

## **Recommended Adjustments to the TRG for Phase 2**

Bolinas Ecosystem Restoration Project Technical Review Group  
Marsh 25, 2004

The Technical Review Group (TRG) was established in October 2003 to conduct technical reviews of consultants' Phase 1 products. These products consisted of planning and review materials prepared in advance of proposed new studies and simulation modeling. The TRG was able to organize its diverse expert perspectives into consensus commentary and recommendations.

A major finding of the TRG was that existing data are not adequate to address the central technical question upon which all aspects of the project including future management decisions hinge: is the rate of sedimentation in Bolinas Lagoon likely to cause the tidal inlet to close during the next 50 years. Not knowing the rate of sedimentation in the system prevents credible forecasts of future conditions.

The reasons for the data gap are inadequate sediment cores, inadequate documentation of vertical and horizontal controls for previous land and bathymetric surveys, and incomparable methods of different surveys. The consultants' scope and the RFP to which they responded do not cover the work needed to correct these problems.

To help meet the data needs, and enable the project to move forward, the TRG has outlined sedimentary data collection and establishment of survey controls (see TRG recommendations on p. 9 of the TRG's report to the County date 25 March 2004). The recommended work is outside the consultants' obligations but could be conducted by others within the timeframe of the consultants' scope of work.

As outlined, the work needed to fill the critical data gaps would involve the National Ocean Survey (NOS), the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), private surveyors, and researchers in estuarine sedimentary history. The NOS and NGS roles can be provided without conflicts of interest through the scientists from these agencies that will continue to serve on the TRG. Quality Control for their work can be assured through their agencies. They would advise the County on its selection of private surveyors, and review their work. Professor Roger Byrne, Department of Geography at UC Berkeley, is the obvious choice to conduct the study of historical sedimentary trends because he is the most experienced, knowledgeable, and readied expert on the subject for Bolinas Lagoon. However, Dr. Byrne also serves on the TRG. In order to assure that the sedimentary study is successful, and to assure the objectivity and independence of the science review conducted by the TRG, Dr. Byrne would resign from the TRG to conduct the study. Dr. Byrne would be replaced by one or 2 new TRG members chosen to review Dr. Byrne's study plan and findings, as well as provide overall expertise on sedimentary processes and paleoecology. Candidate members have been contacted.