

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM
BULLETIN – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2003**

December 1, 2003

October and November saw the Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) busy with all sorts of **public outreach**. The San Francisco Estuary Project's Debbi Nichols and I produced the WRP's brochure, to be distributed at all WRP events. The brochures were presented at the 6th biennial State of the Estuary conference in Oakland, along side a WRP poster. As staff to the Estuary Project, I also provided assistance with press coordination and administration for the conference. I then traveled to Long Beach to present WRP findings at the Headwaters to Oceans (H2O) conference. The following week, I gave two talks, one to a seminar course at the Marin Environmental Forum and one on the WRP to a branch staff meeting at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in San Francisco. I have also continued my efforts to support the South Bay Salt Ponds Speakers' Bureau, with my first speaking engagement set for December.

On October 27, **the Monitoring Group** met. Molly Martindale (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) stepped down as the group's chair and Andree Breaux (Regional Water Board) assumed the post. Andree stated her priorities are (1) making use of the protocols, (2) pursuing a consistent means of collecting project-tracking information, (3) establishing monitoring plan review teams, (4) pursuing group funding and (5) encouraging wetland assessments of both ambient wetland sites and mitigation projects. The meeting also featured updates on the CALFED-funded IRWM project, CRAM and EMAP. The next meeting, set for Monday, December 8, at 1 P.M., will feature a discussion of the work products the Monitoring Group intends to produce, collaboratively. The most recent meeting's summary can be reviewed at <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/102703.pdf>.

The WRP co-hosted the **Wetland Tracker workshop** on November 18, the first such workshop held by the WRP. Mike May, from

the San Francisco Estuary Institute, presented the Wetland Tracker (www.wetlandtracker.org) and demonstrated many of the site's functions. Audience feedback was substantial and many helpful suggestions were provided.

The Design Review Group (DRG) completed the California Department of Fish and Game's Napa Plant Site restoration Letter of Review on November 6. The Redwood Creek Wetland and Creek Restoration project will likely come before the DRG at its next meeting. In addition, the group will adopt its finalized Project Checklist and Ground Rules statement at its next meeting time, which has yet to be set.

In late October, the WRP was the aim of a **Public Records Act request**, initiated by the Bahia Homeowners' Association (BHA). Their project had come before the DRG in March 2003, yet the Executive Council was asked to place a moratorium on DRG review of mitigation projects until the Council could meet and evaluate this approach. Subsequently, the Council determined the DRG would not take review of privately sponsored mitigation projects on an indefinite basis. Thus, the BHA Letter of Review was never completed. In response to the Public Records Act request, and following consultation with counsel at U.S. EPA, the Resources Agency and the Association of Bay Area Governments, the WRP responded to the BHA with correspondence and supporting documents related to their project.

The Coordinating Committee meets on Friday, December 5. The meeting will cover changes in the WRP participation based on Governor Schwarzenegger's appointments and the Regional Water Board's new Executive Officer, Bruce Wolfe. Planning for the next Executive Council meeting will get underway. The meeting will be followed by a guided field trip of the Martin Luther King Jr. regional shoreline.

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

Thank you, John Brosnan