

Selenium Strategy Coordination and Technical Support

Oversight group: Selenium Workgroup
Proposed by: Jay Davis, SFEI

Funding requested for 2017: \$10,000

Introduction and Background

In April 2014 the RMP formed a Selenium Strategy Team to evaluate information needs that can be addressed by the Program in the next several years. The charge given to the Team by the RMP Steering Committee was to focus on low-cost, near-term monitoring elements that could provide information that provides high value in support of policy development and decision-making. A TMDL for the North Bay has been developed and approved by the Regional Water Board and the State Water Board, and is awaiting approval by USEPA. Development of a TMDL for the South Bay will be considered after the North Bay TMDL is completed. The need for greater investment in studies in support of managing selenium in the Bay is currently being considered by the Workgroup.

Study Objective and Applicable RMP Management Questions

The objective of this task is to provide coordination and technical support for continuing development of the Selenium Strategy. This task would therefore address all of the questions currently articulated in the Strategy (an update of these questions is in progress).

1. What are appropriate thresholds?
2. Are the beneficial uses of San Francisco Bay impaired by selenium?
3. What is the spatial pattern of selenium impairment?
4. How do selenium concentrations and loadings change over time?
5. What is the relative contribution of each loading pathway as a source of selenium impairment in the Bay?

The task would also address many of the overarching RMP management questions.

Tasks for 2017

Funds for this task would enable SFEI to continue to convene the Selenium Workgroup to allow discussions of plans for studies in support of implementation of the North Bay TMDL and the consideration of a TMDL for South Bay, to develop RMP workplans to support these efforts, and for any small-scale synthesis of information that is needed to support these discussions. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables aimed at providing a technical foundation for the TMDLs.

Timing and Deliverables

An updated selenium multi-year plan will be prepared for June 2017. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables.