

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Dyan Whyte)
MEETING DATE: May 18, 2005

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **San Francisco Estuary Institute - Update on Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances and Other Institute Programs** - Information Presentation by Mike Connor, Executive Director of the Institute

DISCUSSION: The purpose of this item is to present an update on the San Francisco Estuary Institute and its programs, particularly the Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances. The Regional Monitoring Program, created by the Board in 1993, is a collaborative scientific effort between the Water Board and the regulated discharger community that is coordinated and managed by the Institute. It is the primary source of information used to evaluate chemical pollution in the Bay, and, as such, is designed to provide the necessary water quality data to answer management and associated regulatory questions critical to effective management of the Estuary. In particular, the Regional Monitoring Program provides important scientific information about water quality and the status of beneficial uses related to Board staff's development of TMDLs and water quality-based NPDES permit requirements. Other key programs of the Institute include Historical Ecology, Wetlands Science, Watershed Science, Biological Invasions, Contaminant Monitoring and Research, and Information Technology.

The annual report of the Regional Monitoring Program, the *Pulse of the Estuary*, was released at the beginning of May to coincide with the Annual Meeting of the Regional Monitoring Program, a day-long seminar held May 10, to discuss the Program's latest findings and how those findings are being used in the adaptive implementation of TMDLs and other initiatives to protect and restore the Bay. Accordingly, Dr. Connor's presentation will include a brief summary of the state of the Bay. He will also give his perspective on managing legacy pollutant problems such as mercury and PCBs and preventing problems from emerging pollutants.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:** This is an information item only, and no action is necessary.

Attachment: *2005 Pulse of the Estuary* (hard copy provided for Board members only – electronic version available at <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/pulse/2005/index.html>)