofit **San Francisco Estuary Institute** and government agencies studying wildlife, sediment movement, mercury concentrations and other issues.

*The shoreline of a salt pond in Alviso, Calif. is cluttered with construction waste on Jan. 12, 2010. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies will break ground on a \$3 million project to cut a 40-foot notch in the levees to allow salt water from the bay to flow back into the Guadalupe River to scour out years of accumulated silt, tule reeds and other unwanted vegetation. This pond is adjacent to the levee that will be breached. If successful, the project will regenerate the natural marshland and offer new flood protection for the city of Alviso which is below sea level.*

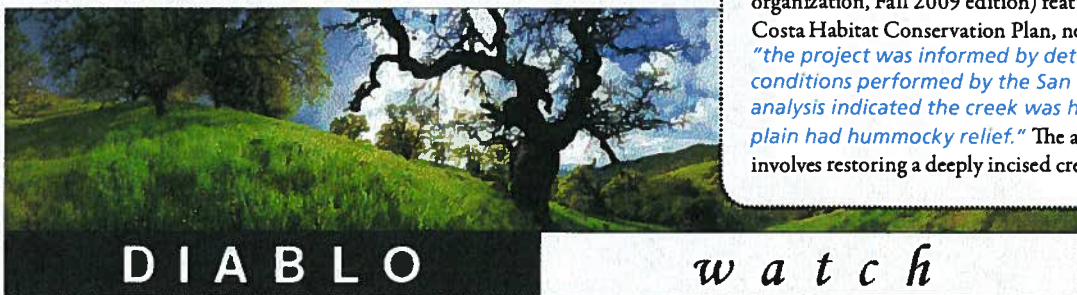
(photo by Gary Reyes/Mercury News)



Update: Fall 2009

[Newsletter: SFEI mention, Historical Ecology study]

The Diablo Watch (a quarterly newsletter of the Save Mount Diablo organization, Fall 2009 edition) featured an article on the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan, noting that for one area of restoration, *"the project was informed by detailed study of historic ecological conditions performed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. This analysis indicated the creek was historically discontinuous and the plain had hummocky relief."* The area, called the Souza-II property, involves restoring a deeply incised creek, wetlands, and vernal pools.





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Journal Articles

Hoenicke, R., Williams, M., Ridolfi, K., Oram, J., Van Velsor, K., Krebs, J., and Ziegler, S. 2010. Forecasting Multiple Watershed-level Benefits of Alternative Storm Water Management Approaches in the Semi-arid Southwest: Required Tools for Investing Strategically. Submitted to the LID Conference (see page 11 for details).

Reports

Ridolfi, K. 2010. Indicators and Performance Measures for North Bay Watersheds. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA.

Hunt, J., Yee, D., Collins, J., LTMS Symposium on Methylmercury in Dredging Operations and Dredged Sediment Reuse in the San Francisco Estuary. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA (cover below).

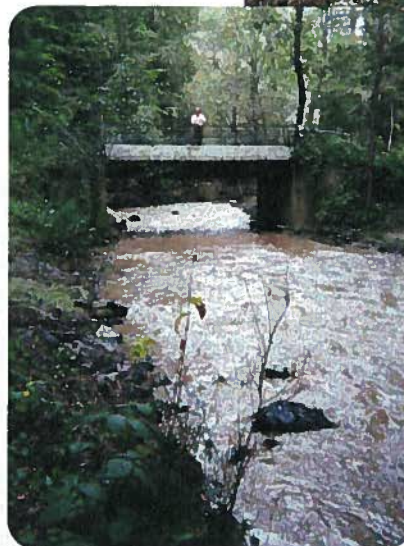
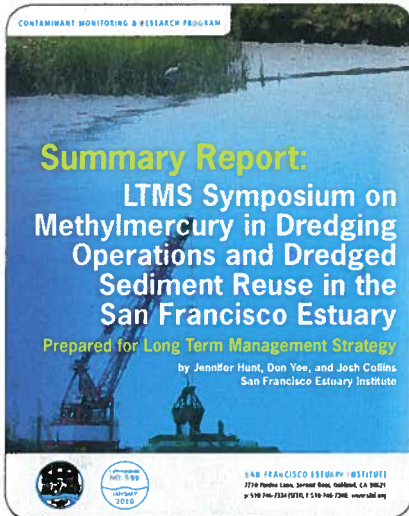
Final PDFs at [www.sfei.org](http://www.sfei.org)

McKee, L. J. and Gilbreath, A. N., 2009. Concentrations and Loads of Trace Contaminants in the Zone 4 Line A Small Tributary, Hayward, California: Water Year 2007. San Francisco Estuary Institute. Oakland, CA (see cover right).

Lent, M. A., Oram, J. J., McKee, L. J., 2009. Guadalupe Watershed Model Year 1 Report. San Francisco Estuary Institute. Oakland, CA.

Lewicki, M. and McKee, L. J. 2009. Watershed specific and regional scale suspended sediment loads for Bay Area small tributaries. A technical report for the Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup of the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality. San Francisco Estuary Institute. Oakland, CA (images below).

Concentrations and Loads of Trace Contaminants in the Zone 4 Line A Small Tributary Hayward, California: Water Year 2007



La Honda Creek, Hwy 84 at DeLay's Bridge, San Mateo County. Photo by Sarah Pearce.



Pinole Creek in Contra Costa County. Photo by Sarah Pearce.



Upcoming Reports

Ridolfi, K., Melwani, A., Allen, R., Davis, J. A., McKee, L. J., Impairment Assessment for Mercury in Tomales Bay. San Francisco Estuary Institute. Oakland, CA.

McKee, L. J., Gilbreath, A., Yee, D., Ridolfi, K., A BMP Toolbox for Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and Mercury. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA. Prop 13 Technical Product.

Stanford, B., Ridolfi, K., Greenfield, B., Summary Report: Green Sturgeon, Longfin Smelt, and Dredging Operations in the San Francisco Estuary. Prepared for: LTMS Science Group. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA.

< Photo by Nicole David

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**Napa Valley Report**

SFEI's "Waterlands" team completed work on its three year study of

management measures to address sediment impairment of the Napa River. Waterlands projects are collaborative efforts involving Historical Ecology, Watersheds, Wetlands, and GIS resources.

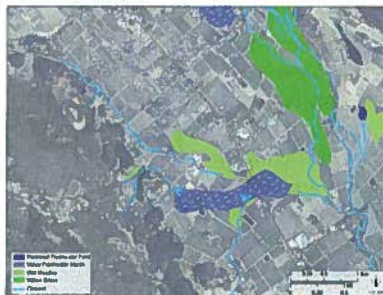
SFEI partnered with the Napa County Resource Conservation District and the Napa County Farm Bureau through a SWRCB Proposition 40 grant to develop a watershed-based framework for addressing agricultural management challenges related to improving the health of the Napa River ecosystem. The project identified possible adaptive management to improve river function and respond to the Napa River sediment TMDL.

**Project objectives**

- Compare and contrast the historical and current aquatic habitat mosaics
- Examine historical and present alluvial river function within the Napa River watershed
- Identify how land use changes have contributed to Napa's current undesirable conditions
- Describe the relationship between agricultural land use practices and the major attributes of a highly functioning, healthy river ecosystem
- Identify management approaches that could help improve the health of the river ecosystem
- Increase understanding within the agricultural community about the relationships between agricultural practices and river health
- Transfer project information to the local agricultural community

**Channel network changes**

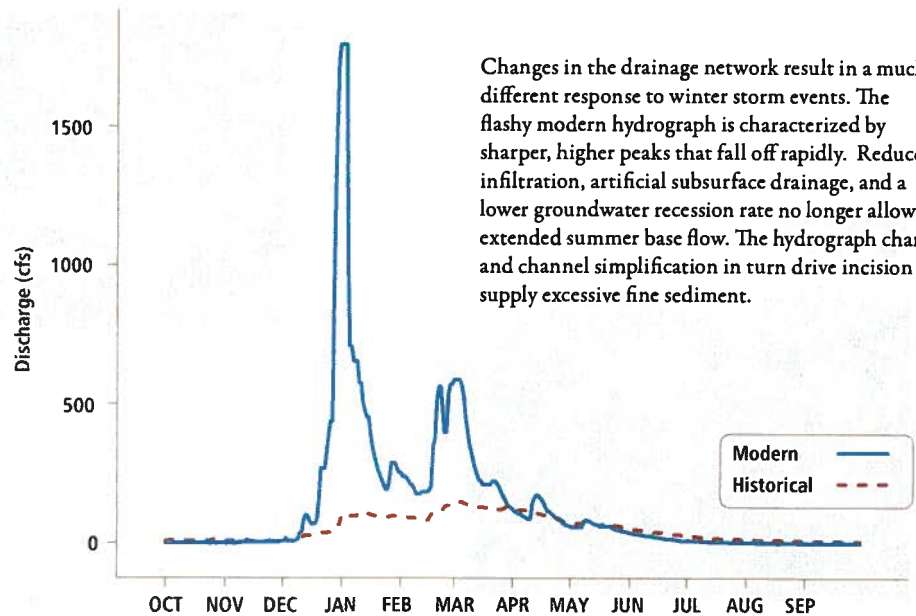
Ditches, subsurface drainage, and other structures have led to a much higher degree of hydrological connectivity on the Valley floor.



Historic channels at Bale Slough dissipated on the valley bottom or lower alluvial fans. High flows temporarily linked valley floor wetlands, intermittent streams and the Napa River. In the dry season, these features were mostly disconnected.

