



**Bay RMP Technical Review Committee Meeting**

June 14, 2018

San Francisco Estuary Institute

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees**

<b>TRC Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Nirmela Arsem	EBMUD	POTWs	<b>Yes</b>
Mary Lou Esparza	CCCSD	POTWs	<b>Yes</b>
Tom Hall	EOA, Inc.	POTWs	<b>Remote</b>
Heather Peterson	SFPUC	POTWs	<b>Yes</b>
Simret Yigzaw & Ryan Mayfield	City of San Jose	POTWs	<b>Yes</b>
Bridgett DeShields*	Integral Consulting	Refineries	<b>Yes</b>
Lisa Sabin & Reid Bogert	BASMAA	Stormwater	<b>Yes</b>
Shannon Alford	Port of SF	Dredgers	<b>No</b>
Ian Wren	San Francisco Baykeeper	NGOs	<b>Yes</b>
Richard Looker	SFB RWQCB	Water Board	<b>Yes</b>
Luisa Valiela	US EPA	US-EPA IX	<b>Yes</b>
Sheila Swett	USACE	USACE	<b>Yes</b>
Naomi Feger	SFB RWQCB	Water Board	<b>Yes</b>

\*Chair

**Guests and Staff**

- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Phil Trowbridge - SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku - SFEI
- Don Yee - SFEI
- Rebecca Sutton - SFEI
- Diana Lin - SFEI
- Jing Wu - SFEI
- Scott Dusterhoff - SFEI

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Phil Trowbridge welcomed members of the committee, quickly presented the agenda for the day, and allowed for introductions.

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from March 14, 2018 and confirm/set dates for future meetings.

Richard Looker suggested adding the recently finalized date for the September 19 TRC meeting to the March TRC summary. No further changes were made to the March 14 meeting summary before approval. There were no conflicts with the September 19 TRC or the December 13 meeting dates. Phil acknowledged difficulties that had arisen from sending calendar invites between differing email platforms and asked TRC members to reference the agenda for official meeting times.

### **Decision:**

- Heather Peterson motioned to approve the March 14, 2018, TRC meeting summary. Mary Lou Esparza seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

### **Action Items:**

- Address Richard's comment and finalize the March 14, 2018, TRC meeting summary and post to the website and public-meetings folder. (Ila Shimabuku, 7/2/18)
- Confirm the December 13 meeting date with absent TRC members and schedule meeting once confirmed. (Ila Shimabuku, 7/9/18)

## 3. Information: SC Meeting Summary from April 25, 2018

Phil Trowbridge briefly summarized the April SC meeting and highlighted discussions that took place regarding the Restoration Authority and the RMP Annual Meeting agenda.

## 4. Discussion: Presentation of Special Studies Proposals Recommended by Workgroups

Phil Trowbridge noted the extensive effort put into RMP workgroups this year both by RMP staff and external attendees. He noted the new org chart for the RMP due to the recent addition of the Microplastic Workgroup and the Sediment Workgroup.

He set the stage by stating that charge of the June TRC meeting was to consider special-study prioritizations put forth by each workgroup and to allocate RMP funding for special studies. He highlighted that the planning budget is about double the actual available funds and that more studies would have to be scaled back, spread across years, and cut than ever before.

## 5. Decision: Recommendation for Special Studies for 2018

Bridgette DeShields stated that the goal for this item was to complete the “Core RMP Funds” and “AMR Funds” columns in the 2019 special studies proposal table. See the completed table below, at the end of Item 5.

Discussion centered on the following points:

- The value of the Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup’s (SPLWG) Pollutants of Concern (POC) monitoring was questioned. Water Board representatives and members of the Small Tributaries Loading Strategy team spoke to the ongoing value of POC data, how POC monitoring uses leveraged funds, and management actions that have been stalled as a result of existing data gaps that POC monitoring help to fill.
- The TRC discussed the importance of the STLS regional model to support the trends strategy, its ability to address key PCB management questions, and its nexus with other Workgroups (i.e., emerging contaminants & sediment) and possible future intersects with models in development by the Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS). The TRC agreed that the model was of high value and that current proposed timeline should be extended and be more flexible to allow for appropriate budget requests in future years.
- Scott Dusterhoff summarized the priorities put forth by the Sediment WG as well as the urgency of sediment special studies. The TRC discussed whether the workshop on screening and testing guidelines for sediment beneficial reuse could be delayed to future years but ultimately decided that it was important to get started on this work.
- Rebecca Sutton discussed the motivations behind the CECs in stormwater study. The TRC recommended stretching the timeline from two to three years, dividing the budget evenly across all three years, and focusing on sampling design and pilot monitoring in Year 1.

- The ECWG ethoxylated surfactants study was identified as a priority for dischargers and for the Department for Toxic Substances Control due to its nexus with wastewater. The TRC discussed options for scaling and phasing this study. Rebecca Sutton proposed that the study could be scaled down from a budget of \$123,000 to \$70,000 which would eliminate monitoring in margins sediment and data upload to CEDEN, and only allow for Water Cruise and Wastewater monitoring. However, no Core funds and only \$30,000 AMR funds remained to fund this study at the conclusion of the agenda item.
- For the Microplastics Workgroup, the TRC decided only to fund strategy support and collecting and archiving sport fish samples for future analysis of microplastics.
- When the value of PCB work was questioned, TRC participants noted the historical value of PCB data and its relevance to evaluating the effectiveness of stormwater management actions.
- For the nutrients proposals about ship-based monitoring and moored sensors, some members asked why these perennial projects are still considered special studies. If they will continue indefinitely, these tasks should be part of the S&T budget. If they are special studies, when will then end or be scaled back?

Due to the lengthy discussion in Item 5, Joel Blum’s late-arriving proposal for a follow-up study on mercury isotope data was not discussed. None of the stakeholders stepped forward to support the proposal.

The TRC decided to allocate the \$82,000 of available Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds to PCB special studies, then made decisions about how the AMR funds should be spread across ECWG & Microplastics Workgroups studies, and finally, divided RMP core funds across the remaining studies. In general, there was enough funding for only half of the proposed special studies. All of the funding for the EEWG was cut. The TRC agreed that the requested budgets had exceeded practical amounts and that the SC should discuss ways to prevent the RMP from spending time developing excess proposals and should re-evaluate the need for each workgroup. The TRC also recommended that all the WG strategy support tasks be lumped together with subtasks to indicate the amount for each workgroup. That way, the TRC can more easily focus on prioritizing actual special studies against the remaining budget.

The following table summarizes recommended TRC budget allocations for each RMP Workgroup.

Workgroup	Planning Budget	Requested by WG	TRC Recommendations			Total Allocated	% of Requested Budget Fulfilled
			Core RMP Funds	AMR Funds	SEP MMP Funds		
ECWG	\$555,000	\$448,300	-	\$225,000	-	\$225,000	50%

SPLWG	\$555,000	\$375,000	\$275,000	-	-	\$275,000	73%
EEWG	\$124,000	\$150,200	-	-	-	\$0	0%
Nutrients	\$500,000	\$540,852	\$250,000	-	-	\$250,000	46%
Microplastic	\$120,000	\$187,300	\$15,000	\$15,000	-	\$30,000	16%
Sediment	\$325,000	\$259,600	\$184,600	-	-	\$184,600	71%
PCB	\$190,000	\$110,000	\$28,000	-	\$82,000	\$110,000	100%
Selenium	\$246,000	\$171,000	\$107,000	-	-	\$107,000	63%

The attached table summarizes the TRC’s recommendations for funding for 2019 special studies to be considered for approval by the Steering Committee on July 25. Within workgroups, proposals are listed in order of highest to lowest priority as identified by individual workgroups. Studies that were identified by the TRC as the next highest priority should more funding become available have comments noting this in red text.

**Action Items**

- Discuss TRC recommendations to improve the process for special studies funding with the SC in July. (Phil Trowbridge, 7/24/18)

**LUNCH**

**6. Decision: Update List of RMP Projects Eligible for Supplemental Environmental Project Funding and Recommend Allocation of Existing SEP Funds**

Phil Trowbridge presented the existing SEP list. The TRC agreed that Phil should remove the studies that had been identified as low priority, completed, or superseded by a new proposal with one exception. The exception was the STLS project to develop a statistical model for trends detection. Chris Sommers had requested that this project be retained. The TRC also agreed to add all the unfunded projects from the 2019 proposals will be added to the list.

Jay mentioned that the PCB Workgroup is recommending that the \$30k of 2018 RMP funds allocated to the Richmond Harbor PCB Conceptual Model Project be moved to a project to monitor stormwater loads of PCBs to San Leandro Bay. Jay will bring this recommendation to the Steering Committee in July. Therefore, the Richmond Harbor project should be retained on the SEP list with a higher cost.

