

**REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR WATER QUALITY
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
May 12th, 2009**

Members Present:

Dave Allen, USS POSCO/Industry
Marcus Cole, Valero/(representing Refineries)
Lynford Edwards, Golden Gate Transport Authority
Adam Olivieri, EOA/BASMAA
Dan Tafolla, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District/Med. WWTPs
Tom Mumley, SFB RWQCB

Others Present:

Jay Davis, SFEI
Lawrence Leung, SFEI
Meg Sedlak, SFEI

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Adam Olivieri opened the meeting and asked for comments on the January 2009 minutes. Dan Tafolla motioned that the minutes be approved; Dave Allen seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Sedlak indicated that due to renovations, the Oakland Museum would not be available for the annual meeting. Ms. Sedlak indicated that SFEI staff had looked at several alternatives and provided a summary of the alternatives to the TRC. The TRC recommended that the Scottish Rites building in downtown Oakland be used for the annual meeting. RMP staff have begun contracting with Scottish Rites for the meeting.

Ms. Sedlak reminded the group that a joint meeting of the TRC and SCCWRP technical advisory group would be held on May 28th and passed out an agenda for the meeting

2. Committee Member Updates

Meg Sedlak indicated that several TRC representatives had asked for more information on the reported ammonia toxicity in the vicinity of Benicia. Tom Mumley indicated that this was a special study conducted by UC-Davis. There is some concern that the changing hydrodynamics in the Bay and the loss of sediment coming into the Bay may result in an increase in phytoplankton. Tom indicated that there was some debate whether this was an issue in the Bay.

3. Information: Technical Review Committee (TRC) Meeting Summary

Ms. Sedlak summarized the March meeting and noted that several of the March TRC items were included on today's agenda (e.g., Pulse, agenda for Annual Meeting, and RMP planning update).

The TRC recommended that PAH water sampling be eliminated for this year. Ms. Sedlak reminded the group that the PAH sampling had been slated for 2009; however, due to the Costco Buson spill the sampling had been moved up to 2008. The results suggested that there were not significant differences from prior years and therefore the TRC recommended that PAHs would not be sampled in 2009. Ms. Sedlak also mentioned that a new water pesticide sampling method would be used and a new laboratory was selected (AXYS Analytical). There had been substantial problems with the analyses of diazinon and chloropyrifos in part due to the fact that one lab was extracting the compounds (AXYS) and a second laboratory analyzing them (CDFG). The decision was made to use one laboratory for extraction and the analysis.

4. Information: Budget Status

Ms. Sedlak presented the budget memorandum and budget. She indicated that approximately 95 percent of the 2009 revenue has been received. Outstanding participant fees included a quarterly payment from EBDA and Caltrans stormwater fees. Ms. Sedlak indicated that she is continuing to work with the RWQCB to obtain the RMP fees for prior years. At present, approximately \$175,717 is outstanding from prior years (Caltrans).

Ms. Sedlak indicated that she was still continuing to pursue delinquent fees from Caltrans. Fees for 2005 through 2007 that are currently held by the RWQCB are presently scheduled to be released by September. Caltrans fees for 2008 and 2009 are being contracted through the Aquatic Science Center. An exemption request for the new interagency agreement has been signed and it is anticipated that the fees will be obtain shortly.

Ms. Sedlak indicated that expenditures (labor and direct costs) were largely on track with approximate 32% percent of the budget expended for labor and 9 percent expended for direct costs.

5. Action: Boat for RMP Water and Sediment Cruises

Ms. Sedlak explained that the R/V Endeavor would be unavailable to support RMP summer sampling because the US Bureau of Reclamation has a new manager and he has requested a year off to review USBR procedures. Last year's water cruise boat worked quite well; however the boat was expensive. The sediment cruise vessel was less than ideal because of a high draft that resulted in additional sampling days. Mr. Salop of AMS and Ms. Sedlak were able to identify two new vessels that may meet the RMP needs.

The vessels and cost to rent the vessels were included in a memorandum provided to the Committee prior to the meeting. Ms. Sedlak and Mr. Salop recommended the use of the RV Confluence for the water cruise (\$1,700 per day) and the RV Questuary for the sediment cruise (\$1,400 per day). If the Confluence is not available, the RMP will use last year's water cruise vessel the RV John Martin (\$3,000 per day).

Ms. Sedlak stated that depending on the vessel used, the cost for renting the boats would vary between \$27,000 and \$44,200.

A motion was made by Marcus Cole and seconded by Tom Mumley to use up to \$45,000 from contingency funds for the rental of boat(s) for the 2009 RMP Status and Trends water and

sediment cruises. The motion passed unanimously (David Tucker indicated in absentia that he also endorsed the use of contingency funds for this activity).

6. Information: RMP Planning Update

Jay Davis gave an update on the status of the strategies, workgroup five-year plans, and the RMP Master plan which will integrate the strategies and five-year plans.

Regarding the strategies, the following strategies are complete, mercury and dioxin. Jay Davis indicated that for 2010 the mercury strategy would continue to pursue small fish monitoring and would likely wait a year for proposing new studies to allow time to review and digest the information from the mercury isotope and DGT study that will be completed this year. Although not directly part of the strategy, a pilot study evaluating avian mercury effects work may be proposed. The dioxin strategy is complete and has funding set aside for 2010 for small tributary loading studies (\$34,000) and monitoring of Delta outflows (\$34,000).

The modeling strategy is complete; however, it needs to be reviewed by the Contaminant Fate workgroup. In 2020, it is likely that pilot studies will be proposed on modeling bay margins (\$30,000), sediment transport (\$75,000) and fieldwork (\$50,000).

