



- Meeting Notice -

Making Science Work for Suisun Marsh

Sponsored by

**The San Francisco Bay-Delta Science Consortium and
The California Bay-Delta Authority, Science Program**

March 1 (09:00 – 17:00) & 2 (08:30 – 16:30), 2004

1st Floor Auditorium

Employment Development Department Building

722 Capitol Mall

Sacramento, CA

Background and Need:

Suisun Marsh is the largest contiguous brackish water marsh remaining on the west coast of North America. It serves as the resting and feeding ground for thousands of waterfowl migrating on the Pacific Flyway and provides essential habitat for more than 221 bird species, 45 mammal species, 16 different reptilian and amphibian species, and more than 40 fish species. The Marsh supports sensitive plant species such as the Suisun thistle, which is a Marsh endemic and found nowhere else in the world. Marsh management influences salt water intrusion into the Delta from which millions of Californians receive their water supplies. The Marsh's large open space and proximity to vast urban areas makes it ideally suited for wildlife viewing, hiking, canoeing, and other recreation opportunities including a long tradition of waterfowl hunting.

In recent decades, the diversity of wetland management objectives and demands in Suisun Marsh has expanded dramatically and the regulatory environment affecting Suisun has continually evolved. Local land use management efforts to maintain the wetlands and to address degradation have generated conflicts with endangered species programs. The Suisun Marsh Charter was formed to develop a regional plan that balances the goals of the multiple and often conflicting management, and restoration programs such as the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program and endangered species recovery efforts within Suisun Marsh in a manner responsive to the concerns of stakeholders and based upon voluntary participation by private land-owners. It is critical that the best available interdisciplinary science, reflective of the complexity and depth of the wetland ecosystem itself, be integrated into this regional plan.

In response to these needs, the California Bay-Delta Authority Science Program together with the San Francisco Bay-Delta Science Consortium are preparing a Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for 2004 release to support collaborative and integrative scientific research that supports Suisun Marsh resource management needs.

Purpose:

To help ensure that the best available science is driving research, restoration, and management decisions in Suisun Marsh.

Goals:

- Provide a forum to discuss the pressing issues related to science, restoration and management in the Marsh;
- Present and discuss the general state of knowledge of the Suisun Marsh ecosystem;
- Present and discuss resource management needs and constraints in Suisun Marsh;
- Identify gaps in scientific knowledge and provide a basis for prioritizing them for filling based on resource management needs;
- Identify knowledge gaps that have a high potential for inter-disciplinary science and that will promote institutional collaboration in the Marsh;
- Assist the Suisun Marsh Charter Group with their efforts to integrate scientific knowledge into the Suisun Marsh Implementation Plan;
- To generate interest in the upcoming PSP and bring a common understanding of existing science and data gaps to attendees that may be interested in submitting proposals.

Structure:

The main sessions include:

- Introduction and Context
- Physical Systems
- Aquatic Ecology
- Terrestrial Ecology
- Managed Wetlands Challenges
- Tidal Marsh Restoration Challenges

Most of these sessions will be accompanied by the presentation of a relevant conceptual model and alternated with facilitated discussions to provide workshop participants with an opportunity to make general comments and refine the conceptual models. Details on the agenda and other information will be made available on our web-site at <http://www.baydeltaconsortium.org/education/workshops>.

For More Information:

- Visit the Consortium's web-site at <http://www.baydeltaconsortium.org> or contact Ladd Lougee at lougee@earthlink.net or 415-425-7032.
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Pauline Nevins, California Bay-Delta Program at (916) 445-5511, TDD (800) 735-2929.