Progress Report
California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
February 1, 2017

2016 Highlights

Over the past year, the CWMW has worked on building capacity for implementation of the Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (WRAMP). Efforts focused on updates to EcoAtlas and refinement of CRAM and riparian assessment tools. In addition, CWMW members continued to support adopters of WRAMP to help build institutional capacity among both regulated entities and regulators.

Data Management

Data management efforts in 2016 focused on improving EcoAtlas. Specific updates include:

- Updated CARI maps.
- Improved Project Tracker by adding more projects, improving displays and filter capabilities, and simplifying data entry forms.
- Added new data layers including eel grass, CSCI, and CalVeg.
- Added data visualization for Level III data
- Improved analysis tools by updating the Landscape Profile Tool and adding Habitat Development Curves and CRAM Cumulative Distribution Curves.
- Improved site performance.

Monitoring Protocols

In 2016 we worked to develop and refine rapid assessment protocols, including CRAM.

The Riparian Rapid Assessment Method (RipRAM) was developed to assess riparian health during routine watershed monitoring. RipRAM can be done with aerial maps, watershed information, and limited site access. The Central Coast Regional Board is using the tool and reporting results on their CCAMP website.

CRAM updates performed in 2016:
- New modules added to eCRAM.
- Continued progress on the validation of Slope, Depressional, Vernal Pool modules.
- Revised and posted the CRAM Flowchart for selecting which CRAM module to use.
- Updated training curriculums.
- Trained 102 practitioners. In addition, 3 CRAM trainers completed the trainers program, and 3 new journeymen began the program.
- Added 877 new assessments to the CRAM database. There are a total of 5,212 public CRAM assessments.
- Issued a CRAM Practitioner Update newsletter in the Winter 2016.

<u>Outreach</u>

CWMW continued WRAMP outreach efforts at the federal, state, and local level. We conducted ~40 presentations and targeted demos on the EcoAtlas toolset. The Level 2 Committee supported the Lahontan Regional Board as they implemented their requirements for using Project Tracker and CRAM in the 401 Program.   CWMW took the lead in developing standardized language for monitoring and assessment, and reporting data to the statewide systems for the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The CWMW reached out to agencies that administering the Prop 1 Grant and encouraged the inclusion of the standardized language in their Grant Program Guidelines. In addition, Workgroup members providing ongoing outreach to staff and mangers within in their respective agencies.

2017 Priorities

In addition to continued development of EcoAtlas and ongoing support to WRAMP adopters, CWMW has identified several priorities for 2017. Under the leadership of the State Board and SFEI, we will develop a funding strategy for the long-term stewardship of EcoAtlas. We have begun outreach to the Sacramento area HCP/NCCP sponsors to discuss ways the WRAMP tools could be incorporated into their monitoring programs. The Level 2 Committee of CWMW will take the lead in updating the CRAM technical guidance for use in regulatory programs, in addition to ongoing CRAM training and module refinement. We expect the Slope, Depressional, and Vernal Pool module validation to be completed in 2017. The Level 3 Committee will work to develop a standardized Quality Assurance Quality Control (QAQC) Plan for Level 3 monitoring based on the U.S. EPA's model. Finally, CWMW has recognized the need for a WRAMP training curriculum and will work to develop one this year.