

Date: July 10, 2013
From: Thomas Jabusch, SFEI/Aquatic Science Center
To: San Francisco Bay RMP Steering Committee
Re: Coordination with the Delta RMP (Action)

Summary

The Delta RMP permit workgroup is proposing to invite SC representatives of the Bay RMP to participate in the September Delta RMP Steering Committee meeting. A formal decision to extend the invitation is likely to be made at or before the next Delta RMP SC meeting on August 21. The Delta SC is particularly interested in insights from the Bay RMP regarding implementation, governance, and participation. The perspective of dischargers would be particularly helpful. The Delta RMP is hoping to accelerate the progress of implementing their program by bringing in the experience of the Bay RMP.

Desired Outcome: Decide whether to accept the invitation and who should participate in the September Delta RMP SC meeting.

Background

Who is the Delta RMP permit workgroup?

The Delta RMP permit workgroup is an ad-hoc subcommittee of the Delta RMP Steering Committee that was formed at the June 4 Delta RMP Steering Committee meeting. The group formed to develop recommendations for changes in the NPDES permit language of participating dischargers to allow shifting of funds and possible arrangements for the transition period. Participants include Karen Ashby (LWA), Brock Bernstein, Linda Dorn (SRCSD), Thomas Jabusch (SFEI-ASC), Jim Marshall (Central Valley Water Board), Ken Landau (Central Valley Water Board), Meghan Sullivan (Central Valley Water Board), Dave Tamayo (Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership), and Debbie Webster (CVCWA).

What is the idea behind the invitation?

The permit workgroup has proposed to invite SC representatives of the Bay RMP and representatives of the Bight program to participate in the September Delta RMP Steering Committee meeting. The idea emerged from a discussion about what constitutes "adequate participation" in the RMP. One of the charges of the permit group is to work through the chicken-and-egg issue of "there needs to be a program first to put funding in" vs. "there needs to be funding first to develop a program", which is

standing in the way of negotiating long-term funding arrangements. The group agreed that insights from the Bay RMP and the Bight Program would be helpful to work through this and a number of other issues the Delta RMP SC is grappling with to get the program off the ground, both relating to the transitional phase of moving from the status quo to regional monitoring and the long-term program implementation.

How are we planning to make it happen?

The plan is still firming up and pending approval by the Delta RMP SC at the August 21 meeting. We are proposing to organize the September meeting as a panel discussion, with the Bay and Bight representatives as panelists. We will be developing specific discussion points and questions in advance for the panelists to review and address.

What are the logistics?

The meeting would happen in the Sacramento area. We still need to find a date that works. The meeting venue usually alternates between the Central Valley Water Board and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. To find a date, we propose to send a poll to the Delta SC, once we have polled and confirmed the availabilities of representatives of the Bay RMP and Bight Program.

Why should we see this as an opportunity?

We believe it is beneficial and timely that the Bay and Delta Steering Committees learn about each other and start developing a relationship.

From the Delta perspective, at this point in time, it will be helpful to see that a RMP is doable and the mechanisms for making it work. Specifically, Bay RMP members could help the Delta SC understand how Bay RMP governance works, what the role is of the implementing entity (i.e. SFEI) and their relationship with it, and the benefits of participating in the Bay RMP.

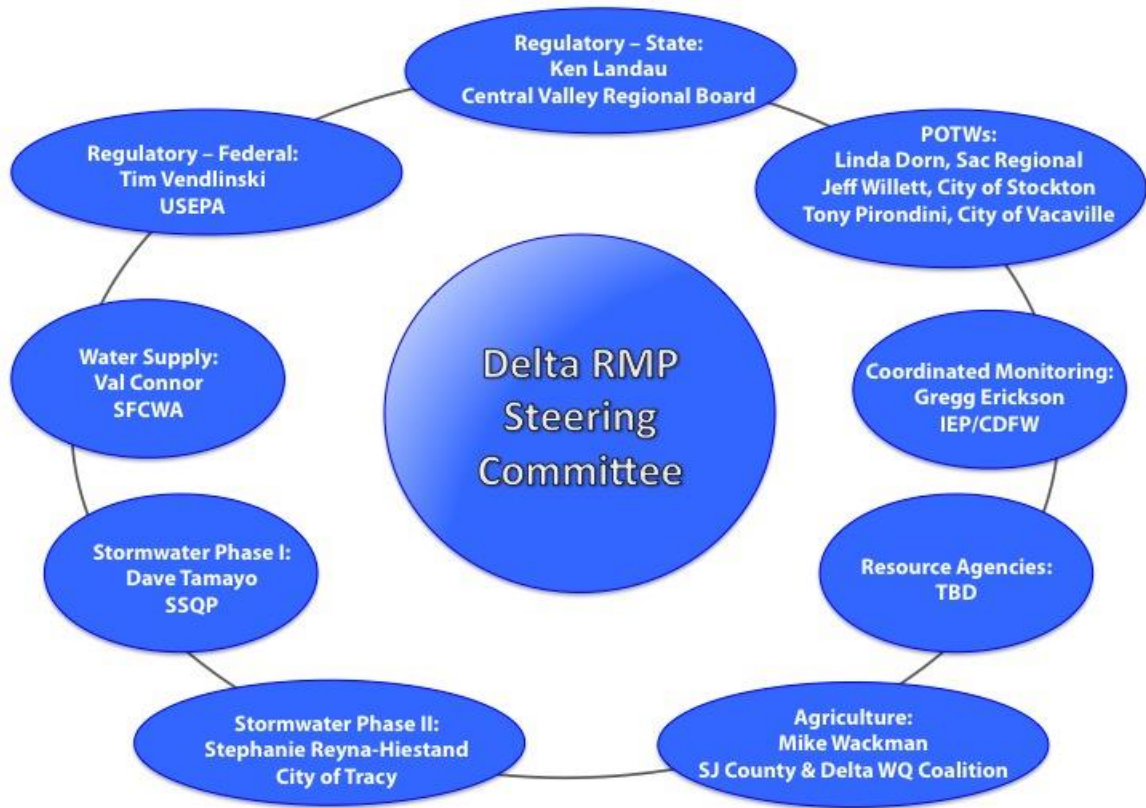
From the Bay perspective, there is an emerging opportunity for sampling coordination and collaboration, especially since the geographic scope of the Delta RMP includes Suisun Bay.

How are things going with the Delta RMP?

The Delta RMP process is on a good track. While progress has been slow, there are indications that a turning point has been reached. The Delta RMP has developed an identity by establishing a structure (see figures below showing the current composition of the Steering Committee and the Guiding Principles, attached as a separate document). The permit workgroup is pushing for a Board resolution to be made on October 3 at the Central Valley Regional Board meeting that would recognize the

possibility for RMP monitoring in lieu of individual monitoring and contain the provisions that would need to be in permit language. TAC chairs have been appointed (Joe Domagalski, USGS, and Stephen McCord, MEI) and are working with SFEI-ASC staff (Thomas Jabusch) on a suite of factsheets synthesizing existing information and gaps on potential initial assessment (ambient background characterization for priority pollutants, nutrients, methylmercury, pathogens, pesticides, and toxicity) as a decision basis for the Steering Committee.

The implementation of the long-term plan is expected by late 2014 or early 2015. Several key decisions such selecting the implementing entity for the long-term program are expected to be made by early 2014.



Delta RMP Steering Committee. (Steering Committee Chair TBD)