

**California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup**  
**September 7, 2023 – AGENDA**  
**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Summary of Action Items**

1. **Finalize charter and upload to CEMW website (under development)**
2. **Send out updated charter and meeting notes/slides to CEMW**
3. **The new co-chairs (Pike and Jan) will reach out to those that voted to participate in workgroups for the priority CEMW work items**
  - a. **#1 Clearinghouse or website of existing monitoring programs**
  - b. **#2 Develop matrices that relate questions to indicators and monitoring approaches**

**Meeting Goals:**

1. Finalize charter, co-chairs and meeting schedule
2. Discuss development of OPC Wetland Action Plan
3. Discuss CEMW priority actions

**Notes**

1. Introductions
  - a. See participant list at the end of the document
2. Recap from March 27, 2023 meeting
  - a. Reviewed history of CEMWs past iteration
  - b. Summarized existing estuary monitoring programs
  - c. Discussed draft charter
  - d. Identified priority work items for CEMW
3. Finalize charter
  - a. The mission of the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW) is to advance the science and practice of estuary monitoring and assessment in California and to improve coordination and information sharing among regional efforts, with local community and tribal organizations, and with the public.
    - i. The main suggestion was to change the language around tribal organizations
      1. Suggest changing tribal organizations with either nations or governments
      2. Counterpoint: There are Indigenous People from non recognized tribes that would be excluded with that language
      3. Another suggestion for the Tribal nations language would be Native American groups and communities
  - b. Charter objectives
    - i. One comment: Adding language specific to climate change – restoration, management, and climate actions

- c. How to move forward
  - i. Edit language around tribal language
  - ii. Add climate change language
  - iii. Publish to website – governing document
  - iv. It's important to note that the Charter is considered a living document
  
- 4. Select co-chairs and set future meeting dates
  - a. Co-chairs through Sept. 2024
    - i. Jan Walker - SCCWRP
    - ii. Pike Spector – OPC
    - iii. Federal or Tribal co-chair?
    - iv. Suggestion: Staggering co-chair terms to ease transition
  - b. Quarterly meetings
    - i. Wed, Dec 13
    - ii. Wed, March 13
    - iii. Wed, June 12
    - iv. Wed, Sept 11
  - c. Length of meetings? Time?
    - i. 2 hour
  - d. Virtual vs in person?
    - i. 3 virtual + 1 hybrid
    - ii. Maybe March for in person – make a longer meeting to allow for travel
      - 1. Make more of workshop – lightning talks
      - 2. Field trip
  
- 5. Development of OPC Wetland Action Plan
  - a. OPC wetland goals are as follows: 1.1.7: Work with partners to ensure an additional 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands will be protected, restored or created by 2025, and increase the acreage of coastal wetlands in California, as defined by the coastal wetlands inventory described below, by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2040. page 9 here: <https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/2020-2025-strategic-plan/OPC-2020-2025-Strategic-Plan-FINAL-20200228.pdf>
  - b. Vision:
    - i. Roadmap for states coastal wetland goals as outlined in OPCs strategic plan
    - ii. Collaborative effort
    - iii. Intersection with multiple climate goals
    - iv. Complement and not override existing regulatory programs and requirements
  - c. Scoping Process
    - i. Bring an outline to OPC council – Dec 12 2023
    - ii. Initiate work on action plan – Jan 2024 – Sep 2024
    - iii. Finalize action plan – Dec 2024
  - d. Reviewed proposed outline for wetland action plan
    - i. Key partners, audience and desired outcomes
    - ii. Terminology definitions
    - iii. OPC goals for Action Plan and cross-walk with other agency plans
    - iv. Recommendation for priority actions by OPC and partners to fill gaps
    - v. Implementation strategies

- vi. Outreach and coordination
- vii. Data sharing, management and information infrastructure
- viii. Tracking progress
- e. General Approach
  - i. Develop prioritization process
  - ii. Determine anticipated accomplishments associated with other plans
  - iii. Identify areas where OPC efforts will be most beneficial
  - iv. Develop implementation strategy
  - v. Adapt existing monitoring efforts to assess effectiveness of the strategy
    - 1. \*\*This is key for CEMW intersection
- f. Comments
  - i. Will there be formal process for public and stakeholder input to affect content of Wetland Action Plan? Will there be peer review of recommended actions/priorities?
    - 1. Yes – the intent is to have a formal process
  - ii. Prioritization – what is being prioritized?
    - 1. How do we want to go about prioritizing activities, funding, opportunities to meet the Wetland Action Plan goals?
    - 2. OPC wants to hear engagement about how to meet those goals
  - iii. We are all drowning in plans. Is OPC reflecting on past plans? What niche is OPC filling in this space? How will this be different?
    - 1. This plan is intended to build off of existing strategic plans, and not to replace any of those. Intention is to help OPC prioritize its funding efforts to meet strategic goals.
    - 2. OPC is planning to act on this plan in the coming year
    - 3. Suggestion to regionalize the action plan
      - a. Identify gaps by region to move things forward
  - iv. Important distinction was made by a CEMW member: OPC was envisioned as a convener among the agencies to help them have the resources and support the communications among sister agencies that are needed in the complex regulatory landscape of the ocean
  - v. It will be important to cross-reference to existing plans and programs such that they are in alignment and standardized as much as possible (e.g., Wetland Recovery Project Regional Strategy, etc.)
  - vi. Vulnerability assessment being done for coastal wetlands?
    - 1. OPC is working on that with SFEI once there is updated basemap
    - 2. Comment: Practitioners really need to understand what is going into those models. A lot of the action plan may hinge on the vulnerability assessment and the action plan should use this information.
      - a. We need to make sure we are interpreting these vulnerability assessments correctly and accounting for wetland processes when setting the targets
  - vii. Comment on tribal and EJ communities - they always want a listening ear. I highly encourage reoccurring outreach via informative webinars and distribution of non-technical reading materials to be shared and meaningfully discussed. Following up and establishing trust with tribes and EJ communities is also key.
  - viii. Are there critical barriers to consider in development of the plan?

1. Outreach and engagement
    2. Conflict with other policies, such as need for housing, coastal access, etc.
  - g. If people are interested in helping out or have comments on the plan, they should contact Sree Gopal - [sreeja.gopal@resources.ca.gov](mailto:sreeja.gopal@resources.ca.gov)
  6. Recap of August 29<sup>th</sup> Estuary Monitoring Workshop
    - a. Disseminate notes and videos to all workshop participants and CEMW
    - b. Use CEMW as a vehicle for coordinating statewide monitoring
    - c. Develop priority work items for CEMW to achieve desired outcomes
    - d. Use workshop to write white paper/manuscript
      - i. Recommendations for establishing and implementing long-term monitoring
      - ii. Schematic linking monitoring back to agency needs and programs
      - iii. Identify key technical and programmatic knowledge gaps
    - e. White paper/manuscript
      - i. Interested in helping – Kevin O’Connor, Caitlin Crain
      - ii. Make explicit: Regulatory agencies are really important
        1. How coordinated estuarine monitoring can streamline project permitting and can take burden off project applicants
        2. Coordinated monitoring can take some of this burden
  7. Priority action items for the workgroup (based on survey results – **link below**, and workshop)
    - a. Ranking
      - i. #1 Clearinghouse or website of existing monitoring programs
      - ii. #2 Develop matrices that relate questions to indicators and monitoring approaches
        1. Helps link the questions – here are the indicators that you could use to answer those questions
      - iii. #3 Develop consistent classification and terminology
- <https://forms.office.com/r/2Qvp6QctAz>

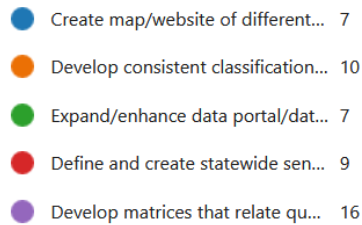
4. Rate the activities you would like to see CEMW prioritize over the next two years

[More Details](#)



5. Which activity would you be willing to contribute to as part of an ad-hoc workgroup?

[More Details](#)



8. Wrap-up and adjourn.

a. Potential agenda items

i. North coast estuarine monitoring – engagement outreach effort, SFEI

1. Wiyot tribe
2. Jen Kalt, director of Humboldt baykeeper
3. Waterboard, Region 1
4. Cal Trout
5. Rosa Laucci with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
6. Hans Voight with Resighini Rancheria
7. Daisy Schadlich with Trout Unlimited

ii. WRP sentinel sites and reference sites

iii. Queue up discussion about potential unified approach to resiliency

b. Follow-up on the website updates

i. Website is still under development

**Participants**

Karl Longley

Jeff Crooks

Karina Johnston

Nick Martorano (he/him) - Water Quality Monitoring Council

Bobby Hayden

Gerald Greene

Nick Martin  
Pike Spector - OPC (he/him)  
Marisa McGrew - Wiyot Tribe  
Kevin O'Connor  
Jan Walker  
Donna Ball  
Dominic Patrick  
Jay Stachowicz  
Rachel Pausch CCC  
Bradley Nussbaum  
Eric Stein  
Pete Kauhanen  
Lydia Vaughn  
Rosemary Hartman  
Tarynn Kimmick  
Ariella Chelsky (SFEI)  
Kerstin Wasson  
Caitlin Crain  
Rachel Smith  
Fadwa Bouhedda EPA  
Tony Gill  
David Hill  
Christina Toms SF Bay Water Board  
Cyndi Dawson  
Nelia White  
Cristina Grosso  
Satoko Mills (The Watershed Project) (Satoko Mills)  
Joanna Wisniewska  
Selina Cole