Date: July 15, 2009

To: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

From: Judy Kelly, Director, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Amy Hutzel, Regional Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

Re: Formation of Advisory Committee

Summary

AB 2954 (Act) requires the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Governing Board (Board) to convene an Advisory Committee. The Act lists a number of organizations that should be considered for membership on the Committee and also suggests naming residents of Bayside cities and counties.

Discussion

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (ABAG) and California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) staff developed a list of potential nominees. The list took into account the suggestions in the Act. We also identified individuals with significant financing expertise in the Bay Area and/or significant experience in wetlands restoration or associated flood management and public access.

A letter, signed by Sam Schuchat and Henry Gardner, was sent to each nominee asking for expressions of interest for consideration by the Board as an Advisory Committee member. A list of nominees who responded positively will be sent to each Board member by July 22, 2009.

The Board should review the individuals who have indicated an interest in serving on the Advisory Committee. The Board may also wish to recommend others who should be solicited. Staff will confirm that individuals suggested by the Board are interested in serving. We recommend a group of 20-25 individuals total.
Staff will prepare letters to the final list of nominees advising them of the process and the Advisory Committee duties and responsibility. We suggest that the final decision on the composition of the Advisory Committee be made at the Board’s next meeting.

The Authority currently has no funds to pay or reimburse Advisory Committee members for participating. The Board should state that participation is voluntary and uncompensated. The Board should also state that membership on the Advisory Committee is at the pleasure of the Board.

The Advisory Committee will require staff support by the Conservancy and ABAG to prepare materials for presentation to the Board. Conservancy and ABAG staff are prepared to provide reasonable assistance to the Advisory Committee.

Requested Actions

1. Review and finalize list of nominees for Advisory Committee.
2. Authorize letters to everyone on the list, describing their status and the details of service.
3. Set a date for the first Advisory Committee meeting.