

## Workgroup Activities -- First Quarter 2006

### A. Contaminant Fate Workgroup

#### Meetings:

CFWG did not meet this quarter.

#### Milestones:

- The PCB Multi-box Model
  - Changes made to model inputs to address workgroup comments and Tetra Tech findings.
  - Calibration of version 2.0b - focused on analysis of historical loads.
  - Documentation of version 2.0b - completed February 2006.
  - Model delivered to Tetra Tech Feb 2006 for testing. Tetra Tech uncertainty testing and SFEI technical support on-going. Preliminary progress report due in coming weeks.
- The Plan for Core Sampling and Analysis.
  - The CEP/RMP have allocated \$300,000 for collection of cores in the Bay. It is anticipated that this work will commence in the Fall after the Status and Trends sampling.

#### Activities for the second quarter:

1. Working with AMS on the detailed scope of work and contracting for the coring study that will likely commence in the Fall 2006.
2. Continuation of SFEI support on the multi-box model.

Next meeting will be scheduled upon completion of the uncertainty analyses by Tetra Tech. This will likely be Summer or early Fall of 2006.

For more information, see previous CFWG minutes and agenda at our website [http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp\\_minutes\\_agendas.html](http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html) or contact the CFWG leader, Don Yee, at [Don@sfei.org](mailto:Don@sfei.org).

### B. Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup (SPLWG)

#### Meetings:

No meetings were held this quarter.

#### Milestones this Quarter:

- Sampling at Mallard Island and Guadalupe.

- Collating WY 2005 data for PBDE conceptual model report.
- Working up trend indicators for this year's Pulse.
- Presentation at the San Francisco Bay Mercury Meeting by Lester McKee

Activities for next Quarter:

1. Review and evaluate Mallard and Guadalupe data as it is received.
2. Will prepare for next SPLWG meeting.

Next meeting will be scheduled for May 2006.

For more information, see previous SPLWG minutes and agenda at our website [http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp\\_minutes\\_agendas.html](http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html) or contact the SPLWG lead, Lester McKee, at [Lester@sfei.org](mailto:Lester@sfei.org).

### **C. Exposure and Effects Pilot Study (EEPS) Workgroup**

Meetings:

No meetings were held this quarter.

Milestones:

- A dose-response study evaluating the relative sensitivities of amphipods to copper, fluoranthene, and chlorpyrifos has been prepared and sent to TRC members. The results suggest that *Eohaustorius estuarius* is an appropriate species for continued use by the RMP in sediment toxicity tests. *Eohaustorius estuarius* is also recommended by the State Water Resources Control Board as the primary sediment testing amphipod for use in assessments of compliance with newly developed sediment quality objectives. This work was led by Brian Anderson and his colleagues at UC-Davis, Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory.
- Presentation at the Mercury Conference on the preliminary 2005 results of small fish. The results from this are posted on the SFEI web site.

Activities for the second quarter:

- Bob Spies of AMS and Katie Springman of UC-Davis will continue work on the Shiner Surfperch project, a two-year project to examine the effects of contamination on growth and reproduction. Dr. Spies is in the process of identifying a new reference location at the Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Ben Greenfield and Letitia Grenier will continue the small fish project. Fieldwork will commence in the summer of 2006. At present, the Water Board is looking into funding mercury analyses, which would free up funding for additional analyses of organics.
- Because it is not technically feasible at this point to fund a PBDE egg injection of terns, the EEPS workgroup will need to develop a new study idea and approve it. Letitia Grenier and Meg Sedlak are currently working on a new study idea.

Next meeting will likely occur in the summer.

For more information, see previous EEPS minutes and agenda at our website [http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp\\_minutes\\_agendas.html](http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html) or contact the EEPS WG lead, Meg Sedlak, at [meg.sfei.org](mailto:meg.sfei.org).

#### **D. Emerging Contaminants Workgroup**

A new workgroup has been convened to evaluate new chemicals for inclusion in the RMP. The following individuals have offered to serve as advisory panel members: Dr. David Sedlak, University of California-Berkeley, an expert on emerging contaminants including pharmaceuticals and endocrine disruptors; Dr. Jennifer Field, Oregon State University, an expert on surfactants and perfluorinated compounds; and Dr. Derek Muir, Environment Canada, an expert on PBDEs and emerging contaminants.

##### Meetings:

The first meeting of the workgroup is scheduled for June 1. Please contact Meg Sedlak for details ([Meg@sfei.org](mailto:Meg@sfei.org)).

##### Activities for the second quarter:

A conceptual framework report will be prepared for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The report will outline the purpose of the workgroup, previous analytes that the RMP has examined, and new analytes for possible inclusion.

#### **E. Review of Benthic Assessment Methods**

The TRC requested that SFEI convene a meeting to discuss benthic monitoring and assessment techniques. Bruce Thompson is preparing a meeting agenda and a list of potential invited participants (see below a list of proposed participants and topics to be discussed).

The meeting is scheduled for May 25th at the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

##### Activities for the second quarter:

For the May meeting, Bruce Thompson will review benthic assessment techniques and will synthesize EMAP data on chemistry, toxicity, and benthos. This will be sent out to the TRC two weeks prior to the meeting for review and comment.

##### DRAFT Workshop Agenda

Morning: Presentations on the regulatory need and state of knowledge and discussion (30 min each)

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| 1. Regulatory need and direction   | CBeegan              |
| 2. Benthic assemblages: variation in space and time, relationships to sediment contamination | BThompson            |
| 3. Long term variation in benthos at select sites in Suisun Bay                              | HPeterson            |
| 4. Benthic assessment tools for use in SF Estuary  | ARanasinghe          |
| 5. The problem with benthic assessments  | FNichols / JThompson |

Afternoon: Discussion

1. Where are we missing critical information about benthos necessary to properly interpret benthic assessments?
2. Identify the main points of disagreement about interpretation of benthic assessments.
3. Identify the kind of data or analysis needed to resolve these disagreements.

Possible invited participants:

Fred Nichols, USGS retired  
 Jan Thompson, USGS  
 Heather Petersen, USGS / DWR / UCD  
 Karen Gherts / Dean Messer, DWR  
 Jim Harrington, DFG  
 Mike Kellogg, CCSF  
 Don Weston, UCB  
 John Oliver, MLML  
 Jim Oakden, MLML  
 Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP  
 Ananda Ranasinghe, SCCWRP  
 Chris Beegan, SWRCB - SQO  
 Val Connor, SWRCB – SWAMP  
 Jeff Hyland, NOAA  
 Regional Board Staff  
 Washington State Dept. of Ecology?  
 Staff from other Regional Boards (esp. So Calif. for their perspective) ?  
 US EPA Staff ? Kevin Summer, Walt Nelson, Henry Lee, Steve Ferraro  
 Other RMP TRC, SC etc.

For more information on this meeting or to provide comments, please contact Bruce Thompson, [Bruce@sfei.org](mailto:Bruce@sfei.org).