

# *Meeting Minutes*

## *Environmental Enhancement Committee Meeting*

1330 Broadway, 11th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

11<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

March 14, 2014, 10:30 a.m.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/EnvironmentalEnhancement.asp>

Public comments were to be accepted but no members of the public attended or have commented.

The meeting began at 10:30 AM. In attendance were the three Environmental Enhancement Committee (EEC) members, Sam Schuchat, and Stephanie Tom Coupe, and Tom Cullen (by telephone). Bruce Joab, Cassaundra White, and Kathy Verrue-Slater were also in attendance from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR).

Bruce Joab reviewed the status of the request to increase the annual allotment for the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) grants, and reported that an increase of \$402,000 for FY 14/15 appeared in the Governor's budget. However, the increase in annual allotments for FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 must still go through the formal legislative approval process to be included in the 2014/2015 Budget Bill. We should know in June whether the requested increased allotments for FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 are contained in the 2014/2015 Budget Bill.

Bruce reviewed the status of the Peyton Slough/McNabney Marsh project, the 'Peyton Slough Hydraulic relief Project, a project supporting the restoration of McNabney Marsh'. The project manager has reported a potential \$1 million dollar increase in the project cost, now totaling \$2.5 million for the work. They also reported that they have received no EPA grant money. Some mitigation money may still be available although no firm commitments have been made for such funds. The project manager, Neal Allen, the Assistant District Manager of Mt. View Sanitary District, also recently disclosed that the project was identified as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) pursuant to a settlement with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board concerning an unauthorized sewage spill several years ago. Mr. Allen promised to send a copy of the Water Board Order/Settlement to Bruce. Ms. Kathy Verrue-Slater raised the concern that EEF funds should not be used in lieu of funds that Mt. View Sanitary District is obligated to pay pursuant to the Water Board Order/Settlement. Bruce reported having twice requested a copy of the Water Board Order/Settlement pertaining to the SEP. Bruce will forward a copy of the Order/Settlement to the EEC once he receives and reviews it to determine what the Mt. View Sanitary District is required to pay to implement the SEP. Bruce recommended that, since Neal Allen has stated he cannot start construction until

2015 at this point anyway, that the Committee de-fund the money previously obligated to the Peyton Slough/McNabney Marsh project for FY 14/15.

Bruce reported that seven of the nine top-scoring proposals in the technical review of the 2012 proposals were still viable and in need of EEF funding.

Deliberation by the committee began. Sam Schuchat moved that the EEC defund the FY 14/15 money previously obligated to the Peyton Slough/McNabney Marsh project, but leave in place the money obligated to this project for FY 15/16. Stephanie Tom Coupe seconded the motion and a vote was held. A unanimous vote by the EEC occurred in support of the motion as indicated.

Sam Schuchat moved as follows: (1) to approve the list of viable top-scoring projects below for funding from the Environmental Enhancement Fund in order of priority (starting from the top); (2) to approve funding for each of the projects up to the amount identified in the table; (3) to allow substitute grantees, provided the project remained the same if needed to administer the grant (ie. award to a non-profit entity instead of a federal govt. entity for the same project); (4) to fund the projects in the order listed using FY 14/15 funds and FY 15/16 funds; (5) in the event any of the projects become infeasible from an implementation or administrative standpoint, the money approved for that project may be rolled to the next project down the list; and (6) to apply residual funds available, currently estimated to be \$41,134 in FY 15/16, toward the Sears Point Tidal Restoration Project unless it becomes infeasible.

	Project Title	Grant Recipient	Approved Amount
1	Complete Restoration of Point Reyes North Great Beach Critical Dune Habitat	Point Reyes National Seashore	\$51,659
2	Sonoma Creek Tidal Marsh Enhancement	Audubon CA (Richardson Bay Center & Sanctuary)	\$100,000
3	Sears Point Tidal Restoration Project	Sonoma Land Trust	\$364,466 in FY 14/15, residual amount currently estimated at \$41,134 in FY 15/16
4	Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities and Seabird Habitat Along West Cliff	Oikonos-Ecosystem Knowledge	\$82,481
5	Habitat restoration of coastal strand, dune, and lagoon ecosystems at Manchester State Park	California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)	\$106,711
6	Community Based Restoration on the Fort Ord Dunes State Park Aids Coastal Species	University Corporation at Monterey Bay	\$7,963
7	Restoration of disturbed salt marsh-upland transition in the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge	California Sea Grant Extension Program, Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Funds to be allocated to this project if any of the above become infeasible

Stephanie Tom Coupe seconded the motion, and a vote was held by the EEC. The vote passed unanimously in support of the motion as indicated.

Bruce indicated that CDFW-OSPR would work to prepare the grants for FY 14/15 funding in July, and that he would report back with updates regarding the Peyton Sough/McNabney Marsh project as he received information. Cassaundra said that, if necessary, we would use CDFW's late submittal process to submit the FY 14/15 grants approved today. Bruce reported that he still anticipates doing a new request for proposals (RFP) in Spring of 2015 to solicit projects for grants to be awarded for FY 16/17. Stephanie suggested consideration of a more focused RFP at that time, perhaps targeting a specific geographic region or habitat type, and Sam voiced support for this idea as well.

The meeting concluded and adjourned at 11:42 AM.