

California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup
DRAFT Meeting Notes – January 26, 2011

Attendees

Adam Ballard, SWRCB, SWAMP
Louise Conrad, DWR, IEP
Naomi Feger, SFRWQCB (by phone)
Karen Gherts, DWR, IEP
Mark Gowdy, SWRCB, Water Rights
Lauren Hastings, Delta Stewardship Council
Nathan Hemingway, 34 North
Karen Larsen, SWRCB, OIMA
Jon Marshack, SWRCB, Monitoring Council
David Osti, 34 North
Meghan Sullivan, CVRWQCB
Martha Sutula, SCCWRP
Meredith Williams, SFEI
Carolyn Yale, USEPA (by phone)

Meeting Outline

1. Review notes from December 15 meeting
 - o Workgroup Participants
 - o Assessment Questions
2. Bay Delta Live – David Osti, 34 North
 - o What has been accomplished that we can use?
3. Coordination of portal with Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan development – Lauren Hastings
4. Workgroup Charter
 - o Draft sent January 25, 2011 (attached)
 - o Much coordination already exists. Do we need a separate workgroup or could we merge workgroup activities into existing IEP structure?
5. Readily available data sets and information for initial portal development
6. Plan Future Meetings

1. Review December 15 Meeting Notes

- Prospective Workgroup Participants - *updated*
 - o Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) – Lead
 - Anke Mueller-Solger, Delta Stewardship Council anke.mueller-solger@deltacouncil.ca.gov
 - Karen Gehrts, DWR kagehrts@water.ca.gov
 - Rich Breuer, DWR rich@water.ca.gov
 - Louise Conrad, DWR jlconrad@water.ca.gov
 - o Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Regional Monitoring Program (Delta RMP)
 - Meghan Sullivan msullivan@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Stephanie Fong swfong@waterboards.ca.gov
 - o San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (Bay RMP)
 - Naomi Feger, SFRWQCB nfeger@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Meredith Williams, SFEI meredith@sfei.org
 - o Delta Stewardship Council
 - Lauren Hastings lauren.hastings@deltacouncil.ca.gov
 - [Terry Macaulay] terry.macaulay@deltacouncil.ca.gov
 - o State and Federal Contractors Water Agency
 - Val Connor vconnor@sfcwa.org
 - David Osti, 34 North david@34north.com

- State Water Board
 - Karen Larsen, OIMA klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Adam Ballard, SWAMP aballard@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Mark Gowdy, Water Rights mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov
- Southern California Coastal Waters Research Project
 - Martha Sutula marthas@sccwrp.org
- CA Water Quality Monitoring Council
 - Jon Marshack, SWRCB jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov
- Delta Conservancy
 - Cindy Messer
- US EPA
 - Erin Foresman Foresman.Erin@epamail.epa.gov
 - Karen Schwinn
 - Bruce Herbold
 - [Carolyn Yale] yale.carolyn@epa.gov
- Dept of Fish & Game
 - Hildegarde Spautz, Ecosystem Restoration Program hspautz@dfg.ca.gov
 - Dave Zezulak, Ecosystem Restoration Program dzezulak@dfg.ca.gov
 - Randy Baxter
 - Kathy Hieb
 - April Hennessey
- U.S. Geological Survey
 - Darcy Austin (aka Jones)
 - Larry Brown
 - James Cloern
- NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Bryant Chesney bryant.chesney@noaa.gov
- Morro Bay & Elkhorn Slough
 - ? (NOAA)
- SF Estuary Partnership
 - Andy Gunther
 - Judy Kelly jakelly@waterboards.ca.gov
- Sacramento River Watershed Program
 - Mary Lee Knecht
 - Stephen McCord
- California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
 - Bill Jennings
 - Richard McHenry
- Bay Institute
 - Jon Rosenfield
- Moss Landing Marine Labs, [Central Coast Wetlands Group](#)
 - Kevin O'Connor koconnor@mlml.calstate.edu
 - Ross Clark rclark@mlml.calstate.edurelark@coastal.ca.gov
- Discharger Community
 - POTWs – ? (CVCWA)
 - Stormwater – ?
 - Irrigated Lands – ?
- NGOs – ?
- Joint Ventures
 - Bob Shaffer
 - Dan Taylor

Note: May be able to eliminate some organizations that are well represented through IEP.

- Potential Assessment Questions to drive portal navigation and content - *updated*
 - What are Estuaries?
 - What is the SF Estuary?
 - Location and extent of the resource
 - DWR Delta Atlas
 - Water Education Foundation – <http://aquaforia.com>
 - Habitats/ecosystems, flooding, levees
 - Importance to California
 - Water supply
 - Fisheries
 - What is the status of SF Estuary health?
 - Report Card – Delta Council performance measure tracking
 - Fish tissue – Bioaccumulation Oversight Group & other studies
 - Water Quality
 - Fish population / food web / POD synthesis report
 - Stressors
 - What are the trends in SF Estuary health?
 - Regime shift
 - Historic ecological study at SFEI
 - What is being done to make the estuary better?
 - Is it working?
 - Wetland restoration – link to wetland portal
 - Left Navigation bar of portal
 - Monitoring programs – Monitoring inventory
 - Delta Players
- Key Data Sets - *updated*
 - CDEC (DWR)
 - IEP (DWR) – metadata catalog with query tool – replacement for BDAT
 - Water Data Library (DWR)
 - Delta Atlas (DWR)
 - CEDEN (Water Boards)
 - RMPs (Water Boards) – NPDES, stormwater, & irrigated lands ambient monitoring, CRAM data from wetland assessments
 - USGS
 - USBR
 - USFWS
 - Bios (DFG)

Note: Enabling web services on existing systems will be key to sharing data with others.

- 2. BayDeltaLive.com** – see David Osti presentation (attached)
- CEDEC data loaded – flow, velocity, WQ constituents
 - Graphs, time series
 - GR from USGS
 - Wiki – documents, presentations, videos, photos, text
 - DWR Delta Atlas maps – detailed PDFs
 - User accounts – upload and share data, document catalog – password protected
 - Project management – invite users to collaborate
 - DWR fish trawls
 - BDAT plankton data sets ?
 - All open source
 - Forecasting models using interpolation – John Bureau (USGS)
 - Data stored at source – link via web services

3. Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan Development – Lauren Hastings

- Plan includes performance tracking (John Ryan)
 - Actions
 - Inputs & outputs
 - Outcomes (eco health)
 - Water supply, use, & demand – not part of portal scope
- Good match with IEP – same needs – coordination with Anke Mueller-Solger
- Adaptive management – information feeds back to agency decision makers

Note: It appears that coordination with portal development would be mutually beneficial.

- Carolyn Yale (USEPA) mentioned Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will reframe some issues – contaminants, condition of habitats, beneficial uses, corrective actions. Involves information gathering and synthesis. Input to *Pulse of the Estuary* from SF Bay RMP – assistance from Erin Foreman (Aquatic Science Center).

4. Workgroup Charter

- Do we need separate workgroup from IEP? – Yes
 - Portal development does not fit well with IEP project work team structure
- Add that portals should provide information to inform land use decision making by local governments – may affect involvement by NGOs, watershed organizations
- IEP Lead Role – IEP Coordinator and Management Teams will need to decide.
Karen Gehrts will get back to workgroup after February/March IEP meetings
- Add more discussion of coordination functions

5. Initial Portal Development Ideas

- Zooplankton
- Fish trawls
 - Tie catch data to modeler to assess smelt trends, migrations and to forecasting
 - Modeler – daily or weekly animation based on turbidity and catch data + write-up on what it means
- “Introduction to the San Francisco Estuary” by Andrew Cohen’s book, December 2000 (http://www.sfei.org/sites/default/files/2000IntrotoEstuary_0.pdf)
- Survey of existing IEP data from IEP website
 - Indices and trends over time
 - Interpretations are disparate – not a problem for Monitoring Council
 - Make raw data download available
- Wildlife impacts (USFS)
- Score card approach difficult not since no agreed upon benchmarks and political divides
 - Monitoring Council favors displaying various valid perspectives and information gaps
- Early questions
 - Food web status, status of native and non-native fishes – readily available data sets (*Karen Gehrts*)
 - Prioritize major stressors – flow, ammonia, invasive species – IEP POD workplan, Independent Science Board
 - Historical ecosystem condition (*Meredith Williams*)
- Need for cross linkages with other portals and their data sources – wetlands, safe to eat fish
- Need for consistent interface with other portals

6. Future Meetings

- Next Meeting – Framing questions – end of FEB or early March (?)
 - Sam Luoma – UMARP, help framing questions (Lauren Hastings will contact)
 - Andy Gunther – Bay score card (Meredith Williams will contact)
 - Cliff Dahm – Queensland, Healthy Waterways Initiative (Lauren Hastings will contact)
 - Coordination & Charter
- Data Management – April (?)
 - Data.ca.gov – David Harris
 - CEDEN
 - CERES
 - David Osti
 - DWR, Mike Gardner

February 17, 2011