



Clean Water Action Section 320 Base Funding Grant

Fiscal Year 2026 Semi-annual Report: October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Estuary Program) is a locally driven, non-regulatory program established under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and further supported by the Protect and Restore America’s Estuaries Act (PRAE Act) of 2021. As one of twenty-eight National Estuary Programs (NEPs) across the country, the Estuary Program works in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community stakeholders, to protect and restore the health of Morro Bay and its watershed. The program operates under the guidance of its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) which serves as a strategic framework for addressing key water quality, habitat, and resource management challenges in the region.

The Estuary Program is moving forward on completing new and ongoing tasks in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 320 base funding workplan. All workplans are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Estuary Program’s Executive Committee. The budget report shows that our Section 320 base funding expenses under the grant (Grant Number 98T25101) in FY26 were \$365,208. As of March 31, we have expended 75% of the 320 base funding grant that started in FY22. The Estuary Program has met approximately 201% of its match requirement for the cumulative grant with cash match and estimated current in-kind contributions (at approximately \$8,047,187).

The Estuary Program requests EPA’s continued participation on the Executive Committee and assistance with meeting relevant administrative and programmatic grant conditions.

The following report summarizes activities and deliverables completed during the semi-annual report period for FY26 of October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. As the Estuary Program does not have any subawards under this federal grant, a reporting of subaward monitoring activities carried out under 2 CFR 200.331(d) does not apply.

The Estuary Program received federal grants to implement Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding in January 2023, February 2024, and April 2025. Some of the organization’s work is funded by IIJA but supported and implemented by staff funded through the Estuary Program’s 320 base funding grant. Thus, the status of IIJA-funded efforts is included in this annual report. Deliverables for efforts with project costs other than staff time directly funded by IIJA will be reported in the IIJA annual report.

Habitat & Water Quality Protection and Restoration

The Habitat & Water Quality Protection and Restoration tasks directly support the Core Programs of Section 320 of the CWA by “protecting wetlands,” “addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution,” and “developing the relationship between in place loads and point and nonpoint loading of pollutants to the estuarine zone and the potential uses of the zone, water quality, and natural resources.” These efforts also align with the PRAE Act by supporting habitat restoration projects that “address the effects of recurring extreme weather events on the estuary, including the identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary and the development and implementation of adaptation strategies.”

Through these habitat restoration and protection initiatives, the Estuary Program continues to fulfill its mandate under the CWA and PRAE Act – ensuring that estuarine and watershed ecosystems are resilient, ecologically healthy, and well-managed for the benefit of both natural communities and human use.

Land Conservation

Objective: Conserve land to achieve Management Plan goals as opportunities arise.

Status: Ongoing task

Description: The CCMP calls for protection of ecologically valuable habitats in part to help minimize nonpoint sources of pollution entering the estuary and to promote clean water in the bay. The Estuary Program will work with partners to develop conservation easements with interested landowners in the watershed. The Estuary Program will participate in community efforts within Morro Bay to support open space preservation around the city.

Progress Toward Milestones: The Estuary Program provided support to local nonprofit Save Cuesta Inlet, contributing technical support and funding for the purchase of Cuesta Inlet, a 13-acre bayfront property located in the southern portion of the bay. The Estuary Program will work with the Save Cuesta Inlet group to conduct restoration efforts in this area. The Estuary Program continues to work with The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (LCSLO) to explore potential easement projects in the watershed. The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) is conducting a conservation easement planning effort in conjunction with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to look at Chorro Flats and actions needed to protect nearby critical infrastructure. The CSLRCD is also in contact with private landowners and the City of Morro Bay regarding potential easements. Staff conducted National Estuary Program Online Reporting Tool (NEPORT) reporting of habitat projects. Staff updated the map illustrating protected lands for the 2026 State of the Bay (SOTB) report.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program typically plays a supporting role, providing expertise, funding, or other support for this task. LCSLO is experienced in working with landowners to develop easements and acquisitions, obtaining funds for these deals, and overseeing the monitoring and management of the protected lands. Their role is to serve as the lead, interfacing with landowners and the funders to develop easements and acquisitions. Other partners with interest in land conservation in Los Osos and Morro Bay include Morro Bay Open Space Alliance, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), SCC, Wildlife Conservation Board, Morro Coast Audubon Society, California State Parks, CSLRCD, and private landowners.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: These efforts directly support the task outcome of completing land conservation projects as opportunities arise.

Problems Encountered: None.

Deliverables: Activities described in the semi-annual report (see above).

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to coordinate with the LCSLO and other partners to continue outreach to landowners and support new easements as opportunities arise.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: LP-1 (Protect Special Habitats/Species), LP-3 (Direct Urban Development)

Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring

Objective: Conduct maintenance and monitoring for conservation easements and restoration projects, as necessary.

Status: Ongoing task

Description: The Estuary Program with its partners has implemented multiple complex restoration projects that require ongoing maintenance and adaptive management to protect sensitive habitats.

Progress Toward Milestones: The Estuary Program conducted flow monitoring on Walters Creek following a low-tech processed-based restoration project to improve flows and water quality. Data are collected and shared with partners on a regular basis to assess project performance and guide adaptive management efforts.

Staff are assessing conditions at Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve (CCER) following the storms of winter 2023 that caused significant shifts at the site. Staff hired a contractor to conduct channel surveys and drone flights in September 2024 to better understand conditions at the site and support planning for adaptive management efforts. A final report was completed in December 2024, which highlighted areas needing adaptive management for continued fish passage under low flow conditions. Staff visited the site with CDFW representatives in December 2025 and are planning next steps. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) continues to conduct annual site maintenance such as weed management and annual plant monitoring to track plant success rate.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program often plays a lead role in these efforts, providing expertise and funding. Past partners have included Army National Guard Base Camp San Luis Obispo (Camp SLO), CDFW, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly), Pacific Gas & Electric, California State Parks, and US Forest Service. Their role is to permit land access and maintain project sites.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The accomplished tasks directly support the outcomes of conducting easement monitoring and maintaining landowner communications.

Problems Encountered: None.

Deliverables: Walters Creek data submitted to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network ([CEDEN](#)) and shared with partners.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program is conducting planning efforts to address impacts to CCER from the 2023 winter storms and will design needed adaptation actions. We will also work with partners to address needed restoration maintenance.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: BMP-1 (Agricultural and Grazing BMPs), BMP-2 (Rural Road Erosion), ECR-1 (In-Stream Habitat), ECR-2 (Riparian Corridors), ECR-3 (Wetland Protection and Enhancement)

Other Restoration Efforts

Objective: Engage in other restoration efforts that arise to help achieve Management Plan goals.

Status: Ongoing task

Description: Additional water quality and habitat restoration opportunities often arise in the course of the year that are worthy of immediate attention. This task reserves some staff time for these opportunities. Some examples include riparian fencing, floodplain restoration, low-tech process-based restoration projects to improve site hydrology and water quality, the San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Integrated Regional Water Management efforts, supporting partner restoration projects on private property, and supporting the city of Morro Bay and stakeholders in habitat management efforts.

Progress Toward Milestones: The Estuary Program participated in numerous efforts to meet Management Plan goals. These included participation in the following efforts:

- SLO County and Caltrans effort to replace the bridge over Los Osos Creek on South Bay Boulevard.
- Collaboration and support of CSLRCD restoration of their Los Osos Wetland project, including management of invasives.
- Local invasive management efforts in the estuary, including managing eradication of invasive sea lavender in tidal marsh habitat and iceplant on the sandspit.
- Partnering with University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) on a Climate Adaptation grant to understand state-wide dune vulnerability and restoration, with Morro Bay acting as a pilot project for dune restoration efforts.
- Collaboration with SLO County on management of *Arundo* spp. (giant reed) and mapping invasive riparian species in the Chorro Creek watershed. Surveys of riparian areas in the Chorro Creek watershed were conducted in spring 2024 and 2025 to map and prioritize invasive species management. Two rounds of removal of sticky snakeroot (*Ageratina adenophora*) occurred on San Bernardo Creek with volunteers. Next steps include obtaining funding for invasive removal efforts, with an initial focus on *Arundo* removal.
- Coordinated with Cal Poly to identify future floodplain enhancement and restoration projects along Walters Creek. Staff partnered with Trout Unlimited to develop and implement low-tech process-based restoration projects for middle and upper Walters Creek. Project installations included beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures, and gully erosion repair. Permitting for the project was completed and project was implemented in fall 2025 with adaptive management in spring 2026. The CCCs supported the project

implementation. A prospective floodplain restoration project at the confluence of Walters and Chorro Creeks is also being explored with partners.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program often serves as lead for these types of projects, providing funding, expertise, and oversight. Potential partners include SLO County, the City of Morro Bay, the Los Osos Community Services District (LOCS), CSLRCD, Cal Poly, Camp SLO, the Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board, CDFW, State Parks, Climate Action Initiative Dune Grant Team (which includes CA Sea Grant, UCSB, Point Blue Conservation Science, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), etc.), and others. These partners provide funding, planning, and implementation.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The Estuary Program met the anticipated outputs and outcomes by staying involved in partner efforts related to the estuary and watershed as opportunities arise that support CCMP implementation and partner projects.

Deliverables: Activities described in Semi-annual report (see above). NEPORT reporting.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to continue to participate in the local restoration and management efforts listed above.

Progress Toward Milestones:

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: Depending on project opportunities that arise, work could impact the following Action Plans: BMP-1 (Agricultural and Grazing BMPs), ECR-1 (In-stream Habitat), ECR-2 (Riparian Corridors), ECR-3 (Wetlands Protection and Enhancement), ECR-14 (Support Recovery Plans), ECR-15 (Steelhead Barriers and Habitat), ECR-16 (Invasive Species Action Plan), FWR-5 (Water Conservation)

Conservation and Restoration Project Development

Objective: To develop projects and funding for conservation and restoration.

Status: Ongoing

Description: Often planning, permitting, and initial monitoring must be conducted before a project is eligible for funding. This task reserves some staff time to work with partners to conduct these initial efforts which may support efforts such as stormwater management, BMP implementation, fish passage barriers, projects to address coastal flooding, living shorelines, historical ecology, and implementing the Habitat Protection & Restoration Strategy (HPRS).

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff work closely with multiple partners from the watershed and beyond to develop conservation and restoration efforts to help meet CCMP goals.

The Estuary Program partnered with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) on a transportation planning grant to study protection of important infrastructure from extreme weather events on South Bay Boulevard (the only road directly connecting the City of Morro Bay and the community of Los Osos) and adjoining roads that ring the estuary. The grant also supports expanding the existing baywide circulation/flooding model. The Estuary Program developed a match contract with the CSLRCD in fall 2025 for an SCC grant to model lower Chorro Creek flooding due to extreme weather events. The project will also consider potential solutions to flooding in the lower Chorro Creek area. Staff are engaged in ongoing stakeholder meetings associated with both projects.

Estuary Program staff also coordinated with the LCSLO on a potential easement to ensure coastal access in Los Osos.

Estuary Program staff are working with San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) to complete a historical ecology study of the lower Morro Bay watershed and areas surrounding the bay. The project will document landscape conditions prior to recent Euro-American modification, providing information to inform management and restoration planning that will enhance habitat resilience. Using compiled maps, textual accounts, photos, and sketches, SFEI has completed a final map of habitat conditions and a draft report. A final report will be completed in spring 2026.

Staff are continuing to work with partners on identifying potential fish passage barriers to address in the watershed.

Researchers at Cal Poly are monitoring the presence of native Olympia oysters within Morro Bay. In addition, through a partnership with Grassy Bar Oyster Company, Cal Poly researchers are continuing to track survival and growth of native Olympia oysters in an estuarine shellfish aquaculture setting.

The Estuary Program partnered with Trout Unlimited and the CCC to implement a floodplain improvement project along Walters Creek. Forty structures were installed including beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures, and headcut treatments to support sediment capture and groundwater recharge. Staff also supported all project planning, contracting, and permitting efforts.

Staff also worked with Cal Poly to begin surveys for a road crossing improvement project within the Walters Creek watershed. A consultant was hired to complete designs in fall 2025.

Staff is working with the LCSLO to complete the permitting, cultural resources, and conceptual designs for a community trail through the Quail Hallow Preserve along Ramona Avenue in Los Osos.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program often serves as a lead for these types of efforts, including the historical ecology study. The primary partners for landowner best management practices are the CSLRCD and the National Resource Conservation Service. Instream flow projects could potentially include Creek Lands Conservation with the role of winning and managing funding and providing technical expertise; the CCC, who would contribute technical expertise, materials, and field support; and potential landowners. The primary partners for the steelhead habitat efforts are the city of SLO, and CDFW with the role of providing technical expertise; the CCC, who would contribute technical expertise, materials, and field support; and the city of SLO who would provide technical expertise. For conservation planning and invasive species management, primary partners include California State Parks, UCSB, and SLO County, who provide technical expertise and field support. Partners for stormwater projects include Camp SLO, the CSLRCD, and the CCC. Partners on energy-related projects

include the City of Morro Bay, SLO County, and the Coastal Commission. These entities take on the role of providing guidance and oversight as these efforts develop. Partners on oyster restoration projects include Sea Grant, Cal Poly, The Nature Conservancy, and Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve as technical resources, and local oyster farms as research partners. Camp SLO, as a landowner and funding partner, will be involved in developing stormwater projects on the base. Potential partners for water conservation efforts include Creek Lands Conservation (technical resource) and Camp SLO and Cal Poly as potential partners and landowners. Potential partners for public access projects include LCSLO and State Parks.

Deliverables: Activities described in this Semi-annual report (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Working with partners such as the CSLRCD to provide resources and support to private landowners and agency partners with the end goal of implementing projects to improve water quality.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to work with partners to further the progress of stormwater management and water conservation projects. The Estuary Program will work with partners to review and finalize the historical ecology habitat map.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: Depending on project opportunities that arise, work could impact the following Action Plans: BMP-1 (Agricultural and Grazing BMPs), ECR-1 (In-stream Habitat), ECR-2 (Riparian Corridors), ECR-3 (Wetlands Protection and Enhancement), ECR-14 (Support Recovery Plans), ECR-15 (Steelhead Barriers and Habitat), ECR-16 (Invasive Species Action Plan), FWR-5 (Water Conservation)

Fisheries Management

Objective: To implement projects to benefit native species and other opportunities as they arise.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program works to protect and restore habitat, water quality, and water quantity to support steelhead recovery in the watershed. The program conducts projects to manage invasives, study steelhead, and restore habitat.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff conducted a fall 2025 management effort for invasive pikeminnow, which prey on steelhead populations.

A steelhead growth and tracking study has continued in Chorro Creek. Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags were inserted into netted steelhead, and antennae arrays were set up in lower Chorro Creek. The movement of steelhead are tracked as they move from Chorro Creek into the estuary and back again. This movement of steelhead was measured during the storms of late 2024 and early 2025, which indicated that steelhead in Chorro Creek were making their way out to the estuary and then returning to the creek. Fish that are re-captured after the initial PIT tagging are measured to assess growth rates over

time. Monitoring will continue with partners through winter 2026. Staff partnered with the CCC to support PIT tagging maintenance and general fisheries field support.

Staff reviewed the results of the 2023 to 2024 bay fish monitoring efforts and shared results with partners and the public. The data was highlighted in the 2026 SOTB report and data dashboard, and it will be shared with the public at SOTB events.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program has been the lead for these efforts, providing funding and project oversight. The primary partners for this work include Stillwater Sciences who holds the permit for implementation; the CCC who provides technical input and field support; CDFW who provides technical support; and USFWS who offers project oversight and issues the permit for the work. CDFW is a landowner in the watershed and has funded fish-related work in the past.

Deliverables: None.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Control of the invasive pikeminnow population and a better understanding of sustainable ratios of pikeminnow to steelhead that support steelhead recovery. Improved understanding of steelhead use of lower Chorro Creek helps inform locations for future potential management actions that improve flows, fish passage, and water quality.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Continue tracking of tagged steelhead movement in Chorro Creek. Conduct pikeminnow management work in Chorro Creek.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: ECR-14 (Support Recovery Plans), ECR-15 (Steelhead Barriers and Habitat), ECR-16 (Invasive Species Action Plan)

Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment tasks directly support the Core Programs of the Section 320 CWA, including “establishing water quality standards,” “identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them,” “addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution,” “protecting wetlands,” and “protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program.” These efforts also align with the mandate of the PRAE Act by “addressing the effects of recurring extreme weather events on the estuary, including the identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary and the development and implementation of adaptation strategies,” and by “increasing public education and awareness of the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary.” Through these monitoring and assessment initiatives, the Estuary Program fulfills its role under Section 320 of the CWA – providing critical information to protect water quality, manage natural resources, and support the long-term health of the Morro Bay estuary and watershed.

Monitoring Program Coordination

Objective: Continue coordination of the Monitoring Program and collect data that meets Quality Assurance Project Plan guidelines.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program conducts monitoring throughout the watershed and estuary with the goal of tracking changes in ambient conditions and assessing impacts of implementation efforts. This work is supported by a dedicated corps of volunteers, which allows for expanded monitoring efforts. This task includes monitoring coordination, volunteer recruitment and training, equipment maintenance, and program management tasks.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff conducted monitoring in the watershed and estuary to track long-term ambient trends and project implementation effectiveness. During the first half of FY26, the following occurred:

- Staff continued to work with long-time volunteers and trained new volunteers to conduct monitoring to support understanding of bay and creek health. Staff and volunteers conducted the following monitoring in the first half of FY26: 38 trips for bay water quality, 93 for bacteria, 133 for creek water quality, 8 for recreational use, 14 for phytoplankton, 14 for freshwater seeps, 7 for eelgrass, and 4 for toxicity.
- Staff coordinated with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local shellfish growers on monitoring related to storm flows and bacteria. This included monitoring bacteria in Chorro Creek, Upper Los Osos Creek, and Warden Creek. Staff also monitored nitrates in the freshwater seeps along the bay shoreline to track improvements in water quality following the Los Osos Water Reclamation Facility coming online.
- Staff continued a long-term partnership with Cuesta College, providing lecture and class materials for an oceanography course.
- Staff continued a bacteria monitoring effort in partnership with the Cuesta College Biology Department. Cuesta students completed their fall 2025 semester of monitoring and began the spring 2026 semester work. The partnership continues the Estuary Program's long-running ambient bacteria data set while providing monitoring and research opportunities for local community college students. Students are utilizing Estuary Program's historical data set for independent analysis and research projects.
- Staff monitored sites watershed-wide for nutrients every other month to track long-term trends.
- Staff monitored water quality conditions monthly at three sites to assess impacts from agricultural land use.
- Staff maintained a network of water depth sensors to track flows year-round.
- Staff conducted the annual fall eelgrass transect monitoring to assess long-term eelgrass health.
- Staff trained and coordinated volunteers for phytoplankton monitoring in the bay in partnership with a Cal Poly researcher to better understand phytoplankton dynamics and the impacts on local shellfish farms.
- Staff managed a monitoring effort to track recreational use at popular spots around the estuary. This data helps in estimating the economic value of recreational use of the bay.
- Staff deployed continuous monitoring sensors to measure temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, chlorophyll-a, and conductivity at watershed sites.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program served as the lead for all monitoring efforts other than the bacteria monitoring for shellfish farming where CDPH served as the lead and the Estuary Program provided funding. Primary partners in the Estuary Program monitoring efforts include the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB), whose Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) lends technical advice, monitoring equipment, and field support. Landowners such as California State Parks, Cal Poly, Camp SLO, SLO County, the City of Morro Bay, and numerous private landowners are also partners, allowing access on their land for monitoring. Cuesta College provides technical support, access to their property, and lab space. The Estuary Program works with several partners to coordinate and support Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) Corpsmembers including the CCC, Creek Lands Conservation, the City of SLO, and AmeriCorps. CDPH is responsible for water quality in shellfish growing areas, and the program utilizes Estuary Program data to support their work. Program coordination follows the approved QAPP and data is submitted to the CEDEN database.

Deliverables: A quality dataset that meets the parameters outlined in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Activities described in Semi-annual report (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities for this task involved collecting and sharing data, resulting in an increased understanding of the long-term trends in ambient water quality in the watershed and estuary.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to conduct the following types of monitoring: creek water quality (including continuous monitoring, bimonthly nutrient monitoring, and monthly agricultural site monitoring), creek and bay bacteria, bay water quality, seeps water quality, water toxicity, streamflow, phytoplankton, recreational use, eelgrass monitoring, macroalgae monitoring, and bioassessment monitoring.

Pending Deliverables: A high-quality dataset submitted to CEDEN for widespread use.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities)

Monitoring Program Reporting and Analysis

Objective: Analyze data and share results with grantors, partners, local landowners, and the public.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program continuously compiles and analyzes program-generated data to assess long-term trends and project-specific effects on water quality and other indicators of environmental quality. These analyses are shared with program partners, local landowners, and the general public to help inform decision-making. The task also includes responding to data requests from partners, landowners, and others.

Progress Toward Milestones: Estuary Program staff compiled data in formats appropriate for various audiences, including academic classes, researchers, regulators, landowners, and the general public. Staff responded to requests for program-generated data. Several blog posts on monitoring-related topics were created over the year, including popular “Field Updates” posts that provide a rundown of what staff have been up to in the estuary and watershed. Analysis is underway on creek water quality, eelgrass, and sediment data.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead on these efforts, compiling and analyzing data and documenting it in memos and reports. Primary partners in the reporting and analysis of monitoring data include the CCRWQCB, whose CCAMP lends technical advice to the program, and the Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory (MPSL) at UC Davis Granite Canyon, who supports toxicity lab data management and entry to CEDEN. Public and private landowners make use of the data in their own land management and monitoring efforts. Cal Poly also lends technical expertise.

Deliverables: Activities described in Semi-annual report (see above). Example monthly bacteria memo. [State of the Bay 2026 \(print version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(online version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(data dashboard\)](#). [Sediment Report for WY2024](#). [Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment Memo for WY2025](#).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities conducted under this task involved analyzing and sharing data and results with partners, landowners, and the general public. These activities directly support the task outcome of making analysis available for others to support their own efforts to protect and restore Morro Bay and its watershed.

Problems Encountered: None.

Upcoming Activities: The Estuary Program plans to respond to requests for data, create blog posts to share data, and compile bacteria, water quality, and eelgrass data to share monitoring results.

Pending Deliverables: Eelgrass report for 2024. Sediment report for WY25. Creek Health and Bay Health memos for WY25.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities)

Monitoring Program Data Management

Objective: Maintain data in Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)/CEDEN-compatible format.

Status: Ongoing

Description: This task includes the on-going maintenance of program-generated data in a state-compatible data format. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) program to increase usability and compatibility of water quality data from various sources. Data is quality controlled and entered into a SWAMP-compatible database to increase access for groups, including the general public, throughout the state. Estuary Program data will

be submitted to CEDEN for inclusion in the next Integrated Report for the Central Coast Region.

Progress Toward Milestones: Estuary Program staff prepared monitoring data and completed submittal to SWAMP/CEDEN. Staff attended CEDEN working group meetings to help prepare for upcoming changes to the data management system. Data through the end of calendar year 2025 has been submitted to CEDEN. Staff are preparing 2026 data for submittal to CEDEN.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program has the lead role in data management efforts. Primary partners in the Estuary Program monitoring effort include the CCRWQCB, whose CCAMP lends technical advice and data management support to the program, and MPSL who supports toxicity lab data entry to SWAMP/CEDEN. SWRCB is a partner, providing support for the state's CEDEN system.

Deliverable: Activities described in Semi-annual report (see above). Data submittal to [CEDEN](#).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities such as storing and submitting data accomplished the outcome of making available to the public and state a high-quality data set that supports Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis, 303(d) assessment, land management, etc.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program will continue to manage data and work with the SWRCB and MPSL to upload data to CEDEN.

Pending Deliverables: Submittal of 2026 data to CEDEN.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities)

Monitoring Program Quality Assurance

Objective: Update and submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), work with reviewers to approve document, and implement necessary quality assurance measures.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The monitoring program maintains a QAPP, approved by EPA, which documents the program's monitoring methodologies, sites, and equipment. This task includes ongoing tasks conducted by staff to ensure data quality and update of the program's QAPP.

Progress Toward Milestones: The Estuary Program continues to implement the quality assurance (QA) measures described in the QAPP to ensure data quality. Staff completed the 2026 QAPP update in March 2026, which included four addenda to the QAPP for short-term monitoring efforts: phytoplankton, bay genetic analysis, bay fecal coliform monitoring, and a geophysical study. The documents were submitted to EPA's Office of Quality Assurance (QA) and are currently under review.

The Estuary Program will also submit the documents to the SWRCB QA Officer and the CCRWQCB QA Officer for review and approval.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead in developing and implementing the QAPP and any QA measures. The EPA Region 9 Office of QA is the primary partner, providing oversight of the QAPP and technical assistance. The SWRCB QA Officer also provides review and oversight of the QAPP. Other partners include laboratories that analyze Estuary Program samples and partners conducting monitoring in the area such as the CCRWQCB's CCAMP, Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., the Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory (MPSL), and others. These partners provide advice and technical support.

Deliverables: Activities as described in this Semi-annual report (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: An accurate and up-to-date QAPP document directly supports the task outcome of producing a high-quality data set to support efforts throughout the watershed, including 303(d) and TMDL assessment.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will conduct the QA measures needed to ensure the quality of program-generated data. Staff will create any additional addenda as needed for 2026. Staff will begin compiling updates for the 2027 QAPP.

Pending Deliverables: Approval of the 2026 QAPP update and four addenda.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities)

Project Effectiveness Monitoring

Objective: Complete monitoring to demonstrate project effectiveness for various restoration projects.

Status: Ongoing

Description: Many monitoring efforts to demonstrate effectiveness of restoration or other projects are conducted by program staff (rather than volunteers) due to safety concerns, technical challenges, or a landowner's request. This task encompasses protocol development and monitoring work that falls into this category.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff conducted monitoring of the freshwater seeps at the bay's edge to assess the impacts of the Los Osos Water Reclamation Facility. Staff conducted flow monitoring on Walters Creek to support the development of a flow-discharge relationship following installation of low-tech process-based restoration structures which are intended to trap sediment and increase surface water flows.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program serves as the lead in data collection, QA, management, and sharing. Project partners include landowners or responsible entities such as Cal Poly. Project partners lending expertise and funding include Trout Unlimited, Creek Lands Conservation, CDPH, local oyster farms, and others.

Deliverables: Activities as described in the Semi-annual report (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The activities under this task support the outcome of conducting monitoring and developing analysis that informs future management and restoration efforts.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to continue monitoring the seeps. Staff will coordinate with Trout Unlimited on monitoring to assess surface flows and support restoration and adaptive management efforts. Staff will coordinate with Cal Poly researchers on future monitoring and potential publications. Staff will also communicate with project partners to share data results and coordinate efforts.

Pending Deliverable: Submittal of data to [CEDEN](#).

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities)

Eelgrass Monitoring and Research

Objective: Monitor eelgrass to determine its condition and distribution in the bay.

Status: Ongoing

Description: Eelgrass monitoring is conducted to aid efforts to protect and restore eelgrass habitat. The Estuary Program will engage experts and agency participants to help inform the monitoring approach. This task also involves a component of research collaboration with partners to understand eelgrass stressors.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff coordinated with Cuesta College faculty on their eelgrass research efforts. This includes genetic analysis of the prokaryotic and wasting disease slime mold communities in Morro Bay eelgrass. Cal Poly conducted drone flights in December 2025 and January 2026, and analysis is underway to create a baywide eelgrass map. Staff is working with Cal Poly to develop a project and contract for drone flights in late 2026 and early 2027. Staff developed a 2025 baywide eelgrass mapping effort, and data collection via sonar and drone were conducted in the April to June 2025 timeframe. Map creation is underway with a draft expected in spring 2026. Staff are working to complete the 2024 Eelgrass Report.

The Estuary Program is embarking on a project with UC Davis and other partners to study eelgrass genetics with funding from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). Contract development is underway, with work expected to begin in the summer 2026.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead for all efforts, providing funding, project oversight, and expertise. Project partners include Cal Poly, whose expertise is supporting expanded monitoring and research efforts to study eelgrass, sedimentation, bay circulation, and water quality. Cuesta College conducts research related to wasting disease and eelgrass health. Other partners include CDFW, a potential funder for the effort and the entity overseeing permits for some eelgrass-related work. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), USFWS, and others have provided funding and technical support for the effort. EPA provides both funding and technical support. UC Davis is a partner in an upcoming eelgrass genetics project, funded by OPC. Secondary partners with an interest in eelgrass in Morro Bay include the SCC, the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP), the City of Morro Bay, State Parks, local oyster farms, the Black Brant Group, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and local businesses.

Deliverables: Monitoring activities documented in the Semi-annual report (see above). [State of the Bay 2026 \(print version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(online version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(data dashboard\)](#).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Monitoring and planning for mapping efforts as well as working with research partners all support the outcome of better understanding eelgrass stressors and dynamics. This improved understanding directly supports the outcome of development of restoration and monitoring strategies and goals.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will complete the 2024 eelgrass report. Staff will share the results of 2025 eelgrass mapping and monitoring efforts. Staff will conduct 2026 eelgrass mapping and monitoring efforts. Staff will complete summer macroalgae monitoring to track its presence throughout the bay and how it changes over time. Staff will communicate with the ACOE on spring dredging of the bay mouth to support efforts to ensure that the work does not negatively impact sensitive species and habitats in the bay.

Pending Deliverables: Baywide eelgrass map for 2025. Eelgrass report for 2024. Eelgrass report for 2025.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities), ECR-7 (Eelgrass Data and Research), ECR-8 (Eelgrass Restoration)

Partner Research Efforts

Objective: Support science partners in pursuing research efforts relevant to the goals of the Estuary Program.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program collaborates with partners to facilitate research projects through data sharing, the pursuit of project development, and contributed time.

Progress Towards Milestones: Estuary Program staff coordinated and collaborated with Cal Poly, CDFW, NOAA, Cuesta College, ACOE, the City of Morro Bay, and other project partners to research bay eelgrass and related water quality issues. This includes the following:

- Staff sought results of research efforts in Morro Bay and other relevant coastal areas related to nutrients, macroalgae, sedimentation, bay water quality, and other data.
- Staff coordinated with Cal Poly on bay water quality monitoring efforts.
- Staff collaborated with partners such as Cal Poly and the USGS on future research efforts related to eelgrass, extreme weather events, and marsh habitat.
- Monitoring of sediment accretion and water levels was conducted to support a project with the USGS to study impacts of ocean water levels and storms on the tidal marsh habitat.
- Staff coordinated with Cal Poly to complete the 2025 to 2026 drone flights and to plan for the 2026 to 2027 drone flights.
- Staff collaborated with a Cal Poly team on a modeling project to automate eelgrass classification from drone imagery.
- Staff coordinated with researchers from Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup, the Estuary Marine Protected Area (EMPA) monitoring effort, EPA, and others on potential collaborative monitoring efforts.
- The Estuary Program has coordinated with Cal Poly on numerous ongoing monitoring efforts, including bay nutrient monitoring, Olympia oyster research, microplastic research, and phytoplankton monitoring.
- Staff coordinated with CDPH on a project to sample shellfish growing waters following storms. The data will help CDPH determine whether the current rainfall closure guidelines are still relevant or whether they need to be updated.

Research efforts conducted in the Morro Bay estuary and watershed include:

- USGS tidal marsh elevation and plant species monitoring to help assess future impacts from changing ocean water levels and extreme weather events.
- Cal Poly research on the impact of crabs on eelgrass.
- Cal Poly research on microplastics in Morro Bay.
- Cal Poly research on Olympia oysters in the bay.
- Cal Poly research on bay nutrient levels.
- Cal Poly research on bay phytoplankton populations in water and sediment.
- Cuesta College research on impact of *Labyrinthula spp.* wasting disease on eelgrass.
- Cuesta College genetic research of prokaryotic populations on eelgrass.
- Cal Poly research on water quality in Morro Bay, in partnership with CeNCOOS.
- EPA analysis of bay water quality data throughout the NEPs.
- California Estuary Marine Protected Area (EMPA) efforts to coordinate monitoring and research throughout the state.

We also track research that is occurring elsewhere but is relevant to Morro Bay.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead on the USGS tidal marsh elevation project. The Estuary Program served as a funder for the Cal Poly drone flights, bay nutrients, bay phytoplankton, Cuesta College genetic analysis, and CeNCOOS sensor arrays. Cal Poly is a primary partner and technical lead in these joint efforts. Cal Poly will conduct monitoring of water quality parameters, eelgrass mapping, and analysis. Other research collaboration partners have included SCCWRP, USGS, Cuesta College, and the Central Coast Wetland Group, all who serve as technical resources.

Deliverables: Water quality data collected by Cal Poly and shared on the CeNCOOS web portal for the [front bay](#) and [back bay](#). Activities as described in this semi-annual report. [State of the Bay 2026 \(print version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(online version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(data dashboard\)](#).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Coordination with research partnership efforts directly supports the task outcome of improving understanding of resources in order to better target efforts such as monitoring and restoration.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will coordinate with Cal Poly, Cuesta, and other partners on ongoing research efforts. Staff will continue to work with USGS staff on salt marsh monitoring.

