

Workgroup Activities -- Third Quarter 2006

A. Contaminant Fate Workgroup

Meetings:

CFWG did not meet this quarter.

Milestones:

- Collection of 11 Bay cores, segmented and sent off for analyses.

Activities for the fourth quarter:

- Collection of six wetland cores will be conducted in the Fall after clapper rail breeding season.

A workgroup meeting is scheduled for Oct 30, 2006. Agenda will include discussion of multibox uncertainty analysis (Tetra Tech), preliminary results of the sediment coring study, and 2007 pilot and special studies.

For more information, see previous CFWG minutes and agenda at our website http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html or contact the CFWG leader, Don Yee, at Don@sfei.org.

B. Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup (SPLWG)

Meetings:

SPLWG did not meet this quarter

Milestones this quarter:

1. TRC approved funding for a 2nd small tributaries loading study.
2. Continued to seek funding for year 5 of the Guadalupe small tributaries loading study (at writing still no confirmation of funding)
3. Carried out a field reconnaissance on Zone 4 Line A to gather data for equipment design
4. Applied for and was approved an encroachment permit by ACFCWCD to allow us to install equipment for the new study in Zone 4 Line A at Cabot Blvd.
5. Gain quotes from vendors for equipment and placed orders
6. Received data from USGS, MLML, UCSC, AXYS, AMS Texas from our winter field studies

Activities for the fourth quarter:

1. Will install equipment for the new small tributaries loading study on Zone 4 Line A at Cabot Blvd and sample in response to storms
2. Will complete reporting for Guadalupe Year 4

Next workgroup meeting is scheduled for November 13th, 2006.

For more information, see previous SPLWG minutes and agenda at our website http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html or contact the SPLWG lead, Lester McKee, at Lester@sfei.org.

C. Exposure and Effects Pilot Study (EEPS) Workgroup

Meetings:

The EEPS workgroup met on July 26th to discuss redirecting 2006 funds. Funding in 2006 was set aside for year 2 of a two-year study of Shiner Surfperch (\$50,000); year 2 of a four-year study of small fish (\$40,000); a study of benthos (\$40,000) and a PBDE egg injection study in terns (\$40,000). It was determined early in 2006 that the injection study was not scientifically feasible. The EEPS workgroup met to discuss how this money would be redirected.

Milestones:

- At the July meeting, the EEPS workgroup recommended funding a study of endocrine disrupters in shiner surfperch and pacific staghorn sculpin (\$40,000). Dr. Kevin Kelley of CSU-Long Beach has conducted similar work in the Southern California Bight. Dr. Kelley and his colleagues have collaborated with the 2006 Sportfish sampling to collect fish this past summer and analyses of hormones and contaminants are underway.
- The workgroup also authorized a benthic assessment project that will be undertaken by Bruce Thompson. The objectives of the three-year study are to determine which contaminants, or mixtures of contaminants, at what concentrations, are most likely responsible for and benthic impairment observed in San Francisco Estuary, and to validate SQO contaminant thresholds for benthic impairment. The goal for the Phase 1 (2006) work is to conduct analysis on existing data determine which sediment contaminants are most highly associated with observed benthic impacts observed in the Estuary. Activity in the third quarter focused on getting the data together and in evaluating where there may be single contaminant, and mixture gradients, with benthic data, that may be fruitful for data analysis.

Activities for the fourth quarter:

- Ben Greenfield and Letitia Grenier will continue sampling for small fish through September.

- Data analysis will be completed for the benthic impacts study. A draft report is due at the end of January, 2007. The results will be evaluated and used to develop a joint toxicity and benthic study in 2007.

The workgroup will hold a meeting in late November/early December to discuss possible projects for funding in 2007.

For more information, see previous EEPS minutes and agenda at our website http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html or contact the EEPS WG lead, Meg Sedlak, at meg.sfei.org.

D. PAH Workshop

A workshop was held on the effects of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on July 20th to discuss recent scientific findings on PAHs. A summary of this workshop is available from the RMP web site at:

<http://www.sfei.org/rmp/reports/PAH/PAH%202006%20Workshop%20Report.pdf>

E. Emerging Contaminants Workgroup

A new workgroup was convened to evaluate new chemicals for inclusion in the RMP. The following individuals 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:

No meetings were held this quarter.

Milestones:

- Work on the pilot study/special study (2007) on perfluorinated compounds in Pacific Harbor seals began. Blood samples were collected from three harbor seals and have been sent to AXYS analytical for analyses of perfluorinated compounds and PBDEs. Insufficient sample was available for hexabromocyclododecane analysis. Seven more samples will be collected from seals in the summer of 2007.

Activities for the third quarter:

- City of San Jose and City of Palo Alto will collect effluent and bay samples for analysis of pharmaceuticals in October.
- The strategy white paper will be revised to reflect the workgroup's comments. A list of compounds will be developed.

Next meeting is scheduled for late 2006/early 2007

For more information, see previous EC workgroup minutes and agenda at our website http://www.sfei.org/rmp/rmp_minutes_agendas.html or contact the ECWG lead, Meg Sedlak, at meg.sfei.org.

F. Benthic Workshop Follow-up

RMP staff has requested a meeting with DWR staff to discuss how to implement a demonstration sampling program in the North Bay in the summer of 2007. DWR would sample benthos, and RMP would sample sediment contamination to provide the information needed to test the efficacy of benthic assessments for both programs. The meeting will occur in the 4th quarter of this year.