

NOTICE AND AGENDA
Regular Meeting

Board of Directors
Aquatic Science Center

To Be Held
June 19, 2009
1:30pm-3:30pm

San Francisco Estuary Institute
7770 Pardee Lane
First Floor Conference Room

Oakland, CA 94621
Phone (510) 746-7334

PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION

The Regular Meeting will be preceded by lunch at 12:30pm

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consent Items**
 - a) **Approval of Agenda**
 - b) **Approval of December 1, 2008, Meeting Minutes and January 29, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes (Attachments 1a and 1b)**
4. **Action Items**
 - a) **Appointment of new BACWA representatives on the Board of Directors (Attachment 2)**
 - b) **Approval of 2009/10 Program Plan and Anticipated Budget (Attachment 3)**
5. **Information and Discussion Items**
 - a) **Project Update – *Information item about the status of funded, suspended, and proposed projects, financial status update (Attachments 4a and 4b)***

7770 Pardee Lane
Second floor
Oakland, CA 94621
p: 510-746-7334
f: 510-746-7300

Board Members
CHAIR Bruce Wolfe
VICE-CHAIR, SEC. Dave Tucker
TREASURER Frank Leung
Michele Pla
Darrin Polhemus
Chuck Weir
Alexis Strauss
Pamela Creedon

Minutes of the Aquatic Science Center Board of Directors
December 1, 2008
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District Conference Room
1010 Chadbourne Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bruce Wolfe	Karen Schwinn
Dave Tucker	Frank Leung
Darrin Polhemus	Dyan Whyte
Michele Pla	Doug Craig
Pamela Creedon	Rainer Hoenicke

Non-Members Present:

Stephanie Seto
Robin Grossinger

Others present:

None.

Call to Order

Mr. Wolfe, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comments

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Consent Items

Review and Approve Agenda

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve all consent items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Polhemus and passed unanimously.

Appointment of Acting Executive Director

Dr. Hoenicke was appointed by the Board as Interim Executive Director of the Aquatic Science Center. Ms. Pla made a motion to approve this action item. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creedon and passed unanimously.

Amended 2008/09 Program Plan

There was discussion among the Board to make modifications to future Program Plans on an annual basis. Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the amendment of the 2008/09 Program Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pla and passed unanimously.

Project Update

Dr. Hoenicke updated the Board regarding a new Coastal Conservancy project and will distribute the project description in the next agenda package.

Staff Presentations

Mr. Grossinger gave a short presentation on the role Historical Ecology has in evaluating restoration and conservation options. Mr. Polhemus recommended that Robin schedule a Water Board briefing on the subject.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

The Board discussed focus items: Meetings are to be held twice per year in the near future, Delta RMP, expanding membership to include the Central Valley Clean Water Agencies.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Upcoming Board meetings have been scheduled for March 6, 2009 at the Regional Board from 10:00am to 12:00pm and June 5, 2009 in Fairfield from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Tucker, Board Secretary

Date

DRAFT

**Minutes of the Aquatic Science Center Board of Directors
Special Teleconference Meeting**

January 29, 2009
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bruce Wolfe	Alexis Strauss
Dave Tucker	Frank Leung
Michele Pla	Rainer Hoenicke
Darrin Polhemus	
Pamela Creedon	

Non-Members Present:

Stephanie Seto

Other Present:

None.

Call to Order

Mr. Wolfe, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Public Comments

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Consent Items

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tucker and passed unanimously.

Information Items

There was discussion among the Board regarding the impact of the state budget crisis on ASC projects. Dr. Hoenicke gave a brief overview of the temporary cost-cutting and revenue enhancement steps taken thus far. There was also discussion of a phased approach to weathering the cash-flow crisis.

Action Item

There was discussion regarding the proposed project initiated by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board on sediment assessment. Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the proposed project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pla and passed unanimously.

