

Semi-Annual Report: October 2015 - March 2016

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program has moved forward on completing new tasks in the FY16 workplan and continued work on ongoing tasks from prior workplans. All workplans are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Estuary Program's Implementation and Executive Committees. The budget report below shows that our Section 320 expenses under the current grant in the first half of the fiscal year were \$256,073. As of March 31, we have expended 79% of our current 320 grant (started in FY12), with a remainder of approximately \$608,071. The EPA updated the end date of this grant, so it will end September 30, 2016. MBNEP has met 87% of its match requirement for the cumulative grant with cash match and estimated current in-kind contributions (at approximately \$1,689,500).

The Estuary Program requests EPA's continued participation on the Executive Committee and assistance with meeting relevant administrative and programmatic grant conditions. During this reporting period, the Estuary Program completed the site visit portion of its 5-year program review with the EPA. The final program evaluation letter was completed in beginning of the reporting period.

The following table summarizes activities completed during the semi-annual report period. Completed deliverables from the workplan are listed. Activities that will continue into the second half of FY16 are described in the "Pending Deliverables" section. Clean Water Act implementation roles for each task are also listed.

Goals and Tasks	Progress To Date and Deliverables Completed					
5.1 Habitat & Water Q	Quality Protection and Restoration					
Land Conservation FY15 and FY16 Task (Ongoing Task)	 Estuary Program continues to partner with the Land Conservancy on potential land conservation deals in the watershed, with an emphasis on Los Osos Valley. Estuary Program and the Land Conservancy hosted an informational meeting for local landowners to learn about conservation easements and current available funding through Camp San Luis Obispo. The Land Conservancy is currently working to develop easements with interested landowners. 					
	 NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Significant contribution toward Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed Basis 					
Freshwater Flow	 Estuary Program and Trout Unlimited (TU) partnership are in the process of evaluating landowner feedback and considering next steps for water conservation projects in the Chorro Creek valley. 					
FY15 and FY16 Task	• Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE) won a Prop 1 grant to fund collection and analysis of streamflow data to assess conservation project effectiveness.					
	 Completed Deliverables: Co-hosted conservation easement informational meeting with the Land Conservancy. 					
(Ongoing Task)	 Pending Deliverables: Continued landowner outreach in anticipation of developing specific water conservation projects. Completed conservation easements, if warranted by landowner interest. 					

Table 1: Reporting on activities from past six months and planned for next six months

	NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Significant contribution toward Controlling
	Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed Basis and support contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality Standards.
	 Ongoing riparian fence program and conservation easement monitoring continued. Post-project monitoring of stream flow and instream habitat in Pennington Creek
Restoration Maintenance	to show effectiveness of water catchment system at Cal Poly.Eelgrass monitoring for bed condition and other variables.
and Monitoring	 Post-project monitoring of bacteria concentrations to show effectiveness of riparian fencing.
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Completed Deliverables: Pre-project flow monitoring and analysis for Cal Poly Rainwater Harvesting System project. Annual data summary report including analysis of riparian fencing effectiveness.
(Ongoing Task)	 Ongoing photo documenting of Road Erosion Prevention Project. Pending Deliverables:
	 Conservation easement monitoring to be completed for Maino ranch in Spring 2016.
	 NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving Water Quality Monitoring and Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed Basis.
	• Field work continued on Camp SLO and Cal Poly properties. Some sites completed through an agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric. Field work will continue through summer 2016. 57 sites have been completed so far, with 11.2 miles of road treated, and 7,495 cubic yards of sediment diverted from erosion.
Road Erosion Prevention	 Completed Deliverables: o 57 sites and 7,495 cubic yards of sediment diverted per decade.
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Photo documentation. Annual monitoring report. Annual progress report.
(Ongoing Task)	 Pending Deliverables: Future sites and permits and monitoring, as scheduled in grant application. Grant requires a total of 47 sites to be treated.
	 Annual monitoring report. Final site list, treatment, and as-built maps. Final project report.
	 Final site visits with landowners and funder (Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board).
	 NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed Basis.
Eelgrass Restoration	• Estuary Program and partners at Cal Poly applied for funding to conduct research in the bay concerning the recent precipitous decline of eelgrass.
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Eelgrass bed condition monitoring continued. Pending Deliverables: Updated monitoring protocol in partnership with Cal Poly. New data from Cal Poly/CDFW partnership. Bay-wide sonar map of eelgrass beds.
(Ongoing Task)	 Bay-wide sonar map of eelgrass beds. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed Basis.

Chorro Creek Ecological	
Reserve Restoration	• Coordinate with CDFW and consultants to update Ecological Reserve plans and
Planning	permitting to pave the way for restoration work.
1 mining	Pending Deliverables:
FY16	 Updated plans for restoration effort.
	• Required permits for restoration effort.
(New Task)	NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed Basis.
	Participated in Tri-County Fish Team and San Luis Obispo Steelhead Initiative
	meetings.
	Participated in public process for wastewater treatment facility in Morro Bay.
Other Restoration	Participated in sub-committee for planning a boat haul-out facility in Morro Bay.
Efforts	Provided ongoing support for Sweet Springs expansion project. Summer work has focused on invasive species removal.
	• Conducted general outreach on invasive species as part of Estuary Program watershed tours and presentations.
FY15 and FY16 Task	Participated in development of the county-wide Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan. Attended TAC meetings and reviewed draft plan.
	 Completed Deliverables:
	 Attend semi-annual meetings of WMA/Invasive Species Action Network.
(Ongoing Task)	Pending Deliverables:
	o Final conservation planning document.
	NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward <i>Strengthening</i>
	Water Quality Standards and Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) on a Watershed
	Basis.
5.2 Environmental Mor	nitoring and Research
	• Ongoing monitoring in the watershed and estuary to track long-term ambient
	trends and project implementation effectiveness.
Monitoring Program Coordination	• Estuary Program staff coordinated with CA Department of Public Health and local shellfish growers on monitoring related to toxic plankton blooms and bestaria
	bacteria.Completed reporting and record keeping for State Revolving Fund (SRF) grant.
	 Monitoring program staff continued a long-term partnership with Cuesta
FY15 and FY16 Task	College, teaching two college laboratory and lecture sessions in oceanography.
1 119 unu 1 110 1 usk	• Began planning for 2016 macroinvertebrate data collection in the spring of 2016.
	Conducted suspended sediment monitoring during storm events.
	Completed Deliverables:
(Ongoing Task)	o Ūpdated monitoring protocols.
	NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving
	Water Quality monitoring. Significant contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality
	Standards and Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
	Monthly bacteria reports have been completed and distributed on schedule.
Monitoring Program	 Responses to data requests from regulatory agencies and private landowners are completed as requested.
Reporting and Analysis	
Reporting and Analysis	 Completed 2015 data summary report. Completed 2015 sediment monitoring report.
	 Cal Poly student bacteria source identification project on Pennington Creek
	completed. Final report submitted.
FY15 and FY16 Task	Completed Deliverables:
	o Monthly bacteria memos.
	o Data requests.
	o 2015 sediment monitoring report.
(Ongoing Task)	o 2015 data summary report.
	• Final report from Cal Poly bacteria student project.
	Pending Deliverables:
	o Monthly bacteria memos.

	• NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving Water Quality monitoring. Significant contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality Standards and Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
Monitoring Program Data Management	 Data management work included ongoing maintenance of program data in a SWAMP-compatible data format and ongoing maintenance of program Quality Assurance (QA) data. Finished submitting all bioassessment and water quality data through December 2015 into CEDEN. Began data analysis for State of the Bay environmental report card.
FY15 and FY16 Task	Completed Deliverables:
(Ongoing Task)	 Submitted CEDEN data. Pending Deliverables: Continual submittal of CEDEN data. State of the Bay data analysis. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving Water Quality monitoring. Significant contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality Standards and Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
Monitoring Program	• Ongoing Quality Assurance (QA) activities, including analysis of replicate and split samples, equipment calibration, and maintenance of QA-related data in
Quality Assurance	 Access database. Completed Deliverables: Annual QAPP update submission to EPA. EPA Office of QA approval of QAPP update.
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Annual QAPP update submission to CCRWQCB. Management of QA activity data in database.
(Ongoing Task)	 Participation in USGS SLQA sediment quality assurance effort. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving Water Quality monitoring. Significant contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality Standards and Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
Project Effectiveness Monitoring	 Maintained sediment sampling sites for annual monitoring. Conducted upstream/downstream monitoring to assess the effectiveness of bacterial reductions on riparian fencing projects. Completed Deliverables:
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Monthly bacteria memos. 2015 Sediment Monitoring Report.
(Ongoing Task)	 o 2015 Data Summary Report, including flow monitoring data. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving Water Quality monitoring. Significant contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality Standards and Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
Eelgrass Monitoring	 Continued bed condition monitoring. Deliverables for eelgrass research and restoration efforts are listed under Task 2.1.9 (Eelgrass Restoration). Pending Deliverables:
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Pending Deriverables. Bed condition monitoring protocol . NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving
(Ongoing Task)	Water Quality monitoring. Significant contribution toward Strengthening Water Quality Standards and Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads.
Partner Research Efforts	 Coordination and collaboration with Cal Poly, CDFW, NOAA and other partners to research causes of eelgrass decline and related water quality issues.
Partner Research Efforts	 Pending Deliverables: Monitoring results and protocols.
FY16 Task	NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Primary contribution toward Improving

2.3 Public Participation	, Education and Outreach						
	• Weekly blog posted on website and social media platforms, and emailed to subscriber list. (List is currently 99 members.)						
	 Twelve presentations and field trips given, reaching 303 individuals. Continued circulating the Clean Water pledge. We now have more than 640 						
Communications	 Pledges. Continued to increase the number of followers of the Facebook page to 1,030 users. Continued to increase two-way communication with these users, as well as their participation in Estuary Program activities and projects. Estuary Program 						
FY15 and FY16 Task	 also maintained a Twitter feed that currently has 362 followers, and an Instagram feed that currently has 544 followers. Completed Deliverables: 						
(Ongoing Task)	 Blog posts. Website and Facebook statistics. 						
	 2015 Annual Report. Pending Deliverables: Clean Water Pledge follow-up survey results. 						
	 NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs. 						
Education	 Ongoing work to maintain the Nature Center and its exhibits continued in FY16. Nature Docent Program continued for its second summer season. From June to September, 7 docents interacted with more than 380 visitors. The Estuary Program also piloted a fall docent program. From October to March, four docents interacted with 121 visitors. 						
FY15 Task	 5 watershed model demonstrations completed in grades kindergarten through sixth. 						
	 3 college-level field trips and one homeschool field trip completed. 4 summer camp talks given. A talk was given at the Harbor Department's safety presentation for local business owners. 						
(Ongoing Task)	 Completed Deliverables: Nature Center promotional materials and statistics. 						
	NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs.						
Community Grants	 Completed grants during this reporting period: Upgrading a Video Microscope System (Central Coast State Parks Association, \$4,500) Completed Deliverables: 						
FY15 Task	 Completed Deliverables: Grant final reports. Completed education materials from grant results. 						
(Ongoing Task)	 NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs. 						
Outreach for Boating and Harbor Best Management Practices	 Engaged in focused outreach to live-aboard and boating organizations, in conjunction with partners such as the city of Morro Bay Harbor Department. Updated educational materials for distribution. 						
FY 15 and FY16 Task	 Completed Deliverables: Updated educational materials. 						
(Ongoing Task)	• NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs.						
Bay Friendly Recreational Uses	• Support partner efforts to engage people on recreating while minimizing impacts to wildlife.						
FY16	 Pending Deliverables: Docent program materials for program of kayak docents. 						
(New Task)	 NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs. 						
State of the Bay Analysis and Planning	 Began planning for triennial conference/event to share knowledge about the status of the estuary and watershed, to take place in Spring 2017. Began work on data analysis and publication preparation. 						

FY16	Pending Deliverables:					
(New Task)	 Analysis and graphics for State of the Bay report card publication. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward <i>all CWA core programs.</i> 					
Other E&O Tasks/Community Partner Projects	 Thirteen presentations and field trips given in and out of the watershed, reaching 303 individuals. Completed Deliverables: 					
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Completed presentation materials. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core 					
(Ongoing Task)	programs.					
2.4 Program Manageme	ent					
Manage Committees and Build Partnerships FY15 and FY16 Task	• Quarterly meetings of the Implementation Committee and Executive Committee were held throughout the fiscal year. When appropriate, working group meetings were also held prior to committee meetings. Membership was updated for both committees as needed.					
(Ongoing Task)	 Completed Deliverables: Minutes, agenda, staff reports, and materials were completed for each meeting. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward <i>all CWA core programs</i>. 					
Grants and Contracts Administration and Financial Management	• FY16 work for this task included financial reporting, progress reports to the EPA and management conference, and attendance on ANEP conference calls and committees.					
FY15 and FY16 Task	 Completed Deliverables: Monthly financial reports completed and approved by the Bay Foundation board. ANED a sufference cells successful to the Executive Director. 					
(Ongoing Task)	 ANEP conference calls were attended by Executive Director. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs. 					
General Administration and Human Resources Management	 MBNEP requires ongoing financial and administrative functions, including record keeping and filing, bookkeeping, equipment and office space upkeep, as well as interacting with the general public. In addition, the Director spends time managing staff performance and workplan progress. Other HR tasks include training, professional development, recruitment when applicable, and keeping all personnel policies and procedures up to date. The Executive Director and Assistant Director returned from maternity leave in August. The Executive Director departed the program in January 2016. The Assistant Director has taken on the Executive Director role. 					
FY15 and FY16 Task (Ongoing Task)	 Completed Deliverables: Up-to-date bookkeeping records. Public friendly office space. Orderly and properly operating office and field equipment. Bi-weekly staff meetings. Safety meetings held at least monthly. 					
	 Pending Deliverables: Annual audited financial statements, including required Federal Single Audit NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core programs. 					
Tracking Implementation of the CCMP and Work Plan	 Tracking progress on CCMP implementation is done through biannual reports to the Executive Committee and through NEPORT data submissions, and project management. 5-year EPA review continued. Conference call and site visit were completed in Fall 					
FY15 and FY16 Task	2015. Final program evaluation letter finalized.Completed Deliverables:					
(Ongoing Task)	 Biannual Executive Committee reports. Monitoring data summary report. NEP's CWA Implementation Role: Support contribution toward all CWA core 					

programs.

The following table describes costs incurred during the semi-annual report period and cumulative since the beginning of the current Section 320 grant (FY12). Match numbers do not include in-kind match, which is approximately \$1,689,500 cumulatively.

				FY16 Period 1		<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Category	Subcategory	320 Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL	320 Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL
	Salaries	\$171,232	\$12,519	\$183,751	\$1,473,647	\$53,299	\$1,526,946
	Fringe	\$21,291	\$0	\$21,291	\$183,668	\$980	\$184,648
	Management Conference	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel	Subtotal	\$192,523	\$12,519	\$205,042	\$1,657,315	\$54,279	\$1,711,594
Travel		\$5,629	\$0	\$5,629	\$26,796	\$7	\$26,803
	Computers, software	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,609	\$0	\$2,609
	Vehicle maintenance, fuel	\$1,399	\$0	\$1,399	\$6,845	\$0	\$6,845
	Monitoring supplies	\$1,310	\$0	\$1,310	\$17,476	\$2,422	\$19,898
	Misc. office supplies	\$2,943	\$0	\$2,943	\$27,604	\$25	\$27,629
	Rent	\$27,492	\$0	\$27,492	\$232,159	\$0	\$232,159
	Utilities	\$1,697	\$0	\$1,697	\$15,967	\$0	\$15,967
Supplies	Subtotal	\$34,840	\$0	\$34,840	\$302,660	\$2,447	\$305,106
	Audit/Taxes/Accounting	\$7,646	\$0	\$7,646	\$49,070	\$0	\$49,070
	Education and Outreach	\$2,844	\$1,397	\$4,240	\$70,377	\$32,997	\$103,375
	Monitoring and Research	\$2,119	\$421	\$2,540	\$41,866	\$127,134	\$169,000
	Restoration and Protection	\$781	\$27,145	\$27,925	\$45,657	\$491,035	\$536,693
Contractual	Subtotal	\$13,390	\$28,962	\$42,352	\$206,970	\$651,167	\$858,137
	Postage	\$919	\$0	\$919	\$6,771	\$694	\$7,465
	Copying, Printing	\$1,918	\$0	\$1,918	\$14,248	\$384	\$14,632
	Training, Prof. Dev.	\$875	\$0	\$875	\$7,629	\$0	\$7,629
	Telephone, Internet	\$3,551	\$0	\$3,551	\$26,119	\$0	\$26,119
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$895	\$0	\$895	\$10,622	\$34	\$10,656
	Insurance	\$1,533	\$0	\$1,533	\$22,408	\$0	\$22,408
Other	Subtotal	\$9,691	\$0	\$9,691	\$87,796	\$1,112	\$88,909
	TOTAL	\$256,073	\$41,481	\$297,554	\$2,281,537	\$709,012	\$2,990,549

Table 2: Costs expended during this semi-annual report period and cumulative since beginning of grant

The following table breaks down costs by program area and task. Note that not all tasks from the workplan were assigned Section 320 funding. Match numbers do not include in-kind match, as noted above.

		FY16 Period 1	FY16 Period 1	FY16 Period 1	FY16 Overall
Program Area	Project	320 Funds	Match	TOTAL	TOTAL
_	Communications	\$1,843	\$0	\$1,843	\$1,843
	Community Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education and	Community Grants	\$0	\$1,397	\$1,397	\$1,397
Outreach	Education and Nature Center	\$651	\$0	\$651	\$651
	Other E&O Tasks	\$350	\$0	\$350	\$350
	Subtotal	\$2,844	\$1,397	\$4,240	\$4,240
	Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring	\$0	\$421	\$421	\$421
Monitoring	Stats	\$1,029	\$0	\$1,029	\$1,029
and Research	Water Quality Monitoring	\$1,090	\$0	\$1,090	\$1,090
and Research	Eelgrass Monitoring & Analysis	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Subtotal	\$2,119	\$421	\$2,540	\$2,540
	Road Erosion Prevention	\$0	\$751	\$751	\$751
	Restoration & Conservation Planning	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Habitat	Freshwater Flow	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protection and	Restoration Project Maintenance	\$268	\$0	\$268	\$268
Restoration	Eelgrass Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other Restoration	\$513	\$26,394	\$26,907	\$26,907
	Subtotal	\$781	\$27,145	\$27,925	\$27,925
Program Administration		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL	\$5,744	\$28,962	\$34,705	\$34,705

 Table 3: Detailed costs expended by program area and task