



**Combined Quarterly Report -- 2nd and 3rd Quarters, 2018
Level 2 - Rapid Assessments Committee
August 7, 2018**

The Level 2 Assessments Committee (L2) of the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW) provides this report for attachment to the , August 7, 2018 CWMW meeting minutes. These notes combine topics of interest to the L2 Committee from the April 24 and July 31 meetings.

The Final L2 Meeting dates for 2018: October 30.

2nd Quarter Report for April 24, 2018:

Stress Index:

The primary topic of discussion at the April 24 meeting concerned development of a Stressor Index. Sarah Pearce of SFEI continues to lead the development of this new tool. The L2 committee has provided review and comment on the most recent versions of the Index, as discussed at the April 25 meeting. Continued testing was to be conducted during the summer field season.

Other News:

- Cristina Grosso of SFEI reports that additional functionality is being added to Eco Atlas. Work on a download button for metric scores, plants, and stressors, to be called the "Download CRAM worksheet data" button, is in progress.
- SFEI is loading the validation reports and revised field books for vernal pools and slope wetlands onto www.CRAMwetlands.org , but notes that eCRAM support for these modules is not yet available. This action has been with the consensus of the L2, who finds with reluctance that it is better to get the most recent modules out for use sooner, instead of waiting indefinitely for funding to update eCRAM.
- Sarah Pearce reports that new training materials for eCRAM are in development. This curriculum supplement for CRAM training will be useful for all modules of CRAM.
- SFEI reports that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is conducting their 5th annual ambient watershed survey. This CRAM-based ambient survey is conducted to provide

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data to help monitor the District's progress toward its management goals for watershed stewardship.

3rd Quarter Report for July 31, 2018.

Trainers' Annual Intercalibration Update:

Lindsay Teunis (ICF) provided the leadership needed to coordinate a successful CRAM intercalibration exercises – aka “CRAM-A-Ganza -- for trainers and key practitioners, June 5 – 6 at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in Orange County. Sixteen participants conducted AAs in large and small bar-built estuarine sites, and in a riverine and episodic riverine site. The L2 committee commends Ms. Teunis for her facilitation of this opportunity to observe the unique resources of the marine base.

Technical Bulletin:

Several L2 members have continued to participate in the revision of the Technical Bulletin, which will be discussed more completely at presentations for the CWMW.

Episodic Validation:

Staff of SCCWRP and Moss Landing Marine Labs have been conducting validation work for the Episodic Module in Arizona and throughout California this summer, with field work concluding in mid-July. The L2 expects that a preliminary report of results will be forthcoming in early to mid-2019, depending on how long it takes to obtain and analyze the Level 3 data.

Proposed Changes to Training Requirements:

Consistency of training requirements has been a firm goal for L2 for several years, with the 5-day practitioner course being the standard. Recently, the Perennial Stream Assessment Program (PSA) has expressed concerns about the program costs associated with the need to have two practitioners that have gone through the full 5 day course for every CRAM assessment. A shorter riverine-focused training for the PSA field teams has been proposed.

Cliff Harvey and Melissa Scianni will contact key PSA staff to better understand their training needs and cost issues, and then report back to L2. The committee will then formulate a response based on that information and report to CWMW with a request for direction and/or concurrence.

Practitioner Requirements:

The L2 continues to recommend that, for best results, AAs should be conducted by at least 2 trained practitioners. Specific wording for this recommendation is being developed for delivery to the Technical Bulletin team and CWMW.

Training Update:

A summary of all 2018 classes is not yet compiled, and additional classes were still coming for late 2018. Trainers report that course enrollment has been inconsistent so far this year; some classes well attended, others less so.

State Water Board staff and CDFW staff conducted a 5-day practitioner training for Perennial Streams Assessment staff again in April. Several attendees from other CDFW programs, plus a few from Department of Water Resources, also attended.

A short course focused on the Episodic module, being presented as part of the Episodic Module

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validation grant was held in Arizona in July. A second short course is set for August in Palm Desert (some 30 attendees are expected). It is expected that the content of these courses will provide the basis for a curriculum for future Episodic trainings.

Other Technical Issues:

A crosswalk between CEDEN and eCRAM has been identified as a need by SWAMP. L2 has discussed the issue and finds that technical obstacles are feasible to overcome, but lack of funding hampers progress. Development and maintenance of eCRAM is a related issue, with similar circumstances: a known need, technical feasibility, but insufficient funding to accomplish.