AYE: Mr. Tucker, Ms. Pla, Mr. Polhemus, Ms. Strauss, Ms. Creedon, Mr. Leung, Mr. Wolfe

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m. The Board decided to skip the March 6, 2009 meeting and will reconvene on May 29, 2009 at the Regional Board in Oakland from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Tucker, Board Secretary

Date

Attachment 2

Staff Summary

TO: ASC Board
FROM: Rainer Hoenicke, Interim Executive Director
Date: May 20, 2009
SUBJECT: Appointment of New BACWA Representatives

Two of three BACWA members on the Board of Directors are resigning. Michele Pla is leaving the position as BACWA's Executive Director, and Chuck Weir retired as General Manager of the East Bay Dischargers Association. Included are letters of resignation from the ASC Board and BACWA's nomination for replacements.

Recommended Action: Vote to approve appointment of Doug Craig (Central Contra Costa Sanitary District) and Dave Williams (East Bay Municipal Utility District) as Directors to the ASC Board.

May 20, 2009

Rainer Hoenicke, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director
San Francisco Estuary Institute
7770 Pardee Lane
Oakland, CA 94621

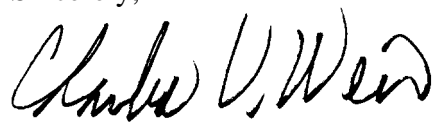
Resignation from Aquatic Science Center Board of Directors

Dear Rainer:

It was my pleasure to serve on the Aquatic Science Center (ASC) Board of Directors as a representative of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA). However, with my retirement from East Bay Dischargers Authority last year, I am no longer a BACWA Board Member and thus believe it appropriate to resign from the ASC Board of Directors.

There are many talented and qualified members of BACWA that would make great representatives to the ASC Board from BACWA. By copy of this letter to the BACWA Chair and Executive Director, I request that they appoint a current BACWA Executive Board member to the ASC Board.

Sincerely,



Charles V. Weir

c: David Tucker, BACWA Chair
Michele Plá, BACWA Executive Director

Attachment 3

Staff Summary

TO: ASC Board
FROM: Rainer Hoenicke, Interim Executive Director
Date: May 20, 2009
SUBJECT: FY 2009/10 Program Plan

The ASC fiscal year ends on June 30, 2009. I have prepared a program plan that shows the potential range of projects that various agencies might request ASC to assist with. Also included is a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute contracts and agreements on behalf of the Aquatic Science Center consistent with the Aquatic Science Center 2009/10 Program Plan.

Recommended Action: Approve Program Plan and Resolution

Program Plan for the Aquatic Science Center

Fiscal Year 2009/10

The Aquatic Science Center (Center) was established for the efficient delivery of scientific and information management support to public agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Center anticipates the following subject areas where contractual support or fiduciary services may be requested from a variety of state, federal, and local agencies:

- 1) **The San Francisco Estuary Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality.** Several members would prefer to contribute to the program via a quasi-state agency more closely linked to the Water Board as their contribution fulfills Water Board NPDES and waste discharge requirements. \$200,000-800,000 per year.
- 2) **TMDL support including: impairment assessments, pollutant conceptual model development, implementation alternatives evaluations, and implementation effectiveness monitoring.** Depending on schedule, the JPA would provide an effective mechanism to conduct necessary technical studies and synthesis. \$100,000-500,000 per year.
- 3) **Collaboration with DFG and other Interagency Ecological Program Partners to study pelagic organism decline and in the Delta and evaluate various habitat restoration options.** The JPA would allow for technical syntheses to occur in a timely fashion. \$50,000-200,000.
- 4) **Wetland monitoring as part of adaptive management of restoration implementation steps.** The JPA would assist DFG, the SCC, and other implementers to evaluate alternative restoration pathways based on monitoring information. \$150,000-\$300,000
- 5) **Collaborative efforts with Water Boards, EPA, and other IEP participants to develop and implement a coordinated water quality monitoring programs in the Central Valley.** \$100,000-\$250,000
- 6) **Collaborative effort with State Water Board to provide technical support to Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program.** \$100,000-250,000.
- 7) **Development of technical and scientific recommendations to the California Water Quality Monitoring Council.** \$50,000-200,000.
- 8) **Delta Monitoring and Special Studies.** \$50,000-\$200,000

- 9) **Scientific Assistance to State Water Board for development of a statewide riparian and wetland system protection policy.** \$250,000-\$450,000
- 10) **Developing California capacity to assess the performance of wetland protection policies, programs, and projects in a watershed context.** \$300,000-\$450,000
- 11) **Development and implementation of a standardized set of assessment and tracking tools for California wetlands and riparian areas.** \$1.5- 2M
- 12) **Historical Ecology studies in support of evaluating restoration and protection options in the Bay-Delta region.** \$350,000-\$700,000
- 13) **Wetland Data Portal for SWAMP Regional Data Centers.** \$1M-\$1.2M
- 14) **Development of San Francisco Estuary/North Coast Regional Data Center.** \$500,000-\$750,000
- 15) **Development of a Clean-up Strategy for San Leandro Bay.** \$250,000-\$500,000
- 16) **Development of Web-Based Tools to Coordinate Monitoring Activities in the Central Valley.** \$50,000-\$100,000

The Executive Director is authorized to enter into contracts that are consistent with the program plan described above and in accordance with the following desirable attributes:

- The project is consistent with, or supplemental to, activities that are in the SFEI Program Plan.
- The project is of interest to multiple member agencies, including those from both regulated and regulatory agencies. Interest increases when the project is likely to facilitate development of a scientific framework for management issues.
- The project leads to collaboration with technical leaders in the field and establishes scientific precedent.
- The project demonstrates scientific equipment, expertise or capacity currently lacking in the commercial or consulting sector.
- The project is designed to develop scientific tools for evaluating policy and program alternatives and make complex scientific information accessible and understandable to non-technical audiences.

- The project makes scientific understanding of the coastal and estuarine waters and their watersheds more widely available in publicly accessible media (e.g. beyond technical reports and publications).

Two weeks prior to entering into any contracts, the Executive Director will notify the Board of Directors in writing of the intent to enter into a contract on behalf of the Aquatic Science Center. If any Board member objects, a special session of the Board will be called for deliberation and approval of project. In addition, the Executive Director will seek advice from an ad-hoc advisory group comprised of the Board Chair and Vice Chair for any contract over \$50,000 with regard to calling a special session of the Board for deliberation and approval of significant project requests on a case-by-case basis. Each Board Meeting Agenda will contain a standing item for the Executive Director to report on signed contracts and a report on the status of individual contracts and grant agreements.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aquatic Science Center

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 9.6(c) of the Bylaws, the Executive Director has such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board or the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Board, pursuant to Section 7.1 of the bylaws, has the authority to authorize and enter into contracts or agreements on behalf of the Aquatic Science Center; and

WHEREAS, the Board designates the Executive Director to sign all contracts, agreements and any amendments thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Aquatic Science Center hereby authorizes _____ to negotiate and execute all grants or contract agreements consistent with the Aquatic Science Center's Board-approved Program Plan.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of June, 2009.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No 07-01 was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Aquatic Science Center by roll call vote with 100% participation and passed unanimously.

Attest: _____

Attachment 4a

Staff Summary

To: Board of Directors

From: Rainer Hoenicke, Interim Executive Director

Date: May 29, 2009

Re: Project Status

Recommendation

None. The purpose is to summarize the Aquatic Science projects completed since last Board Meeting, underway, or in negotiation.

Project Title	Amount	Funder	Leads	Start	End
Application of SQO approach in San Diego Bay	\$31,000	SWRCB	Davis, Melwani	April 09	March 10
Delta RMP	\$200,000	RB 5	Jabusch, Davis	April 08	March 10
Petaluma, Tomales TMDL	\$214,000	RB 2	McKee, Ridolfi	Sept 08	March 10
Wetland Monitoring Toolkit	\$650,000	MMS via Resources Agency	Collins, Williams	Jul 09	Jul 11
401 Certification and Wetland Tracker	\$299,947	EPA via SWRCB	May	Oct 08	Sept 10
Science Support for Wetland Protection Policy	\$270,200	EPA via SWRCB	Collins, Williams	Nov 08	Oct 10
Delta Historical Ecology	\$350,000	DFG	Grossinger, Whipple	suspended	
Development of Bay Area Regional Data Center	\$750,000 <i>(estimate only)</i>	SWRCB	Lowe, Oram	suspended	
Wetlands Data Portal Development	\$1,000,000 <i>(estimate only)</i>	SWRCB	Oram, Grosso	suspended	

