



B A S M A A

Project: Bay Area Macroinvertebrate Information (BAMBI) Network

Description: The purpose of this project was to develop an information and communication base for scientific application of bioassessment methods to watershed assessment in the Bay Area. The Regional Water Board has requested that BASMAA agencies develop long-term monitoring strategies that incorporate bioassessment as one of the elements of their monitoring and watershed assessment “toolbox”. The Regional Water Board and several BASMAA agencies (ACCWP, CCCWP, MSTOPPP, and VSFCD) conducted benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) surveys in 2001 using the California Stream Bioassessment Procedure. ACCWP sponsored a Bay Area discussion workshop in February 2001, in which over 30 scientists, agency managers, and Regional Water Board staff reviewed these projects and also a 1997-98 USGS study funded in part by SCVURPPP. The group identified a number of technical and coordination issues that need to be addressed to establish a scientific foundation for BMI bioassessment in the Bay Area, and expressed great interest in further exchange of information and ideas on an ongoing basis.

The scope included:

- Summarize major issues where regional coordination is needed to advance the scientific validity of BMI bioassessment data and make it more useful for watershed assessment.
- Facilitate discussions among Bay Area bioassessment practitioners and scientific advisers, to develop consensus on issue papers on ways to improve coordination and implementation of BMI bioassessment
- Sponsor a follow-up workgroup meeting for sharing information and determining next steps in regional implementation.
- Maintain a link to information on additional issues where regional coordination is relevant for many topics including bioassessment.
- Identify funding opportunities for validation studies and further coordination.

FY: 02/03, 03/04, 04/05, 05/06, 06/07, 07/08, 08/09

Overseer: Monitoring Committee

Contracting Agency: Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program

Contractor: EOA

Budget: FY02/03 - \$27,500; FY03/04 - \$19,000

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Participants: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin (FY 02/03 only), San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Vallejo (FY 02/03 only)

Status: Done

Deliverable(s): Issue Papers and draft recommendations for regional coordination of 5 priority issues: a) Standardization of field and lab protocols for BMI data collection; b) Standards for managing, reporting and sharing data; c) A regional strategy for identifying reference conditions in urbanized Bay Area streams; d) Improvement of consistency and usefulness of physical habitat assessments associated with bioassessment data; e) Recommended QA/QC elements for BMI projects (January 2003); Annual meetings providing status summaries of regional activities relating to monitoring macroinvertebrate communities and development of a regional Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) (January 2003, January 2004); Grant Concept Proposal for reference site monitoring and support of local watershed assessments (May 2003); interim BAMBI website for available documents and meeting notes (February 2004); Draft Work Plan for IBI development (2005)
