



## **Summer Update Letter June, 2010**

---

Dear Central Coast Wetland Managers and Scientists,

The members of the Central Coast Wetlands Group have been working hard since our last update was sent in January, and we are excited to share our progress in building a collaborative community of wetland scientists and resource managers. We are working with funding from EPA to continue to participate in regional wetland planning efforts. Our current work includes the following:

### **Symposia/Forums**

Bringing scientific researchers together with resource managers and the public is a key way to advance the CCWG mission. Therefore we think it is important to help our partners hold events of this nature. In January CCWG co-hosted the Elkhorn Slough Research Symposium with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. The symposium was for anyone interested in Elkhorn Slough research. The talks were given by scientists, but the target audience included managers and volunteers as well as the regional scientific community. In May, CCWG co-hosted the first of three community water forums with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). The focus of this forum was water conservation and water efficiency.

### **Seasonally Tidal Estuaries Grant**

CCWG in partnership with MLML has recently begun implementing a project to develop, verify and validate the seasonally tidal estuary module of CRAM. So far we have hosted a Technical Advisory Committee meeting and begun CRAMming sites. We have been working with 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature on potential data to collect at lagoons to validate the new CRAM module, and the creation of a historical and current record of where these wetlands are located.

### **IRWMP**

As most of you know, the development of a Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is moving along and CCWG is still involved in this development. The Project ranking has been approved and project solicitation ended June 1<sup>st</sup>. CCWG submitted as the lead or partnered in nine different applications to be included in the Plan.

For more information, see the IRWMP section of the CCWG website.

### **Stormwater BMP Tracking and Assessment**

CCWG partnered with 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature, Environmental Incentives, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program to initiate a dialog about bringing stormwater BMP tracking and assessment tools to the Central Coast. We want to bring the rapid assessment methods developed and tested in the Tahoe region to our municipalities and regulators. The effort to improve and standardize BMP tracking and assessment will lead to an understanding of where BMPs are in place, and if they are effective. So far CCWG has hosted one general meeting and one more in depth workshop with local municipalities and environmental organizations. We also went down to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to introduce their staff to these techniques and the potential benefits. One of the IRWMP applications submitted by the WQPP with CCWG as a partner involves the further development and introduction of these tools.

### **Restoration Success Grant**

After a year of inactivity while we waited for State funds to become available, our Restoration Success grant through the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has been restarted. This grant looks at the effectiveness of habitat restoration projects in the Central Coast through the use of CRAM and comparison to reference condition. In total over the past 3 years we have CRAMmed 84 sites and plan to CRAM an additional 15-20. We also intend to go back to some sites we looked at early in the grant and see how results compare to 3 years ago, and whether the condition of the project has improved over time. Results of all of our CRAM sites on public property are uploaded to eCRAM ([www.cramwetlands.org](http://www.cramwetlands.org)) and all the restoration

projects are also uploaded to Wetland Tracker (<http://www.californiawetlands.net/tracker/cc>). We always encourage partners and other organizations to have us CRAM restoration sites before and after implementation.

### **Statewide Wetland Monitoring Strategy**

CCWG has been active in the development of a Statewide Wetland Monitoring Strategy, attending meetings of both the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/monitoring\\_council/wetland\\_workgroup/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/wetland_workgroup/)) and the Level 2 (CRAM development) Committee of the CWMW. Activities include assisting in the development of a white paper on Tenets of a State Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Program, responding to a peer review of CRAM by the SWRCB, and assisting in the development of a CRAM module for vernal pools.

### **Other CRAM Work**

CCWG has been involved in developing a CRAM method for arid streams in desert regions of California. These systems differ from the majority of streams in California in vegetation structure and hydrogeomorphology. We are also working on developing and assessing a network of reference wetlands of multiple types for the state of California.

### **Other Activities**

In February, CCWG hosted a meeting about work that conservation and restoration groups are doing around the Gabilan and Bolsa Nueva Watersheds. Attendees included Return of the Natives, the Watershed Institute at CSUMB, the Big Sur Land Trust, the MBNMS, the MCWRA and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. The goal of the meeting was to introduce groups to each other and identify areas that are being underserved by current restoration and conservation efforts. In March and April, CCWG worked with Return of the Natives, the City of Salinas, Monterey County, the MBNMS, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, the Santa Rita School District and others on the submission of two Urban Greening grant applications for the Santa Rita area in Salinas. One proposal is for the development of an Urban Greening Plan, and the other is for the implementation of small restoration demonstration along the Creek.

### **Upcoming Events**

CCWG is hosting a CRAM training for Riverine and Estuarine wetlands from the 21-25 of June. For more information and to learn how to sign up, please go to the link on our website at <http://ccwg.mlml.calstate.edu/events/cram-training/>.

**Do you have any questions? Want to contribute your ideas about the structure and function of CCWG? Interested in working together?** Please contact Sierra Ryan at [sperry@mlml.calstate.edu](mailto:sperry@mlml.calstate.edu) with any ideas, questions or comments - we'd love to hear your feedback.