The small tributary loading strategy is almost complete (*and was reviewed by the Sources Pathways and Loading workgroup on May 27th*). It includes monitoring at subset of sites proposed by the RMP and the municipal regional permit (MRP). There will also be a modeling component to help select sites and to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs.

The PCB strategy is underway and the second of two meetings will be convened on June 5th. There are a number of potential ideas coming out of this strategy including: conceptual model update; nearshore ambient modeling; small fish monitoring and sportfish (data gap for Susiun Bay where there is no sportfish monitoring); tributary loading evaluations through the use of cores; degradation of PCBs (there may be a need to issue an RFP for this work).

With regard to the workgroups and pilot studies, the EC workgroup is proposing pilot studies on identifying new chemicals of emerging concern through the scanning of seal and bivalve tissue using a "time of flight" spectrometer that NIST will make available. Also the workgroup thought that an evaluation of fipronil was important. Exposure and effects workgroup will meet July 6th; a number of studies are coming forward including effects of copper on olfactory senses in estuarine systems; effects of PBDEs on bird eggs; effects of selenium on the Bay seal population; new methods for conducting sediment TIEs; and characterization of mercury exposure in Clapper rails. Contaminant fate workgroup will meet June 10th and is proposing a number of studies including bay modeling, sediment coring, PCB studies, and sediment transport. The Sources Pathways and Loading workgroup met on May 27th and proposed a number of studies on watershed loading. The pilot and special studies that cannot be accommodated in the 2010 plan will be compiled into a list for SEP consideration.

Jay Davis also mentioned that he and Tom Mumley are working together to put in a proposal for the Cleanup and Abatement fund on San Leandro Bay. The study would help the RMP to develop models of Bay processes and inputs by starting with a relatively small embayment that

has many similar processes, sources, and loading as the Bay as a whole. Jay has assembled a team of SFEI staff who are keen to work on this project and bring diverse expertise to the project (e.g., historical ecology, foodweb modeling, tributary loading, sediment quality objectives, emerging contaminants, etc.). Tom Mumley indicated that the main purpose of this project would be to monitor the response of San Leandro Bay to remediation and abatement. This project would not be an RMP project; however, a number of RMP staff would be involved in it and the project would potentially be reviewed by the appropriate workgroups within RMP. Adam Olivieri asked whether Tom would need RMP staff time and Tom indicated that he potentially would. Adam Olivieri asked the roles of RMP staff and the RMP be clarified in the proposal. Adam Olivieri indicated that he would discuss this with his agencies.

7. Information: Modeling

John Oram gave an update on the Modeling Strategy outlining three major questions that the strategy will address: Q1 What is the contribution of contaminated Bay margins to Bay impairment and what are the projected impacts of management actions to Bay recovery?; Q2 What patterns of exposure are forecast for major segments of the Bay under various management scenarios? What is the trajectory for Bay recovery?; and Q3 What are the projected impacts of management actions on loads or concentrations of pollutants of concern from the high-leverage small tributaries? Where should management actions be implemented in the region to have the greatest impact?

With regard to the modeling strategy coordinating disparate modeling efforts, Adam Olivieri indicated that there was already a Bay modeling and wanted to be sure that RMP staff were not duplicating efforts. John indicated that he is involved with that group; however, much of the much is on the hydrodynamics and not the water quality issues that the RWQCB is interested in.

Adam Olivieri strongly encouraged RMP staff to develop a pilot and special studies list that includes a list of permit needs that will be met by the study. Jay Davis indicated that this would be incorporated in the Master Plan.

John Oram also outlined the Bay Margins proposal that is collaborative effort with Mark Stacey of UC-Berkeley and Steve Monosmith of Stanford University. This proposal will be reviewed by the Contaminant Fate workgroup. Tom Mumley indicated that he strongly endorsed the modeling strategy and the Bay margins proposal.

Adam indicated that there were several issues for the TRC and CFWG to consider with regard to the modeling proposal. First as the model grid gets finer the data needs go up substantially; second how do we address data uncertainties; third, if the RMP doesn't do this type of modeling what are the other options (e.g., why do we need more sophisticated models than the box model)?

8. Information: Pulse and Annual Meeting

Jay Davis gave a short update on the status of the Pulse and Annual Meeting. Jay Davis indicated that all of the authors had been contacted and progress on the articles was well underway. He anticipates having the articles out for review in mid-June.

Jay indicated that with the exception of Dave Schoelhammer who presented at last year's annual meeting that the authors would present at the annual meeting. Jay mentioned that he was presently trying to identify a Master of Ceremonies for the event to replace Mike Connor. In addition, he was interested in identifying a good keynote speaker. Marcus Cole and Lynford Edwards both indicated that they may have potential speakers for the annual meeting who are knowledgeable on dredging issues.

If climate change and effects to the sediment budget is chosen as a topic, USEPA has a specific staff person dedicated to climate change. Judy Kelly from SEP had this individual speak at a recent workshop so she has the contact information for this person.

A suggestion was made to identify someone from a comparable program to discuss sediment management in another estuary (e.g., Chesapeake Bay).

9. Information: Program Update

Meg Sedlak gave a short update on workgroup activities and reminded the group that now is a key time for people to engage in the workgroups as the RMP is selecting pilot and special studies for the next year. She also reminded the group that the joint meeting between SCCWRP and RMP would be happening on May 28th.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. Next Steering Committee meeting will be August 13th.

Action Item	Who?	Status
Develop a pilot and special study list that includes how the study will address permit needs	Meg Sedlak	Completed
Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the RMP and RMP staff with regards to San Leandro Bay CAF proposal	Jay Davis	In progress
Develop a list of short term and longer term projects to be funded through SEP using the existing RMP strategies. TRC to review and comment on list.	Meg Sedlak and Jay Davis	
Discussion 2010 fees on the October SC meeting agenda and information needs	Meg Sedlak	