

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM
BULLETIN – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2003**

September 30, 2003

In August, I drafted a Coordinator's Workplan that laid out general and specific objectives to strive for over the coming year. Objectives cover my goals for enhancing the roles and functions of the Design Review Group and Monitoring Group, expanding Program-wide public outreach, and nurturing existing relationships with organizations involved in habitat restoration around the bay. I received excellent feedback from members of the Coordinating Committee, Design Review Group and Monitoring Group; that feedback will be incorporated into a final Workplan, which will be circulated next week, via email.

Also in August, and acting in my capacity as the Coordinator for the San Francisco Bay Area WRP, I began participation in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) working group. This working group, set up by the CALFED-ABAG task force, is establishing a plan aggregating management plans of Bay Area water agencies, sanitation districts and habitat restoration programs. In addition to increasing the coordination and collaboration of participating groups, Chapter 8 of Proposition 50 allows regions that have completed an IRWMP to apply for funds from a potential total of \$500 million dollars for water reliability, water quality and habitat restoration projects. Participation by representatives from the WRP, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and the San Francisco Estuary Project will ensure habitat restoration's integration into the IRWMP.

On September 8, **the Monitoring Group** met. Reports included the Wetlands Rapid Assessment Process, for which a summary report is now available online. There was an update on CALFED monitoring getting underway. Also discussed at the meeting was a proposed wetland project information transmittal form, updates on the U.S. EPA's EMAP project, the statewide wetlands mapping

effort (in cooperation with the National Wetlands Inventory), as well as progress on the statewide-effort California Rapid Assessment Method development, which begins field testing this week. The next meeting date was set for Monday, October 27, at 1 P.M. The most recent meeting's summary can be reviewed at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/090803.pdf>

Relative to **the Design Review Group (DRG)**, the Marin Audubon Society Bahia Tidal Wetlands Restoration project Design Review Team completed that project's Letter of Review on August 14 (the report can be viewed at www.sfwetlands.ca.gov). On September 15, the DRG began its review of the California Department of Fish and Game's Napa Plant Site restoration project. A Design Review Team is currently reviewing the draft Letter of Review, to be complete by mid-October. The DRG wrapped up work on its standard Project Checklist and Ground Rules statement, with both to be adopted at its next meeting. The meeting summary can be found at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/091503.pdf>

The Coordinating Committee met September 26. The meeting opened with an update on the IRWMP working group. Committee members took up the issue of allowing DRG review of project's outside the WRP's geographic scope, an issue that requires further coordination with Executive Council members. The Committee also continued planning for two WRP-sponsored workshops proposed for later this year and Committee members were briefed on state agency funding cuts and the effects on state agency staff levels. For a copy of the notes, which are still in draft form, please contact me.

In terms of coming **public outreach**, in mid-October I will present a WRP poster at the State of the Estuary conference in Oakland and deliver an oral presentation at the H2O Conference in Long Beach. As always, if you would like to feature a Wetlands Restoration Program presentation for your staff, please contact me [by email](mailto:john.brosnan@sfwetlands.ca.gov) or at 510-622-5048.

Thank you, John Brosnan