What is the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority?

The SF Bay Restoration Authority is a regional agency created to fund shoreline projects that will protect, restore, and enhance San Francisco Bay through the allocation of funds raised by the Measure AA parcel tax.

It is comprised of:
- A Governing Board of local elected officials;
- Independent Citizens Oversight Committee to annually review the work of the Authority;
- An Advisory Committee to represent the community and public agencies; and,
- Staff from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

The Restoration Authority was created by the California Legislature in 2008 to find solutions to the need for local funding for Bay restoration.

What is Measure AA?

Measure AA, or the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure, was a revenue generating measure placed on the June 2016 ballots of the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area by the Restoration Authority. The measure proposed a 20-year, $12 parcel tax to raise approximately $25 million annually, or $500 million over twenty years, to fund restoration projects in the Bay. It passed with 70% approval across the region and went into effect in 2017.

Which types of projects will be funded?

The Restoration Authority Board will make funding decisions at public meetings based on its enabling legislation and the requirements of Measure AA. The Board will fund projects to protect, restore and enhance the San Francisco Bay, including:

1. habitat restoration projects;
2. flood protection projects that are part of a habitat restoration project; and
3. shoreline access and recreational amenity projects that are part of a habitat restoration project.

A set of priorities outlined in Measure AA will help guide the Board in selecting projects that have the greatest long-term positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.

What have we done since Measure AA passed?

Since Measure AA was passed, the Board and staff of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority have been working diligently to prepare to allocate funds towards Bay restoration projects.

First Grant Round this Autumn

The first RFP will be released in September of 2017, with Grants being awarded starting in early 2018. The Restoration Authority is poised and ready to catalyze the important work of revitalizing the San Francisco Bay.
Recruiting a new Advisory Committee

After the passage of Measure AA, the Board saw the need to recruit a new Advisory Committee to focus on implementation of the grant program and expand community representation. The Authority reached out to a wide array of Bay Area stakeholders to encourage them to apply to serve on the Advisory Committee, which represents the interests of the community and public agencies.

In early 2017, the Board appointed this new Advisory Committee, composed of over 30 technical experts and community representatives, including representatives of environmental advocacy groups, environmental justice organizations, and local, state and federal agencies.

Negotiated Agreements with Nine County Tax Assessors

Measure AA was the first regional parcel tax measure in California’s history. Establishing the mechanisms to collect the tax has necessitated working with tax assessors in each of the nine Bay Area counties. Through thoughtful negotiations in each county, we have confirmed that the net revenue coming to the Restoration Authority will be approximately $25 million per year, as projected.

Developing the RFP and Grant Guidelines

With the passage of Measure AA, the Restoration Authority set to work creating Grant Program Guidelines and the Request for Proposals document to lay out clear grant eligibility and selection criteria. These documents were developed in close consultation with the Advisory Committee, a process that ensured the needs and priorities of the community have a strong voice throughout.

In the economically diverse Bay Area, it was critically important that the tenets of environmental justice helped to frame the project selection process. Projects that benefit economically disadvantaged communities are among Measure AA’s priorities and, working with representatives from the environmental justice community on the Advisory Committee, the Restoration Authority adopted a new definition of an economically disadvantaged community that considers income-based metrics as well as environmental and other burdens.

Working to Improve Permitting Process

The complexity and length of the permitting process can increase costs and delay urgently needed restoration projects. The Restoration Authority has been working in collaboration with state and federal regulatory agencies in the Bay Area on a coordinated permitting process with early review built into restoration planning.