

RMP Special Study Proposal: Small Tributaries POC Loading Program Management

Summary: The goal of the Small Tributaries Loadings Strategy (STLS) over the next few years is to continue to provide information to RMP Stakeholders and the public that directly supports the identification and management of PCB and Hg sources, concentrations, loads, and the determination of trends in relation to management efforts and beneficial uses in San Francisco Bay. This proposal is to provide STLS program management to help achieve this goal. The outcome of this task is to maintain communication with the BASMAA program and Water Board representatives via in-person and phone meetings. Specific activities include coordinating regular phone calls, planning for and developing meeting agendas and materials, preparing meeting summaries, and monitoring the agenda of and attendance at key external meetings.

Estimated Cost: \$40,000

Oversight Group: STLS/SPLWG

Proposed by: J Wu, L McKee, A Gilbreath, J Hunt (SFEI)

Time Sensitive: Yes - since the RMP does not provide general program funds for this level of coordination, this budget is needed each year to run the program.

Proposed Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverable	Due Date
Prepare for and hold 8 meetings during calendar year 2020	12/2020
Meeting summary and action items for each meeting	12/2020

Background

The San Francisco Bay Hg and PCB TMDLs call for a reduction in loads by 50 and 90% by 2028 and 2030, respectively. In response, Municipal Regional Permit for Stormwater (MRP) (SFRWQCB 2009, SFRWQCB 2015) called for a range of actions, including gaining a better understanding of which Bay tributaries contribute the most loading to sensitive areas of biological interest on the Bay margin, better quantification of sediments and trace contaminant loads on a watershed basis and regionally, a better understanding of how and where trends might best be measured, and an improved understanding of which management measures may be most effective in reducing impairment. In response to the MRP requirements and information needs, the STLS outlined a set of evolving management questions (SFEI, 2009) that have been used as the guiding principles for the region's stormwater-related activities.

Study Objectives and Applicable RMP Management Questions

With an increased focus on collaboration synergy between projects funded by the RMP and those funded directly by BASMAA, it was recognized in 2009 that an annual budget allocation was needed to ensure constant and efficient communication between RMP program staff and BASMAA and Water Board representatives. This objective helps ensure quality planning and implementation of projects that aim to answer the priority management questions.

Table 1. Study objectives and questions relevant to RMP management questions.

Management Question	Study Objective	Example Information Application
Q1: What are the loads or concentrations of Pollutants of Concern (POCs) from small tributaries to the Bay?	Provide constant and efficient communication between RMP program staff and BASMAA and Water Board representatives to ensure quality planning and implementation of projects that aim to answer the management questions	
Q2: Which are the “high-leverage” small tributaries that contribute or potentially contribute most to Bay impairment by POCs?		
Q3: How are loads or concentrations of POCs from small tributaries changing on a decadal scale?		
Q4: Which sources or watershed source areas provide the greatest opportunities for reductions of POCs in urban stormwater runoff?		
Q5: What are the measured and projected impacts of management action(s) on loads or concentrations of POCs from small tributaries, and what management action(s) should be implemented in the region to have the greatest impact?		

Approach

RMP staff will provide management of the STLS process and STLS projects. Tasks include:

- 8 meetings/year
- Planning and developing meeting agendas and materials
- Preparing meeting summaries, and
- Monitoring the agendas of, and attendance at key external meetings (e.g., BASMAA Monitoring / POC Committee meeting, BASMAA BoD meetings)

Budget

The following budget represents estimated costs for this special study (Table 2).

Table 2. Proposed budget.

Expense	Estimated Hours	Estimated Cost
Project Staff	226	\$37,300
Senior Management Review	16	\$2700
Project/Contract Management		
Data Technical Services		
GIS Services		
Grand Total	242	\$40,000

Budget Justification

Labor Costs: 242 hours of staff time to prepare for, hold, and follow up on 8 meetings over calendar year 2020.

Reporting

Written meeting summaries are prepared after every meeting and archived. A list of action items and due dates are also maintained.

References

SFEI, 2009. RMP Small Tributaries Loading Strategy. A report prepared by the strategy team (L McKee, A Feng, C Sommers, R Looker) for the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality. SFEI Contribution #585. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA.

http://www.sfei.org/sites/default/files/biblio_files/Small_Tributary>Loading_Strategy_FINAL.pdf

SFRWQCB, 2009. California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, Order R2-2009-0074, NPDES Permit No. CAS612008. Adopted October 14, 2009.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/stormwater/Municipal/index.shtml

SFRWQCB, 2015. California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, Order No. R2-2015-0049, NPDES Permit No. CAS612008. November 19, 2015.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/stormwater/Municipal/R2-2015-0049.pdf