**Action Items**

- Update the SEP List based on the TRC recommendations and present it to the Steering Committee in July (Phil Trowbridge, by 7/25/18)

## 7. Decision: Recommendation for 2017 Water Cruise Results for Copper and Selenium and Update on SCCWRP IC Study

Don Yee presented findings that the TRC had recommended he gather in order to further understand copper results from Brooks Applied Laboratories (BAL) from the 2017 Water Cruise. Don explained that BAL had determined that a titanium species interference with the newer method had caused the discrepancy. BAL had fixed the issue and planned to re-analyze the samples using the newer method (triple quad mass spec). The TRC agreed to wait until BAL obtains data from the re-run Water Cruise samples and to publish these data as the official copper results from the 2017 Water Cruise.

Don then provided an update on the Southern California Water Research Project (SCCWRP) lab intercalibration (IC) study on sediment and tissue. SCCWRP will have a final report that details the findings of the IC study but none of SCCWRP's findings showed any cause for concern regarding the RMP's current selection of labs.

### **Action Items:**

- Report on copper results produced from BAL re-analysis at the September TRC meeting. Decide which method(s) to use in future years for copper analysis and how long to have overlap between old and new methods. (Don Yee, 9/1/18)
- When SCCWRP publishes their final report, contextualize their findings for the RMP in a memo. (Don Yee, 9/1/18)

## 8. Decision: Confirm Status and Trends Monitoring Design

Phil Trowbridge began the discussion on the Status and Trends monitoring design by summarizing two new recommended changes: (1) add Fipronil to the list of analytes for sport fish and sediment matrices and (2) add legacy pesticides to the list of analytes for the sediment cruise.

There was no opposition to adding fipronil to the S&T design. However, TRC members were skeptical that ambient sediment was the correct matrix to monitor in support of management decisions related to legacy pesticides. The TRC decided to eliminate legacy pesticides from the list of analytes for ambient sediment monitoring, provisionally, pending confirmation from the Water Board. Subsequent to the meeting, the Water Board (Naomi Feger) agreed with dropping legacy pesticides from the open Bay sediment sampling but wanted to consider analyzing some archived sediment

samples from the margins for these parameters to inform decisions about screening thresholds for beneficial reuse in the margin areas.

**Action Items**

- Prepare a proposal to analyze sediment archives from the margins for legacy pesticides. (Phil Trowbridge, by 9/1/18)

**9. Discussion: RMP Communications Products and Agenda for Annual Meeting**

Jay Davis provided a brief update on RMP communications and notified the TRC that he planned to have a draft RMP Update for review by the end of June. Jay then began discussing the Annual Meeting agenda by highlighting the addition of Joel Blum who was slated to kick off the Annual Meeting with a talk on linking mercury pathways with concentrations in fish.

There was some discussion regarding the proposed talk about water quality impacts of the North Bay fires. The results may not be interesting enough. It would have to include RB2, RB1, and RMP results. The RMP non-targeted analysis results are not likely to be ready in time. Naomi agreed to talk to Kevin Lunde about the talk. The TRC agreed that Taylor Winchell's talk on suspended sediment could be a backup for the North Bay Fire talk.

Participants expressed support for spreading around moderator responsibilities rather than having the Water Board moderate all four sessions. They recommended that the Water Board moderate Session 1, David Senn moderate the nutrients session, and Karin North moderate the CECs session. For the nutrients session, the group was in favor of having Barbara Baginska (Suisun Marsh TMDL), Alexis Fischer (UCSC CytoBot work), and having Zhenlin Zhang or Taylor Winchell fill the last slot.

**Action Items**

- Get more information on the North Bay Fire talk from Kevin Lunde. (Naomi Feger, 7/25/18)

**10. Information: Status of Deliverables and Action Items**

Phil Trowbridge highlighted the large number of technical reports that were currently out for review and solicited comments.

## 11. Discussion: Plan agenda items for future meetings

The TRC confirmed that previews of Annual Meeting talks, an update on the RMP Data Analysis Challenge, and a report back on copper data should be included in the September TRC meeting.

## 12. Discussion: Plus/Delta

The TRC thanked RMP staff for pluses and had no deltas.

Adjourn