North-Bay Mercury Biosentinels	\$192,000	SCC	Grenier, Slotton	suspended	
San Leandro Bay Clean-up Strategy	\$1,000,000 <i>(estimate only)</i>	SWRCB	Davis, Greenfield	Idea stage	
Science Support for Statewide Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy, Phase II	\$350,000	USEPA	Collins and Williams	In negotiation	

Projects Summaries and Updates
Agreements Signed and Underway:

San Diego Bay Sediment Assessment

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) recently conducted SQO assessments at numerous sites within San Diego Bay using the SQO methodology (SWRCB, 2008), and many of the locations exhibited sediments that were considered impacted. However, the SQO methods do not identify which contaminants may be associated with impacts or potential threshold concentrations. ASC was asked to evaluate the association of key sediment contaminants with the biological effects measurements and SQO assessment categories. This project is providing information required by the SDRWQCB to protect the biological resources at the shipyard sediment sites. A technical report has been delivered to SDRWQCB staff and is currently being reviewed by external peer-reviewers. Approximately 90% of the work is completed.

Delta RMP Technical Support

In partnership with Brock Bernstein, staff are assisting the Regional Board in developing a Regional Monitoring Program for the Delta and its tributaries.

Petaluma River, Tomales Bay TMDL

Staff are assisting the Regional Board with developing the scientific basis of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects to resolve water quality impairments for the Petaluma River and Tomales Bay. A Preliminary Impairment Assessment for sediment, nutrients and pathogens in the Petaluma River watershed was submitted to Regional Board staff in April 2009. The future scope of the project is awaiting Regional Board staff review. An Evaluation of Numeric Targets for Mercury in Tomales Bay will be complete by the end of May, as well as a sampling plan for field work to be conducted in June. Field work will include sampling water, fish and

sediment in the Bay, and analyzing the samples for total and methylmercury to assess the risk to wildlife.

Science Support for Development of Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy

The main objective of this project is to extend key policy elements developed in the North Coast and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Boards' *Stream and Wetlands System Protection Policy* by further developing these concepts into a *State Water Board Policy to Protect Wetlands and Riparian Areas*. The Water Board will develop a wetland regulatory mechanism based on Clean Water Act 404 (b)(1) guidelines; and extend statewide beneficial use definitions and water quality objectives developed by the North Coast and SF Bay Regional Water Boards. Some elements of the policy will be clarified mitigation guidelines, alignment of policies with the "no net loss" goal and coordination with further development of the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM).

401 Certification in Wetland Tracker

This project, conducted in collaboration with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California Coastal Commission, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, is intended to enable the Wetland Tracker to be the common data management system for the State's primary wetland protection policies and programs, including the 401 Certification and WDR Programs, the proposed Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy, and the State's No-Net-Loss Policy. The main product will be a new version of Wetland Tracker that streamlines 401 Certification, provides access to historical 401 cases, and enables standardized reports on the status and trends of 401 projects and ambient conditions for watersheds, regions, and Statewide.

Work has begun to develop the software specifications to insure all initial requirements are met. The specifications will be vetted with Water Board staff and other stakeholders by October 2009.

Projects with Approved Funding – Agreements not yet Signed

Wetland Monitoring Toolkit

Level 1-2-3 framework has now expanded across the state. This project will continue to develop CRAM, eCRAM and Wetland Tracker infrastructure to cover four regions of the state (South Coast, Central Coast, SF Bay Area, and North Coast) in collaboration with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California Coastal Commission, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District. This project will continue coordination with regional teams to ensure their output builds statewide

capacity to monitor and assess wetlands and riparian areas. This includes the statewide Steering Committee and coordination of IT engineering with the user community. We will expand CRAM habitats to include depressional wetlands and seasonal estuarine/coast lagoon systems. This funding will also be used to continue development of the “train-the-trainers” program.

