

IEP Tidal Wetlands Monitoring Project Work Team

October 4, 2016

9:00 – 12:00

DWR West Sacramento Office, Room 106

Call-in Line: 916.574.2557

CDFW- Alice Low, Sarah Estrella, Stacy Sherman, Rosie Hartman, Dave Contreras, Ryan Kok, Kyle Griffiths, Vanessa Tobias, John Downs, Shruti Khanna, Andrea Graffis, Christina Sloop, Alison Furler (phone)

DWR – Ted Sommer, Heather Green, Gina Darin, Kris Jones, Gardner Jones, Krista Hoffmann, Louise Conrad, Pascale Goertler, Rhiannon Mulligan, Steven San Julian, Jamie Suria, Shelly Phillips, Anitra Pawley, Eric Lobochevsky, Randy Mager (phone), Toni Lindsey, (phone), Brett Harvey (phone), Joy Khamphanh (phone)

USGS – Larry Brown, Tara Morgan, David Ayers, Oliver Pattan

DSP – Maggie Christman, Karen Kayfetz, Martina Koller (phone)

SWFCA – Kelsey Cowin

SFEI – April Robinson

DSC – Daniel Huang

MWD – Shawn Acuna

USFWS – Heather Swinney (phone)

Stillwater Sciences - Bruce Orr (phone)

UCD – Jim Hobbs

ESA - Ramona Swenson

Bruce Herbold

Introductions/Housekeeping

- Review of meeting notes – August 2016

Announcements

- Alice Low is retiring in late December 2016
- The Tidal Wetlands Project Workteam will post the Framework and all future documents to the IEP website:
http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/about/tidal_wetland_monitoring.cfm

Update on USGS Wetland Study

- Otter trawl and gill net is occurring around Ryer Island and zooplankton sampling is occurring in the North Delta
 - Monitoring is currently planned in Little Holland Tract
- Larry is leading a project to update his 2003 wetland conceptual model paper, with draft manuscript by September, 2017

- David Ayers is putting together a video about their sonar work for the general public for collaboration and feedback
 - They are currently looking to subsample 1900 hours of data
 - Fish species ID has yet to be fleshed out, but their main focus is looking at gross fish movement at various tidal cycles

Introduction to the Delta Conservation Framework

- This framework is being made to ensure Delta conservation continues once Eco Restore is gone
- The group has held two workshops for stakeholders for input and will have two more meetings on Oct. 20 and Nov. 30 from 8:30-12:30 at the Jean Harvie Senior and Community Center, 14273 River Road, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
- The framework is prepared from a landscape view to be used at the local level

Tidal Wetland Monitoring Framework Comment Review

Framework Issue 1: No/limited discussion of adaptive management

- The first three comments relate to adaptive management, such as increasing sampling size to see if the project meets its goals
- If adaptive management is written into the framework it should not be lengthy
 - First step is to re-evaluate sampling to make sure you are accurately describing the problem.
 - Only present adaptive management items that can be accomplished
 - Ramona and Bruce will draft two paragraphs on when adaptive management can be useful, and how to use monitoring data to inform adaptive management.

Framework Issue 2: Need more specifics on triggers

- Is it useful to have specific triggers?
 - We should not suggest numbers
 - Perhaps add text to give guidance on how to derive “trigger numbers” from comparison sites, published studies or other regional monitoring data

Framework Issue 3: Frequency of sampling for various metrics

- We should not change recommendations on sampling frequency. Suggest people evaluate the importance of each metric to their project goals to choose frequency, and recommend increased frequency as a triggered study or special study.
 - This can be a use of adaptive management to evaluate if it’s sampling frequency issue
 - Relate frequency to the importance of the conceptual models (ex. benthic invertebrates for salmon and smelt)?
 - Perhaps walk through the hypotheses and see where this information can be included

Framework Issue 4: The contaminants comments are difficult to address by a monitoring team

- Many of these comments will be addressed by the contaminants team to determine which to address. Rosemary will send comments to the contaminants team, Stacy will set up a meeting.

Framework Issue 5: We won't see regional wide effects from restoration. Should we change the hypothesis stating we will see regional wide effects?

- We should change the wording of the hypothesis, changing "estuary-wide" to "regions with multiple restoration projects."
 - Could parameterize at the local scale to suggest what would happen at an estuary wide scale

Framework Issue 6: No discussion on climate change

- Try to link how data collected be used for climate change
 - Check temperatures over time to see if climate change allow refugia
- Relate to how restored sites adapt to climate change
- Use monitoring data to predict whether sites will be resilient to climate change.
- This can be folded into triggered monitoring

Framework Issue 7: More discussion of tidal cycles and seasonality

- Recommend people take tidal cycles into account when choosing sampling time and frequency.
- Insert a pop-out box for guidance on determining tidal phase in particular areas.
- Include a table with different levels of variability: Tidal, daily, monthly, seasonally, inter-annually.

Framework Issue 8: Do we want SOPs reviewed by the entire PWT team?

- Review should occur on SOPs on the FRP team is least experienced on
- Best to target certain folks for SOP review
- FRP team will prepare a list of SOPs, highlighting those that still need to be drafted or need review.

Conceptual Model Review for IEP Technical Report

- 9 models are ready to go for an IEP Tech Report
 - However, the contaminants conceptual model will need to be reviewed by the PWT before it is submitted to the IEP Science Management Team for review

Tidal Wetland Project Updates – Implementation and/or Monitoring Plans (Tule Red, Dutch Slough, etc)

- Dutch Slough monitoring plan is done and available

- Tule Red officially broke ground 2 weeks ago
- McCormick-Williamson
 - Some clearing has occurred
 - They are waiting for permits to be approved
 - There is money in place for restoration work