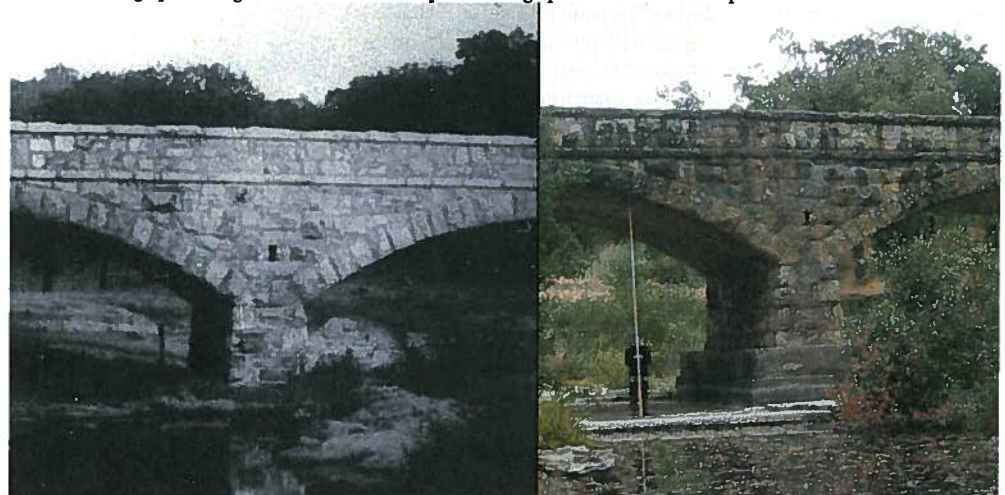


Current day drainage network near Bale Slough confluence near Rutherford Rd shows numerous ditches to meet agricultural needs.



Changes in the drainage network result in a much different response to winter storm events. The flashy modern hydrograph is characterized by sharper, higher peaks that fall off rapidly. Reduced infiltration, artificial subsurface drainage, and a lower groundwater recession rate no longer allow for extended summer base flow. The hydrograph changes and channel simplification in turn drive incision and supply excessive fine sediment.

Photograph pair showing the historic photograph (below left) (courtesy of Al Edmister) and current photograph (right) looking downstream at the Zinfandel Lane bridge. Photos show the historic bridge pillar at grade, and the now-exposed bridge pillar and concrete apron.



For more information, please contact Meredith Williams at [meredith@sfei.org](mailto:meredith@sfei.org).

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**Jan 12**

Susan Klosterhaus gave a presentation to the State of California Constituents of Emerging Concern Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Science Advisory Panel on January 12, 2010 at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). Susan's presentation outlined the work conducted to date by the RMP Emerging Contaminants Workgroup. As requested by the Water Board, the advisory panel is charged with developing a list of emerging contaminants to be monitored in wastewater and stormwater discharges to ambient coastal waters, a strategy to monitor them, and a framework for developing risk thresholds of concern.

**Jan 20**

Susan Klosterhaus served on the Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) panel at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Annual Meeting.

**Jan 27**

Jay Davis, Letitia Grenier, Kat Ridolfi, Don Yee, and Aroon Melwani gave presentations at the RMP 2010 Annual Mercury Meeting.

For details and titles see page 7.

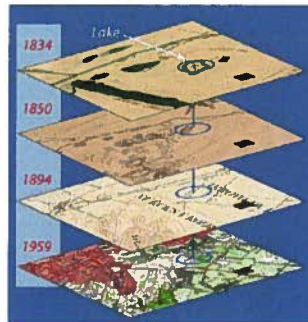
**Jan 28**

Josh Collins, Letitia Grenier, and Don Yee gave presentations at the LTMS Symposium: Methylmercury in Dredging Operations and Dredged Sediment Reuse in the San Francisco Estuary.

For details and titles see page 7.

**Jan 28**

Ruth Askevold gave a presentation titled Using GIS to Recreate Historical Habitat Patterns at the Wildlife Society Conference (image below).



**Jan 28**

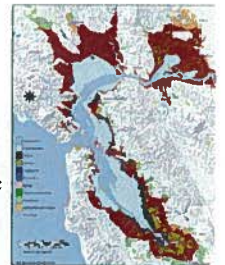
Susan Klosterhaus served on the Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) panel at the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) Annual Meeting. She provided an update on CEC activities conducted by the RMP Emerging Contaminants Workgroup and on-going statewide CEC research efforts.

**Feb 1**

Robin Grossinger presented at the Region 5 Water Board leadership committee on the Historical Ecology Program.

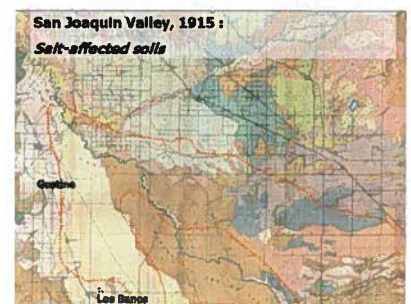
**Feb 6**

Robin Grossinger presented "Historical San Francisco Bay Shoreline: Perspectives on the Past and Future" at Predicting the future of San Francisco Bay: learning from history (a UC Museum of Paleontology Short Course) (image above).



**Feb 10**

Robin Grossinger presented at the CV-SALTS Technical Advisory Committee on "Sacramento/San Joaquin Historical Ecology" on February 10, 2010 (image below).



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<http://west.stanford.edu/>

**Jan 27**

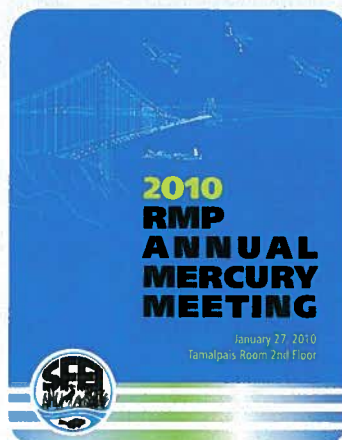
Robin Grossinger, on panel discussion for 2009 Risser Prize: Visualizing the Environment: Mapping Data and Telling Stories in Journalism, Scholarship and Environmental Policy at Stanford University (sponsored by the Bill Lane Center for the American West and the John S. Knight Fellowships for Professional Journalists).

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### Jan 27 RMP Annual Mercury Meeting David Brower Center Berkeley, CA

Jay Davis and SFEI staff hosted the Seventh Annual RMP Mercury Meeting on January 27. Established to facilitate the communication and coordination amongst bay area focused mercury research, the meeting annually features national experts presenting their work. Among the topics presented this year were: regulatory update on mercury; the use of mercury isotopes and Diffusive Gradients in Thin-film Probes (DGTs) for monitoring methylmercury; mercury concentrations in Bay phytoplankton, fish, and birds; understanding processes that influence mercury methylation in wetlands; mercury air deposition near mines, and a methylmercury mass budget.



poster by Joanne Cabling

## Agenda speakers

**Introduction to the LTMS and LTMS questions regarding mercury methylation and dredging activities/dredge material placement**  
Steve Goldbeck

**Agency discussion of MeHg management needs. Goals of mercury TMDL**  
Dyan White

**Context for evaluating dredging/dredge material disposal/dredge material reuse**  
Brian Ross

**A Simple MeHg mass budget for SF Bay Context and extrapolation of dredged material/wetland contribution**  
Don Yee

**How sediment mobilization affects inorganic mercury speciation and methylation potential: Case studies from Alviso Slough and the S. Yuba River**  
Mark Marvin-DiPasquale

**Summary of Hamilton Wetland Restoration Studies, lessons learned**  
Elly Best

**MeHg transport to/from Suisun Bay wetlands Estimates, uncertainties and challenges of export measurement**  
Mark Stephenson

## symposium

**Methylmercury in Dredging Operations and Dredged Sediment Reuse in the San Francisco Estuary**

**Mercury methylation in dredged material settlement ponds from Sacramento and San Joaquin River dredge material**  
Brian Bemis

**Measuring methylmercury exposure Monitoring options-Diffusion Gradient Thinfilm (DGT) Is this a good surrogate for biota? Or water or sediment?**  
Holger Hintelman

**Monitoring options- biosentinels Make your beneficial use target your monitoring tool.**

**Management planning options. South Bay Salt Ponds Plans- Case study/ Example strategy -how to move ahead without certainty - benefits, pitfalls, best/worst case scenarios**  
Leticia Grenier

**Roundtable discussion**  
Josh Collins

**Managers' wrap-up**  
Josh Collins

## Agenda speakers

**Review of Agenda and Goals of Meeting**  
Jay Davis

**The RMP Mercury Strategy: Approaching a Crossroads**  
Jay Davis

**San Francisco Bay Area Mercury Regulatory Update**  
Carrie Austin

**Mercury Bioaccumulation and Effects on Avian Reproduction in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary**  
Josh Ackerman

**Assessing Impairment of Wildlife by Mercury in Tomales Bay**  
Kat Ridolfi

**Monitoring of Contaminants in Sport Fish; Update on Lakes Study and Coastal Sampling**  
Aroon Melwani

**Results from the Lakes Mercury Bioaccumulation Factor (BAF) Study**  
Mark Stephenson

**Answering Management Questions about Tidal Marsh Restoration using Wetland Biosentinels for Mercury**  
Leticia Grenier

**The historical record of Mercury Contamination in San Francisco Bay tidal marshes and Lake Tahoe sediment**  
Steve Schwarzbach

**Mercury in Cores from San Francisco Bay and Wetlands**  
Don Yee

**Factors Affecting the Bioaccumulation of Methylmercury at the Base of the Food Web**  
Allison Luengen

**Mercury Isotope Study of Sediments and Young-of-Year Fish in San Francisco Bay**  
Joel Blum

**Application of Diffusive Gradients in Thin-film Probes for Methylmercury Monitoring: Year Two**  
Holger Hintelman

**Mercury Deposition in Watersheds: Mining Influence**  
Mac Gustin

**Photo-degradation of Monomethyl Mercury in the Delta Estuary and Yolo Bypass Agricultural and Natural Wetlands**  
Gary Gill

**Potential Impact of Suction Dredging on Mercury associated with Hydraulic Mining Sediments at the S. Yuba River - Humbug Creek Delta**  
Mark Marvin-DiPasquale

**National Perspective**  
Dave Krabbenhoft

### January 28 LTMS Symposium: Methylmercury in Dredging Operations and Dredged Sediment Reuse in the San Francisco Estuary California State Building Oakland, California

**Meeting Purpose:** Discuss information needs and options for managing adverse impacts of methylmercury from dredging and dredged material placement, particularly in restoration and establishment of wetlands and other applications.

**Target Audience:** Participants will include representatives from the dredging community, managers, scientists, the USACE, and other interested parties.