Projects with Approved Funding – Agreements Suspended

Delta Historical Ecology

SFEI will conduct a historical ecology study of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, documenting the hydrogeomorphic and ecological characteristics of the Delta prior to significant Euro-American modification. This effort will use well-developed methods for the synthesis of historical data through GIS development and analysis. This historical reconstruction will document, to the extent possible, patterns of variation and extent of habitats throughout the Delta to better understand species support functions and controlling physical processes within the native landscape. Such information will provide a basis for identifying target locations and physical conditions necessary to restore functional habitat mosaics within the projected future Delta landscape.

The project will synthesize hundreds of independent historical data sources to build a reliable picture of early conditions that is sufficiently detailed to inform the ERP Conservation Strategy. SFEI will assist and train DFG staff to participate in the project, including assisting with data collection, GIS, and report production and presentation. Project deliverables will include a GIS of historical conditions documenting target habitat types (e.g. tidal channels, riparian forest, ponds and lakes, tidal marsh-upland ecotone, etc.) and a final report describing the methodology and results.

While the project is suspended, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Ecosystem Restoration Plan have kept going. Agency staff have continued to express the need for the historical ecology study findings. So SFEI has continued a small amount of work to keep the project moving forward, particularly through directing DFG staff (Water Branch), who have been assigned to the project. Compilation of textual data and GIS development have continued ahead, albeit slowly.

Small Fish Biosentinels Monitoring in North-Bay Wetlands (with UCD)

Small fish mercury (Hg) biosentinel monitoring has been requested by the Coastal Conservancy and CDFG for the North Bay region (including the Napa-Sonoma Marshes, Hamilton Restoration, Petaluma Marsh, and

appropriate control locations). The most appropriate design will depend on the information needs of the project and land managers. The final design will be determined vary according to tradeoffs among number of sites (spatial coverage), sampling frequency and whether samples are analyzed individually or as multiple composites. Study design and site selection will occur during a project planning meeting with DFG and will be approved by SCC. Field and laboratory work will include collection of small fish and analysis for whole body Hg and ancillary parameters. Results will be analyzed and presented to interested stakeholders in an annual planning meeting and in a brief annual report. In addition, twice per year, all newly collected data will be QA verified, formatted, and compiled in a relational database. These data will be provided to project stakeholders, and provided to the general public via the SFEI website.

Development of Regional Data Centers

SFEI was designated as one of four Regional Data Centers at this time. The State Board will consider an item on December 2 that would provide funding for the purposes of collecting and integrating project data into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) in order to more comprehensively track water quality project effectiveness and make it accessible to the public. The funds will provide for the operation of the four centers for up to a three-year period. The data centers will integrate monitoring data across departments and agencies, and will be made available to the public through a user-friendly Internet portal. SFEI will likely be focusing on wetland data and identify options, in close collaboration with the other Regional Data Centers, for how to make them self-sustaining and independent of General Fund contributions. The project became a victim of the budget crisis and was suspended before an agreement could be completed.

Wetland Data Portal

We submitted a proposal to the State Water Board, which was approved for funding on December 2 to implement the Wetland Tracker (www.wetlandtracker.org) as a model Data Center portal, as recommended by the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. The Wetland Tracker has many of the desired portal attributes and functions. It is based on the 3-level monitoring framework outlined in the USEPA guidance for comprehensive wetlands monitoring and assessment (USEPA 2006); it is consistent with the State's growing interest in open source engineering (CPRC 2004); its development is led by Data Center staff and water quality experts with oversight by regional and statewide advisory groups; and it permits public data exchanges, although these functions are rather limited at this time. The Wetland Tracker must have functions added to deliver the data to the broad community of wetland interests throughout the State. The project became a victim of the budget crisis and was suspended before an agreement could be completed.

Projects in Discussion

San Leandro Bay Cleanup and Abatement Plan

In collaboration with the San Francisco Bay Water Board, ASC would conduct studies needed to provide a scientific foundation for a cleanup and abatement plan for San Leandro Bay. A proposal is being developed for submittal to the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Fund. This would be a multi-year effort that would include stakeholder participation. ASC's role would be to coordinate the project and implement scientific studies in support of cleanup plan development. San Leandro Bay was included on the 2006 303(d) list for multiple pollutants, including mercury, PCBs, chlordane, dieldrin, dioxins, furans, exotic species, lead, PAHs, pesticides, and zinc. This project would develop a blueprint for cleaning up this valuable ecosystem, and lessons learned from study of this microcosm of San Francisco Bay would also be broadly applicable to other contaminated sites on the Bay margin and the Bay as a whole.

Elements of this project to be performed by ASC would include some or all of the following:

- preparation of a conceptual model/impairment assessment report,
- studies of sediment quality in support of assessments relating to the new sediment quality objectives (for both direct effects and indirect effects),
- monitoring and modeling of contaminant loading from local watersheds,
- sediment core studies to evaluate load attenuation and the spatial distribution of contamination,
- fate modeling in support of recovery forecasting,
- food web monitoring and modeling,
- exposure and effects studies to fill critical information gaps,
- emerging contaminant screening, and
- studies to support human risk reduction.

This project would test many of the approaches being implemented on a broader scale in the RMP, and would be closely coordinated with the RMP.

SFEI Projects of Interest

Development of "Is It Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish" Portal

The Water Board asked SFEI to assist with providing content for the forthcoming "portal" through an existing SWAMP sub-agreement with San Jose State University. This project is in support of the work the California

Water Quality Monitoring Council is conducting under SB 1070. The funding level is \$35,000, and the website launch is scheduled for the end of June.

ATTACHMENT 4b

Staff Summary

To: Board of Directors
From: Rainer Hoenicke, Interim Executive Director
Date: May 29, 2009
Subject: Financial Status Update

New Bond Sales and Project “De-frosting” Status – May 2009:

On April 22, the Governor announced that, due to an extremely successful bond sale of \$6.85 billion, the bond freeze will be immediately lifted and bond-funded projects will restart. Invoices submitted for work completed prior to December 18, 2008, will receive payment preference, and two of the four departments administering some of our suspended projects asked us to submit invoices for any work done after December 18 as well, so payment requests can be prepared and moved up the approval chain to the Controller. So far, however, no “green light” has been given by the Department of Finance that work on the suspended projects can be officially started without risk of future freezes.

However, recently, I obtained a summary of a conversation between Brian Cash (Assistant Secretary of Finance and Budgets) and David Simpson of the Association of Conservation Contractors and Workers: *The Resources Agency with all its 20 departments and the Office of the Treasurer have been going through an extensive process since the late-March bond sale that intensified after the Build America Bond (BAB) sale in mid April. It was decided at some point that in the long run it would be better for everyone, including the contractors, not to pay out funds from the March sale alone but to go through the process of vetting and fitting projects to funding source with both sales at once. They thought it would be better to pay as many projects as they could at the same time. (It is interesting to speculate why they didn't tell us that when they made the decision) There are over 5000 projects, many if not most of which needed to be put through these processes separately. Complicating matters further were the restrictions on the BAB funds.*

The way they chose to manage this process ultimately was to go through each of the Propositions starting with lowest number, Prop 12. Prop 12 is now done and tomorrow the requisite Departments will be instructed that they can start the process paying bills and starting up frozen projects funded by that Proposition. Fears about the amount of time it took to get through Prop 12 and the much larger tasks of going through 40, 50 and 84 should be mollified by the fact that in getting through Prop 12, the Agency and Treasurer's Office have developed a template that will greatly facilitate the rest of the process.

This will allow for completion of all Propositions within two to three weeks maximum. At that time, the Departments will be allowed to start the processes of paying the rest of the bills and take steps to start up frozen projects. Brian said that there should be enough money for almost all the projects.

Various conservation groups (e.g. the SF Joint Venture, Land Trusts, Ducks Unlimited, the Planning and Conservation League, etc.) have been in communication with Resources Agency and State Treasury staff, who are estimating that the funds generated from the recent bond sale should be sufficient to keep projects funded for 8-10 months. Because most of the bond funds will be utilized, there is no certainty beyond that period of time, and the upcoming State election could throw the State's finances into turmoil again. Therefore, project managers should plan accordingly.

