

CALFED Carbon Sequestration Seminar

Trying to stop the subsidence of peat-filled Delta islands was the topic of a well-attended lunch-time seminar recently hosted by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and attended by a wide range of state agency representatives and external stakeholders, including Delta farmers.

The Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey have been conducting a carbon sequestration experiment on Twitchell Island in the Central Delta for more than a decade and were graphically able to show attendees by actual peat soil samples the positive effects of their experiment. The sequestered peat had oxidized far less than the non-sequestered peat sample. Roger Fuji of the U.S. Geological Survey discussed specifics of the wetland restoration program, and Dave Mraz and Ralph Svetich of the Department of Water Resources provided an overview of potential studies.

A purpose of the meeting was to gain support and participation in the program, which is expected to expand in the coming years. Participants and speakers speculated that Delta farmers may want to participate by creating wetlands for the dual purpose of sequestering carbon and stopping the subsidence of Delta islands. Widespread carbon sequestration could potentially establish a market for carbon credits and support Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to reduce greenhouse gases.