

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM
(WRP) BULLETIN - JUNE/JULY 2004**

August 2, 2004

The **Executive Council meeting** has been held Wednesday, June 9. The meeting featured a review of the last Executive Council meeting's decisions and an overview of the WRP's premiere Annual Report. The Council provided their thoughts on long-term funding for the WRP, which included some agencies offering small contributions to keep the WRP operational until next year's larger grant funding cycles. The Council also featured presentations on coordination of the Invasive Spartina Project, implications of West Nile Virus in California, and progress on the South Bay Salt Ponds project. Looking ahead, the Council expressed an interest in revisiting the Design Review Group's policy of avoiding review of privately sponsored mitigation projects. The next meeting date will be established in December 2004. Additional Council meeting details can be found at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/060904.pdf>.

The WRP's first **Annual Report** summarizes all activities of the WRP's working groups, public outreach, relationships with other local organizations, and calls out specific and general objectives to be achieved in the coming year. Hard copies of the WRP Annual Report are available; please call (510) 622-5048 if you would like to receive a copy.

On June 2, I gave my first **presentation** solely focused on the actions and projects of the Design Review Group. After presenting an overview of the WRP to the Regional Board last year, several staff members had asked me to return and focus on the Design Review Group. I was also invited to present an overview of the WRP to the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board. The presentation took place on July 15 and numerous city council members, county supervisors and mayors from throughout the region were in attendance.

The **Monitoring Group** met July 13 and the group continued preparation for the first monitoring plan review team evaluation of the Sonoma Baylands Monitoring Plan, which should get started in August. Group members also undertook discussion on how best to establish a steering committee for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Wetland Tracker. Please see www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/071304.pdf.

The WRP continues to face uncertainty in its long-term funding. Current funds, in combination with some funding commitments from partner agencies, will allow the WRP to operate through the end of 2004, yet at a reduced capacity. As a means to prolong the operation of the WRP while spending less of the existing resources, the Coordinating Committee recommended reducing staff time from full time to half time as of July 15. The Program Coordinator is currently working at the San Francisco Estuary Project offices on Tuesday, Wednesday mornings, and Fridays. Please check the website for regular updates or to retrieve any WRP documents.

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

Thank you, John Brosnan

