

San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Funds (SF Bay WQ Funds) Progress Report (March 2010)

Funding for the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund has been available since 2008 as the result of an annual Congressional appropriation for EPA to administer a partnership competitive grant program that leverages additional funds for the protection and restoration of San Francisco Bay watersheds. EPA has solicited proposals based on sound plans concerning one or more of the following water quality priorities:

- Reducing polluted run-off from urban development and agriculture.
- Implementing TMDLs to restore impaired water quality.
- Protecting and restoring habitat including riparian corridors, floodplains, wetlands, and the Bay.

Congress has appropriated \$17 million since 2008 for this program, and the President's 2011 budget requests \$5 million. In 2010, EPA expects to release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit additional projects to be supported with remaining FY 2010 and potential FY 2011 funds.

EPA R9 has solicited proposals for the SF Bay WQ Funds under two RFPs. The following describes the high quality proposals that have been selected for 87% of the funds appropriated since 2008. These four grants support 27 projects, leverage nearly \$12,000,000 and involve 37 partners.

Estuary 2100 - Resilient Watersheds for a Changing Climate San Francisco Estuary Partnership/Association of Bay Area Governments Total \$11,378,730 (Federal Share- \$4,998,730)

The Estuary 2100 project is implementing nineteen discrete on-the-ground projects by a wide range of partners in 4 different program areas as follows:

- **Wetland and Watershed Restoration**: removal of mercury laden sediment from the Guadalupe watershed (TMDL implementation), restoration of creek banks to reduce stream sedimentation on privately owned lands, focused efforts on invasive *Spartina* eradication and initiation of *Littorina* eradication, and restoration of wetlands at Yosemite Slough in San Francisco.
- **Monitoring Changes in the Bay**: development of adaptive management plans that address climate change effects for wetlands restoration projects at Corte Madera Creek and Pond A8 of the South Bay Salt Ponds.
- **LID and Stormwater BMPs**: identification and quantification of suitable public lands for Alameda County that can be converted from impervious to pervious land cover to manage urban runoff, implementation of easy-to use IPM guidelines for municipal and business sectors to certify their maintenance personnel and pest control contractors to reduce urban creek pesticide related toxicity, and implementation of a green infrastructure improvement project in a low-income San Francisco neighborhood (Bayview).
- **Public Outreach**: a multi-media effort to coordinate information for and among the project's fifteen implementation partners, as well as outreach to local and regional governments, environmental groups, local media, and the general public through a three year public outreach campaign.

Estuary 2100 Phase 2 – Building Partnerships for Resilient Watersheds
San Francisco Estuary Partnership/Association of Bay Area Governments
Total \$6,000,000 (Federal Grant- \$3,611,194)

The Estuary 2100 Phase 2 project will implement seven discrete projects conducted by various partners to reduce polluted urban and agricultural runoff, implement pollution reduction activities included in North Bay TMDLs, and protect and restore vital San Francisco Bay habitats. Partners include lead agencies and organization responsible for water quality and land use, working together in new collaborations and leveraging funds that far exceed the grant's 25 percent requirement. Reducing polluted urban runoff will be accomplished through new LID techniques to be demonstrated in Richmond and Fremont. TMDL implementation is focused on pathogen and sediment reductions in Richardson Bay, Sonoma Creek and the Napa River. Other projects protect and restore estuarine habitat at Yosemite Slough, Corte Madera Marsh and Eden Landing.

Cesar Chavez Street Headwaters Pilot LID Project
City and County of San Francisco Planning Department
Total \$2,240,000 (Federal Grant \$1,200,000)

This project, which enhances a funded streetscape project, will implement a green infrastructure design on a mile long corridor of Cesar Chavez Street in San Francisco, including installation of stormwater planters, run-off reducing improvements, and permeable concrete. The overall goal of the project is to reduce contributions to the combined sewer system, and in doing so, reduce the volume of combined sewer discharges to the Bay. The partners in this project include the SF PUC, the Dept. of Public Works, and the Planning Dept, which intends to use this project to advance the development of a new policy requiring LID improvements as a scope and budget item in traditional infrastructure projects in San Francisco. The project will also coordinate with key community partners.

Clean Watersheds for a Clean Bay (CW4CB)
Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA)
Total \$6,940,000 (Federal Grant - \$5,000,000)

Clean Watersheds for a Clean Bay will use a partnership-driven strategy to take the next step in a multi-year regional effort to reduce loading of sediment-bound pollutants to the Bay and implement the PCBs and mercury TMDL water quality restoration programs. CW4CB will make substantial progress towards reducing annual loadings of PCBs and mercury and will lay the groundwork to fully meeting the TMDL allocations in the future. CW4CB will select five high priority subwatersheds that are contributing PCBs and other pollutants to the Bay, identify PCB and mercury source areas, refer source areas where appropriate to regulatory agencies for clean-up and abatement, coordinate with municipal sediment management activities to enhance removal of polluted sediments, retrofit 8-10 urban runoff treatment facilities to remove polluted sediments, and develop and implement a risk-reduction program for the public.