Private placement bonds may no longer be needed in the immediate future. However, they can be another funding source for projects locally or regionally in light of the longer-term uncertainties. Answers are currently being sought on the willingness of the State to continue to move forward with private placement bonds. It will become clearer whether project managers should continue to pursue this option. It was agreed that project advocates should wait for answers before pursuing private placement bonds.

SFEI Preparations for Project Resumption: Based on guidance from Water Board staff, we are preparing progress reports and invoices for four projects for which we used overhead accounts to keep essential staff working that could not be shifted to non-suspended projects. All hours accrued from December 18 through April have been moved from the designated overhead accounts to the corresponding project accounts and are now showing up on the revenue side of our ledger. As soon as invoices are issued, our accounts receivable for May 2009 will increase by more than \$100,000.

While the Coastal Conservancy lifted stop-work orders in March ("work at your own risk"), we kept those projects in suspension with one exception. Because of the field-sampling window of opportunity and high likelihood of being paid following the \$6.85 billion bond sale in April, we resumed work at a low level on the non-native oyster eradication project.

One Water-Board funded project for which we are partners with SFEP (PCBs in Building Materials) is likely to re-start with federal stimulus money as early as June.

Our April numbers indicate that SFEI's revenue exceeded expenditures for the first time. Our *preliminary* operating profit in April was greater than \$65,000, reducing our loss for the first four months of the year to \$81,000. However, it should be noted that this is due entirely to the shift of cumulative January – April expenditures in the overhead accounts back to the revenue side (accounts receivable), rather than increases in revenue for April alone. We are currently forecasting workflow for the rest of 2009 if suspended projects come back on line as early as mid-June.

Attachment 5

Staff Summary

TO: ASC Board
FROM: Rainer Hoenicke, Interim Executive Director
Date: May 29, 2009
SUBJECT: Consideration of Joint ASC-SFEI Science Briefings

The SFEI Board had its annual Board Retreat on April 15, 2009. The retreats are full-day events at which staff have an opportunity to introduce new initiatives to Board Members and solicit advice and guidance. Several of current and past SFEI Board members have been helpful to staff in pointing out needs in the Delta and Central Valley that have led to a number of successful grant proposals to CALFED, the State Water Board, and EPA.

With complementary projects now being conducted through the Aquatic Science Center (e.g., Delta RMP, Central Valley monitoring directory), the SFEI Board expressed an interest in hearing about how those ASC projects fit into a larger strategy for science support. During the discussion of the status of Delta RMP development, it became obvious that in many cases, updates on key projects and discussion about their relevance to upcoming management and policy decisions would benefit from interactions of Board Members from both ASC and SFEI at joint science briefings. Additional benefits could be achieved by reducing ASC Board meeting frequency and limiting regular ASC meetings to business items. An invitation was extended by the SFEI Board (which already has some overlap with the ASC Board) for ASC Board Members to consider merging the science discussion elements of their respective agendas whenever appropriate, so both Boards could participate concurrently in strategic discussions, hear about noteworthy project outcomes, and have an opportunity for fruitful idea exchanges.

Recommended Action: Endorse joint meetings on non-business items, dealing with strategic directions in science support.

Attachment 6a

Staff Summary

TO: ASC Board
FROM: Rainer Hoenicke, Interim Executive Director
Date: May 29, 2009
SUBJECT: Consideration of Candidate Supplemental Environmental Projects

As part of the discussion of the State's budget crisis and the suspension of bond-funded projects, the Steering Committee of the Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances suggested that the Supplemental Environmental Project process may be a mechanism to fund specific projects that the RMP participants are unable to fit into the current budget. SFEI staff was directed to compile a list of candidate projects that fit into the forthcoming RMP strategic plan and be vetted by the Technical Review Committee later this summer.

This discussion led staff to prepare a list of additional projects (see Attachment 6b) that address a range of topics with a nexus to discharge violations that are outside the topics the RMP addresses (e.g. construction permit violations, hazardous waste discharges leading to fish kills and other damages to natural resources).

Recommendation: Provide guidance to staff on fine-tuning candidate projects, categorizing them for easy linkage to different types of discharge violations, and following an appropriate process for vetting them with Water Board staff.

