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B A S M A A

**Project:** Regional Biological Assessment

**Description:** The Regional Water Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) initiated the development of a regional general permit (RGP) for flood control maintenance activities in the North and East Bay that have minimal impacts. Through BASMAA's Operational Permits Committee the RGP was developed to the point of obtaining regulatory agency approvals. To obtain the approval of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the Corps permit, a biological assessment for the RGP had to be performed. The purpose of this project was to develop a regional biological assessment for submittal to NMFS and FWS.

The RGP, by definition, only applied to maintenance work that would not have negative impacts to threatened or endangered species or significant impacts to wetlands, riparian growth, or other biological resources. The purpose of this regional biological assessment was to determine the maintenance activities that fit this definition and develop an assessment to present to NMFS and FWS so that they would be able to make a determination of "may affect but not likely to adversely affect." The regional programmatic biological assessment would also be used for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluation to be performed by the State Water Resources Control Board and by the California Department of Fish and Game in their review of the participating agencies' memorandums of understanding. The scope of the biological assessment was limited to the jurisdiction of those participating local agencies and activities that would be covered by the RGP (i.e., North and East Bay).

**FY:** 01/02

**Overseer:** Operational Permits Committee

**Contracting Agency:** Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

**Contractor:** ESA

**Budget:** \$117,000

**Participants:** Alameda, BASMAA, Contra Costa, Marin, Fairfield-Suisun, Sonoma, and Vallejo

**Status:** Incomplete

**Deliverable(s):** Preliminary Draft Regional Biological Assessment; Tables of 'Minimal Threat' Flood Control Routine Maintenance Activities, Avoidance & Minimization Measures, and Best Management Practices; Memo – Status

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