Pending Deliverables: Eelgrass report for 2024.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities), ECR-7 (Eelgrass Data and Research), ECR-8 (Eelgrass Restoration)

State of the Bay Analysis

Objective: Conduct analysis of trends and project effectiveness data for the triennial State of the Bay (SOTB) environmental report card.

Status: Ongoing

Description: Every three years, the Estuary Program creates a SOTB report card to share knowledge of the latest science on the status of the estuary and watershed in terms of clean water and healthy habitats. This report provides data and summary information on the state of the estuary and watershed according to a suite of environmental indicators. Staff compile data, conduct analysis, and develop the final version of the report for printing and distribution. Staff compile additional content for the online version of the report and for a SOTB data dashboard.

Progress Towards Milestones: Estuary Program staff worked throughout FY25 and early FY26 to compile data, conduct analysis, and develop text and infographics for the 2026 SOTB report. Staff reached out to partners to gather all available data sets focused on restoration, research, and monitoring. Staff completed compilation of content for the printed report and distributed it in early 2026. Staff completed

the online version of the report as well as a data dashboard to promote further understanding and interactions with the results.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead on the SOTB effort. Project partners include the monitoring partners who share their data and expertise with the Estuary Program. These include CDPH, CCAMP, the Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., CDFW, Cal Poly, Audubon, USGS, shellfish farmers, environmental consultants, and community members.

Deliverables: [State of the Bay 2026 \(print version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 \(online version\)](#). [State of the Bay 2026 Data Dashboard](#).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Sharing data and analysis enhances understanding of progress in watershed and estuary health. The results update EPA and other partners on the state of Morro Bay and the lands that surround it. Results can also support management of habitats and development of future monitoring, restoration, and education efforts.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Distribute report. Present results to the public.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: MON-1 (Support Development of TMDLs), MON-2 (Monitor Environmental Indicators), MON-3 (Monitor Project Effectiveness), MON-4 (Maintain VMP), MON-5 (Support Partners), MON-6 (Support Research Activities), EO-1 (Public Education & Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay)

Public Participation, Education and Outreach

The Public Participation, Education and Outreach tasks directly support the Core Programs of Section 320 of the CWA by “protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program.” These efforts ensure that residents, visitors, educators, and community members have the knowledge and tools to actively participate in the protection and stewardship of Morro Bay. Additionally, stewardship activities align with broader CWA goals by addressing nonpoint source pollution and promoting community-driven conservation actions. Efforts also align with the PRAE act to “increase public education and awareness of the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary.” Through these education and outreach efforts, the Estuary Program advances the objectives of the CWA and the PRAE Act by fostering environmental awareness, promoting science-based stewardship, and ensuring the long-term protection of the Morro Bay estuary and its watershed.

Communications

Objective: Communicate with a variety of audiences using presentations, printed materials, online presence, social media, and other avenues.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program's Education & Outreach program conducts regular communication with a variety of audiences to broaden understanding and increase stewardship. This is conducted with tools such as the program website, blog, social media, reports, newsletters, news releases, and events.

Progress Toward Milestones: Estuary Program staff regularly conducted the following communications tasks in the first half of FY26:

- Created regular blog posts that were shared via email, website, and social media. 531 subscribers receive the blog via email approximately twice a month. The blog is posted on Facebook and Instagram. Popular blog posts have as many as 2,500 reads, not including subscribers. In the first half of FY26, staff posted 16 blogs.
- Developed fall, winter, spring, and summer issues of a quarterly newsletter that was posted on the website, delivered to over 256 email subscribers, and distributed on social media channels.
- Maintained a Facebook feed for the Estuary Program that currently has 3,463 followers. Utilized two-way communication with these users, such as recognition of beach cleanup participants, partners, and volunteers. The Facebook content received over 316,000 views in the first half of FY26.
- Maintained an Instagram feed for the Estuary Program that currently has 4,200 followers. Instagram content received over 167,000 views in the first half of FY26.
- Maintained a LinkedIn account with 553 followers.
- Five news stories were published that mentioned Estuary Program-specific content and projects in the watershed.
- Continued updates on the program website to refresh current content. In the first half of FY26, the website had over 22,000 visits and 40,000 page views.
- Continued a Science on Tap science talk series that rotates among different venues around the watershed and county. Staff hosted two Science on Tap Events. One was focused on environmental education on the Central Coast and included talks from multiple partner organizations. The second Science was a trivia night based on findings from 2026 SOTB report. Both events had over 20 participants. Staff tabled at community events, including Wiggle Waggle, Maritime Museum event, farmers markets, and others.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead in these communication efforts. Partners in Estuary Program communication efforts include the City of Morro Bay, SLO County, the Morro Bay Natural History Museum, California State Parks, the San Luis Obispo Marine Protected Area Collaborative (SLOMPAC), and others. These partners provide resources and expertise, promote Estuary Program events, and share our materials and message with the public.

Deliverables: Blog posts published on a regular basis at www.mbnep.org/blog. Website and social media statistics (see above). Relevant news stories available online and press releases submitted at www.mbnep.org/news. Quarterly newsletter at <http://www.mbnep.org/newsletter>.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The activities listed above enhanced communication with residents, visitors, and the general public. This works toward the task outcome of increasing their understanding of their roles as stewards of the estuary and encouraging behaviors that protect clean water.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to continue the communication tasks outlined above including blog posts, published reports, seasonal newsletters, and event promotion.

Pending Deliverables: Regular blog posts and newsletters. News stories posted to website.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: EO-1 (Public Education and Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay), EO-3 (Nature Center), EO-4 (Formal Education Programs)

Education

Objective: Develop partnerships and services to support formal education and other education efforts.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program will continue working with partners to integrate estuary and watershed-focused activities into formal educational programming. Working with partners, the program will support expanded field trip and classroom education opportunities. The program will provide training to docents, online education resources, and other efforts. Staff will work with partners to design and host the fourth annual teacher training workshop.

Progress Toward Milestones: Efforts to support education in the first half of FY26 included the following:

- Hosted 20 field trips in various locations around the watershed for school groups and youth organizations, reaching about 450 individuals. Topics included watershed ecology, local wildlife, nature journaling, tide pooling, and estuarine habitats.
- Presented to Cuesta College classes on water quality monitoring, the Estuary Program, and science careers that reached 43 students.
- Held one outing to the Elfin Forest with adults from the Transitions Mental Health Association to share information about the Morro Bay watershed and habitats. This reached 15 participants.
- Staff are active participants in the SLO County Environmental Education Coalition hosted through One Cool Earth.
- The Estuary Program funded school garden education at Monarch Grove Elementary School in Los Osos, in partnership with One Cool Earth. This funding provided weekly lessons on topics such as composting, native plants, and drought-tolerant gardening. In the first half of FY26, One Cool Earth staff completed 19 visits to Monarch Grove, delivering 119 lessons to K-5 students.
- Worked with partners such as Sea Otter Savvy and Morro Coast Audubon Society to co-host field trips with youth.
- Gave presentations about the Estuary Program at the Morro Bay and Cambria Rotary Clubs. Both clubs are interested in additional engagement with the Estuary Program, and plans are underway to coordinate field trips with program staff in the second half of FY26.

Staff are planning the 2026 educator workshop series in partnership with the Central Coast Science Project at Cal Poly. Up to forty pre-K to 12 classroom teachers will be selected to participate in the workshop. Attendees will learn how to integrate outdoor education and hands-on, experiential learning into their classroom.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program was a participant and collaborator in the SLO County Environmental Education Coalition. The Estuary Program is a lead on the educator workshop series, in partnership with the Central Coast Science Project. For all other education efforts, the Estuary Program served as the lead, developing content and coordinating events. Partners include California State Parks, who assist with planning and leading field trips on State Parks property; Camp Ocean Pines brings students to Morro Bay for field trips, and their naturalists deliver educational content related to estuaries and watersheds; and One Cool Earth continues to deliver lessons in schools related to watersheds, and the Estuary Program supports by training their educators on relevant content. In 2026, staff began new education partnership with Sea Otter Savvy and Morro Coast Audubon Society, utilizing their volunteers to assist with delivering educational content during field trips. Teachers, parents, and volunteers from local schools reach out to the Estuary Program for direct support in developing education programs on topics such as watersheds and environmental stewardship. Cal Poly and Cuesta College faculty are partners, bringing classes to the estuary and watershed to conduct research and field trips. Staff visit classrooms at Cuesta College and Cal Poly to share the results of the program's work.

