

Bay Area Watershed Coordination Conversation -- Friday, September 29th from 10 am to 2:30 pm in Room 2, Elihu Harris State Building, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland.

Please join us at a meeting sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and the San Francisco Estuary Project in a conversation on Bay Area-wide watershed coordination. Many stakeholders involved in watershed planning, management and restoration have expressed an interest in meeting to share ideas, proposals and activities. This is an initial meeting to talk about collaborative efforts and to agree upon on whether, and if so how, we might proceed with better ongoing coordination of the many watershed efforts currently underway in the Bay Area.

The goals of the meeting are

1. to capture the range and breadth of needs and opinions of the watershed community and
2. for people to have a chance to share information and communicate with others beyond their usual circles.

The format of the day will be a facilitated morning of general discussion, a working lunch, followed by smaller group breakouts in the afternoon. At the end of the day, we hope to have developed some clear, well-defined steps to action and identify people to follow up with them.

The following questions will be the basis for the day's agenda:

1. What technical and research information do we need in the Bay Area to do successful watershed work and how do we connect service providers with those who need them?
2. How do we establish priorities and ensure accountability for limited resources for Bay Area watershed and management work?
3. How can we establish new sources of funding in the Bay Area?
4. What institutions or organizations do or could exist for ongoing communication and addressing questions 1-3? I.e., is there value added to developing a true watershed community in the Bay Area and if so, what is the best way to do it?

Please note that this invitation is being sent to a relatively limited number of people who represent scientists, watershed practitioners, agencies, watershed councils, open space community, planners, and environmental justice issues. However, we understand that others may be interested in attending this meeting, and it is certainly open to all interested parties.

We welcome your participation in this conversation and hope that you will plan to join us. If you have any general questions or comments, please contact Dale Hopkins at dhopkins@waterboards.ca.gov or (510) 622-2362.

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