ATTACHMENT 6b Concept Proposal	Name of organization	contact person	Local Agency Support	Location of proposed project, including watershed where it is located	Estimated Cost
Identifying Contamination Effects to Benthos in the San Francisco Estuary	SFEI	Aroon Melwani	Granite Canyon and Moss Landing Marine Labs	SF Bay	\$ 150,000.00
Development of Trash TMDLs for Arroyo Viejo Watershed	SFEI	Amy Franz		Alameda County, East Creek Slough – Mouth of East Creek and Peralta Creek, Damon Slough – Mouth of Arroyo Viejo Creek and Lion Creek, Elmherst Creek and San Leandro Creek, Arroyo Viejo watershed.	Unknown
Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas -- a new tool for identifying and prioritizing stream and wetland restoration opportunities	SFEI	Robin Grossinger	Napa River Rutherford Reach restoration project, the Oakville-Oak Knoll Napa River restoration project, the TMDLs of the Napa River basin, the Trancas Crossing Park and Oxbow Preserve, the Napa River Trail, and the oak management plan of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District	Napa County, Napa River watershed	\$ 35,000.00
Comprehensive Online Access to Supplemental Environmental Projects Information	SFEI	John Oram			\$50,000-\$100,000
Enhancements to Wetland Tracker to Meet Region 2 Staff Requests	SFEI	Michael May	Andree Greenberg, Region 2		\$ 33,500.00
Development of a mercury bioaccumulation model and Decision Support Tool and application to local water bodies	SFEI	Ben Greenfield			\$ 50,000.00
Evaluation of Turbidity in Alameda Creek and/or Selected Tributaries	SFEI	Alicia Gilbreath		Alameda County, Alameda Creek Watershed and Subwatersheds	\$35,000-\$100,000
Atmospheric Mercury Deposition Near Oil Refineries and Crematoria in the San Francisco Bay Area	SFEI	Don Yee and Alicia Gilbreath		Contra Costa County, regional significance	\$ 30,000.00
Stormwater Runoff BMP Evaluation of Nueva School Green Roof	SFEI	Meredith Williams and Alicia Gilbreath		Hillsborough, CA, San Mateo County, Sanchez Creek Watershed	\$50,000 first yr; \$35,000 addnl yrs.
Stormwater and Creek Maps for North Bay and Carquinez Strait Shoreline Communities	SFEI	Kat Ridolfi		Petaluma River watershed, Sonoma Creek watershed, Vallejo-Benicia-Hercules-Crockett-Martinez-Pittsburgh shoreline	\$50,000-100,00
San Pablo Shoreline Bay Historical Ecology	SFEI	Kat Ridolfi and Robin Grossinger	Marin County Public Works	San Pablo Bay shoreline in Marin County including Novato, Miller, Gallinas, and San Rafael Creek watersheds	\$50,000-250,000
Identifying strategies to reduce sedimentation/siltation in the Petaluma River	SFEI	Kat Ridolfi	Sonoma County Water Agency	Petaluma River	?
Water and Sediment Quality Testing from Five Creeks Discharging into the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve	SFEI	Nicole David and Kat Ridolfi	San Mateo County Public Works	San Mateo County coastside: Montara, Dean, Denniston, San Vicente, and Deer Creeks	\$50,000-150,00
Zone 6 Line B Sediment Budget	SFEI	Sarah Pearce	Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Alameda County	\$30,000-50,000
Salmonid Habitat Assessment: Lower Napa River tributaries	SFEI	Sarah Pearce	Napa County Resource Conservation District	Napa River	\$ 55,000.00
Coarse sediment supply and storage: Upper Napa River tributaries	SFEI	Sarah Pearce	Napa County Resource Conservation District	Napa River	\$ 25,000.00
Stoneybrook Creek Mass Wasting Assessment	SFEI	Sarah Pearce	Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; SFPUC?	Alameda County	
Ongoing Maintenance and Uploading of New Region 2 Projects to Wetland Tracker	SFEI	Cristina Grosso	Region Board Staff (Andree Greenberg and Paula White)	San Francisco Bay Area, including all watersheds in Region 2	\$47,600

