

Special Study Proposal: Selenium Strategy Coordination and Technical Support

Oversight group: Selenium Strategy Team
Proposed by: Jay Davis, SFEI

Funding requested for 2016: \$10,000

Introduction and Background

In April 2014 the RMP formed a Selenium Strategy Team to evaluate information needs that can be addressed by the Program in the next several years. The charge given to the Team by the RMP Steering Committee was to focus on low-cost, near-term monitoring elements that could provide information that provides high value in support of policy development and decision-making. A TMDL for the North Bay is in development by the Regional Water Board, with a staff report in preparation. Development of a TMDL for the South Bay will be considered after the North Bay TMDL is completed. In the longer-term, the need for a greater investment in studies in support of managing selenium in the Bay will be considered.

Study Objective and Applicable RMP Management Questions

The objective of this task is to provide coordination and technical support for continuing development of the Selenium Strategy. This task would therefore address all of the questions articulated in the Strategy.

1. What are appropriate thresholds?
2. Are the beneficial uses of San Francisco Bay impaired by selenium?
3. What is the spatial pattern of selenium impairment?
4. How do selenium concentrations and loadings change over time?
5. What are the mechanisms of uptake from water and sediment to biota?
6. What is the relative contribution of each loading pathway as a source of selenium impairment in the Bay?
7. What future impairment is predicted for selenium in the Bay under different management scenarios?
8. What are the best opportunities for management intervention for the most important contaminant sources, pathways, and processes?

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

Tasks for 2016

Funds for this task would enable SFEI to continue to convene the Selenium Strategy Team to allow discussions of plans for the North Bay TMDL and the consideration of a TMDL for South Bay, to develop RMP workplans to support these efforts, and for any small-scale synthesis of information that is needed to support these discussions. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables aimed at providing a technical foundation for the

TMDLs.

Timing and Deliverables

An updated selenium multi-year plan will be prepared for June 2016. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables.