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April 27th, 2014

To: Steering Committee

From: Meg Sedlak and Jay Davis

Re: Requesting Funding to Plan for Margin Sampling

At present, the RMP is evaluating the needs for sampling in the margins. The RMP currently does not sample in areas that are shallower than 1 foot at mean lower low water (MLLW).

The rationale for margins sampling is as follows:

- For the portion of the Bay, the area that is defined as margin relative to the open Bay can be significant. For example, in the South Bay, the margins areas represent over 25% of the embayment; for the Lower South Bay, it is over 75%.
- Margins are a key habitat for sensitive and endangered species such as the Clapper Rail and Harvest Salt Marsh mouse. Understanding the distribution of contaminants in the Bay may be helpful to protecting these organisms.
- We believe that margins represent some of the more contaminated areas of the Bay; however, other than a few a toxic hot spot sites, we have little data to support or refute this claim.
- Understanding ambient concentration in the margins provides a context for interpreting results of management actions at targeted sites.
- Ambient data may identify unknown and unaccounted for sources, pathways, or processes.

The SC will review the reductions to the Status and Trends program and then consider possible additions. Assuming sediment sampling in the margins is deemed a priority, RMP staff are requesting \$20,000 to develop a monitoring plan for margins sampling. It is likely that this work will occur in 2015. We are currently requesting these funds for planning activities in 2014.