

ESTUARY



Y O U R B A Y - D E L T A N E W S C L E A R I N G H O U S E

GET OUT YOUR CHECKBOOK OR GIVE UP ESTUARY

We just cut 2000 people off our mailing list, and you could be next.

By now, you've received up to five issues of this lively insider's news source on the Bay-Delta Estuary. We hope you've found that it helps you keep track of the myriad political, environmental, regulatory and research activities going on throughout the watershed.

So if you like what you're seeing and reading, please take this moment to send us your \$20 check **now!** (see form inside).

Thank you to all of you who've already subscribed! Your support, comments and story suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Keep'em coming! (510)286-4392



Wildcat Revival

Restoring a creek like Wildcat from top to bottom — a creek whose banks host everything from cows to car wrecks and whose nine-mile course takes in freeflowing rapids, reservoirs, concrete culverts and storm drain outfalls — may seem like a daunting task. But it's the very tangibility of a single creek in the much more daunting scope of an entire estuary that makes Wildcat's restoration such a workable model of how watershed protection efforts can reweave the relationship between humans and landscape for the benefit of the Estuary.

As old-style species- and pollutant-specific environmental management grow less tenable, managers of the Bay-Delta system have been actively experimenting with alternatives in places like Wildcat Creek. The land and water, people and fish, source to mouth approach being taken along the creek is a micro-level model of a nationwide trend toward watershed management and a California proposal to do this via the establishment of Aquatic Diversity Management Areas (ADMAs).

"There's been a lot of talk about ADMAs," says the Estuary Project's Tim Vendlinski. "What we'd like to do is provide an on-the-ground model to help people put this conceptual approach into reality."

Wildcat seems a perfect place to demonstrate how an ADMA could work and, with the leadership and financial support of the Estuary Project and the initiative of local agencies and citizens on the ground, Wildcat is now showcasing a variety of restoration techniques in a variety of creek settings.

Wildcat Creek's headwaters spring from a green cleft between Grizzly and Vollmer Peaks in the near wilderness of Tilden Park's East Bay ridges. From Tilden, the creek trickles down into Wildcat Canyon through the kind of golden hills author Edward Abbey once called "lion colored." Ironically, this characteristic California color is a pale interloper introduced by European ranchers over a century ago. Native grasses — long overrun — stay greener year-round.

It is in this canyon that the first major restoration effort along the creek's path to the Estuary is now underway. Here, the Project is helping the East Bay Regional Park District and a rancher who leases some

district parklands to reduce cattle grazing impacts, such as bank erosion, sedimentation, polluted runoff and non-native species dominance.

The project will stagger what was previously a year-round grazing schedule through more intensive cropping of introduced grasses at certain times of year and removal of cattle during the germination season of purple needle-grass, blue wild rye, California oat grass and other

natives. In addition, the project will fence off the creek's Havey Canyon tributary to keep erosive hoofs and cow manure off the banks and out of the water. Even the plumbing system that hooks up creekshed seeps and springs to cattle drinking troughs is getting an overhaul.

According to Vendlinski, this grazing project shows that economics and the environment don't have to be in conflict. "We've found that if you channel where the cattle go you can actually *improve* forage and water sources," he says. "This land was always grazed; what we're doing is using cattle to mimic the grazing of pronghorn antelope and tule elk."

Source-to-mouth creek projects experiment with on-the-ground watershed management.

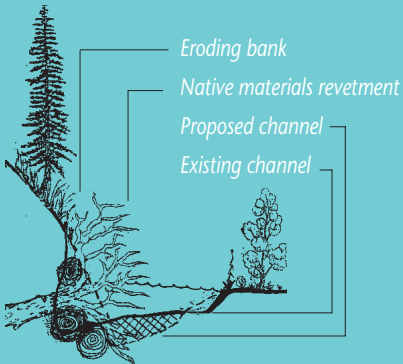
- continued on page 2

COVER
STORY

A bit farther downstream, urban homes and pavement creep up on the creek as it runs through Alvarado Park — once an Ohlone village site but more recently a gang hangout. This July, heavy machinery rolled into the park to begin a \$350,000 state-of-the-art restoration of a 900-foot section of creek masterminded by national expert David Rosgen.

Rosgen is tearing up concrete channels, removing old weirs, recreating meanders, replanting banks and using all natural materials, including boulders and wads of tree roots, to restore a stretch of stream plagued by sedimentation and fish migration problems. The weirs are

CREEK CHANNEL RE-DESIGN



the creek's last remaining barriers to migration. "It's the furthest I've ever seen restoration taken," says the S.F. Regional Board's Leslie Ferguson. "The scale is unprecedented in the East Bay."

The project is getting a \$100,000 grant under a Clean Water Act nonpoint source pollution program administered by the Regional Board. "With all the restoration and runoff control work going on up and down the creek, this bottleneck had to be addressed," says the Board's Tom Mumley. "It doesn't do any good to put clean water and fish into a bad system."

The creek's setting gets even more urban as it flows through low-income, industrial North Richmond where many African Americans settled in the 1940s to work in nearby shipyards. Starting in the 1970s, activists worked for ten years to

- continued on back page

NEWS
ROUND-UP

SWORDS TO BASEBALL DIAMONDS

A leaking landfill at Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato is soon to be capped, the first environmental hurdle to be cleared before the area can be turned over to civilian use. According to S.F. Regional Board's James Nusrala, the Corps was under pressure to resolve two environmental issues. First, it had to find a way to discharge the leachate being extracted from the landfill. Second, the Corps had to provide wetlands mitigation for habitat that will be destroyed when the landfill is capped.

After extensive negotiations with the S.F. Regional Board, the Martin Group Developers and the city of Novato, the Corps has submitted final plans and specs for closing off the contaminated landfill. Once the landfill cap is complete, which should happen by October of 1995, the Martin Group plans to plant grass and trees, turning the former dump into a multi-purpose community field. Contact: James Nusrala (510)286-0301 KA

SACRAMENTO RIVER TELLS ITS TALE

What's coming and going down the river? Sacramento County agencies needed the answer when they started planning to meet requirements of the state's *Inland Surface Waters Plan*, but adequate data on river contaminants didn't exist. So the city of Sacramento, the Regional County Sanitation District, and the County Water Agency initiated their own Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Program (CMP) last year.

The program coordinates existing monitoring and conducts new ambient monitoring of the Sacramento and American Rivers. "Ultra-clean" techniques accurately measure extremely low levels of trace elements and water hardness. An on-line data base allows users to access water quality data via modem. Sacramento County's Bob Shanks says the agencies need the information and remain committed to the \$500,000-a-year program. "If there's a lack of information, regulators take a very conservative position. It's also hard to make a good management decision," he said. Contact: Malcolm McEwen (916)753-6400 KA

CITY HELPS SMALL BUSINESS
PREVENT METAL POLLUTION

The city of San Jose recently hammered out an agreement with the CLEAN South Bay coalition aimed at stemming the flow of harmful metals from the city's sewage treatment plant into San Francisco Bay while protecting some 5,000 industrial jobs.

Under the agreement, San Jose will provide \$2 million that small businesses can use to invest in pollution-cutting equipment and processes. An additional \$375,000 will go for a new pollution prevention center. San Jose will also require in-plant audits of the largest industrial dischargers to identify and design potential improvements. In return, the environmental coalition has promised the city a five-year grace period from a lawsuit charging it with 700 violations of metal discharge limits.

"It's telling in light of the current fiscal crisis that San Jose is willing to put \$2.5 million on the table to deliver progress," says Michael Belliveau of Citizens for a Better Environment, a member of the coalition. EPA and the S.F. Regional Board are expected to approve the agreement within 90 days. Contact: Greg Karras (415)243-8373 KA

FLYOVER STILL EARTHBOUND

Caltrans has gone back to the drawing board after the design for its proposed high-occupancy vehicle lane flyover (overpass) on the I-80 stretch between Emeryville and the Bay Bridge failed to win approval from S.F. Bay Commission's Design Review Board at its June 7 meeting. At issue are the imposition of a transportation/ industrial use on land that the *San Francisco Bay Plan* has designated as a "wildlife priority use area" and potential view impacts from the half-mile-long and up to 33.5-foot-high structure.

Although the amended application "won't be much different," Caltrans is "beefing up [its] environmental enhancement package," says the agency's Judy Chen. A public hearing on the revised proposal will take place on September 16, with a vote expected at the Bay Commission's October 21 meeting. Contact: Jeff Jensen (415)557-3686 KA

INSIDE THE AGENCIES

BITTERN BEGS QUESTIONS

"Dilution is the solution to pollution" were long-outdated watchwords of water quality management until recently, when the problem of what to do with the bittern on the bottom of some old San Pablo Bay salt ponds may have resurrected this pre-1950s approach. Bittern — what's left behind after bay water has evaporated and sodium chloride crystallized off salt producing ponds — may contain contaminants. And whether the owners can simply add some fresh water to the bittern and discharge it back into the Bay is the issue now confronting the buyer, seller and regulator of a \$10 million deal to buy the 10,000 acres for wetland restoration.

The buyer is the Shell Oil Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee (established to administer the mitigation fund paid by Shell after the 1988 Martinez oil spill), the seller Cargill, and the regulator the S.F. Regional Board. The bittern issue was recently handed over to the Board. "We've now got a process that's outside the control of the trustee committee, Shell and Cargill," says chairman Will Travis of the BCDC. "This way an independent agency will be making the decision."

The Board's Steve Ritchie is now exploring his options which include upland disposal or discharge. "If there's a dilution scenario, it'll be a matter of how you achieve it," says Ritchie. Contact: Leslie Ferguson (510)286-0428 AR

STATE PROBES 404 OPTIONS

With a new options paper under its belt, the S.F. Regional Board is making steady progress in a move to gradually increase the Board's involvement in the federal Clean Water Act section 404 permitting program. The 404 program governs wetlands protection nationwide. The options paper — slated to be circulated for public review and discussed in public workshops this fall — outlines alternatives for increasing the Board's wetland management expertise, improving inter-agency coordination, and making the permitting process more efficient. Contact: Lynn Suer (510)286-4268 AR

ENVIRO-CLIP

RIVER GETS RIPARIAN LIFT

Way up on the orchard-lined banks of the upper Sacramento River, an aggressive land acquisition program promises to both restore riparian habitat and enhance the Estuary watershed.

"The project allows us to purchase flood-prone agricultural land and return it to jungle," said Ramon Vega of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge.

Between 1988 and 1992, the Nature Conservancy, the State Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife and Cal Fish & Game cooperatively acquired 22,659 acres along the river corridor at a cost of \$34.1 million. Their goal? A riparian wildlife refuge extending approximately 100 river miles from Colusa to Red Bluff.

"Everyone told us there'd be no willing sellers," says Sabin Phelps of the Nature Conservancy, which now has a backlog of eager sellers waiting in the wings. "Right now, we need to let restoration catch up with acquisition."

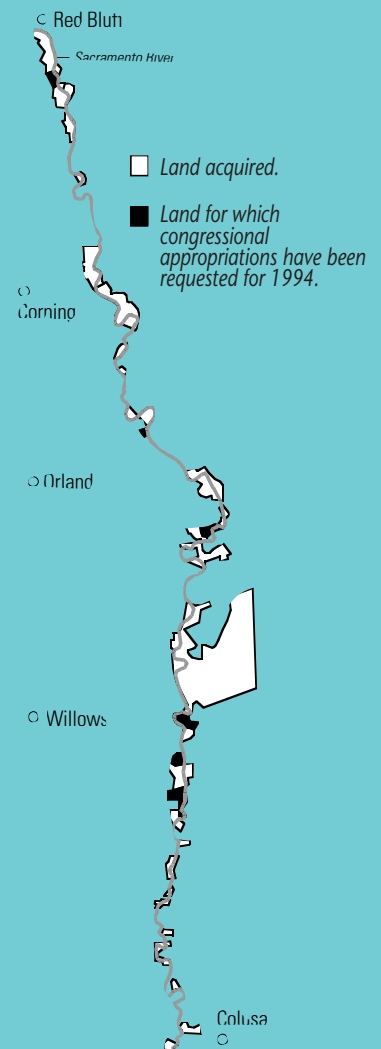
Property management also needs to catch up, at least in the eyes of Richard Mallory who represents the 120-member Sacramento Valley Landowners Association. Mallory thinks acquisitions should be restricted to coincide with management capabilities, and worries about the lack of funds on the management and restoration side of the picture.

But the Nature Conservancy has already found substantial revenue for restoration in the sale of fruit, nuts and alfalfa from acquired lands not in the immediate restoration zone.

"It's not like we're taking valuable crop land out of production," says the Conservancy's Tom Griggs. "That's a lot of anti-environment rhetoric."

Farming communities remain concerned about lost revenues from the property tax rolls, but in lieu of taxes impacted communities receive three quarters of one percent of the appraised value of acquired properties every year. "We need farmers and the farming community for this project to work," says Griggs. Contact: Sabin Phelps (415)777-0487 EM & AR

SACRAMENTO RIVER ACQUISITIONS 1988-1993



SONOMA SECURES PERMIT

The 300-acre Sonoma Baylands project got its permit to reuse dredged material for wetland restoration purposes approved at the July 21 S.F. Regional Board meeting. The permit lays out limitations on placement and discharges of dredged material at the site, and maps out a self-monitoring program for the project. The project got a second boost when the Army Corps came up with \$350,000 for preliminary engineering studies. Contact: Tom Gandesberry (510)286-0841 AR

HARD SCIENCE

MARSH CLEANSSES RUNOFF

Meters, models, fleas and storms were the all-star cast of a recent study designed to test a Fremont marsh's ability to clean up urban runoff before it reaches the Bay. The study, conducted by Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Susan Anderson (see *Now in Print*), confirmed that toxicity was reduced in samples collected several days after storms — and not by dilution alone.

The 55-acre marsh — named the Demonstration Urban Stormwater Treatment (DUST) Marsh — includes ponds, wetlands and debris basins engineered to trap and filter stormwater from a 4.5-square-mile area of Fremont.

"When you stand in the marsh, you can see immediately when the stormwater arrives and where it goes just by dipping the conductivity meter in the water," says Dr. Revital Katznelson, Visiting Researcher at the lab. Stormwater is less saline than marsh water and thus exhibits lower electrical conductivity.

Katznelson was able to separate evaluation of the marsh's treatment processes (such as contaminant degradation and sedimentation) from other performance aspects (such as containment and dilution) through a combination of electrical conductivity measurements, dilution modelling and bioassays on *Ceriodaphnia* (water fleas).

The study found, among other things, that toxicity diminished as time passed after the storm, and that stormwater lingered in the upper strata of the marsh before mixing.

More importantly, the results helped evaluate how well the DUST marsh performs as a treatment facility. In terms of detention, the marsh did succeed in containing most of the toxic stormwater generated by those storms with 0.2-1.0 inches of rainfall, but some flowed out through the marsh's exit culverts after larger storms of 1 inch or more. In terms of dilution, the mixing of storm and marsh water did greatly reduce toxicity. Total mixing, and the disappearance of

vertical stratification, occurred within several days. In terms of toxicity, some of the observed reduction could not be explained by dilution, indicating that toxic substances were indeed being removed, broken down or sequestered by marsh processes. The study also served as a model for cooperation among scientists (LBL), regulators (the S.F. Regional Board), and county agencies (Alameda County Urban Runoff Clean Water Program). In fact, ecologists and engineers from the latter are already using the study's findings to improve the marsh. They've installed a log boom

across a main channel to break the previously uninterrupted flow of surface waters and to force bottom water — instead of surface water — to move to the marsh exit. And they hope to add another basin, increasing the marsh's holding capacity by 40%, as well as to create more meanders and islands, enhancing turbulence. Indeed, the effort to increase mixing is something of an innovation in treatment marsh design, which has traditionally worked to minimize mixing and promote sedimentation. Contact: Dr. Susan Anderson (510)486- 4654 AR

SPECIES SPOT

FOOD FOR IRRELEVANT THOUGHTS?

When Delta smelt got caught in researchers' nets back in the 1970s, they often ended up as lunch. But this once common, one-time snack is a now a federally listed threatened species and down to less than half its 1959- 82 abundance average.

This July, Cal Fish & Game reported the annual smelt summer "towntnet" abundance index as up from last year's 2.4 but still only 8.1. The department had hoped to see more smelt due to a successful spawning season and increased freshwater outflows — flows generated by more rain and fewer exports. The clamp down on exports came about because of both the smelt and earlier chinook salmon listings, and the implementation of the new, fish-friendly Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

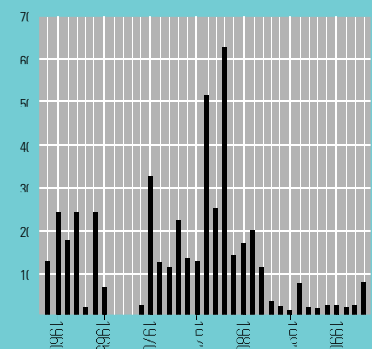
Though Governor Pete Wilson and others argue that this tiny, translucent fish streaked with silver isn't important enough to slow down the giant turbines of state and federal water delivery systems, Davis Professor Peter Moyle disagrees. "It's quite a remarkable fish," says Moyle, "because it has a one-year life cycle and lives under rather unstable conditions."

Moyle says he recognizes that the Delta smelt's relative insignificance in human terms — it its neither commercially harvested nor does it appeal to

sportfishermen — may add fuel to opponents of the Endangered Species Act. "That's why instead of appointing a Delta smelt recovery team, we appointed a native fishes team," says Moyle. "This is basically an ecosystem recovery plan."

His team and plan encompass not only the Delta smelt, but also the longfin smelt, the splittail minnow, the San Joaquin fall run chinook, the spring run chinook and the river lamprey. "I really believe we can come up with a reasonable plan to protect the ecosystem without cutting into water supplies," says Moyle. As for the smelt's alleged irrelevance, Moyle insists it's an indicator species for the Delta. It's also a close relative of a smelt the Japanese harvest commercially. So who knows, with a strong recovery plan, the Delta smelt might just end up in a frying pan again. Contact: Peter Moyle (916)752-6355 SZ

SUMMER TOWNET ABUNDANCE INDEX



CAPITAL BEAT

ESTUARY BILLS SHOP FOR CLEAN WATER SPOT

As Congress starts horsetrading over the upcoming Clean Water Act reauthorization, politicians concerned with implementing estuary programs are trying to get a piece of the action.

Congresswomen Lowey (NY) and DeLauro (CT) recently paid visits to both Gerry Studds (MA) and Norm Mineta (CA) — chairs of two key committees — to seek support for incorporation of their bill HR 1720 in the new Clean Water Act. Their legislation offers a much-needed financing mechanism for implementation of estuary restoration plans nationwide. It also seeks to increase total clean water funding to \$33 billion over the next seven years, while current budget plans would only provide \$14 billion.

Lowey staffer Jim Townsend says most of the new dollars would end up in state revolving funds to help build new sewage treatment plants and other infrastructure. But the legislation also earmarks \$50 million a year in discretionary grants for innovative technology, research, education, pollution prevention, land use planning and other activities.

"Their big concern was where to get the money," says Townsend of Mineta's and Studds' response. Studds would prefer to tax polluters, but Townsend thinks the money should come from shifts in existing appropriations.

Meanwhile, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's (CAL) Bay Area focused CCMP implementation bill — HR 2320 — is also shopping among competing reauthorization bills for a home. Pelosi requested a line item of \$2 million for the S.F. Estuary Project, but the appropriations committee — hand cuffed by the budget brouhaha — modified the item to apply to all projects nationwide.

Both initiatives could get debated as early as late September. So now is the time to write your congresspeople, and to Mineta and Studds. Contact: House & Senate (202)224-3121 **AR**

WETLANDS SKIRMISH

Wetlands are no longer only the zone between land and water, but now the line of skirmish between private property rights and environmental quality as competing Clean Water Act revisions duke it out in Washington D.C. The bitterest fight is in the House, between a bill proposed by Don Edwards (CAL) and favored by environmentalists and a bill proposed by James Hayes (LA) which limits wetlands protection.

Most controversial perhaps, is the Hayes bill's "takings" provision which equates certain forms of environmental protection with a "taking" of private property (a major tenet of the so-called "Wise Use" movement). This provision would require the federal government to immediately purchase any wetlands placed in a type A category, a category which includes most sensitive wetlands.

Environmentalists worry that a deluge of compensation demands would inundate the feds if the Hayes bill passes. "Something that is worthless on the market can be quite expensive for the federal government," says the Sierra Club's Ellen McBarnette. The Hayes bill, which has 103 cosponsors, would also allow development of type A wetlands in cases of "overriding public interest concerns."

Edwards' competing bill would significantly increase wetlands protection by adding to the number of activities (draining, clearing, dredging etc.) which require a permit under the Clean Water Act. And Senator Barbara Boxer recently initiated a bill similar to Edwards'.

Senate wetlands hearings are scheduled for September. Contact: (202)224-3121 **SZ**

THE MONITOR

GRASS WEATHERS WAKE

The wake of a new Alameda-San Francisco ferry has not damaged eel grass beds off the East Bay island, at least not according to data from the first year of monitoring. Wildlife agencies and environmental groups were concerned that the wake would erode these highly productive underwater ecosystems — eel grass beds can sustain up to 100 times more shrimps, snails and other organisms than surrounding areas, according to Dr. Chris Kitting of California State University at Hayward. Concerned groups also worried that the ferry might stir up bottom sediments — eel grass grows just a few meters below the surface and needs light.

"There has been typical growth," says Tom Keegan of Entrix, the company commissioned to do the monitoring. Their study continues through 1994, and will help officials determine whether to continue the ferry's conditional-use permit.

Only 316 acres of eel grass remain in the Bay, and the Alameda beds help feed the endangered California least tern colony nearby. The tern dives in the beds for Northern anchovy, topsmelt and Pacific herring, which lay eggs in the grass. Eel grass itself — a plant whose bright-green buoyant blades sway with tides and currents like meadow grasses in a breeze — is also vulnerable to extinction in the Bay.

Entrix split the beds up into transects, and measured density, grass blade length and flowering stocks both near the ferry channel and farther away, as a control. So far, the seasonal testing indicates nothing more than normal variation, according to Keegan. Contact: Tom Keegan (510)935-9920 **EM & AR**



CCMP BRIEF

MEMO IRKS CCMP AUTHORS

Pete Wilson got his first official copy of the S.F. Estuary Project's *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) for the Bay and Delta on July 21, and some of the plan's authors — a 47-member management committee representing government agencies, cities, farms, business and the environmental community — aren't too happy about the cover memo that accompanied it.

"It talks only about the people who had problems with the plan," says Arliss Ungar of the League of Women Voters.

"It masks and misrepresents the committee's unanimous support for the final document," says Save the Bay's Barry Nelson.

What these and other CCMP authors hoped to see in the cover memo written by the SAC — a committee of state and federal sponsoring agencies who have provided policy guidance for the management committee during the CCMP's development — was a whole-hearted endorsement encouraging the governor to concur with the document. What they got instead some called "incredibly disappointing" and others "outrageous."

The memo begins by highlighting "strong opposition" from agricultural and business interests to the plan's wetlands and aquatic resources sections.

"That a few holds outs who have always refused to compromise, who were only out to protect their own interests instead of working towards a common goal, should get their unexpurgated views expressed right up front makes a mockery, a sham, out of an honest, consensus-building process," says U.S. Fish & Wildlife's Jim McKeivitt. "To those of us who made up a majority of the management committee, who worked hard for five years to take off our bowling shirts and agency hats in order to reach consensus, the memo stunk."

But Jim Haussener of the California Marine Parks and Harbors Association, who headed up the Project's Public Advisory Committee, was "glad to see the SAC had made a decision and got the CCMP off quickly to the governor."

While other CCMPs completed in the nation to date have won their governors' concurrence, Wilson's remains in question. His recent curtailment of state water policy initiatives and his ceding of leadership to the feds and the Endangered Species Act have left state and federal agencies embroiled in a muddy turf battle, possibly miring the CCMP in the no man's land between.

The cover memo tries to acknowledge all this conflict and uncertainty, an approach some management committee members view as politically pragmatic. "It allows the governor to sign with conditions," says Cassandra Fletcher of the Building Industry Assoc. of N. California. "Half a pie is better than no pie at all."

"I read it as a genuine attempt to resolve remaining concerns so we can move ahead with the CCMP," says Cal Fish & Game's Pete Chadwick. "I don't see it as an attempt to kill the plan."

But to Nelson, the memo made clear the state's interest in weakening the plan. The memo suggests that carrying out the plan might "further federalize the estuary, with concurrent loss of state control." McKeivitt disagrees. "This isn't a program the feds are imposing on the state, it's a program developed by a carefully balanced committee of diverse interests, including the state."

The state clearly wants a bigger slice of the CCMP power pie. The memo reflects this in two ways. First, it suggests that there weren't enough representatives concerned with the plan's statewide economic and water supply impacts at the CCMP bargaining table. Second, it recommends that the governor designate a lead state agency to analyze the statewide impact of the plan. Some management committee members worry that this recommendation — made only by the state members of the SAC — could be a delaying tactic. Under the Clean Water Act, there is a 120-day time limit for the governor to concur and for EPA Administrator Carol Browner to approve the plan.

"Given the length of involvement the state's already had in the CCMP," says Nelson, "it's disingenuous for the SAC to say there's a need for further, lengthy review." Fletcher, on the other hand, was happy to see the commitment to further economic analysis. But she was unsure about the political undertones. "Is the EPA

saying here state, we trust you to carry all this out? Or here state, you do all the work and then wait and see if we concur?"

But EPA — the only federal member of the SAC — didn't give any hint of its intentions in its closing paragraph to the memo, which simply says the agency "stands ready to assist in preparing a document appropriate for [Browner's] approval." It was this statement that disturbed the Army Corps' Tom Wakeman, who served as the Estuary Project's Technical Advisory Committee Chair. "Why should they draft a new document? What was our work, chopped liver?"

As the Estuary's future flounders through the ongoing state and federal water policy stalemate, the CCMP and its consensus process represent one of the most promising avenues for progress, according to Project Director Amy Zimpfer. Indeed, says Zimpfer, the CCMP stands out as "a rare and hard-won opportunity for meaningful, cooperative action," both to resolve age-old political and special interest conflicts and to conserve and restore the Bay and Delta. *AR*

JOT IT DOWN

SFEP SWITCHES SUITEMATES

After five years at ABAG, the S.F. Estuary Project's Public Involvement Program moved its offices to the S.F. Regional Board's suite near the Kaiser Center and Lake Merritt on August 16. The program's new address is: Estuary Project, c/o S.F. Regional Board, 2101 Webster Street, Suite 500, Oakland, CA 94612. Staff now housed at the Board include Marcia Brockbank, Craig Denisoff, Liz Blair and Kathryn Ankrum. To reach the program, call (510)286-0460.



PLACES TO GO & THINGS TO DO



WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

Restoring Urban Waters/ Friends of Trashed Rivers

FRI-SUN • 9/17-19 • All day

Topics: Tactics for urban waterway restoration, including river restoration methods, citizen monitoring programs and economic and community redevelopment projects.

Sponsor: Coalition to Restore Urban Waters
Ft. Mason Center, San Francisco
Cost: \$20-\$60 (510)848-2211

Land Stewardship/ Watershed Planning Workshop

THUR-FRI • 9/23-24 • All day

Topics: Watershed planning and management; conflict management; interest-based problem solving.

Sponsor: Napa County RCD

White Sulphur Springs Retreat, St. Helena
Cost: \$135-\$150 (707)252-4188

Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIEs) in the SF Bay Region: Lessons Learned

THUR-FRI • 9/30-10/1 • All day

Topics: Designing, contracting for, performing and evaluating findings of Effluent Toxicity Characterization & Toxicity Identification Evaluations now required in discharge permits.

Sponsor: San Francisco Bay-Delta Aquatic Habitat Institute

Richmond Field Station, Richmond
Cost: \$75 (510)231-9539

CLE Workshop for Water Attorneys

WED-FRI • 10/6-8 • All day

Topics: Water rights issues; public trust and endangered species issues; and the Brown Act.

Sponsor: Assoc. of California Water Agencies
Dana Point Resort, Dana Point
Cost: \$345-\$690 (415)441-4545

Cooperative Watershed Planning & Management — CRMPs & Other Processes

THUR • 10/7 • 9 AM - 4:30 PM

Topics: Cooperative development of watershed management plans, including CRMP process for landowners, agencies and interest groups.

Sponsor: UC Davis

UC Davis Extension Center, Davis
Cost: \$115 (800)752-0881
or 757-8777 from Davis, Dixon or Woodland

Native Plant Day

SAT • 10/9 • All day

Topics: Native Plant Symposium; Buzz Bertolero — The Dirt Gardener; Butterfly Gardening; Edible Plants; and Birdscaping.

SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Hayward
(510)792-4275

Management & Protection of Coastal & Near-Coastal Waters: Tools for Local Governments

THUR-FRI • 10/28-29 • All day

Topics: Comprehensive planning tools that will help balance quality development and coastal resource protection.

Sponsors: EPA, SFBWRQCB & SFEP

Berkeley Conference Center, Berkeley
(510)286-0734



HANDS ON

Bayshore Clean Up

SAT • 10/2 • 8:30 AM - Noon

Activity: Help clean up the Estuary's shoreline as part of nationwide Coastal Clean Up Day.

SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Hayward
(510)792-4275

California Coastal Clean Up Day

SAT • 10/2 • All day

Activity: Join other Californians in protecting our coasts from pollution.

Sponsor: California Coastal Commission
Various locations (800)COAST-4U



MEETINGS & HEARINGS

SFEP Watershed Demonstration Projects Quarterly Meeting

TUES • 9/14 • 9:30 AM

MetroCenter, Oakland (415)744-1990

S.F. Regional Board Meeting

WED • 9/15 • 9:30 AM

Topics: San Jose's permit, dredging at the Chevron Refinery, selenium and other issues.
111 Grand, Oakland (510)286-1255

Bay Commission

THUR • 9/16 • 1 PM

Topics: Public hearing on Coastal Management Program Assessment and Strategy, the Caltrans HOVL "flyover" application, and other subjects.