**Meeting Goals:** The overall goal is to assist in the effective management of dredging and dredged material disposal activities in the region. This will include summarizing current knowledge regarding wetland/habitat restoration with respect to methylmercury bioaccumulation, identifying remaining uncertainties regarding methylmercury processes from dredging or dredged material placement, and discuss potential management practices to minimize exposure and impacts from methylmercury resulting from those activities.

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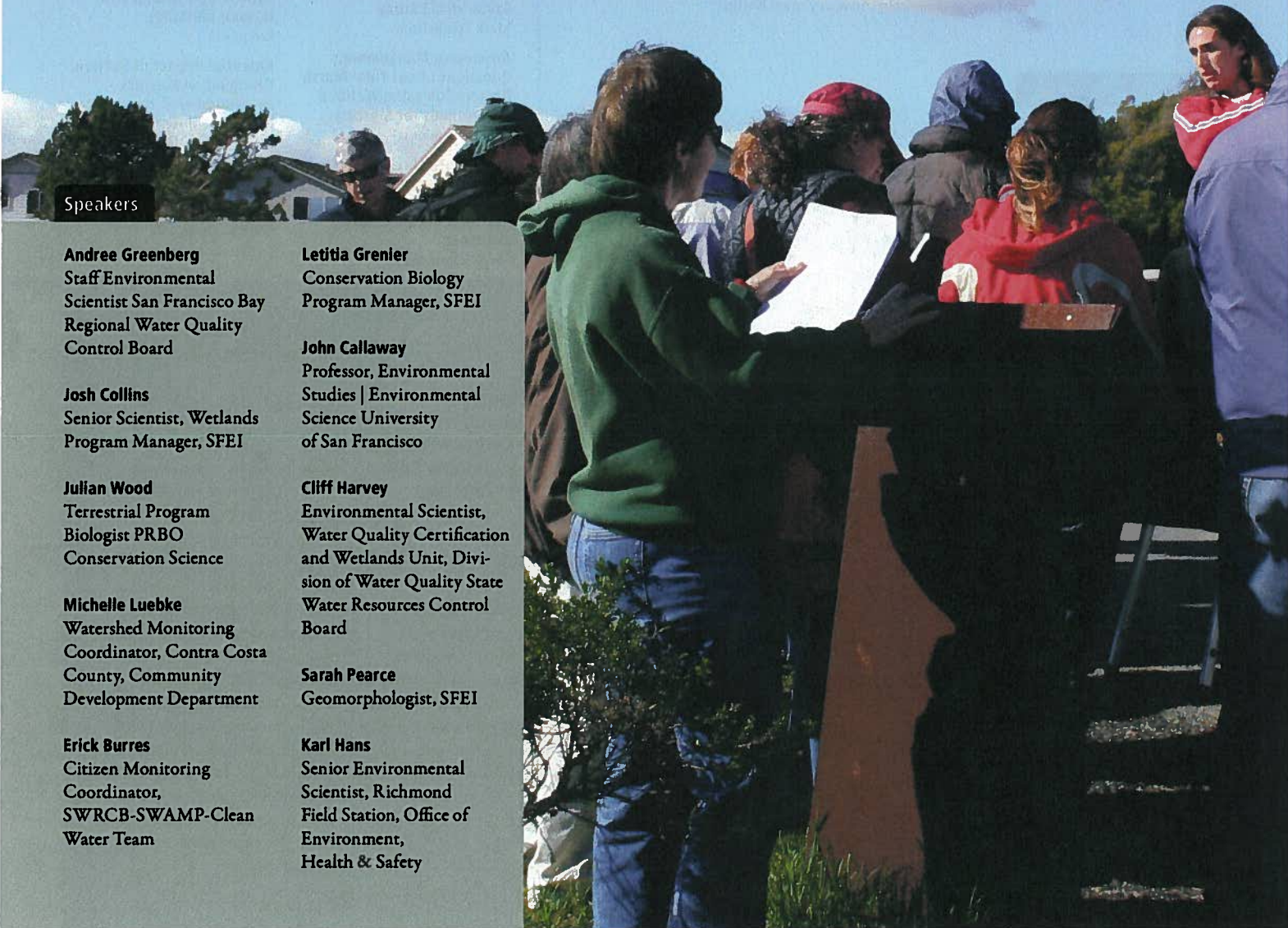
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Feb 6-7  
**Citizen Monitoring Workshop**  
 UC Richmond Field Station  
 Richmond, CA

SFEI hosted a workshop to build capacity for Bay Area citizen science. The workshop provided a forum for sharing ideas and best practices among Bay Area volunteer-based organizations running citizen monitoring programs. Participants heard from speakers about California's efforts, resources and initiatives and from regional programs such as the Contra Costa County Volunteer Creek Monitoring Program and PRBO population study teams and even got an overview of the environmental history of the Richmond Field Station.

Attendees received an introduction to the estuarine wetland module of California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) and saw CRAM demonstration in Western Stege Marsh at the Field Station.

Sponsors SFEI, SF RWQCB, SF Bay Joint Venture, and the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, and the Watershed Project.



**Speakers**

**Andree Greenberg**  
 Staff Environmental  
 Scientist San Francisco Bay  
 Regional Water Quality  
 Control Board

**Josh Collins**  
 Senior Scientist, Wetlands  
 Program Manager, SFEI

**Julian Wood**  
 Terrestrial Program  
 Biologist PRBO  
 Conservation Science

**Michelle Luebke**  
 Watershed Monitoring  
 Coordinator, Contra Costa  
 County, Community  
 Development Department

**Erick Bures**  
 Citizen Monitoring  
 Coordinator,  
 SWRCB-SWAMP-Clean  
 Water Team

**Letitia Grenier**  
 Conservation Biology  
 Program Manager, SFEI

**John Callaway**  
 Professor, Environmental  
 Studies | Environmental  
 Science University  
 of San Francisco

**Cliff Harvey**  
 Environmental Scientist,  
 Water Quality Certification  
 and Wetlands Unit, Divi-  
 sion of Water Quality State  
 Water Resources Control  
 Board

**Sarah Pearce**  
 Geomorphologist, SFEI

**Karl Hans**  
 Senior Environmental  
 Scientist, Richmond  
 Field Station, Office of  
 Environment,  
 Health & Safety

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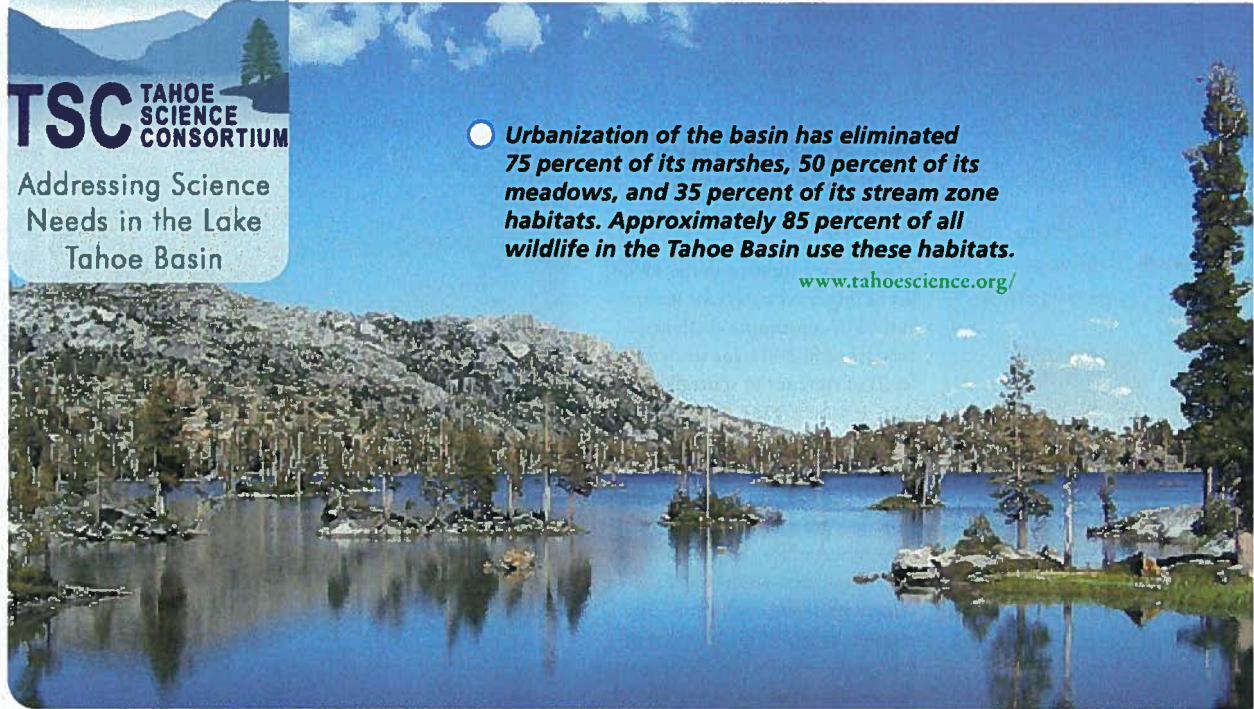


Photo from Google images.

- **Urbanization of the basin has eliminated 75 percent of its marshes, 50 percent of its meadows, and 35 percent of its stream zone habitats. Approximately 85 percent of all wildlife in the Tahoe Basin use these habitats.**

[www.tahoescience.org/](http://www.tahoescience.org/)

**Feb 9-10**  
**Tahoe Science Consortium**  
 Tahoe, CA

**Symposium on SEZ Restoration Monitoring in the Tahoe Basin**  
 Science Advisor: Josh Collins, SFEI

The stated purpose of this symposium was to explore the approaches and techniques used to assess the effectiveness of stream channel and floodplain restoration projects in the Tahoe Basin, with the aim of assessing the efficacy of monitoring protocols used in the Basin.

