
Staff Report

1. Introductions and Updates
2. Public Comment
3. Agenda Revisions
4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of May 8, 2019 Executive Committee (EC) minutes
5. **ACTION:** Recommend approval of Communication Plan Draft (see attached)

In the process of updating our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), we are also updating the accompanying documents that support it, which include the Monitoring Plan, Financial Plan, Conservation Planning Initiative, and Communication Plan. To support update of the Communication Plan, we recently surveyed our partners, including the EC, on what they saw as priorities for communication for our program. These results were incorporated into the Communication Plan and the document was updated to reflect our current messaging.

Staff recommends that the EC approve the proposed draft Communication Plan.

6. **DISCUSSION:** Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan update process

In 2018, the Estuary Program began the process of updating the CCMP. The document was most recently revised in 2012, and thus the time was right to review the document and create an updated version. This CCMP process can either result in a revision (a major overhaul of the document where goals and Action Plans (AP) need substantial changes) or an update (a less involved process where the goals are unchanged and some minor changes are made to keep the AP up-to-date). Since our plan underwent a revision in 2012, we felt that an update was the appropriate level of change for our 2020 version.

This update process has included the following steps:

- Environmental Planning Interns created a database to track our work to determine AP status. Each AP was flagged as ongoing, complete, irrelevant, or needing updating.
- Staff worked with a planning intern to create the edits to the AP.
 - Four AP were eliminated.
 - Four pairs of AP (eight total) were combined into four AP.
 - Eleven AP had minor edits.
- The update process was reviewed with Suzanne Marr to ensure that our approach was in line with EPA's guidance.

The remaining steps in the process are as follows:

- Finalize all text changes.

- Present the update approach to the Technical Advisory Committee in Fall 2019 for approval.
- Present the draft document to the EC in November 2019 for approval.
- Work with a graphic designer to incorporate edits.
- Finalize the document and distribute to partners in 2020.

Note that in addition to updating the CCMP, the program is preparing for the Program Evaluation (PE) by EPA in 2020, creation of our triennial State of the Bay report, and planning of the State of the Bay events throughout Spring 2020.

7. **DISCUSSION:** Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve (CCER) Update

Construction started on the CCER floodplain restoration project on July 8. Since that time, a number of activities have been completed:

- Pre-project biological surveys and trainings were conducted. One turkey nest was present on the site but fledged before work reached its location. One California red-legged frog that was found in a pool in the project area was successfully relocated.
- Temporary creek crossing built (see time lapse video linked on the [EC meeting web page](#)).
- Thirteen steelhead were relocated during the dewatering for the creek crossing installation.
- Project area was cleared and prepped. Grading was started.
- Concrete rip-rap that was in the creek from a previous landowner's effort to shore up the banks was removed.
- The California Conservation Corps has been preparing willow bundles for installation once grading is complete.
- Suitable rootballs have been harvested and saved for installation as woody debris later in the project.

At the meeting, Lexie will provide additional updates and share project photos.

8. **DISCUSSION:** Resource Legacy Fund Project with Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Since February, the Estuary Program has partnered with Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) to implement a project funded by the Resources Legacy Fund to develop projects with private landowners that will improve water quality and reduce erosion and runoff issues. Activities that have been completed include: a landowner workshop on best management practices (BMPs) and funding opportunities; a demonstration of a BMP called keyline plowing that increases soil aeration and water integration on rangeland; and one-on-one site visits with landowners to develop projects. The RCD is working on conceptual designs for three landowners and hopes to develop the projects enough to be competitive for future grants.

9. **DISCUSSION:** Program Highlights

- **Monitoring Updates:** The bathymetry survey is nearly complete. LiDAR was acquired in June and sonar in July. The contractor is seaming these datasets together to create a topo-bathy map of the bay. A draft is expected to be available in late August. The tidal stations were deployed in late July and will be out until late September. This data allows us to calculate the bay tidal prism for comparison to historic data, and the results will be available in the fall. Bioassessment monitoring was completed in May with ten sites monitored throughout the watershed. The bug samples are currently at a lab for sorting, counting, and identification, with data available in September. This project was funded by a grant from the Harold J. Miozzi Charitable trust. Dr. John Perrine's wildlife camera project (funded by a Community Project award) just completed its first of two years.

Monitoring was conducted in Fall 2018 on a private ranch in the Los Osos Valley and in Winter 2019 on CCER. Copies of Dr. Perrine's report will be shared at the meeting.

- **Eelgrass Updates:** Monitoring of the 2019 eelgrass transplanting effort is being conducted by Tenera Environmental. They have successfully completed two rounds of monitoring, with the final rounds scheduled for August and September. Thus far they were seeing better survival of plants from the March planting as compared to the February planting. We believe this is due to the stormy weather that preceded and immediately followed the February work. We are in the process of working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop the permit for restoration work in 2020.
- **Education & Outreach Updates:** The Estuary Program's work related to eelgrass was the cover story in the Tribune on July 22. The article is available online: <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/environment/article232451747.html>. With a three-year grant from the Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust for our Mutts for the Bay program, we are purchasing bags and additional dispensers. We are developing educational materials for elementary and middle school students about the importance of picking up after pets. The curriculum will be launched this fall at local schools and beyond. A new Nature Center exhibit will be installed in early fall on weather, tides, and climate change. It includes a hands-on exhibit to explore how the bay footprint might change with sea level rise.

10. Adjourn to next meeting of November 13, 2019 at 4:00 pm at the Estuary Program offices.

Attachments:

- Minutes from May 8, 2019 EC meeting
- Draft Communications Plan