

Updates
from the San Francisco Bay Region

SF Bay Water Board
May 25, 2006

Regional News Items

- Developing stream and riparian protection policy
- Piloting CRAM and Wetland Tracker tool sets in Napa Watershed through WDP
- Exploring possible linkage between 401 permitting and Wetland Tracker updates
- Preparing full proposal to Consolidated State Funding for comprehensive Level 1 regional inventory
- Exploring Regional Wetlands Monitoring Program concepts to support project design review and coordinated ambient and project assessment

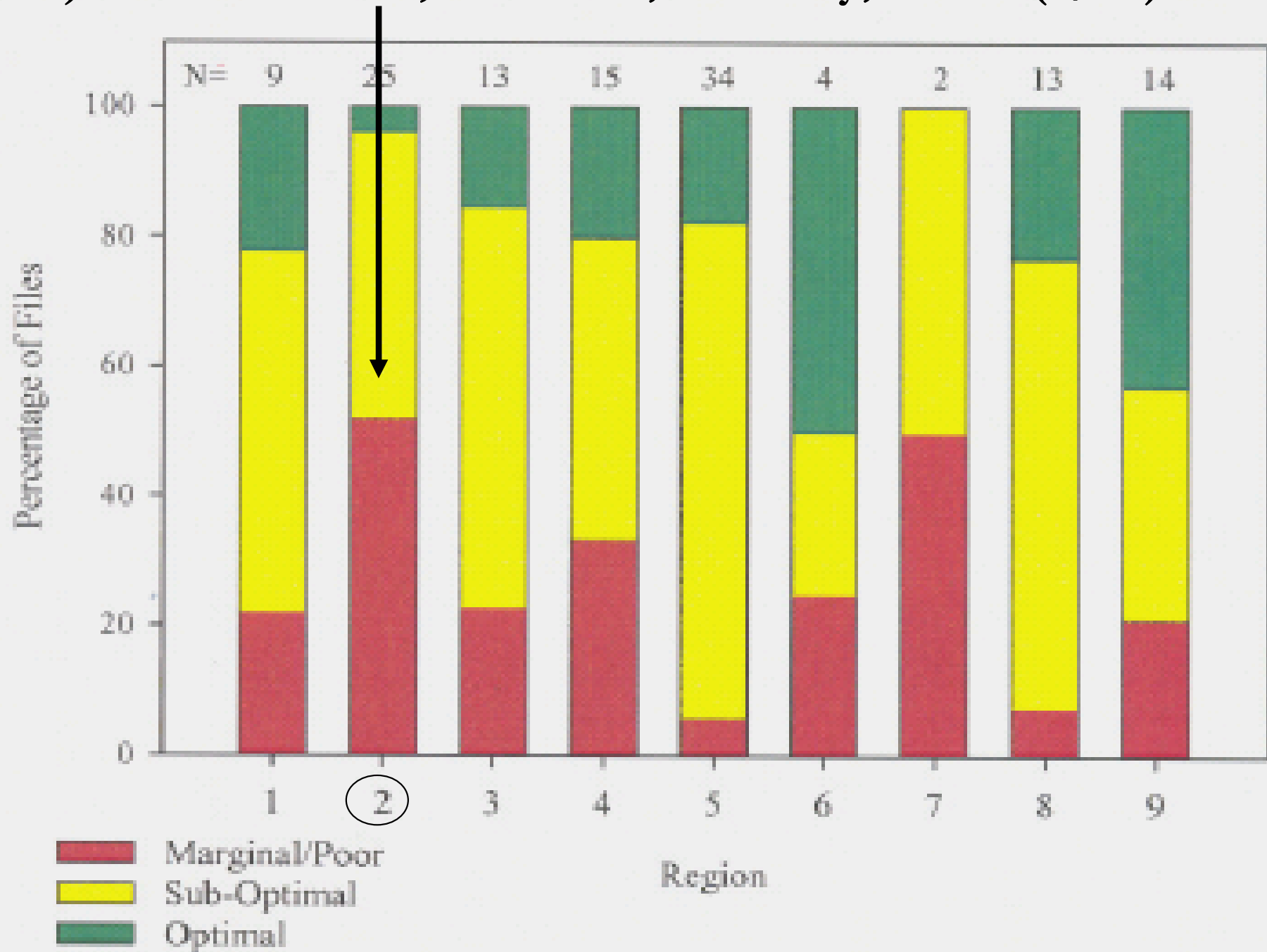
Comparing CRAM & WEA
(Wetland Ecological Assessment)
in the San Francisco Bay Region

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Need for State-wide Implementation of CRAM:

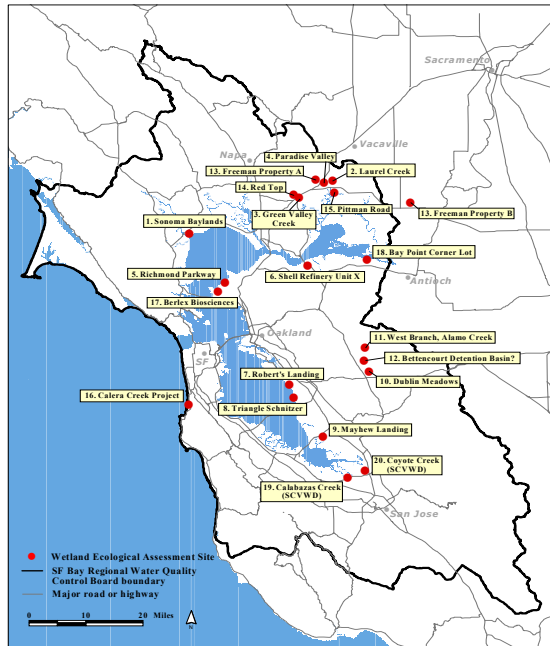
- Important for regulatory & non-regulatory communities;
- Supports consistent & standardized tracking & assessment methods for California;
- Extensively validated and shown to be repeatable;
- SFB Region looks forward to refining the method so that we get consistent results.

From: Draft *Evaluation of Compensatory Mitigation Projects....1991-2002*, Ambrose, Callaway, & Lee (3/06).



Wetland Rapid Assessment Methods:

1. Wetland Ecological Assessments (WEAs*) (Spring 2003).



Sites Assessed for:

- Wildlife Habitat
- Vegetation
- Hydrology
- Buffers
- Surrounding Land Use
- Permit Compliance

[*Draft report available at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/Download.htm>;
Final available from Abreaux@waterboards.ca.gov]]

Scoring Differences in SF Bay (Region 2) at different sites with different methods.

	Optimal (100-70)	Suboptimal (69-50)	Marginal/ Poor (<49)	Total
WEA (2003)	8	8	3	19
	42%	42%	16%	100%
CRAM* (2005) (approximate)	13	11	1	25
	5%	35%	60%	100%

*Note: CRAM failure was <29%

Possible Reasons for Differences:

- Random chance
- Different metrics, interpretation of metrics, assessors
- Assessors' bias or level of experience
- Season or Year
- *Bias against depressionnal & estuarine wetlands in earlier developmental version of CRAM (v 3.0)*
- Others?

Recommendations

- Have CRAM assessors evaluate 3-4 WEA sites and compare scores;
- Re-evaluate SFB scores using CRAM 4.0;
- Look at SFB Region data from State Board study and inspect some CRAM sites;
- Other ideas?