**The specific objectives identified for this symposium were to:**

- Consider past and current Tahoe Basin SEZ restoration programs and examine the approaches developed to assess the effectiveness of stream channel and floodplain restoration projects.
- Learn about monitoring and assessment techniques from outside the Tahoe Basin, to understand their strengths and possible weaknesses.
- Consider proposed frameworks for planning and monitoring the effectiveness of stream and floodplain restoration projects.
- Consider tools to quantify stream and floodplain project-level water quality benefits and inform basin-wide progress in meeting Lake Tahoe TMDL targets.

*SFEI, together with its partners, is increasingly being asked to provide technical transfer and advice throughout the state and nation.*

For more information, please contact Josh Collins at [josh@sfei.org](mailto:josh@sfei.org).

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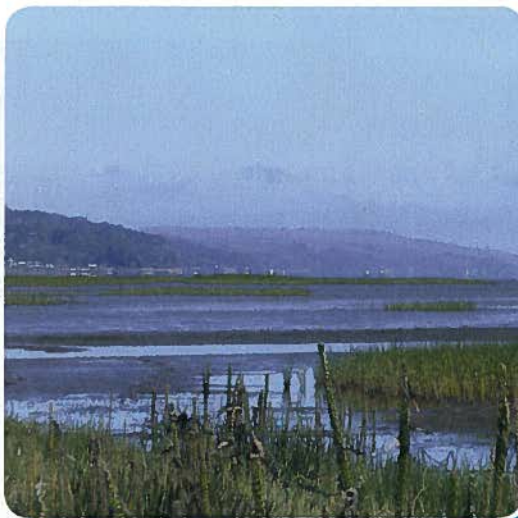
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**Dec 16, 2009**  
**Kat Ridolfi**  
 Project Manager  
 /Environmental Analyst  
 San Francisco Estuary Institute

**Assessing Impairment of Tomales Bay due to Mercury** (slide inserts on right)

Tomales Bay appears on the 303(d) list of impaired waters for mercury and a fish consumption advisory was issued in 2004 due to elevated levels of mercury in sport fish tissue. ASC is assisting the Regional Board in assessing impairment to wildlife in Tomales Bay due to mercury. We were asked to come to the Regional Board to provide a summary of data collected for the project, which includes biosentinel fish tissue, sediment, and water. The discussion by TMDL group staff centered around what the data mean for the development of the TMDL for Tomales Bay and possible implementation actions to reduce mercury to safe levels.



*With the TAC's help, we settled on collecting three matrices: sediment, water and fish and concentrated most of our effort in the Walker and Lagunitas deltas, with some reference sites around the Bay.*

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Question 1

What are the gradients and patterns of total and methylmercury?

H1: Hg is higher in Walker Creek delta than Lagunitas delta or other sites

H2: MeHg is higher in tidal marsh than mudflats or sandy substrate

H3: Erosion of mine-contaminated sediments is still occurring

Question 2

Is mercury from mining sediments entering the food chain of Tomales Bay?

H1: There are correlations of Hg among water, sediment, and fish

H2: Hg concentrations in fish tissue exceed the wildlife target



**Jan 12**  
**Mike May**  
 IT Manager  
 San Francisco Estuary Institute

**Zimbra Training**

Mike May held a Zimbra Training to introduce staff to Zimbra 6 (our email and calendaring system), share usage tips, and field questions.



**Update from Dec 2, 2009**  
**Meredith Williams**  
 Senior Project Manager  
 San Francisco Estuary Institute

As mentioned in the previous quarterly report, SFEI held a roundtable discussion on regional LID monitoring needs. The **December 2 brown bag** featured a talk by **Rosey Jencks of the SFPUC**. The meeting sparked a number of dialogues that have since been ongoing. One result was that SFEI was contacted by Greg Gearhart of the state water board's Division of Water Quality about providing additional support for Prop 84 grants. SFEI will be contracted to partner with the LID Center to develop a framework for LID effectiveness monitoring.

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## March

### March 8-9

California Estuarine Research Society and Society of Wetland Scientists 2010 Joint Annual Meeting at the University of San Diego ([details at right](#))

### Mar 21-25

Meg Sedlak and Suan Klosterhaus organizing the "Emerging Contaminants in California's Coastal and Estuarine Ecosystems" session for the American Chemical Society meeting in San Francisco.

## April

### Apr 11-14

Rainer Hoenicke will present his LID paper at the International Low Impact Development (LID) Conference. This year's conference is about *Redefining Water in the City*, and will held at the Westin SF Airport Hotel in San Francisco ([details at right](#)).

### Apr 20

Don Yee will participate in a meeting at SCCWRP on adding seawater to the SWAMP QAPP.

### Apr 25-29

Cristina Grosso will be giving a presentation on Environmental Visualization Tools at the National Water Quality Monitoring Council conference in Denver, CO.



### April 26-30

CRAM Riverine and Vernal Pool Training in Sacramento, CA

## May

### May 24-28

CRAM Riverine and Vernal Pool Training in Costa Mesa, CA

## June

### June 21-25

CRAM Riverine and Vernal Pool Training in Moss Landing, CA



[http://online.sfsu.edu/~caers/CAERS\\_2010\\_meeting.html](http://online.sfsu.edu/~caers/CAERS_2010_meeting.html)

## CAERS



### 2010 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

#### Urban Estuaries: Where the city meets the sea

#### Presentation

#### TIDAL MARSH MERCURY BIOSENTINELS AS TOOLS FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WETLAND RESTORATION

Letitia Grenier, Mark Marvin-DiPasquale, Dave Drury and Josh Collins



#### Abstract

The potential to increase net methylmercury production and bioaccumulation is a concern for wetland restoration efforts. The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, one of the largest wetland restorations on the continent, is underway in South San Francisco Bay. South Bay is already impacted by contaminants, and has the largest mercury mine in North America, the New Almaden Mine, in its watershed. The South Baylands Mercury Project is a multifaceted effort to evaluate restoration and management options for a complex of ponds at the foot of the New Almaden watershed. Water, sediment, and biota were sampled in a three-year effort to assess changes in mercury bioaccumulation that may occur when the ponds are restored to tidal action and, eventually, to tidal marsh wetlands. This study included the development of biosentinel species that indicated mercury exposure at appropriate spatial and temporal scales, as well as with appropriate habitat specificity to answer the management and restoration-design questions. Probabilistic ambient surveys and site-specific comparisons of biosentinel tissues were completed for key habitats in managed pond and tidal marsh. All scientific results were analyzed within a decision-tree framework to increase the utility of the project for the restoration project managers.



<http://content.asce.org/conferences/lid10/index.html>



The 2010 International LID Conference will highlight new and continuing work including research, developments, and community adoption of low-impact development strategies throughout the United States and internationally.

#### Conference Objectives

To continue to promote the use of LID as an effective alternative for traditional stormwater management

To examine successful watershed management practices related to stream restoration and hydromodification

To inform practitioners throughout the country on how to anticipate and address impediments for implementation of these techniques

to accelerate change in the practice of stormwater management, including an information exchange to refine design processes, review procedures, and construction standards related to LID technologies

To improve our collective understanding of how vegetation helps manage stormwater, intercept precipitation, expand urban greenspace, and improve urban livability

To consider how changes in the traditional urban drainage design paradigm mesh with ideas of sustainability and green building and help create a constituency for more livable, more sustainable cities



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**Table 1. Timelines of Existing and Re-started Projects**

