

EEWG Strategy: Exposure and Effects Workgroup Strategy Coordination and Technical Support

Summary: Develop an updated multi-year plan for the Exposure and Effects Workgroup. Funds for this task would enable SFEI to continue to consult with the EEWG regarding plans for the next iteration of Exposure and Effects activities that can inform management decisions in San Francisco Bay. Funds would also support small-scale synthesis of information that is needed to support these discussions.

Oversight group: Exposure and Effects Workgroup

Proposed by: Phil Trowbridge, SFEI

Proposed Funding: \$5,000

Proposed Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverable	Due Date
Updated EEWG Multi-Year Plan	June 30, 2019

Background

The Exposure and Effects Workgroup (EEWG) has been overseeing investigations of the biological effects of contaminant exposures since the late 1990s. Over the years, EEWG has guided special studies on birds, fish, and benthos primarily. The workgroup consists of independent science advisors, RMP participants, and other interested parties. The workgroup meets one time per year to discuss new findings and plan future work. The workgroup maintains a multi-year plan of studies looking ahead three years.

Study Objective and Applicable RMP Management Questions

The objective of this task is to provide coordination and technical support for continuing development of the EEWG Strategy. This task would therefore address all of the questions that have been articulated for this Workgroup (see list below).

1. What are the spatial and temporal patterns of impacts of sediment contamination?
2. Is chemical contamination the cause of observed sediment toxicity in the Bay?
3. What are the best tools to predict ecological effects from chemical contamination of sediments in the Bay?
4. Should any sediment contamination hotspots on the 303d list be de-listed?
5. Do spatial patterns in bioaccumulation in birds indicate particular regions of concern?
6. Are there any indications of ecological effects caused by exposure to specific chemicals or mixtures of contaminants in the Bay?
7. What are appropriate criteria to manage ecological exposure to chemicals in dredged material for placement in the Bay, baylands, or restoration projects?
8. Are there effects on fish, benthic species, and submerged habitats from dredging or placement of dredged material?

The task would also address many of the overarching RMP management questions:

- 1: Are chemical concentrations in the Estuary potentially at levels of concern and are associated impacts likely?
 - 1.1: Which chemicals have potential for impacts?
 - 1.2: What is the potential for impacts due to contamination?
 - 1.3: What are appropriate guidelines?
 - 1.4: What contaminants are responsible for impacts?

Approach and Budget

Consult with EEWG Workgroup and update multi-year plan (\$5K)

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Timing and Deliverables

An updated EEWG multi-year plan in June 2018. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables.