

## Program Development

The WRMP was initiated with the formation of a Steering Committee and its scientific Focus Teams for Physical Processes, Contaminants (Bio-Geo Chemistry), Invertebrates, Plants, Fish, Amphibians-Reptiles-Mammals, and Birds. A Team for Landscape Ecology was added after the other Teams were formed. These Teams were called for by the Steering Committee to help develop a plan to assess the status and trends of tidal marshes in the region and to assess the progress of wetland projects.

Soon after the Steering Committee was created, it began to formulate a plan for program development. The WRMP has progressed with the identification of important management questions and conceptual modeling of wetlands form, processes, and functions. Indicators have been nominated based upon these questions and models. Standard protocols for data collection for the key indicators have been prepared by the Focus Teams. At the same time, wetland projects are being selected for review by the WRMP with regard to the adequacy and meaning of their monitoring data. In short, there has been significant progress in the development of both the wetland tracking and the project monitoring components of the Program.

The Steering Committee correctly anticipated that funding for data collection and information system development would begin in 2002. A plan of transition from planning of the WRMP to its implementation has been produced.

The formation of the Bay Area Wetlands Restoration Program was also anticipated by the Steering Committee. The WRMP has begun to transition from being a multi-agency initiative to being a major component of the Restoration Program