Proj#	Contract Name	Date Start	Date Complete	Balance SFEI Labor	Projected Monthly Labor
1053	San Joaquin Monitoring Strategy	7/20/06	7/31/10	\$7,789	\$1,309
1064	SQO Phase II (Sarah's Task)	5/1/07	12/31/10	\$26,943	\$2,454
1064	SQO Phase II (Ben's Task)	5/1/07	12/31/10	\$89,673	\$8,166
1066.2	SWAMP Phase II (Bioaccumulation LY2)	5/29/07	3/31/11	\$16,092	\$1,154
1066.2	SWAMP Phase II (Data Center)	5/29/07	3/31/11	\$105,264	\$7,551
1066.2	SWAMP Phase II (Bioaccumulation CY1)	5/29/07	3/31/11	\$74,315	\$5,331
1066.4	SWAMP Phase II (Lakes Survey Data Exploration)	5/29/07	3/31/10	\$6,050	\$3,119
1066.5	SWAMP Phase II (Wetlands Portal)	5/29/07	3/31/10	\$6,136	\$3,164
1067	CCC Marina Grant Program, Phase II	8/14/07	9/1/10	\$23,891	\$3,412
1078	McNabney Marsh - Benthos	8/13/08	4/30/11	\$10,458	\$701
1082	Lindsey Slough Methyl Hg Study	12/1/08	12/31/13	\$29,266	\$623
1084	Methyl Hg & Dredging Operations Symposiu	7/13/09	2/28/10	\$14,287	\$15,520
8100	Delta RMP Technical Support	4/1/08	3/31/10	\$35,236	\$18,165
2027	SF Bay Non-Native Oyster Eradication II	8/12/08	3/31/10	\$14,723	\$7,590
2500	Green Sturgeon & Longfin Smelt Symposia	7/7/09	2/28/10	\$7,868	\$8,548
2501	Outer Bair Island Restoration Project	10/1/09	2/15/10	\$-	\$-
8250	North Bay Biosentinel Small Fish Mercury	11/16/09	9/30/10	\$17,151	\$2,156
4044	Montezuma Phase 2	4/1/04	12/31/10	\$19,483	\$1,774
4062	South Baylands Hg Monitoring	8/9/06	1/31/10	\$(187)	\$-
4066	Wetlands Regional Monitoring	3/1/07	12/31/10	\$303,983	\$27,683
4072	CRAM Reference Site Network	1/1/09	3/31/11	\$52,020	\$3,732
4073	CRAM Training Cost Recovery	4/1/09		\$-	\$-
4075	Coastal Program Workshop	9/23/09	12/31/11	\$10,000	\$435
4076	USA Rapid Assessment	1/1/10	9/30/10	\$38,228	\$4,805
4078	FOM & USA Rapid Assessment Method	1/1/10	1/31/10	\$(7,644)	\$-
8400	Online 401 Application	10/1/08	12/31/10	\$230,600	\$21,000
8401	Stream & WL System Protection Policy Sup	11/1/08	3/31/11	\$27,313	\$1,959
5031	Urban Stormwater BMPs Prop 13	9/1/04	3/31/10	\$19,787	\$10,201
5039	Napa River WS Decision Support for Management Measure	12/1/05	12/31/09	\$(6,571)	\$-
5046	Spartina Monitoring Plan In Eden Landing	7/24/06	4/1/10	\$22,676	\$11,495
5051	Watershed Score Card Project	11/1/06	2/28/10	\$3,312	\$-
5054	Critical Coastal Area Phase II	4/1/07	8/31/11	\$194,012	\$10,227
5056	PCBs in Building Materials	6/1/07	10/31/10	\$41,229	\$4,594
5057	Watershed Indicators	1/1/08	6/30/10	\$42,319	\$8,581
5060	Green Infill - Clean Stormwater	10/1/08	3/31/11	\$96,225	\$6,903
5061	Grasslands	10/1/08	9/30/10	\$90,844	\$11,418
5062	Development of Estuarine Nutrient Numeric Endpoints	10/1/08	6/30/10	\$36,142	\$7,329
5065	Estuary 2100 & Newcomb Model Block	3/1/09	1/31/12	\$201,788	\$8,408
5066	Guadalupe	7/1/09	12/31/10	\$54,515	\$4,965
5067	Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Framework Project	5/22/09	3/31/11	\$181,110	\$12,992
5068	El Cerrito Green Streets Pilot Project	10/6/09	6/30/12	\$41,824	\$1,444
5069	Estuary 2100 Phase 2				
8500	Petaluma River & Tomales Bay WS TMDL	4/11/08	3/31/10	\$70,753	\$36,476
6015	Ted Meyers	8/18/08	8/17/10	\$134,902	\$20,724
6509	SBSP GIS Coastal Conservancy	8/1/04	7/31/10	\$114,951	\$19,317
8600	General GIS Services to RWQCB	5/11/09	3/31/10	\$7,457	\$3,844
7027	SVP2c Historical Ecology	3/22/04	11/21/11	\$83,221	\$3,841
7052	Trancas Crossing Park and Napa River Trail	2/16/07	3/31/10	\$4,915	\$2,534
7053	Ventura Historical Ecology Study	7/13/07	12/31/10	\$107,239	\$9,766
7054	Ano Nuevo GIS Products	8/23/07	3/31/10	\$5,051	\$2,604
7055	HE of Eastern Contra Costa County	7/2/07	4/30/10	\$38,010	\$12,990
7059	Napa HE Atlas SCC	6/20/08	12/31/10	\$23,959	\$2,182
7060	Friends of Napa River Historical Atlas	5/1/08	4/30/10	\$6,744	\$2,305
7061	S.F. Bay Creosote Assessment	6/20/08	12/31/09	\$2,326	\$-
7062	Alameda Creek HE Study	12/12/08	12/31/10	\$263,570	\$24,003
7063	Napa Valley Historical Atlas (Vintners)	9/1/08	3/31/10	\$2,556	\$1,318
7069	Southern CA Historic T-sheet Website	7/7/09	7/7/11	\$3,769	\$220
7070	Ballona Watershed HE Study	9/15/09	3/1/10	\$10,895	\$11,427
7072	Upper Penitencia Creek HE Assessment	10/16/09	10/16/10	\$39,826	\$4,695
7074	Shoreline Change Map	12/23/09	1/31/10	\$(180)	\$-
8700	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta HE	6/30/09	9/30/11	\$267,193	\$13,389
3010	RMP 2010	10/1/09	12/31/10	\$1,672,813	\$152,339
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,038,121</b>	<b>\$572,882</b>

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Since the previous reporting period, SFEI signed ten new contracts totaling \$266K, with \$202K for SFEI (Table 2).

**Table 2. New Contracts Summary (since last reporting period)**

	Contracts Signed Since Last Reporting Period	Amount Submitted	Amount to SFEI	Amount of Award	Funding Source/Partners
1	Puget Sound Change Analysis Technical Review	\$800	\$800	\$800	USACE
2	Shoreline Change Map	\$800	\$800	\$800	Rebecca Solnit
3	National Wetlands Assessment	\$38,300	\$38,389	\$38,389	EPA
4	El Cerrito Green Streets Pilot Project	\$112,205	\$47,548	\$102,429	ARRA/ABAG
5	General GIS Services to RWQCB (Marcus)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	ABAG
6	Newcomb Model Block Project (mod to Estuary 2100)	\$30,290	\$22,500	\$22,500	City of San Francisco/ABAG
7	Wetland Data Portal	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	SWRCB/SJSURF
8	LID/TAC Hydromodification	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	EPA
9	Focused Funding for Monitoring Directory	\$50,000	\$41,784	\$50,000	SWRCB
10	Climate Ready Estuaries Expert Elicitation Workshop	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	ICF International
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$278,795</b>	<b>\$202,221</b>	<b>\$266,318</b>	

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No new contracts were signed. Awarded proposals in negotiation are in the amount of 455K through the ASC and \$924K through SFEI (Table 3).

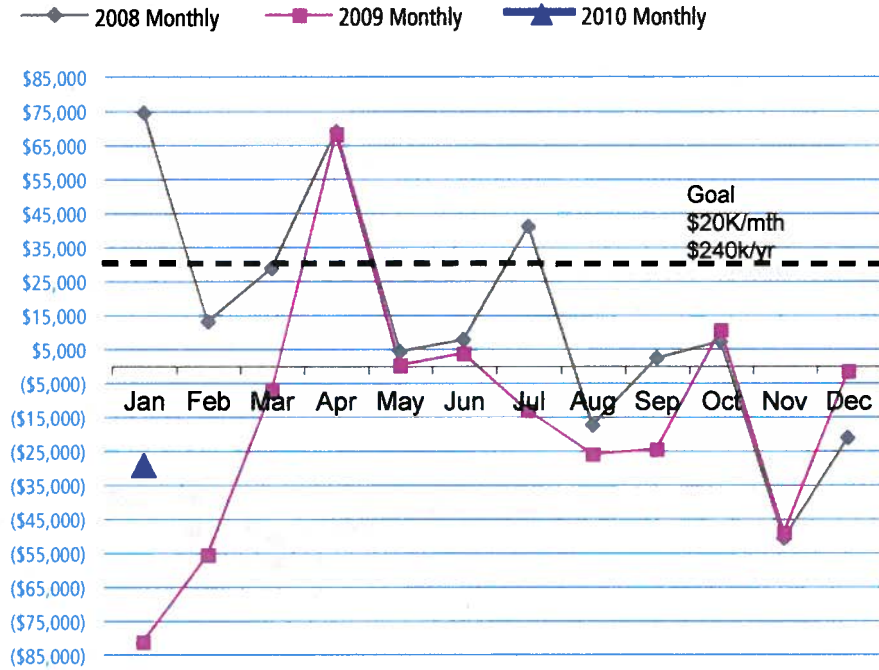
**Table 3. Contracts in Negotiation**

	Awarded Contracts for Signature or in Negotiations	Amount Submitted	Amount Awarded	Amount to SFEI/ASC Labor	Funding Source/Partners	Ancipated Duration Date
1	WL Monitoring Tool Kit	\$1,250,000		\$412,000	CIAP	2/10-2/12
2	Montezuma Data Management	\$10,904		\$10,904	Montezuma Wetlands LLC	November
3	Sediment Management Plan for the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel	\$300,000	\$380,000	\$228,000	ACFC&WCD	2/10-2/12
4	SWAMP (Coast Y2)	\$117,000		\$117,000	SWRCB/SJSURF	October
5	TAT ARRA Science Support	\$86,000	\$149,000	\$43,000	ARRA/EPA/SWRCB	1/29/09-3/31/11
6	CA S&T Assessment of WL Extent & Intensification of the 2011 NWCA	\$58,000		\$58,000	SCCWRP	November
7	Estuary 2100 Phase 2	\$450,000		\$393,780	EPA/SFEP	3/10-3/13
8	CIAP HOT	?	?	?	CIAP	?
9	Napa Valley HE Atlas	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Napa County FCD	1/1-8/30/10
10	North Richmond	\$155,532	\$155,532	\$56,220	County Flood Control	4/1/10-?
11	Napa Valley HE Atlas	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	UC Press	
12	East Contra Costa County Historical Ecology Study Printing	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$-	Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund	
13	LID Monitoring Guidance	\$45,000	?	?	SCCWRP	
14	Vernal Pool CRAM Training	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	Tetra Tech	
15	CEDEN Tool Development	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000	SWRCB/SJSURF	
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,552,036</b>	<b>\$764,132</b>	<b>\$1,378,904</b>		

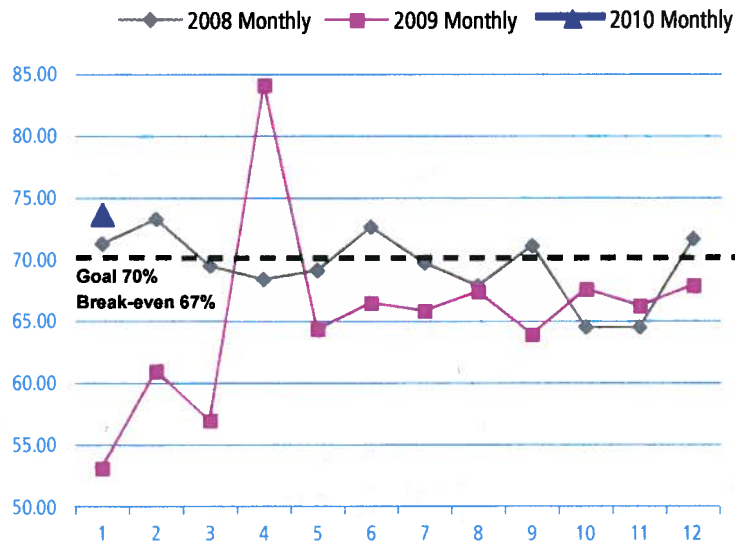
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### Monthly Net Surplus



