

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 2 June 2000

Location: San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, CA

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of technical experts from various agencies that oversee or are directly involved in restoration efforts. One of their primary roles was to provide technical direction in formulating program goals.

The purpose of this meeting was to establish, in draft form, restoration goals and objectives for the San Pablo Bay watershed and criteria by which restoration proposals could be evaluated. The committee agreed that it would be best to focus on purely ecological (i.e., rather than social) goals, and recommended the following list of goals:

- Rehabilitate natural processes within the San Pablo Bay watershed system.
- Protect and restore functional habitat types throughout the watershed.
- Sustain a healthy community of native species.
- Improve and maintain water quality and in-stream water supply.
- Prevent the establishment of new, and curb the expansion of existing, non-native species.

This list above is a committee-modified version of the CalFed program goals. The committee also decided that the National Research Council's Restoration Checklist, from the book *Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems*, would be a good starting point for establishing evaluation criteria.

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The committee decided to modify the list of goals drafted in the meeting of 2 June 2000. The new list of goals includes:

- Rehabilitate natural processes within the San Pablo Bay watershed system.
- Protect existing high-quality habitat throughout the watershed.
- Restore degraded habitat to high quality ecological and hydrological function.
- Sustain a healthy community of native species.
- Improve and maintain water quality and in-stream flow.
- Prevent the establishment of new, and curb the expansion of existing, non-native species.

Individual committee members also expressed a desire to see more items added to the list of goals, such as restoration of natural hydrologic regimes, implementation of urban and agricultural BMPs, emphasizing the restoration of tidal and seasonal wetlands, assessment work, education and historical analysis, and monitoring.

The committee discussed a draft of the program question/answer list (*those guidelines now appear in Section 6.1 – Restoration Project Planning and Implementation/General Guidelines*). That discussion emphasized the necessity of project planners to secure community support, have a technically sound restoration plan, consider projects within a whole-watershed context, and provide for monitoring by some responsible party. The committee also discussed some aspects of project process, including constraints on Corps funding (in-kind contributions, etc.), permitting, and responsibility for construction and O&M.

The committee identified several “big threats” to the watershed, including high growth rates, loss of biodiversity, habitat loss/modification/degradation, hydro-modification, pollution/water quality, sedimentation/erosion, invasive species, and lack of scientific information and understanding. Committee members shared and identified sources of further information on these topics. This list was the basis of the review of major restoration challenges within the watershed (*see Section 4 – Challenges to Watershed Restoration Efforts*).

#### Scoping Committee Meeting

Date: 7 June 2000

Location: San Francisco Bay Model, Sausalito, CA

The scoping committee included representatives from involved governmental agencies (Coastal Conservancy, USFWS, USACE, etc.) as well as NGOs, some of which are potential project sponsors (eg., Marin Audubon Society). Committee members focused on organizational needs of the Watershed Restoration Program: coordinating efforts among NGOs, limiting the problems associated with interagency competition for funds, forming a central person or small committee to oversee the program, and providing a list of past and existing restoration projects to interested parties. The need for a simple, flexible application form was discussed. A map outlining the boundaries of the watershed was also identified as a high-priority need.

#### Scoping Committee Meeting

Date: 9 August 2000

Location: Vallejo Public Library, Vallejo, CA

Committee members discussed the program goals and requirements for project sponsorship with representatives of two Program Sponsors (Marc Holmes of The Bay Institute and Karen Rippey of the USACE). Topics covered included requirements regarding property acquisition, permitting, and project maintenance.

The committee also discussed the application and funding process, focusing on funding priorities, the role of the Coastal Conservancy in providing matching funds, and the mechanism by which the Corps may “tier off” projects and fund them through other authorities (i.e., Section 1135, Section 206). Monitoring, funding of monitoring, and the interplay between CEQA and monitoring requirements were discussed in detail, and committee members were urged to read the draft framework plan to make sure that sufficient emphasis had been placed on monitoring.

Finally, the committee reviewed the list of 18 Candidate Projects that were developed in Fall 1999 Scoping meetings.

#### Public Outreach Meeting

Dates and Locations:

8 November 2000 (Pinole Public Library)

9 November 2000 (Marin County Civic Center)

13 November 2000 (Vallejo Public Library)

14 November 2000 (Petaluma Public Library)

Each of these meetings provided an opportunity for members of the public to find out about the Watershed Restoration Program and the associated web site, and to ask questions of representatives from The Bay Institute, the USACE, the Coastal Conservancy, and CDM.