September 13, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Technical Review Committee

From: Meg Sedlak

Re: Proposed USGS Sampling Stations for 2005/2006

On the July 12, SFEI convened a meeting with staff from the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Geological Survey (USGS), and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to discuss USGS suspended sediment sampling locations in the San Francisco Estuary. A complete list of attendees follows this memorandum. Dr. Schoellhammer explained the rationale for each of the existing ten sampling stations in the Bay and stated that with the current RMP funding he will only be able to operate at most six of the ten stations in 2006.

The current stations are: Mallard Island, Benicia, Mare Island Causeway, Carquinez, Channel Marker 1, Point San Pablo, Alcatraz, San Mateo Bridge, Dumbarton Bridge, and Channel Marker 17.

For each of the locations, Dr. Schoellhammer indicated the utility of the station to the Corps, the RMP, and the USGS. At the end of the meeting, the sites were prioritized based on the site's ability to satisfy the goals of each of these organizations.

It was proposed that the following four sites be retained: Mallard, Benicia, Point San Pablo, and Dumbarton Bridge. Two temporary sites were proposed. The temporary sites could be moved each year. One temporary site was proposed at the aquatic transfer station near Hamilton. The location of the second site was not discussed. Instead it was proposed that the funding for the second temporary site be used to develop sediment flux calculations at the Dumbarton Bridge station. The USGS and the US Army Corps of Engineers have reviewed and approved this proposal for four sites, one temporary site, and funding for sediment flux calculations. The TRC needs to review and approve or reject this proposal.

The Mallard Island site is important to the RMP as it provides an estimate of loadings into the Estuary. The remaining sites are important to the RMP for understanding the suspended sediment concentration (SSC) and potentially calculating sediment flux between each of the embayments. Steve Ritchie of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project indicated that the Dumbarton Bridge station could be very useful for the

monitoring the impact of the restoration of South Bay Salt Ponds and understanding sediment flux in the South Bay. Dave Schoellhammer indicated that PES[1] funds might be available for the Dumbarton site. US Army Corps of Engineers has provided Dr. Schoellhammer with $113,000 additional funds to purchase equipment for monitoring at the Hamilton aquatic transfer station.

[1] The USGS has a Priority Ecosystem Science (PES) program which currently funds a station at Mare Island Causeway. Dr. Schoellhammer indicated that these funds could be transferred to the Dumbarton Bridge site.

List of Attendees at the July 12th Meeting

Name	Affiliation
John Chang	BCDC
Beth Christian	SFRWQCB
Mike Connor	SFEI
Jay Davis	SFEI
Brenda Goeden	BCDC
Fred Hetzel	SFRWQCB
Andy Jahn	Port of Oakland
Tom Mumley	SFRWQCB
John Oram	SFEI
Steve Ritchie	South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project
Dave Schoellhammer	USGS
Meg Sedlak	SFEI
Shelah Sweat	USACE