### Monthly Billable Percentage 2008-2010

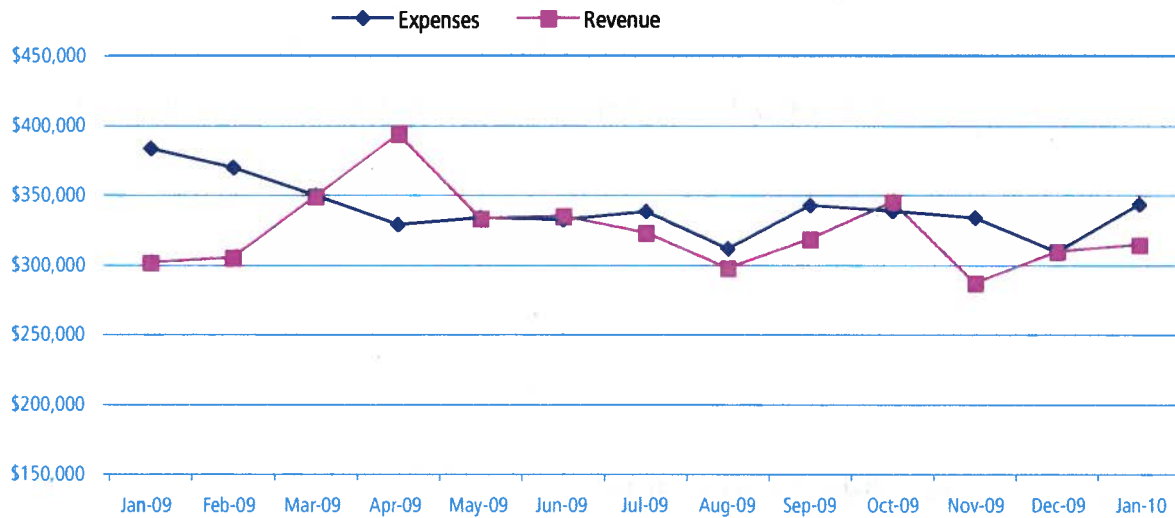


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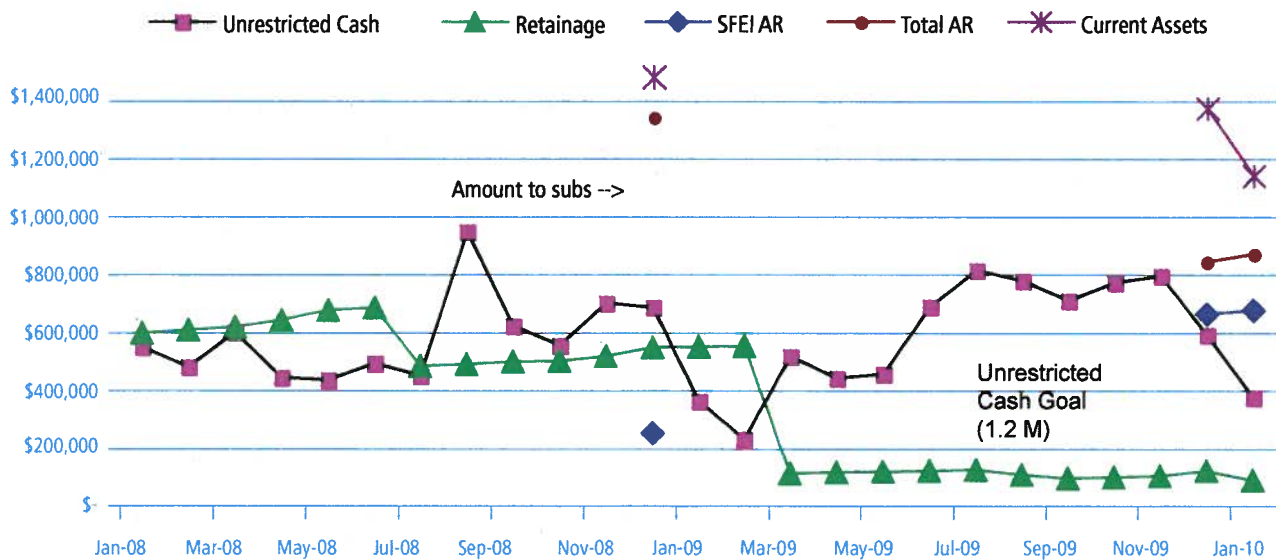
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### Revenue and Expense



### Asset Status



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## Training and Development

NAME	CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIUMS*	TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	BUSINESS-FOCUSED TRAINING PROGRAMS
Allen				
Askevold				
Beller				
Bezalel		1		
Cabling				
Cayce				
Collins				
David				
Davis				
Featherston				
Franz				
Frontiera				
Gilbreath				
Greenfield				
Grenier	1			
Grosso				
Grossinger				
Harrold				
Hoenicke				1
Hunt				
Jabusch				
Klatt				
Klosterhaus	1			
Lent				
Leung, F				
Leung, L				
Lowe				
May				
Melwani				
McKee				
Oram				
Pearce				
Poche				
Ross				
Ridolfi				
Russio				
Salomon				
Sedlak				
Seto				
Stanford				
Striplen	1			
Wanczyk				
Whipple				
Williams				
Yee	2			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

## Employee Departures

REASONS FOR LEAVING	# OF EMPLOYEES
To return to school	0
Retirement	0
Other position	0
Relocation	0
Completed temporary assignment	0
Position elimination	0
Reduction in workforce/layoff	0



AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER  
and the SAN FRANCISCO  
ESTUARY INSTITUTE

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f: 510-746-7300  
www.sfei.org



*SFEI is in close proximity to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline. Bike commutes and lunchtime walks allow staff members to take advantage of the Institute's location. The Pardee Lane address offers great opportunities to watch the daily and seasonal changes in the tides and biota of the channel and the wetland. The recent high tide was a special treat as it left very little cover for normally hard-to-sight birds such as Sora. California rays and even clapper rails are seen regularly.*

*In late January, staff had a rare view of a juvenile red tailed hawk which had captured a grebe. The bird slowly ate its prey over the course of the afternoon. The ideal viewing location allowed Josh Collins to identify the grebe. Chuck Striplen took a series of photographs to capture the event.*



For comments or corrections, please email the Design & Communications Department (lindaw@sfei.org).



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# Program Plan

## Q1 • 2010 Update

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**BUDGET UPDATES**

PAGES 3 and 4

**STAFFING UPDATES**

## Budget Updates

Each quarter, the Board will receive updates to the annual Program Plan approved at the end of the previous fiscal year. As staff is reviewing and improving tracking and reporting procedures, each Program Plan Update will contain new information the Fiscal and Administration Committee can use to make any recommendations to the full Board and assist staff with course corrections when needed. Each update will inform both the SFEI Board and the ASC Board, since projects implemented by both entities inform and build on each other.

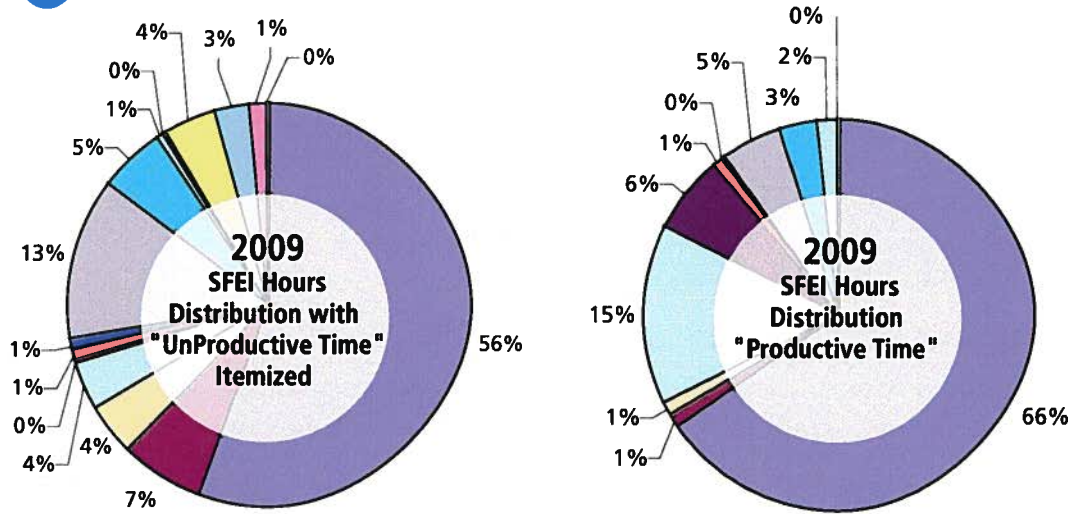
While these improvements are gradually implemented, each update will contain the standard information the Boards have become accustomed to seeing as part of the former “Score Card.” These items include financial health indicators, projected vs. actual revenues and expenses by quarter, staffing changes, summaries of new proposals submitted, proposals awarded and in negotiation, and newly executed contracts. New information may include anything the Fiscal and Administration Committee considers bringing to the Board for consideration, such as new ways of tracking unbillable “projects” that support the emerging strategic plan or fall into broad, general support categories that do not lend themselves to project-specific cost recovery. The latter category includes items such as project development, partnership-building, marketing, board support, building management, and general administrative support. [Figure 1 \(page 2\)](#) identifies how unbillable activities were distributed among major categories. We are also working on more effective graphic representations of planning information beyond a single fiscal year, which will give the Board the means to assist staff in generating the necessary resources to implement the emerging strategic plan. [Table 1 \(page 2\)](#) shows how projected revenues and expenses have changed since December 2009 and separates administrative costs from information technology costs.

## Staffing Updates

We have identified 4 new positions, in addition to the three vacancies that opened up in 2009, so we can meet our existing and anticipated contractual obligations in 2010 and beyond. We have been able to fill two of the three vacancies, one of them with a limited-term contract employee. We expect to fill one new Environmental Scientist position in April. [Table 2 \(page 3\)](#) shows our progress on work-leveling efforts and any remaining hours that cannot easily be combined into full-time equivalents. [Table 3 \(page 4\)](#) documents the surplus each new position generates at various salary levels and utilization rates. This table is particularly relevant, since it demonstrates the priority we need to assign to filling vacancies and new positions in order to compensate for the losses we have incurred so far. [Table 4 \(page 4\)](#) shows our updated budget for 2010 compared with the three previous fiscal years. It is noteworthy that the budgeted and actual revenue for 2007 and 2008 were both within a 2% margin of error. The 2009 budget crisis resulted in a discrepancy of more than 40% between budgeted and actual revenue. The uncertainty associated with the frozen bond-funded projects was accompanied by staffing uncertainties, which have not yet been resolved completely.



**Figure 1**



- Billable
- Vacation
- Sick
- Holiday
- Misc Benefits
- Accounting
- Board Support
- \* Admin
- IT Support
- Outreach
- Project Overruns
- \*\*Proj Trk/Prog Mgmt
- Proposals/Marketing
- Training
- Other

\* Admin hours include "General Admin", building mgmt, HR, support, coordination/collaboration, & equipment maintenance

\*\* Proj Trk/Prog Mgmt hours include unbillable project tracking & reporting, program mgmt & oversight, & project management

**Table 1. 2010 Summary of Projected Revenues and Expenses**

	RMP	SFEI	ASC	Total
<b>Revenue</b>				
Billed Labor	\$1,821,237	\$2,390,410	\$800,000	\$5,011,647
Subcontracts	\$1,550,000	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$2,175,000
Other Reimb Revenue	\$153,550	\$165,000	\$10,000	\$328,550
*Other Revenue		\$34,200		\$34,200
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,524,787</b>	<b>\$3,089,610</b>	<b>\$935,000</b>	<b>\$7,549,397</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Salaries	\$1,125,013	\$1,476,602	\$494,175	\$3,095,791
Benefits	\$261,809	\$343,629	\$115,003	\$720,441
**Salaries & Benefits for 2 Staff	\$54,074	\$70,973	\$23,753	\$148,800
Subcontracts	\$1,550,000	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$2,175,000
Other Reimb Expense	\$153,550	\$165,000	\$10,000	\$328,550
Adm Exp	\$280,545	\$368,222	\$123,233	\$772,000
IT	\$50,178	\$65,860	\$22,041	\$138,080
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,475,170</b>	<b>\$2,990,287</b>	<b>\$913,205</b>	<b>\$7,378,662</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$49,617</b>	<b>\$99,323</b>	<b>\$21,795</b>	<b>\$170,735</b>

\*Extra revenue from Alameda County, rental income, equipment rental

\*\*Assumes \$60k/staff \* 1.24 benefits (due to 2010 work commitment estimates)

**Table 2. Staff Hours for 2010**

First Name	Last Name	Billing Rate	Total Available Hours	Utilization Ratio	Billable Goal Hours	Billable Plan Hours	Need Hours? (over)	Planned %
Rachel	Allen	\$46.78	1992	83%	1653	1569	84	95%
Ruth	Askevold	\$73.51	1992	70%	1394	1592	(198)	114%
Erin	Beller	\$53.06	1793	80%	1434	1556	(122)	108%
Shira	Bezalel	\$70.84	1992	45%	896	990	(94)	110%
Joanne	Cabling	\$45.21	1594	27%	430	336	94	78%
Kristen	Cayce	\$81.43	1925	63%	1213	1526	(313)	126%
Angelina	Clark	\$41.70	1743	23%	401	40	361	10%
Joshua	Collins	\$159.08	1992	53%	1056	1941	(885)	184%
Nicole	David	\$76.99	1992	70%	1394	1733	(339)	124%
Jay	Davis	\$150.09	1992	52%	1036	1334	(298)	129%
Todd	Featherston	\$125.01	1992	31%	618	985	(367)	160%
Amy	Franz	\$56.67	1992	81%	1614	1661	(47)	103%
Patricia	Frontiera	\$68.40	697	80%	558	590	(32)	106%
Alicia	Gilbreath	\$59.50	996	77%	767	916	(149)	119%
Ben	Greenfield	\$80.75	1992	70%	1394	1875	(481)	134%
Letitia	Grenier	\$102.08	1825	54%	986	1053	(67)	107%
Robin	Grossinger	\$113.34	1992	53%	1056	1309	(253)	124%
Cristina	Grosso	\$93.85	1992	61%	1215	1724	(509)	142%
Rainer	Hoenicke	\$180.43	1992	13%	259	217	42	84%
Jennifer	Hunt	\$73.44	1992	72%	1434	1397	37	97%
Thomas	Jabusch	\$84.38	1992	72%	1434	1389	45	97%
Jamie	Kass	\$53.46	1877	83%	1558	1590	(32)	102%
Marcus	Klatt	\$50.79	1992	83%	1653	3159	(1506)	191%
Susan	Klosterhaus	\$82.99	1992	72%	1434	1822	(388)	127%
Michelle	Lent	\$59.50	1992	81%	1614	2101	(487)	130%
Frank	Leung	\$88.41	1992	44%	876	1044	(168)	119%
Lawrence	Leung	\$78.66	1992	45%	896	983	(87)	110%
Sarah	Lowe	\$106.17	1992	70%	1394	1310	84	94%
Michael	May	\$121.24	1992	26%	518	763	(245)	147%
Lester	McKee	\$122.77	1992	53%	1056	1459	(403)	138%
Aroon	Melwani	\$65.88	1992	81%	1614	1360	254	84%
Theodore	Meyers	\$87.23	1992	92%	1833	1872	(39)	102%
John	Oram	\$101.77	1992	54%	1076	1127	(51)	105%
Sarah	Pearce	\$71.85	1594	77%	1227	1457	(230)	119%
Katherine	Ridolfi	\$65.52	1992	77%	1534	1461	73	95%
April	Robinson	\$32.11	199	100%	199	206	(7)	103%
John	Ross	\$72.63	1992	81%	1614	1675	(61)	104%
Linda	Russio	\$74.73	1992	22%	438	168	270	38%
Micha	Salomon	\$55.84	1892	81%	1533	1842	(309)	120%
Meg	Sedlak	\$116.17	498	73%	364	558	(194)	153%
Stephanie	Seto	\$57.34	1992	14%	279	162	117	58%
Bronwen	Stanford	\$49.12	1992	83%	1653	1808	(155)	109%
Chuck	Striplen	\$42.12	598	100%	598	354	244	59%
Linda	Wanczyk	\$85.71	1992	45%	896	744	152	83%
Alison	Whipple	\$59.50	1992	83%	1653	1476	177	89%
Meredith	Williams	\$115.72	1992	50%	996	957	39	96%
Donald	Yee	\$123.84	1992	70%	1394	1432	(38)	103%
Envir Scientist (Climate Change - hire date: May 1)		\$96.19	1328	55%	730	1163	(433)	159%
Envir Scientist (S&L; hire date: April 1)		\$91.54	1494	73%	1091	326	765	30%
Deputy Director		\$161.54	1328	60%	797	0	797	0%
IT Analyst/RMP Data Manager		\$47.12	1494	83%	1240.02	1272	(32)	103%
Interns		\$15.86	1099	100%	1099	761	338	69%
IT Developer, hire: April 1		\$80.19	1494	83%	1240.02	0	1240	0%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$4,370.03</b>	<b>93196</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>58339.52</b>	<b>62145</b>	<b>(3805)</b>	<b>107%</b>

**Table 3. Staff Revenue**

Salary	Wage/hr.	Billing Rate 2.80	Revenue 80% Billable		Revenue 70% Billable		Revenue 60% Billable	
			Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month
\$40,000.00	\$19.23	\$53.85	\$89,600.00	\$7,466.67	\$78,400.00	\$6,533.33	\$67,200.00	\$5,600.00
\$45,000.00	\$21.63	\$60.58	\$100,800.00	\$8,400.00	\$88,200.00	\$7,350.00	\$75,600.00	\$6,300.00
\$50,000.00	\$24.04	\$67.31	\$112,000.00	\$9,333.33	\$98,000.00	\$8,166.67	\$84,000.00	\$7,000.00
\$55,000.00	\$26.44	\$74.04	\$123,200.00	\$10,266.67	\$107,800.00	\$8,983.33	\$92,400.00	\$7,700.00
\$60,000.00	\$28.85	\$80.77	\$134,400.00	\$11,200.00	\$117,600.00	\$9,800.00	\$100,800.00	\$8,400.00
\$65,000.00	\$31.25	\$87.50	\$145,600.00	\$12,133.33	\$127,400.00	\$10,616.67	\$109,200.00	\$9,100.00
\$70,000.00	\$33.65	\$94.23	\$156,800.00	\$13,066.67	\$137,200.00	\$11,433.33	\$117,600.00	\$9,800.00
\$75,000.00	\$36.06	\$100.96	\$168,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$147,000.00	\$12,250.00	\$126,000.00	\$10,500.00
\$80,000.00	\$38.46	\$107.69	\$179,200.00	\$14,933.33	\$156,800.00	\$13,066.67	\$134,400.00	\$11,200.00

Expense (salary plus benefits)		Revenue minus Expense at 80% staff utilization		Revenue minus Expense at 70% staff utilization		Revenue minus Expense at 60% staff utilization	
Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month
\$49,600.00	\$4,133.33	\$40,000.00	\$3,333.33	\$28,800.00	\$2,400.00	\$17,600.00	\$1,466.67
\$55,800.00	\$4,650.00	\$45,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$32,400.00	\$2,700.00	\$19,800.00	\$1,650.00
\$62,000.00	\$5,166.67	\$50,000.00	\$4,166.67	\$36,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$1,833.33
\$68,200.00	\$5,683.33	\$55,000.00	\$4,583.33	\$39,600.00	\$3,300.00	\$24,200.00	\$2,016.67
\$74,400.00	\$6,200.00	\$60,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$43,200.00	\$3,600.00	\$26,400.00	\$2,200.00
\$80,600.00	\$6,716.67	\$65,000.00	\$5,416.67	\$46,800.00	\$3,900.00	\$28,600.00	\$2,383.33
\$86,800.00	\$7,233.33	\$70,000.00	\$5,833.33	\$50,400.00	\$4,200.00	\$30,800.00	\$2,566.67
\$93,000.00	\$7,750.00	\$75,000.00	\$6,250.00	\$54,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$33,000.00	\$2,750.00
\$99,200.00	\$8,266.67	\$80,000.00	\$6,666.67	\$57,600.00	\$4,800.00	\$35,200.00	\$2,933.33

