



Bay RMP Multi-Year Planning Meeting

November 1, 2023

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Alicia Chakrabarti	EBMUD	POTW	Yes
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose	POTW	Yes
Amanda Roa	Delta Diablo	POTW	Yes
Karin North	City of Palo Alto	POTW	Yes
Tom Hall	EOA, Inc.	POTW	Yes
Xavier Fernandez	San Francisco Bay Water Board	Water Board	Yes
Tom Mumley*	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	Yes
Richard Looker	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	Yes
Gerardo Martinez	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	Yes
Bridgette DeShields	Integral Consulting	Refineries	Yes
Maureen Dunn	Chevron	Refineries	Yes
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA (EOA, Inc.)	Stormwater	Yes
Chris Sommers	EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	Yes
Ian Wren	Baykeeper	NGOs	Yes
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	Yes

*Chair; alternates in gray and italicized

Staff and Others

- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Amy Kleckner – SFEI
- Warner Chabot – SFEI
- Rebecca Sutton - SFEI
- Martin Trinh - SFEI
- Scott Dusterhoff - SFEI
- Alicia Gilbreath - SFEI
- Diana Lin - SFEI
- Kelly Moran – SFEI
- Don Yee - SFEI

1. Introductions and Review Goals for the Meeting

Tom Mumley began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Multi-Year Planning (MYP) Workshop. Following a brief introduction to the technology and hybrid meeting etiquette, Tom oversaw a round of introductions. He then reviewed the agenda items, including reviewing Special Study funding for 2024, workgroup direction, and implementation of the revised Status & Trends (S&T) program.

2. Discussion: Setting the Stage – Planning for 2024 and Beyond

Amy opened this agenda item by sharing the RMP budget for 2024, consisting of \$4.16 million in core fees, \$440K for the CEC monitoring supplement, SEP funds, and additional funding from the WQIF proposals. The Status and Trends updated design is well under way. After this upcoming year, the RMP will have completed the sampling portions of the pilot studies for wet season water and harbor seals. In Agenda Item 4, Amy will share more details of what changes have been made since the 2023 MYP and how those changes would affect future S&T budgets and what remains for special studies. Amy shared the annual gross expense vs net expense and the 10-year average for net expense after set-aside fund withdrawals or contributions. In the 2023 MYP, the predicted 10 year average for net S&T expenses was \$1.45M. In this year's update, that average is now \$1.5M (2020-2029). The RMP is anticipating the release of funds for the WQIF Destination Clean Bay grant by the end of this year, also hoping to hear soon about the PFAS Sources to Solutions WQIF grant. In addition to the competitive block of funds estimated at around \$5M, the RMP is encouraged to plan for additional funds from the EPA SF Bay Program Fund that will be earmarked for studies in key areas such as nutrients, PCBs, and stormwater management.

Amy then highlighted the work planned for 2024. The first big lift of the year will be the storm water CECs monitoring and modeling, getting ready for the upcoming storms. Concurrent will be the OPES, bisphenol and other plastic additives in wastewater, microplastics storm water monitoring pilot, and tire and roadway contaminants in wet season Bay water. Other priorities include the nontarget analysis of Bay fish, sediment accretion in Bay restoration, sediment deposition in San Leandro Bay, and PCB and mercury watershed load monitoring and modeling. Additional lifts include the nutrient moored sensor network, PFAS synthesis and strategy, PFAs and Bay water using the TOP assay, the tidal area remote sampler, and the remote sampler purchase that Kelly will provide an update on. Workgroup strategies are helping to inform special studies planning and Jay will cover the progress of the workgroup strategy updates in more detail later in the agenda.

Amy concluded the item by updating the Committee on the RMP discussions at various stakeholder meetings. Future priorities discussed at the BACWA meeting included the need for baselines to support monitoring, particularly the effects of reduced wastewater and stormwater inputs into the Bay and the effects of reverse osmosis concentrate discharge to the Bay. Other identified needs include the South Bay standards-related selenium assessment, sea level rise

adaptation and climate-related changes in salinity, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. Trash and microplastics, wetland restoration permits and regional monitoring, and tribal and subsistence beneficial uses are additional potential future drivers. Future priorities discussed at the BAMSC meeting included modeling watershed PCB and Hg loading more broadly and not just at priority margin units (PMUs), data on PCB inputs from North Bay watersheds, supplementing BMP effectiveness tracking across counties, and obtaining CECs monitoring data to determine “sources” to support regulators and legislation. Additional needs include linking nature-based solutions to green stormwater infrastructure for sea level rise adaptation and linking to waste-related regulations (foodware, compost). Meetings with refiners and dredgers will be happening in the coming weeks.

Action Item:

- Work with John Coleman to schedule meetings with dredgers (Amy Kleckner, January 1, 2024).

3. Discussion: Information Priorities for 2024-2026

For this item, Tom reviewed the RMP management driver table, which includes categories for high priority, other, and potential drivers. High priority management drivers include the ongoing 303(d) list and 305(b) report, TMDLs for PCBs and mercury, updates to the tiered risk-based framework for CECs, review of the sediment guidelines and testing criteria for the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment, and the determination of wastewater permit limits. The first three projects are all ongoing with calls for 303(d) data in 2026 for the 2030 round and PCB data by 2028. The table of other management drivers was the same from last year with the primary change being the review of 303(d) listings for sediment hotspots changed from 2024 to ongoing. Potential future drivers included microplastic consideration for the 2030 303(d) list discussed at the April SC meeting. Richard clarified that segments of the Bay will likely be put on a watchlist. “Specific CECs e.g. PFAS” was suggested to be added to the list of potential future drivers. Regarding tribal and subsistence uses, Jay highlighted non-RMP work that SFEI was doing with the Water Board, developing a consumption survey questionnaire for subsistence fishers.

Action Item:

- Update the RMP Management Decision Table (Amy Kleckner, January 1, 2024).
- Add back first line (BACWA highlighted in stakeholder meeting) from 2023 Potential future drivers table to updated table for 2024 MYP (Amy Kleckner, January 1, 2024).
- Add PFAS item to Potential future drivers table (Amy Kleckner, January 1, 2024).

4. Discussion: Status & Trends and Other Items

Amy provided a detailed review of changes to the S&T plan from the 2023 MYP. Notable adjustments included a decrease in the grand total for 2024, a reduction in set-aside funds used, and a decrease in the net S&T funding needed. The 2025 and 2026 forecasted grand totals saw a slight increase due to a shift in NTA funding. Additionally, the 2027-forecasted

grand total increased to more accurately reflect the bird egg budgets based on the 2022 budget actuals. The 2028 forecasted grand total was higher, assuming the continuation of wet season water sampling.

Specific changes from the 2023 MYP were highlighted, including a significant reduction in the NB Selenium budget for 2024 from \$131k to \$18k. Selenium sampling activities will be paused until 2025, and the reduced budget will be used towards the exploration of a different analytical partner for tissue samples, reporting, and a data and methods review. NTA and passive samplers for water will be delayed until 2025 and 2026. Tom inquired as to why the non-target analysis and passive sampler work had to be delayed, with Amy citing an inability to find analytical partners this year. The bivalves budget was removed (\$21k).

Further adjustments included an increase in the bird eggs budget from \$160k to \$195k, reflecting a more accurate estimate based on the costs from the 2022 sampling and analysis. The sport fish budget was increased from \$531k to \$560k. Additional allocations were made, including \$20k for shiner surfperch PMU monitoring and \$9k for expanding the sport fish archiving plan. The harbor seals budget was reduced to match the approved proposal, decreasing from \$300k to \$127k. A model maintenance budget of \$50k was added for 2024.

The meeting also identified key pieces for review, such as pilot studies, wet season water and harbor seals monitoring, North Bay selenium, and non-target analysis. Long-term funding needs were discussed, including model maintenance beyond 2024, and \$200k per year for PCB and Hg monitoring and modeling. Equipment maintenance requirements and the need for sustained funding were highlighted, prompting questions about who would review priorities for maintenance.

Action Items:

- Revisit and discuss NTA and passive samplers “off-line” (xx)
- Revisit/discuss future model maintenance, equipment maintenance, and continuation of wet season, harbor seals, selenium funding before 2025 MYP Update (Amy Kleckner, September 2024)

5. Discussion: Multi-Year Plan and Strategy Updates for Workgroups

In this agenda item, Jay requested guidance from the committee members on priorities and funding levels for workgroups. The group was tasked with giving feedback on the draft Multi-Year Plan (MYP), which will be finalized at the January meeting. The primary emphasis was on planning for 2025. Tom proposed maintaining the same level of funding as the previous year, and a discussion followed regarding the Special Studies for 2025.

During the discussion, Jay noted that available funds for 2025 might be slightly lower, and there was a suggestion that PCB funding might not be needed in 2025 with all the WQIF funding available. Sediment and SPL budgets for 2025 were discussed and were estimated to be

around \$300k. A graph representing the distribution of funds was presented, with Karin noting that with outside funds, the representation of PCB, SPL, and nutrients funds should be higher. The committee members suggested including other funding sources in future graphics, like factoring in WQIF for PCBs in 2025.

The discussion shifted to the total budget, emphasizing the need to rank and prioritize studies. Workgroup leads were encouraged to come with prior prioritization, and there was a proposal to give similar direction to workgroups for 2025 as in 2024. However, the committee members raised concerns that workgroups might take the direction too literally, potentially leading to a lack of flexibility when other funds become available. The group suggested expanding potential planning budgets for workgroups, but with some level of boundary. Chris advised requesting workgroups to expand potential planning budget to allow workgroups flexibility. Jay noted this would take up staff time but Tom pushed back that those who are willing to step up will be able to receive more money. There was a discussion about the allocation of funds, with Bridgette suggesting that a percentage could be given, while Ian proposed narrowing the scope of the budget. Tom noted an academic contacted him inquiring as to why the RMP no longer accepts proposals from external academics.

A discussion ensued on the concept of two tiers of proposals, which was supported by Tom as a lighter lift for workgroups. There was discussion about workgroup bandwidth, and the idea of providing guidelines for a streamlined two tier application was proposed. Xavier and Karin expressed agreement with providing some guidance, while Karin emphasized that some projects may need background information. Richard suggested providing guidelines for a streamlined tier 2 template for proposals, focusing on the approach section without including schedule or background information. The discussion touched on turnover within the TRC, with considerations to revisit the streamlined approach in the future. Jay committed to bringing a draft to the December TRC meeting.

The ECWG held two meetings and two subgroup meetings between 2022 and 2023 that included strategy discussions. Management Questions (MQs) have been revised and are open for further refinement based on ECWG feedback. The strategy revision progress involved the review of two chapters in April, with a full draft expected in January and the final document anticipated in April. Notably, stormwater monitoring, which overlaps with SPLWG, is an ongoing project. Planned future projects with overlap include stormwater monitoring and modeling (SPLWG, MPWG), in-Bay modeling (PCBWG), and tire material and contaminants monitoring (MPWG, SPLWG - 2026). Tom inquired about RMP staff capacity as WQIF could distract from core RMP CEC interests. Kelly clarified that lots of CECs work is going to partners. There is approximately \$2 million in work from RMP and WQIF, with a proposed target of \$700K for tier 1 work.

The SPLWG held its first meeting in April, with another anticipated for early December. Pre-meetings are planned for late November. Revised MQs have been agreed upon, and the strategy update, outlined in August, is in the drafting phase, expected to conclude in November. The Multi-Year Plan (MYP) update draft has been submitted for RMP review. Ongoing projects

with overlap include CEC stormwater groundwork (ECWG), IWBMS (PCBWG, ECWG, SedWG, MPWG). Planned future projects with overlap include CECs in stormwater M&M, WDM application, and MPs monitoring in stormwater.

The SedWG conducted strategy meetings on January 31 (Part 1: MQ3-5), February 8 (MQ 1-2), and March 23 (Part 2: MQ 3-5), with the next meeting scheduled for January 2024 (MQ1-2). Management Questions 3-5 have been expanded based on WG input, and MQs 1-2 will be revisited in early 2024. Workplan development is set to conclude in November 2023. The MYP update was completed in October 2023 based on the draft Workplan. Ongoing projects with overlap include the In-Bay model (PCBWG) and IWBMS (SPLWG). Planned future projects with overlap include the In-Bay model (PCBWG) and WDM applications (SPLWG).

The MPWG held strategy discussions in April and a subgroup meeting in July. Related efforts included the OPC-funded state macro- and microplastics strategy, a dryer microfiber study, and the Next Gen WQIF bioretention rain garden study. Revised MQs were finalized in April, and the strategy revision draft was shared in September, with the final document expected in February. Current projects with overlap include stormwater monitoring Year 1 (SPLWG, ECWG). Planned future projects with overlap involve stormwater monitoring Year 2 (SPLWG, ECWG), and coordination with OPC-funded statewide plastics monitoring efforts.

The PCBWG updated its strategy and MQs, with a meeting planned for December to discuss modeling and the TMDL plan. Ongoing projects with overlap include the In-Bay model (ECWG, SedWG, Nutrients) and IWBMS (SPLWG). Planned future projects with overlap also involve the In-Bay model (ECWG, SedWG, Nutrients). Tom does not believe the efforts supported by the WQIF will result in a robust whole Bay model, especially with BAMSC's interest in characterizing the North Bay. Karin noted that the RMP should specify that it is no longer collecting data for the PCB TMDL but continuing analysis.

The committee members noted the importance of using the MYP graphics and tables to communicate to stakeholders how effectively their dollars were utilized. Tom noted a key advantage of the RMP was its communications, with investments in communications returning more investment in the science.

Action Item:

- Bring discussion of revised two-tiered proposal process to the December TRC meeting (Jay Davis, December 7, 2023)

6. Discussion: Workgroup Scheduling and Agendas

Jay reviewed the priority workgroup agenda items and scheduling plans. This past year, the ECWG and SPLWG overlapped a meeting for CEC monitoring-related updates and special study discussion in early April. Although committee members appreciated the opportunity to take advantage of overlapping audiences, Jay noted members of the Emerging Contaminants

team felt the overlapping meetings prevented focus on some emerging contaminant topics. Other workgroup meetings will be spaced more evenly this year to optimize staff workflow. There will be a SPLWG meeting in late May focused on legacy contaminants. The PCBWG elected to hold two meetings per year to address modeling guidance needs, with a second meeting to be held in December. Priority agenda items for workgroups include management questions and strategy process updates, MYP development, reviewing 2025 proposals, reviewing relevant related proposals from other workgroups, and project updates.

7. Summary and Action Items

Amy reviewed the action items to be completed. For the MYP, key steps are reworking the workgroup tables and updating the funding charts. Jay will work on providing guidance for workgroups to follow the new-tiered project format. Committee members should provide comments on the new MYP by December 1st.

Action Items:

- Rework the MYP workgroup tables and updating the funding charts (Amy Kleckner, December 31, 2023)
- Providing guidance for workgroups on the new two-tiered project format (Jay Davis, January 31, 2023)

Adjourn