

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM
(WRP) BULLETIN - FEB/MARCH 2004**

March 31, 2004

February kicked off with a WRP appearance at the **Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California** Annual Meeting in Sacramento, where several hundred people were in attendance. I was invited to the conference to present an overview of current agency-side wetlands restoration programs across the state.

In mid-February, the **WRP released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** inviting interested wetlands scientists to participate on the Monitoring Group's monitoring plan review teams, which will be similar in function and structure to the design review teams of the Design Review Group. The RFQ included a 30-day timeline and Monitoring Group chair Andree Breaux and I reviewed qualifications received by March 23. Four qualified applicants responded to the RFQ and were recommended for inclusion on the group's first plan review. The RFQ will be released as a continuous filing and posted to the WRP website.

Also in February, Andree Breaux and I began attending the **Habitat Restoration Work Group**, a component of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration project's Stakeholder Forum. The group meets monthly and will allow participants to provide input into the proposed habitat mix of the restoration project; acting on the suggestion made at a recent WRP Monitoring Group meeting, Andree and I will serve as a link between the WRP and the Salt Ponds project's habitat planning.

On March 9, the **Monitoring Group** met and finalized the group's Mission Statement, Statement of Need and Group Objectives. The group continued discussions on its intended collaborative work products, primarily the formation of monitoring plan review teams and establishment of a Compensatory Mitigation Review Team. Specifically, the group began preparing for its first team review of the Sonoma

Baylands monitoring plan, which is scheduled to begin in April. The most recent meeting's summary can be reviewed at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/030904.pdf>.

The **Coordinating Committee** met on March 11. The Committee continued following up on its letter sent to the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, which urged greater collaboration on their respective wetland tracking systems. Committee members also began reviewing the content for the WRP's premiere Annual Report, which is due for release in early June. In addition, the Committee began planning in earnest the next **Executive Council** meeting, which has been set for Wednesday, June 9 and will be held in Sacramento. For more information, please see <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/031104.pdf>.

The next Committee meeting is Thursday, April 8, at the State Building in downtown Oakland.

The **Design Review Group (DRG)** completed its review of the Big Lagoon Wetland and Creek Restoration, located in Muir Beach, Marin County. In other DRG news, I recently created and distributed a survey form to assess past project proponents' impressions of the DRG; the feedback obtained from the survey will be incorporated into the coming Annual Report. The DRG is currently seeking projects for review; if you are interested in presenting a project to the group, please contact me.

I've continued WRP involvement in planning for the **2nd National Restore America's Estuaries conference**, which will be held in Seattle this September. I've been working on two subcommittees, focusing on creating sessions around the topics of salt marsh restoration and estuarine restoration in urbanized systems. Working with this group has already helped to spread the word of the WRP to key restoration experts around the country.

If you would like additional information on any issue, please contact me [by email](#) or at 510-622-5048.

Thank you, John Brosnan