

Presentation #3 - Bay Area Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 – 11:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. PST

PRESENTERS

- Xavier Fernandez, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Kelly Santos, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

ABSTRACT

The San Francisco Estuary restoration community are currently engaged in a collaborative process to develop a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP), which serves to advance goals for regulatory needs and restoration project success. Tidal marsh scientists, regulators, community advocates and managers helped guide the development of the [WRMP Program Plan](#), completed in April 2020. The Plan will help state agencies manage wetlands under the Clean Water Act, and support regulators and managers in evaluating the effectiveness of efforts to sustain healthy tidal marsh ecosystems. Moving forward, project partners have a roadmap for further development of a benchmark site network, implementing key monitoring recommendations, establishing program governance and administration, and developing the data management system. This talk will summarize current program development in this unique, collaborative effort, focusing on an overview of the WRMP, the development process, regulatory engagement, and an update on our science framework.

BIOS



Xavier Fernandez leads the Planning and TMDL Division at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. He is responsible for a number of Board programs, including water quality standards, TMDLs, and policy development. He is currently leading in the Water Board's Climate Change and Wetland Policy Update and is heavily involved with the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program. He previously led the Water Board's creek and wetland permit program, and administered permits for large wetland restoration projects, such as the Bair Island and Cullinan Ranch Restoration Projects. Prior to the Water Board, he worked as an Environmental Scientist for the consulting firm Tetra Tech EMI, where he evaluated ecological risk, monitored tidal marshes, and assessed habitat quality. He received a B.S. in Environmental Science from Dominican College of San Rafael and an M.S. in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco.



Kelly Santos is the California Sea Grant State Fellow at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership where she assists with the development of the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). She has 16 years of experience as an environmental scientist working with the conservation and restoration community to implement monitoring, technical, and education projects within the watersheds that feed into the San Francisco Bay. Previously, she worked with Sierra Streams Institute, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Ocean Institute, UC Santa Cruz, Michigan State University, and Tahoe Resource Conservation District. Kelly received a B.S. in Marine Biology from UC Santa Cruz and will graduate with an M.S. in Interdisciplinary Marine and Estuarine Science from San Francisco State University's Estuary & Ocean Science Center in December.