Deliverables: Field trip and presentation statistics (see above in the Communications section).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The activities under this task directly support the outcome of providing formal education partnerships to share watershed and estuary-related messaging with students and youth.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to continue the education tasks outlined above. Staff will also plan a variety of family-friendly field trips for summer 2026.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: EO-1 (Public Education and Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay), EO-3 (Nature Center), EO-4 (Formal Education Programs)

Nature Center Maintenance & Operations

Objective: Maintain the content and displays in the Nature Center.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program's Nature Center has been offering free estuary and watershed information to the public since it was established in 2005. Staff work to ensure smooth operation of the center and plan education events that integrate the center's exhibits.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff conduct activities to maintain the Nature Center. In the first half of FY26, the Nature Center had over 6,800 visitors. The Nature Center was used as a meeting space for field trips with youth. Staff clean, maintain, and restock the Nature Center throughout the year. An eelgrass exhibit has been designed and is expected to be installed during the summer. Estuary Program staff are planning the addition of new exhibits and updates to maps and interpretive information.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program serves as the lead for managing and operating the Nature Center and its maintenance and updates. The Morro Bay Museum of Natural History will be a partner in this effort, helping direct visitors to the center and lending their expertise. USFWS is providing funding for the new eelgrass exhibit for the Nature Center.

Deliverables: Visitor statistics for the Nature Center (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The maintenance and updates to the Nature Center conducted as part of this task directly support the outcome of providing a learning center for the estuary that contains updated and engaging exhibits.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program will continue activities to maintain the Nature Center. The Estuary Program will continue to provide field trips and educational programming in the Nature Center.

Pending Deliverables: Eelgrass exhibit.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: EO-1 (Public Education and Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay), EO-3 (Nature Center), EO-4 (Formal Education Programs)

Community Engagement & Stewardship

Objective: Support outreach projects in the community that further the goals of the Management Plan.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program hosts and attends a variety of events to engage with our community. This includes speaking engagements, tabling at events, hosting volunteer events such as cleanups and restoration field days, and supporting community partner projects. Opportunities for projects with partners will be maximized throughout the year as they arise.

Progress Toward Milestones: Efforts to support outreach projects in the community included:

- Staff have been active members in the Environmental Education Coalition of SLO County, hosted by One Cool Earth. The group works to effectively communicate and collaborate on environmental education initiatives and programs in the county.
- Staff partnered with local organizations to engage the community, including Woods Humane Society, Sea Otter Savvy, Camp Ocean Pines, Creek Lands Conservation, Transitions Mental Health Association, Cuesta College, SLO Beaver Brigade, and others.
- Staff hosted four community events and tabled at an additional five community events hosted by partners. Over 100 people attended Estuary Program events, and staff engaged with 453 community members at partner tabling events.
- In the first half of FY26, staff hosted five cleanup field trips with students. Some of these students were local, but some came from as far away as Los Angeles and Lake Tahoe. One

hundred and eighty-eight students picked up about 46 pounds of trash (which included 1,500 cigarette butts) from the Morro Bay Embarcadero area.

- Staff hosted a volunteer appreciation event in November, honoring the hard work and dedication of our many volunteers. Over forty volunteers were in attendance, and several received special recognition such as our Volunteer of the Year award.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program served as the lead for trash clean-ups. For all other efforts, staff serve as collaborators, lending technical advice and input. Partners include the City of Morro Bay's Harbor Department, the Morro Bay Yacht Club, Bay Foundation of Santa Monica, the Los Osos Community Services District, and local recreational boating business owners.

Deliverables: Outreach statistics (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities conducted under this task directly support the outcome of coordinating with partner organizations on developing and sharing key messages.

Problems Encountered: Staff changes at ECOSLO and the Estuary Program have delayed progress on the Adopt-a-Spot cleanup partnership. Due to limited partner capacity, this effort is unlikely to move forward.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will continue to be active members of the Environmental Education Coalition and to host and attend community events such as cleanups.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: EO-1 (Public Education and Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay), EO-3 (Nature Center), EO-4 (Formal Education Programs)

Mutts for the Bay

Objective: Support pet waste management program to prevent bacterial contamination in the bay.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program has managed a Mutts for the Bay Program since 2008. The effort involves accepting donations, installing dispensers, coordinating volunteers, and working with partners to install and maintain pet waste bag dispensers throughout the watershed. By using the bags, pet owners prevent bacteria from reaching the estuary, where shellfish farms and recreational bay users require clean water.

Progress Toward Milestones: The Estuary Program continued to manage the Mutts for the Bay program to provide free pet waste bags to the community. Management efforts included accepting and managing donations, purchasing bags and other supplies, installing and maintaining dispensers, and coordinating volunteers. In the first half of FY26, the Estuary Program received financial support from the City of Morro Bay to help purchase bags for dispensers, and the City will begin supporting regular maintenance of the dispensers in Morro Bay.

The program maintains and stocks 36 dispensers. The pets in the Morro Bay and Los Osos area produce about 30,000 pounds of waste a week, and the approximately 150,000 bags given out by our program in the first half of FY26 supported preventing much of that waste from reaching the estuary. The Estuary Program continued its partnership with Woods Humane Society by attending the annual Woods Wiggle Waggle fall festival in October 2025 and co-hosting a dog “pack walk” in March 2026.

Staff will continue distributing Mutts for the Bay activity books, which were updated and printed in FY25, as well as various Mutts brochures, at our Nature Center and tabling events throughout the year. An interactive map of dispenser locations is available at <https://www.mbnep.org/mutts-for-the-bay/>.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead on this effort, managing the funding and donations and coordinating program volunteers. Partners include the City of Morro Bay, who is responsible for stormwater management efforts in some of the urban areas surrounding the estuary. A portion of the effort involves public education to share a clean water message and encourage responsible pet owner behavior.

Deliverables: Mutts for the Bay program statistics (see above). Mutts for the Bay educational materials available [online](#).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities under this task directly support the outcome of encouraging responsible behavior by pet owners to reduce bacterial loading to the estuary, thus improving water quality and protecting beneficial uses such as shellfish farming and recreation.

Problems Encountered: Due to budget reductions, the SLO County Stormwater program is unable to provide financial support for the Mutts program in 2026.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will continue its financial management and coordination of activities to manage the program. Staff will complete design and publication of a Dog-friendly Trails brochure to distribute to the public. The partnership with Woods Humane Society’s educational programming will be further developed to bring Mutts for the Bay curriculum and materials to students across SLO County. Estuary Program staff will continue to provide information on the Mutts program while tabling at events and farmers markets.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: EO-1 (Public Education and Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay), EO-3 (Nature Center), EO-4 (Formal Education Programs), BMP-6 (Reduce Pet Waste)

State of the Bay Planning

Objective: Planning and implementing outreach and events associated with the 2026 SOTB report, including audience engagement strategies, timelines, and coordination needs.

Status: New

Description: Every three years, the Estuary Program hosts a SOTB conference/event series to share knowledge about the status of the estuary and watershed in terms of clean water and healthy habitats. In FY26, the Estuary Program will implement events to share the results of the report card. The Estuary Program will distribute a public-friendly report to share data collected by our program and our partners, and the results will be shared through a series of events to be held throughout the spring of 2026.

Progress Toward Milestones: Every three years, the Estuary Program hosts an event series to share the results of State of the Bay, an environmental report card on the health of the estuary and watershed. This report was printed in the first half of FY26, and events officially started in March 2026. SOTB events will include science talks, tabling at community events, a dog “pack walk”, a birding fieldtrip, a restoration site tour, and more.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead for this effort, providing the funding, expertise, and coordination to produce the report and the events to share the results. Partners include Woods Humane Society, Morro Coast Audubon Society, SLO Beaver Brigade, and other environmental organizations, community engagement, and education partners. Their role is to partner on development of outreach events related to SOTB and to help promote these events.

Deliverables: None.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities under this task directly support the outcome of sharing the results of monitoring by the Estuary Program and its partners, with the goal of increasing education on nonpoint source pollution, restoration, etc.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will distribute the printed and online versions of the report and conduct planning, advertisement, event coordination, etc. for the spring 2026 events.

