

Level 2 Committee Report to the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
January 14, 2010

On Oct. 13, 2009, the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW) called for the establishment of a Level 2 (L2) committee. This committee will maintain and coordinate CRAM and other condition assessment methods including, training, QA/QC, reference network, tool updates. It will also provide a forum for agencies to discuss and review policy issues regarding CRAM.

Paul Jones (EPA) and Cliff Harvey (SWB) were tasked to form this committee. Initial membership will include representatives from DFG, SWAMP, State Board, Regional Boards, EPA, US Army Corps, and one individual from the CRAM PI Team. Efforts to identify individuals from each of the groups are ongoing.

Interim L2 Committee Activities

The interim L2 Committee is currently working on a number of products: (1) an L2 Committee organizational statement; (2) a CRAM QA/QC document; (3) an organizational chart for CRAM implementation; and (4) a long-term workplan for CRAM implementation.

Although some progress on these documents has been made, none are available for release at this time. Draft forms of the first three products are expected to be available by the March 2010 meeting of the CWMW. The work plan for CRAM implementation will be a longer-term effort requiring substantive input from many individuals and agencies.

(1) L2 Committee Organizational Statement

This document will outline the basic roles, responsibilities, and tasks to be undertaken by the L2 Committee. Initial activities will primarily focus on implementation and ongoing development of CRAM; however of the L2 Committee will be able to address other types of level 2 assessment tools as needs are identified. A draft of this document is in progress.

(2) CRAM QA/QC document

On 18 May 2009, the CWMW requested of some of its members (now members the Level 2 Assessments Committee) to produce a document that would help to support the CWMW's Technical Bulletin 1: *Using CRAM (California Rapid Assessment Method) to Assess Wetland Projects as an Element of Regulatory and Management Programs*. A draft of this document is in progress.

(3) Organizational Chart for CRAM implementation

This framework will outline the functional and legal mechanism for how State regulatory agencies will officially adopt and incorporate the recommendations of the CRAM Principal Investigator Team. Emphasis will be placed on working within existing organizational and institutional capacity. The chart will list the roles and responsibilities

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by organization and title and, but will not include the names of individuals. It will broadly cover four key areas of responsibility:

- Ongoing development, calibration/validation and refinement of CRAM;
- Ongoing training for practitioners via UC Extension and Water Boards Academy (possibly others later);
- Data Management and Coordination with Level 1 efforts;
- Ongoing QA/QC, including audits, maintenance of reference sites, and setting of training standards.

A document produced by Ross Clark (Cal. Coastal Commission) will be used as a template to draft this Organizational Chart.

(4) Long-term Workplan for CRAM implementation

This document will provide a process and timeline for the tasks associated with CRAM implementation (training, audits, reference site networks, and other QA/QC needs). Specifically, this document will:

- Identify specific individuals to assume the roles and responsibilities listed in the Organizational Chart;
- Articulate specific goals and target dates for the priority tasks identified by the L2 Committee;
- Develop and report on projected budgetary and staffing needs;

The living document is intended to be consistent with ongoing CRAM implementation and development efforts, but be adaptive enough to accommodate the needs of a growing statewide L2 Assessment program. An outline of this document is expected soon.