Room 455 — State Building, San Francisco
(415)557-3686

NOW IN PRINT

Barriers to Market Incentives in Environmental Planning: A Case Study of Management in the National Estuary Program

Tuohy; SFEP; Copies from (510)286-0734

Investigations of Inappropriate Pollutant Entries into Stormwater Systems: A Users' Guide (assists municipalities in identifying illicit connections to municipal stormwater systems)

EPA; Doc # EPA/600/R-92/238
Copies from (513)569-7562

Restoring the Nation's Marine Environment

Thayer; Maryland Sea Grant
Copies from (301)405-6376

Spatial & Temporal Variations in Toxicity in a Marsh Receiving Urban Runoff

Katznelson, Jewell & Anderson; UC Berkeley
(Manuscript also available as submitted to
Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.)
Copies from (510)286-1325

Summary: New Policy Directions to Sustain Nation's Water Resources (Congressional Briefings)

Environmental & Energy Study Institute
Copies from (202)628-1400

Vineyard Management Practices: An Environmental Approach to Development & Maintenance

South. Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Copies from (707)794-1242

Global Cities Project White Papers

- *Chemical Reduction: The Happy Gardener*
 - *Clean Auto Service: Rosenthal Service*
 - *Educational Programs: Contra Costa Water District*
 - *Storm Water Control: Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, Inc.*
 - *Storm Water Management: IBM Almaden Research Center*
 - *Toxics Reduction: Chevron U.S.A. Products Company*
 - *Waste Minimization: Acteron Corporation*
- Copies from (415)775-0791

COVER STORY

involve the community in flood protection planning. At that time, disastrous floods over the creek banks hit the area about every three years. The Army Corps proposed a basic concrete solution, but the community came up with a consensus plan for a more environmentally sensitive approach. Their plan won local approval in the late 1980s.

This early model of community involvement in restoration has a new incarnation in the 1990s. Now the California Natural Resources Foundation, the EPA and the Estuary Project are working to get North Richmond residents and schoolkids out on the creek on a regular basis to monitor pollution and stormwater runoff. These locals will do what agencies lack the people and dollarpower to do — basic field tests like checking water quality factors, such as pH, dissolved oxygen and temperature or color abnormalities and the presence of aquatic organisms as indicators of the creek's overall health.

The creek spills out into the Bay near the spires and tanks of the Chevron oil refinery at Castro Cove. Even here at the creek mouth changes have been made to improve the environment. Chevron moved their wastewater outfall from the cove into deeper water in 1987 and plans to move a cooling water outfall by 1995. Both moves should sweeten the cove for migrating fish.

Officials are confident the steelhead will return to Wildcat Creek once the restoration is complete. If they do, it will help meet the Miller-Bradley bill requirement for a doubling of naturally occurring aquatic species in the Estuary. Small as it is in the overall Bay-Delta system, Wildcat's restoration can significantly enhance biodiversity by providing a genetic pool more adaptable and resilient than that produced by hatcheries.

"If we can go in and restore a wild fishery, so it's an estuary making fish instead of humans making fish, then we're really beginning to put the Estuary back together," says Vendlinski.

Contact: Tim Vendlinski, SFEP (415)744-1989; Beth Levine, California Natural Resources Foundation (510)286-0656; and Pete Alexander, East Bay Regional Parks (510)635-0138

SZ & AR

ESTUARY



YOUR BAY - DELTA NEWS CLEARINGHOUSE

AUGUST 1993

VOLUME 2, NO. 4

Editorial Office:

2101 Webster Street, Suite 500
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 286-4392
(510) 286-1380 fax

Managing Editor

Ariel Rubissow

Graphic Design

Darren Campeau

Contributing Writers

**Kathryn Ankrum
Eloise Magenheim
Susan Zakin**

Co-published bi-monthly by Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, a nonprofit organization, and the San Francisco Estuary Project, a cooperative program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California. Copyright © 1993. Views expressed may not necessarily be those of staff, advisors or committee members. Estuary is funded by individual and organizational subscriptions, and by a start-up grant provided by the San Francisco Estuary Project. Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks by Alonzo Printing Co.

ESTUARY

San Francisco Estuary Project
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 832