Pending Deliverables: Reach statistics from the 2026 SOTB events.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: EO-1 (Public Education and Outreach), EO-2 (State of the Bay)

Program Management

The Program Management tasks provide the foundation for implementing all actions outlined in this workplan. These efforts directly support the full range of priorities established under Section 320 of the CWA and the PRAE Act by ensuring the effective administration, oversight, and execution of projects that protect water quality, restore habitat, engage communities, and improve coastal resilience.

Manage Committees and Build Partnerships

Objective: Hold quarterly meetings and support partnerships.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program will continue to coordinate and facilitate the Executive Committee. TACs will be convened as needed to support program areas such as monitoring, restoration, and outreach. Staff will also participate in regional and statewide collaborations that help build partnerships, exchange information, and support effective implementation of the CCMP. These collaborative efforts strengthen coordination across agencies and organizations, improve project development, and ensure that local perspectives inform broader resource management efforts.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff compiled meeting materials and coordinated quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) throughout the year. TAC members were called on as needed for review of Community Project applications, restoration, monitoring, data analysis, and technical plans.

Partnerships are also supported through collaborative project development and technical support. The Estuary Program continues its work on partnership projects developed and implemented in collaboration with partner organizations. These include:

- Staff served on the PMEP Science and Data Committee.
- The Estuary Program is a partner on the Santa Monica Bay NEP's vessel pump-out monitoring program. Staff monitor three pump-outs three times a year and share the results via a publicly accessible app.
- The Estuary Program staff serve on a TAC for a lower Chorro Creek floodplain improvement project with CSLRCD.
- The Estuary Program staff serve on a TAC for SLOCOG's planning study of South Bay Boulevard to support public access and transportation given impacts of extreme weather events.
- Staff served on the California Coastal Dune Science Network Advisory Team. The organization strives to expand understanding of coastal dunes and their role in building a resilient, transitional, and adaptive coast for the future.
- Staff participate in the SLO County Weed Management Area program to discuss emerging invasive species and partner on implementation projects.
- The Estuary Program educates the community and visitors on the importance of picking up dog waste and provides free pet waste bags. Partners for this activity include the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust, County of San Luis Obispo, Woods Humane Society, City of Morro Bay, and dedicated private citizens who keep the Mutt Mitts dispensers stocked throughout the watershed.
- Staff partner with other nonprofits and organizations to provide estuary-focused education to the community, visitors, and youth including Morro Bay State Parks, City of Morro Bay, EcoSLO, Los Osos Community Services District, Morro Coast Audubon Society, and the San Luis Coastal and other school districts both within and outside of San Luis Obispo County.
- The Estuary Program contributed \$60,000 of non-federal funds to support the community-led acquisition of Cuesta Inlet to permanently protect and provide long-term habitat stewardship of this waterfront property. Planning is underway to develop restoration efforts for the property.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead for the Management Conference committees and TACs, coordinating and managing these committees to support program decision-making and oversight. The EC is made up of representatives from various governmental, economic, environmental, and educational organizations. The TACs that support monitoring, restoration, and education are made up of local experts who can advise the Estuary Program in these programmatic areas. The all-volunteer Bay Foundation board is made up of community members with varied

backgrounds in science, finance, education, and other relevant areas. The Estuary Program is the lead on the San Luisito Creek fish passage barrier project and the USGS project, providing funding, coordination, and expertise. For all other efforts, the Estuary Program serves as a partner, providing input and expertise.

Deliverables: [Minutes, agendas, staff reports, and materials](#) completed for each EC meeting. List of partnerships and project activities (see above).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The activities conducted under this task directly supported the task outcome of providing input and direction for the program and ensuring that partnerships are well supported.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to continue to coordinate quarterly meetings and work with Management Conference members. Staff will continue to work with the TACs to develop projects, funding, and collaborations. Staff will continue monitoring efforts in partnership with USGS to support modeling and planning to address the impact of changing ocean levels and extreme weather events on the tidal marsh.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: This task supports all Action Plans.

Grants and Contracts Administration and Financial Management

Objective: Develop workplan, administer grants, and complete annual financial management tasks.

Status: Ongoing

Description: Each year, the Estuary Program evaluates the prior year's progress, anticipates the upcoming year's potential, and develops a workplan and budget. Staff will create a workplan for the upcoming fiscal year. Other grants and financial management tasks include reporting and tracking for grants, preparing financial reports for the Bay Foundation and management committees, and completing year-end financial statements and an annual audit. Estuary Program staff will attend the fall and spring NEP/EPA Tech Transfer meetings. Staff will develop projects, administer contracts, and conduct reporting related to the IJJA funding.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff worked on financial reporting, progress reports to the EPA and the Management Conference, and participation in NEP conference calls and committees. Staff coordinated with EPA to provide required materials for oversight of the 320 base funding and IJJA grants and managed numerous outside grants to the Estuary Program to support our project work. Staff developed semi-annual and annual reports on the second half of FY25 for the IJJA and 320 base funding grants. Staff managed the 320 base funding workplan for FY26 and the IJJA workplans and budgets for FY25. Staff developed the FY26 workplan and budget for the IJJA funding and worked with EPA to complete review and approval. The Executive Director remotely attended the fall 2025 Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) meeting in Alabama and the spring 2026 ANEP meeting in Washington D.C.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead for this task, with responsibility for managing the program per the requirements set out by EPA for NEPs. Partners include the Bay

Foundation, the nonprofit board that serves as the bursar for the Estuary Program. EPA is a primary partner, providing oversight and guidance for the program.

Deliverables: Annual and semi-annual reports for FY25 and FY26 320 base and IJJA funding. FY26 workplan and budget for IJJA funding.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: Activities under this task directly supported the outcome of conducting grant administration and financial management tasks in a timely and accurate manner.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program will implement the FY25 IJJA and FY26 320 base funding workplans. The Estuary Program will implement the FY26 IJJA workplan, pending EPA award. Staff will develop semi-annual and annual reports for FY26 funding.

Pending Deliverables: Annual FFR. FY27 320 base funding workplan. Semi-annual and annual reports for 320 base funding and IJJA grants.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: This task supports all Action Plans.

General Administration and Human Resources Management

Objective: Maintain accurate financial and human resources records and manage personnel.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program requires ongoing financial and administrative functions, including recordkeeping and filing, bookkeeping, preparing audited financial statements, maintaining equipment and office space, and interacting with the general public. The Director manages staff performance and workplan progress. Staff conducts human resources tasks and maintains organizational operations.

Progress Toward Milestones: Staff maintained ongoing financial and administrative functions including contract administration, recordkeeping, filing, bookkeeping, and equipment and office space upkeep, as well as interacting with the general public. In addition, the Executive Director managed staff performance and workplan progress. Other HR tasks included training, professional development, recruitment, hiring, benefits management, and updating personnel policies and procedures. Staff facilitated a FY25 single federal audit for the organization, which was completed in the spring.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead for these tasks. The primary partner for this task is the Bay Foundation board which sets the policies and procedures for the organization.

Deliverables: Summary of task activities (see above). Bookkeeping and other recordkeeping tasks contribute to the completion of the deliverables included in the previous tasks (financial management).

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The administrative and human resources management tasks conducted in FY26 directly supported the outcome of providing the

administrative support that allows the program to function smoothly and for staff to work towards the goals of the organization.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Staff will conduct all bookkeeping and recordkeeping tasks required for grant management. Staff will conduct all HR tasks including training and professional development. The Estuary Program plans to report to the EC on workplan progress and develop semi-annual reports.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: This task supports all Action Plans.

Tracking Implementation of the Management Plan and Workplan

Objective: Keep track of Workplan and CCMP implementation.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The Estuary Program tracks progress on the CCMP Action Plans on a biannual basis. Workplan implementation is tracked with biannual reports on deliverables. Tracking project and program effectiveness is ongoing and includes biannual reports, NEPORT reporting, grant reporting, monitoring, and general project management. Staff will respond to any areas for improvement that were raised during the Program Evaluation process with EPA in FY25.

Progress to Date: Staff tracked the progress of CCMP implementation through biannual reports to the EC. Staff are studying the efforts of other NEPs to track their CCMP progress, in anticipation of the Estuary Program's upcoming CCMP update.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program serves as the lead for the task. The primary partner is the Bay Foundation board who serves as the organization's financial bursar.

Deliverables: Annual reports to EPA submitted in fall 2025. Biannual EC reports.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The tasks completed directly support the outcome of conducting tracking to ensure that tasks are completed in a timely and accurate manner.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: The Estuary Program plans to report to the EC on workplan progress and develop semi-annual and annual reports.

