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Journal Update

Announcing a New Manuscript Category

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The editors of San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (SFEWS) are pleased to observe author interest in publishing reviews and analyses of important programmatic or policy issues relevant to both the science and management of the San Francisco Estuary and its watersheds. This interest suggests to us the importance of including this kind of article and any follow-up discussion in our journal.

The [Aims and Scope](http://repositories.cdlib.org/jmie/sfews/aimsandscope.html) page on our website <http://repositories.cdlib.org/jmie/sfews/aimsandscope.html> provides a list of the categories of manuscripts that are acceptable for consideration in SFEWS. The list includes the following category:

Essays – Scholarly, in depth, informed, and balanced perspectives or commentaries on topics of interest to members of the Bay-Delta Science Consortium.

While the publication of personal perspective/commentary essays in SFEWS is still very appropriate, we find that the “Essay” category does not explicitly allow for an article that represents a more thoroughly documented and technically defensible review and analysis of a key technical, programmatic or policy issue. We have decided, therefore, to add to our list of manuscript categories the following:

Policy and Program Analyses – Technically sound and well documented reviews and analyses of important policy and programmatic issues relevant to the management and restoration of estuary-watershed systems and their resources.

Our goal in encouraging the submission and publication of manuscripts of this type is to stimulate thoughtful debate about key issues faced by scientists, managers, policy makers and interested members of the public in the protection and management of watershed, estuarine, and coastal resources in California and elsewhere. We will insist that each manuscript considered for publication represents a well documented and supportable review and analysis of the issue in question. We assume, however, that others may legitimately disagree with part or all of the analysis and, as a result, will submit responses or rebuttals that we will consider for publication in the same or a subsequent issue. In all cases, these “analyses” and subsequent responses, like all manuscripts submitted to SFEWS, will undergo peer review prior to a decision to accept and publish a manuscript.

By way of introducing the new manuscript category, this issue features the article, “Subsidence, sea level rise, seismicity in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta” by Jeffrey Mount and Robert Twiss. This article will be of great interest to our readership and should stimulate valuable discussion. Based on manuscripts that we have received recently for consideration, we anticipate including other such articles in subsequent issues. We encourage readers to consider writing reviews and analyses of important issues and to respond constructively to those that have appeared in our pages.