**Table 4. Budget to Actual Comparison of 2007-2010**

ACCT ID	2007 Budget	2007 Actual	2008 Budgeted	2008 Actual	2009 Budgeted	2009 Actual	2010 Budgeted
Total Revenue	\$8,382,112	\$8,227,822	\$8,735,842	\$8,847,887	\$8,070,796	\$6,152,827	\$7,549,397
Salaries	\$2,449,901	\$2,650,895	\$2,610,951	\$3,023,428	\$3,016,441	\$2,754,218	\$3,965,032
Payroll taxes	\$555,638	\$200,760	\$210,000	\$230,798	\$711,880	\$631,200	
Employee benefits		\$424,877	\$415,000	\$463,565			
Total Labor	\$3,005,539	\$3,276,532	\$3,235,951	\$3,717,792	\$3,728,321	\$3,385,419	\$3,965,032
Reimb. Expenses	\$4,195,000	\$4,104,616	\$4,149,000	\$4,264,176	\$3,009,000	\$2,277,506	\$2,503,550
731-739 Subcont & Consult		\$68,085		\$44,844		\$36,468	\$70,000
750-759 Office Expenses		\$82,352		\$89,879		\$43,524	\$102,000
760-769 IT Expenses		\$99,347		\$73,732		\$63,971	\$138,080
770 Rent		\$263,886		\$308,798		\$319,018	\$331,000
771-779 Leasing, Phone, Etc		\$99,348		\$101,009		\$101,246	\$125,000
780-789 Travel, Conference, Etc		\$67,687		\$75,742		\$57,205	\$75,000
790-799 Depreciation & Misc		\$50,168		\$49,392		\$60,611	\$69,000
Total Admin/IT Costs	\$844,200	\$730,873	\$862,160	\$743,396	\$948,740	\$682,044	\$910,080
Total Expenses	\$8,044,739	\$8,112,021	\$8,247,111	\$8,725,365	\$7,686,061	\$6,344,969	\$7,378,662
Program Discretionary	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000	\$0	\$0
Capital /Contingency	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Income		\$45,733	\$0	\$33,653		\$15,464	\$0
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$201,373	\$161,534	\$352,731	\$156,175	\$348,735	-\$176,678	\$170,735

## Attachment 2

### Staff Summary

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Rainer Hoenicke, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 4, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Draft Work Plan for Strategic Planning Effort

**Summary:** At its December 2009 meeting, the ASC Board decided to conduct a one-day strategic planning workshop with senior staff, with a tentative date of September 2, 2010. Prior to setting a final date, the Board requested a scope for this effort to be able to evaluate if a strategic planning committee and executive staff could fit the additional workload into the Program Plan.

**Draft Work Plan:** The purpose of an off-site strategic planning workshop would be to:

- generate Board and staff alignment of what our “niche” is,
- determine if the ASC needs a distinct mission statement different from that of SFEI,
- sketch out a clear pathway for moving initiatives into projects that complement each other and contribute to meeting the environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, thereby adding value to planning and management decisions.

Additional goals may include an internal and external review of organizational effectiveness

#### **Tasks for Senior Staff:**

- 1) *Develop statements of desired ASC contributions to informing and thereby changing the relationship between people and their environment.*  
Timeline: January – April 2010. Vet with Strategic Planning Committee and prepare as discussion paper for Workshop.  
Estimated work effort: 50 hours
- 2) *Develop a white paper outlining how staff views the Institute’s and Center’s “niche.”* What do we do that is different from:
  - NGOs with a “science bend” (e.g., PRBO Conservation Science, The Bay Institute, Natural Heritage Institute, Pacific Institute, PPIC, Planning and Conservation League);
  - special academic think tanks (e.g., Center for the American West, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Information Center for the Environment) and research programs (e.g., Berkeley Institute for the Environment, UC Environmental Engineering; Romberg Tiburon Center);
  - private environmental consulting firms

- local agency “enterprise centers” serving multiple departments (e.g., GIS shops)?

Reflect results in suggested mission statement.

Timeline: January-April 2010.

Estimated work effort: 20 hours

- 3) *Develop a concise summary of senior staff perspectives regarding science and information “needs” of public agencies, the private sector, watershed stewardship and environmental advocacy groups, and the engaged public in general*

This document could be comprised of a draft long-term research, assessment, and tool development plan, grouped by major focus areas.

Timeline: April-July 2010.

Estimated Work Effort: 150 hrs

- 4) *OPTIONAL - Retain and work with a consultant specializing in effectiveness surveys*

Following the SCCWRP example, polling various external entities, as well as staff regarding organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, promises to outline a roadmap for creating greater effectiveness and impact of the Institute.

Timeline and Estimated Work Effort: (a) develop RFP and bring consultant on board: April 2010; 40 hrs; (b) identify pool of survey participants and randomly select between 200-400: May 2010; 20 hrs; (c) evaluate survey results, following survey report submittal by contractor; 20 hrs.

- 5) *Hire a workshop facilitator and work with her/him to develop an annotated agenda and vet with Strategic Planning Committee*

Specify desired outcomes of the workshop, including but not limited to:

- Prioritization of research, monitoring, and assessment support to federal, state, and local agencies
- Confirmation or modifications to needs assessment by senior staff based on recent projects and initiatives (e.g., Critical Coastal Areas Program, Estuary Partnership strategic planning effort, Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, BCDC Climate Change Adaptation Plan, CV-SALTS (Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability); Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and Coastal Conservancy Climate Change Policy and Project Selection support)
- Alignment of SFEI Board composition with new challenges and opportunities

Timeline: March-July 2010

Estimated Work Effort: 100 hrs

- 6) *Select a workshop venue*

Find and secure a centrally located location for the one-day workshop in close coordination with Strategic Planning Committee.

Timeline: March 2010

Estimated Work Effort: 20 hours

**Total Estimated Staff Hours (not including optional task involving contractor and SWOT survey): 340 hours=\$43,000**

**Tasks for Board Members (including those serving on the Strategic Planning Committee)**

1) *Review draft staff documents, meetings/phone conferences*

Timeline: April-July 2010

Estimated Work Effort: 40 hours for each committee member; 8 hours for each board member.

2) *Review workshop agenda with facilitator and develop “script” for workshop event*

Timeline: May-July 2010

Estimated Work Effort: 10 hours for each committee member

**Estimated Contractor Costs:**

Facilitator: \$12,000

Organizational Effectiveness Consultant (optional): \$15,000

## Attachment 3

### Staff Summary

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Rainer Hoenicke, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 4, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** 2009/10 Program Plan Amendment

The publicly owned treatment works and industrial dischargers, as well as the municipal storm water programs, are under two separate permits to implement mercury and PCB TMDLs. As part of their respective NPDES permits, the dischargers are required to develop and implement a human health risk reduction strategy. BACWA has approached the Aquatic Science Center with a request to assist in this effort.

**Recommended Action:** Approve amendment to the 2009/10 Program Plan to include implementation assistance for a San Francisco Bay Risk Reduction Program involving multiple partner agencies.

### **JOINT BACWA-WSPA RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

Based on conversations with multiple interested parties, BACWA and WSPA intend to develop and implement a risk reduction program similar to the Fish Mercury Project, funded by CALFED and completed in 2008. This approach was selected over a clinic-based program because it allows for greater community and stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of risk communication strategies, the importance of which has been emphasized by the NEJAC.

Additionally, OEHHA anticipates making revisions to its current, interim, advisory for San Francisco Bay. The timing of this revision presents an opportunity to involve diverse stakeholders, including CBOs, community members, local departments of health, and others, in creating a strategy to communicate this new advisory. Provided that the development of a new advisory proceeds on the expected timeline, this project will result in the identification of communication approaches that can be used throughout the Bay Area.

#### **A. Partners**

The Aquatic Science Center (ASC), a joint powers authority, has preliminary been identified to provide fiscal administration and coordination support for the project. ASC staff was the lead for the Fish Mercury Project and has experience in coordinating multiple partners effectively, and create synergies among multiple related projects.

BACWA has worked closely with CDPH, the Water Board, WSPA, and BASMAA to develop this proposal. CDPH, because of its public health expertise, will take the lead in implementing the risk reduction program. Implementation of the program will involve these organizations and agencies as well as a broad range of other stakeholders including, but not limited to, CBOs, non-profit organizations, local governmental agencies, individual community members, and the Water Board.

Support for the program will be provided by CDPH, BACWA, WSPA and BASMAA. CDPH will provide substantial in-kind contributions. BACWA and WSPA have secured sufficient funding to initiate the program. BACWA, WSPA, and BASMAA are currently pursuing additional sources and expect to have more information about available funding later this year. The Aquatic Science Center (ASC), a joint powers authority, has preliminarily been identified to provide support and coordination for the project.



## Amendment to 2009/10 ASC Program Plan

March 4, 2010

### San Francisco Bay Fish Risk Reduction Program (Estimated Amount: \$150,000-\$300,000 per year)

The Aquatic Science Center has been identified as a program coordinator and fiscal agent for a program to reduce the exposure of certain populations to contaminants in San Francisco Bay fish. An interim fish consumption advisory is in place for Bay fish as a result of elevated levels of mercury, PCBs, and other chemicals. This advisory has also resulted in the placement of the Bay on the State's list of impaired waterbodies. The program will build on the Delta Fish Mercury Project and will include the convening of a diverse stakeholder advisory group, development of a broad risk communication strategy, a grant and support program for community-based organizations to implement risk reduction efforts appropriate for their communities, and a program effectiveness evaluation. The program is expected to begin in the summer of 2010 with the establishment of the stakeholder advisory group (SAG). The SAG will meet three to four times each year to provide input on the risk reduction strategy and the CBO grant-making process. The program will be fully implemented and evaluated by 2013.

#### Preliminary Budget for Two Years:

Convene SAG and Develop Risk Communication Strategy	90,000
Award and Oversee Mini-Grant Program	170,000
Evaluation	40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>