Pending Deliverables: IIJA and 320 base funding semi-annual and annual reports. FY27 320 base funding workplan.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: This task supports all Action Plans.

Community Projects

Objective: Provide support for Community Projects that further the goals of the Management Plan and engage the community.

Status: Ongoing

Description: Community Projects allow community members to be active participants in conservation efforts by helping to implement the Management Plan. The Community Projects Program has a special focus on projects that engage the community. The Estuary Program staff meets with community members to develop projects, prepare contracts, and monitor and evaluate products. The program is funded through non-federal funding.

Progress Toward Milestones: Throughout fall 2025, the Estuary Program worked with the San Luis Obispo Beaver Brigade, a local nonprofit, to develop a Community Project focused on sharing information on process-based restoration. The Community Project involved the development and hosting of a hands-on workshop and field tours of Walters Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project. Over forty restoration practitioners, landowners, and volunteers participated in the workshop and helped to build two beaver dam analogs along Walters Creek in spring 2026. The project has four additional site tours planned in partnership with Nature's Engineers and the Estuary Program in spring 2026. Staff are working to develop projects for FY27.

Leads, Partners, and Their Roles: The Estuary Program is the lead for this effort, providing non-federal funding to support the program. Staff resources are spent developing and overseeing these partner projects. Partners for recent Community Projects included the San Luis Obispo Beaver Brigade, City of Morro Bay Harbor Department, Cal Poly and Cuesta College researchers, and California State Parks.

Deliverables: None.

Comparison of Actual Accomplishments with Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes: The activities conducted under this task included working with existing funding recipients and coordinating with partners to develop new projects that support CCMP goals and Action Plans. These activities directly supported these goals, thus meeting the task outcomes of developing and completing projects that meet program guidelines on community involvement and CCMP nexus.

Problems Encountered: None.

Activities Planned for Next Six Months: Continue managing the FY26 project and project reporting. Staff will work with partners to develop FY27 projects and with the Bay Foundation, EC, and TAC to approve them.

Pending Deliverables: None.

CCMP Action Plans Addressed: This task can support all Action Plans, depending on the project type and partners involved.

Lab Competency Documentation

The Estuary Program utilizes laboratories that have met the certification requirements for their technical area. During the first half of FY26 the following labs were used:

For Water Quality: The Estuary Program works with Fruit Growers Laboratory (FGL) and the County of SLO Public Health Laboratory. Both labs maintained Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certification during this time period. The certification for FGL is [available online](#). The certification for the County of SLO Public Health Laboratory is under ELAP certification number 2114 and is [available online](#). The Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory (MPSL) at Granite Canyon Laboratories conducts toxicity monitoring for the Estuary Program. This laboratory is [ELAP-certified](#) under certificate number 2821.

For Bioassessment: The Estuary Program works with EcoAnalysts, Inc. (acquired by Spheros Environmental in 2025) for analysis of bioassessment samples. Bioassessment labs certify their individual taxonomists rather than the lab as a whole. They provided their taxonomists' certifications. Any of the lab's taxonomists listed could be assigned to our projects. The list of taxonomists' certifications is provided with the deliverables for this semi-annual report.

For Bay Nutrient Analysis: The UCSB Marine Sciences Laboratory conducts analysis of Morro Bay waters for nutrients. Although the laboratory is not ELAP-certified, it undergoes similar steps to ensure data quality. Their detailed QA manual was provided and reviewed by Estuary Program staff, and the lab's QA activities were deemed sufficient to ensure data quality.

Budget Overview

Table 1: Costs expended during this semi-annual report period (October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026) and cumulative since the beginning of the grant in October 2021.

Category	Subcategory	FY26 320 Base Funds	FY26 Cash Match	FY26 TOTAL	FY22 to FY26 320 Base Funds	FY22 to FY26 Cash Match	FY22 to FY26 TOTAL
Personnel	Salaries	\$247,044	\$2,280	\$249,324	\$2,066,826	\$62,659	\$2,129,484
	Fringe	\$25,418	\$67	\$25,486	\$206,933	\$1,403	\$208,336
	Management Conference	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$272,462</i>	<i>\$2,347</i>	<i>\$274,809</i>	<i>\$2,273,759</i>	<i>\$64,061</i>	<i>\$2,337,820</i>
Travel	<i>(category includes local mileage)</i>	\$1,105	\$0	\$1,105	\$32,383	\$2,255	\$34,637
Supplies	Software	\$738	\$0	\$738	\$9,559	\$0	\$9,559
	Monitoring supplies	\$7,990	\$417	\$8,408	\$57,099	\$14,407	\$71,506
	Misc. office supplies, computers	\$5,215	\$0	\$5,215	\$28,958	\$0	\$28,958
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$13,944</i>	<i>\$417</i>	<i>\$14,361</i>	<i>\$95,617</i>	<i>\$14,407</i>	<i>\$110,024</i>
Contractual	Audit/Taxes/Accounting/Fees	\$16,055	\$3,696		\$92,550	\$30,154	\$122,704
	Education and Outreach	\$7,402	\$8,010		\$51,891	\$68,486	\$120,376
	Monitoring and Research	\$5,031	\$4,507		\$87,466	\$82,148	\$169,614
	Restoration and Protection	\$7,590	\$0		\$26,786	\$1,132,355	\$1,159,141
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$36,078</i>	<i>\$16,213</i>	<i>\$52,291</i>	<i>\$258,693</i>	<i>\$1,313,142</i>	<i>\$1,571,835</i>
Other	Rent	\$27,636		\$27,636	\$232,169	\$0	\$232,169
	Utilities	\$1,764		\$1,764	\$14,193	\$0	\$14,193
	Postage	\$173		\$173	\$1,214	\$0	\$1,214
	Copying, Printing	\$1,255		\$1,255	\$10,328	\$0	\$10,328
	Training, Prof. Dev.	\$987		\$987	\$6,390	\$0	\$6,390
	Telephone, Internet	\$2,744		\$2,744	\$21,518	\$0	\$21,518
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,418		\$1,418	\$17,347	\$0	\$17,347
	Insurance	\$4,335		\$4,335	\$16,121	\$0	\$16,121
	Vehicle maintenance, fuel	\$1,307		\$1,307	\$14,363	\$0	\$14,363
	Community Projects	\$0	\$2,115	\$2,115	\$0	\$55,257	\$55,257
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$41,619</i>	<i>\$2,115</i>	<i>\$43,734</i>	<i>\$333,644</i>	<i>\$55,257</i>	<i>\$388,901</i>
	TOTAL	\$365,208	\$21,092	\$386,300	\$2,994,096	\$1,449,122	\$4,443,218

Table 2: Costs by program area and task. Match numbers do not include in-kind match.

Program Area	Project	FY26 320 Base Funds	FY26 to FY25 320 Base Funds	FY26 Match	FY22 to FY26 Match
Education and Outreach	Communications	\$2,136	\$23,003	\$0	\$0
	Education	\$163	\$591	\$0	\$0
	Nature Center	\$34	\$6,394	\$0	\$0
	Community Engagement	\$132	\$4,174	\$0	\$0
	Mutts for the Bay	\$54	\$54	\$8,010	\$68,486
	Bay Friendly Recreation	\$789	\$2,537	\$0	\$0
	State of the Bay Events	\$4,094	\$15,137	\$0	\$0
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$7,402</i>	<i>\$51,891</i>	<i>\$8,010</i>	<i>\$68,486</i>
Monitoring and Research	Monitoring Program Coordination	\$13,021	\$95,230	\$417	\$79,263
	Reporting and Analysis	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Data Management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Quality Assurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Project Effectiveness Monitoring	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Eelgrass Monitoring & Research	\$0	\$11,835	\$4,507	\$4,507
	Partner Research Efforts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	State of the Bay Analysis	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$13,021</i>	<i>\$107,065</i>	<i>\$4,924</i>	<i>\$83,770</i>	
Habitat Protection and Restoration	Land Conservation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$148,500
	Restoration Maintenance/Monitor	\$1,083	\$2,387	\$0	\$136,137
	Other Restoration	\$903	\$15,326	\$0	\$829,668
	Project Development	\$0	\$1,270	\$0	\$0
	Fisheries Management	\$5,604	\$7,803	\$0	\$18,049
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$7,590</i>	<i>\$26,786</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$1,132,355</i>
Program Administration	Community Projects			\$2,115	\$55,257
	TOTAL	\$28,013	\$185,742	\$15,050	\$1,339,867

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