

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW)

CEMW Mission

The California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW) is devoted to evaluating existing estuarine resource monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts, and working to enhance those efforts so as to improve the delivery of water quality and ecosystem health information to the user, in the form of the California Estuaries Portal (Portal). The CEMW will endeavor to improve the monitoring, assessment, and reporting of estuarine resources by increasing cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations involved in the monitoring of water quality and ecosystem health of California's estuaries. The CEMW will review technical and policy aspects of estuarine resource monitoring, tool development, implementation, and use of data to improve estuarine resource management in California.

CEMW Accomplishments in 2012

In 2012 the CEMW:

- Launched the California Estuary Workgroup Website as a venue for Bay-Delta scientists to work together using data generated through existing monitoring and research programs, to develop a better understanding of the Bay-Delta Estuary, and to provide a platform to create and vet content for display on the Portal. Future plans include expanding the tools provided by this website to encompass other estuaries of the state.
 - The website includes project management tools and summaries, document management capabilities, data sets generated through the Interagency Ecological Program and other relevant programs, live conditions from real-time data sources, mapping and GIS layers, data visualization tools, and knowledge Wikis.
- Converted the Department of Water Resources annual publication, "Water Quality Condition in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun and San Pablo Bays," into digital formats that will allow for more effective and efficient transfer of information to interested parties through the Portal and support assessments relevant to the Portal. These data have been collected since 1970 to fulfill the reporting requirements of monitoring required by the State Water Board's Water Right Decision-1641 and its predecessors.
- Increased collaboration among interested parties.

Plans for 2013

In 2013, the CEMW plans to:

- Develop a metadata plan for the first release of the Portal
- Mock-up the California Estuaries Portal

California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup 2012 Annual Report

- Further develop a storyboard for answering the question, “How healthy is my estuary?” for general public consumption. The storyboard will be drawing on previous indicator work, and will be vetted through peer review.
- Present the mock-up of the Portal to the Monitoring Council for approval
- Release the Portal to the public
- Develop a metadata plan for longer-term Portal development
- Continue to improve and update the CEMW website with new and pertinent information
 - Continue to improve and develop tools through that support data analysis and reporting
 - Continue to collaborate with interested parties in developing the CEMW website to benefit users’ management and reporting needs
- Continue to improve and update the Portal
 - Develop a lines of evidence approach for controversial topics
- Identify and track performance measures for the estuary
 - Performance measures of landscape-scale habitat restoration will start with indicators of interest to the Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA; <http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa.cfm>) and water quality, starting with indicators incorporated in the Delta Regional Monitoring Program’s “Pulse of the Delta.”
 - Performance measures will also evaluate indicators of general estuarine health that are not tied to particular restoration projects
 - Performance measures will adapt previous work from the Unified Monitoring Assessment and Reporting Program and the Logic Chain. The Logic Chain links ecosystem goals to objectives that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant (to larger ecosystem), and Time-Bound (S.M.A.R.T.). SMART objectives enable management to chart a course towards restoration while adapting to a changing knowledge base.
- Seek and develop opportunities for enhanced integration with other workgroups and Portals (e.g., California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup, Healthy Streams Partnership).

Agencies Participating (or Targeted for Participation) in the CEMW

- State Agencies
 - Delta Conservancy
 - Delta Science Program of Delta Stewardship Council
 - Department of Water Resources
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - State Water Resources Control Board
- Federal Agencies
 - US Environmental Protection Agency
 - US Geological Survey
- Other Groups
 - Delta Regional Monitoring Program

California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup 2012 Annual Report

- Interagency Ecological Program
- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
- San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program
- San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center
- Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
- State and Federal Contractors Water Agency
- The Bay Institute