

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM  
(WRP) BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2003/  
JANUARY 2004**

*January 30, 2004*

The **Coordinating Committee** met on December 5. The Committee took up the issue of establishing Steering Committees within the Design Review Group and Monitoring Group, which will allow each group to elevate policy-related recommendations and simultaneously comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Committee discussed the region's two major project tracking systems either existing or under development and elected to send a letter to the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. The letter, sent in early January 2004, suggests a meeting of the two organization's planning teams with the intent of standardizing terms used to identify projects, which would allow for an easier sharing of data between the two systems as they develop. The Committee also began planning the next Executive Council meeting, for which a date has not been set. Additional meeting details can be found at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/120503.pdf>.

The Coordinating Committee meeting was immediately followed by a guided **field trip** of the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland. Arthur Feinstein of the Golden Gate Audubon Society led the tour. (Thanks again, Arthur!) Most tour participants spotted a few clapper rails foraging in the marsh.

On December 8, the **Monitoring Group** met. The group took up the first discussion of its intended collaborative work products, primarily the formation of Monitoring Plan Review Teams - similar to the Design Review Teams of the Design Review Group - and establishment of a Compensatory Mitigation Review Team. These discussions were the beginning of the group's dialogue on these products, which will be continued at the group's next meeting, on Tuesday, March 9, at 1 P.M. The most recent meeting's summary can be reviewed at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/120803.pdf>.

After assisting with the establishment of the **South Bay Salt Ponds project Speakers' Bureau**, I gave the first of what is expected to be many presentations on Tuesday, December 11. In one of the early tests of this new outreach message, I spoke to the Marvelous Marin Breakfast Club, a San Rafael-based group of approximately 60 people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Over the holidays, I upgraded the WRP website's aesthetics and function. My hope is that the website will serve as a clearinghouse for WRP partner agencies' critical announcements relative to wetlands. For example, the **South Bay Salt Pond Initial Stewardship Plan Draft EIR/EIS** can be obtained through the WRP site at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/news.html>. If you have an announcement you'd like posted to the website, please contact me.

The **Design Review Group (DRG)** adopted its finalized Project Summary Outline/Checklist and Operating Procedures and Ground Rules statement at its January 12 meeting. The group also began the review of the Big Lagoon Wetland and Creek Restoration, located in Muir Beach, Marin County, marking the DRG's first review of a project located on the coast. To read more about this project and view the Design Review Team's initial feedback, please see <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/011204.pdf>.

On behalf of the WRP and the San Francisco Estuary Project, I have been assisting with planning and the solicitation of presentation proposals for the second national Restore America's Estuaries conference, to be held in Seattle this coming September. I have submitted two proposals from the WRP, one addressing some of the challenges in implementing the Habitat Goals Report recommendations and one detailing the development of the DRG.

If you would like additional information on any issue, please contact me [by email](#) or at 510-622-5048.

*Thank you,* John Brosnan