

# San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science 2012: Participating in the Journey

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## EDITORIAL

As *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* finishes its 10th year since the first issue was published in 2003, it is time to look back at where we have been and to thank those who have contributed to our success. The San Francisco Bay–Delta and its watershed is one of the best studied estuaries in the world. Very few systems are represented in the peer-reviewed literature by the breadth and depth of the papers published on San Francisco Bay. At *SFEWS* we are proud to do our small part in publishing that science and publishing it in a forum accessible to all readers and authors at no cost to them.

We should reflect briefly on the remarkable nature of the science conducted by the Bay–Delta community. Forward-looking monitoring and research programs began as early as the 1970s; many of which are still active. While more waits be done, the body of science about the Bay–Delta and its watershed continues to grow, with universities, agencies, and stakeholders all involved. From the pages of *SFEWS* alone it is obvious that programs and studies cover a wide range of relevant disciplines and vary from quite basic studies of processes to studies with immediate applications to policy. The positive reviews of the 2012 Bay–Delta Science Conference illustrate that

the degree of enthusiasm for Bay–Delta science continues unabated since the first Science Conference a decade ago. It can be argued that a growing body of knowledge about water-related issues, a continuing dialogue about that knowledge, and a large enthusiastic core of people invested in that knowledge are critical to California's future. It is true that contentious debate, litigation, and court decisions continue to capture more attention than the growing undercurrent of knowledge. It is also true that the problems are not resolved and disagreements about science and policy continue. But it is important that we also are slowly converging on agreement in some important areas (the equality of ecosystems and water supply reliability as goals is a simple example) and eliminating outlier concepts in other areas (remember “why pay for climate studies if we cannot engineer climate variability?”). The 2012 report from the National Academies of Science reminds us that water scarcity will define the future of California. The journey to address the challenges presented by water scarcity will be never ending. Continued growth of understanding is a necessary ingredient in the choices that must be made along the way. We intend *SFEWS* to continue its role in making that understanding available to all.

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*SFEWS* has reached a number of milestones during the year 2012. In September we received the 100,000<sup>th</sup> request for an article; an illustration of the sustained interest in the papers we are publishing. Our rejection rate has increased somewhat because of greater demand for space this year, but we still welcome solid articles that add to our knowledge of the Bay-Delta. Views and downloads in the last four months are tied for the highest ever for such a period. For the first time, *SFEWS* published four issues in 2012 (instead of the usual three) thanks to the financial support of the Delta Stewardship Council and a dedicated team working with the Managing Editor. We feel we can maintain this rate of publication. The greater frequency of publication could also shorten time-to-publication for articles and better hold the interests of our readership. Also for the first time, we published two special issues in one year. Dr. Matthew Ferner was guest editor of a second special issue on wetland ecology with an emphasis on the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve ([Volume 10, Issue 2](#)). Drs. Denise Reed, James Anderson, and Allan Barnes, with help from Bruce DiGennaro were guest editors for a special issue on the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP) conceptual models. Recent views and downloads show great interest in

the DRERIP overview and the three DRERIP models represented in [Volume 10, Issue 3](#). Other DRERIP models will be published as they are accepted, either as individual articles, or perhaps in another special issue. Special journal issues have the great advantage to authors of having articles on one subject published in one place. The downside is the challenge for authors and editors to get all aspects of peer review and production accomplished all at once. Nevertheless, *SFEWS* will remain an outlet for special issues and we welcome proposals for more. Finally, we continue our work toward expanding the visibility of *SFEWS* via websites, search engines, better tracking of our readership, participation in science conferences, and inexpensive advertising. As always, however, our major focus for the future is to sustain the integrity and high quality of our articles through a strong peer review process. We once again thank you for your support of *SFEWS* and wish the best to all for 2013.