

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM
BULLETIN – JUNE/JULY 2003**

July 31, 2003

On June 23, the **Monitoring Group** met and participants shared several updates. Among those was an update on the Wetlands Rapid Assessment Process, for which a summary of initial findings is currently in draft form. Initial results from the work show that larger sites and sites with bay margins get higher scores. There was an update on CALFED monitoring getting underway, which will be assessing six sites among San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay and the Delta, comparing one natural site to a restored site at each. Also discussed at the meeting was the new GIS-based mosquito information system being compiled in Contra Costa County. Updates were given 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. The Bay Institute's Ecological Scorecard, which - through the prescription of letter grades - attempts to illustrate the health of the bay and its attributes and express what's being gained and lost, was presented. The next meeting date was set for Monday, September 8, at 1 P.M. Additional meeting details can be found at [http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/June 23, 2003.pdf](http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/June23,2003.pdf)

On July 14, the **Design Review Group (DRG)** began its review of Marin Audubon Society's Bahia Tidal Wetlands Restoration project. A Design Review Team of five was assembled for the project and the draft Letter of Review is underway, to be complete by mid-August. The DRG also continued finalizing a standard Project Checklist, which will be applied to all projects. Minutes for the meeting can be found at [http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/July 14, 2003.pdf](http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/July14,2003.pdf) This brings the total number of projects reviewed by the DRG to six (past projects include the Breuner Marsh Mitigation Bank, Lake Merritt Tidal Marsh Restoration, Crissy Field Monitoring Plan and Protocols,

Coyote Hills Wetlands Enhancement and Drainage Improvements, and Twin House/State Lands Mitigation).

Also on July 14, a **subgroup from the Coordinating Committee** met to discuss how the Committee could assist in growing the Monitoring Group towards a regional wetlands monitoring program. The brief meeting reviewed past proposals for a regional wetlands monitoring program and featured a sharing of views on roles foreseen for the Monitoring Group and a discussion for potential funding sources. Upcoming Coordinating Committee and Monitoring Group meeting agendas will include discussion of some of the subgroup's suggestions.

The Coordinating Committee met July 18. The meeting discussion opened with an update on the monitoring subgroup meeting. Committee members also discussed the South Bay Salt Ponds regulatory agency MOU and began planning for the WRP's permitting workshop. I have already begun to coordinate with others on the workshop, likely to take place sometime between late October and the Thanksgiving holiday. Additional meeting details can be found at [http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/July 18, 2003.pdf](http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/July18,2003.pdf)

In the past weeks since the Executive Council meeting, much has occurred in terms of **public outreach**. I made an extensive presentation to the Regional Water Board staff this month and was asked to repeat the talk in September. Two abstracts - one for a poster at the State of the Estuary conference and one for a presentation at the H2O Conference in Long Beach - were submitted. The Program's email lists were expanded and each Program meeting is now notified to all 150+ addressees. And finally, direct presentation / outreach announcements were sent to staff at Bay Area RDC directors and Mosquito and Vector Control districts. If you would like to feature a Wetlands Restoration Program presentation for your staff, please contact me [by email](#) or at 510-622-5048.

Thank you, John Brosnan