

Permit Coordination Efforts



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PROBLEM

- Multi-benefit wetland restoration projects face unnecessary, costly delays

NEW FACTORS

- **Public Accountability: Measure AA approval with +70% support**
- **Sea Level Rise: Baylands Goals Report Update 2016:**
“Tidal marshes that are established by 2030 are more likely to flourish and provide ongoing benefits when the sea-level rise accelerates in the middle of this century. To achieve this goal, the planning, permitting, and construction of restoration projects on currently available lands must be accelerated.”

SOLUTION

- Reduce permitting time for multi-benefit restoration projects via coordinated permitting while ensuring compliance with all applicable laws.

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POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

Audubon CA

CA Coastal Conservancy

Ducks Unlimited

East Bay Regional Park District

Santa Clara Valley Water District

UC Fish & Wildlife Service

REGULATORY AGENCIES

SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission

CA Fish & Wildlife

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA)

Regional Water Quality Control Board

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish & Wildlife Service

CONVENERS

Bay Area Council

Dudek

Resources Legacy Fund

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

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STRAWMAN PROPOSAL

- Five meetings since March 2017
- Create two joint interagency habitat restoration regulatory teams
 - Permitting
 - Policy
- Logistics provided by USACE
- Goal: More timely permitting of multi-benefit wetland restoration projects in SF Bay

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STRAWMAN PROPOSAL

PROJECT ANALYSIS & PERMITTING

- Meet at USACE 2-3 days week
- Coordinated review of project information
- Pre-application meetings w/project sponsors
- Site visits as necessary
- Quarterly public meetings
- Identify and elevate difficult issues to Policy & Management Team

POLICY & MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Review permitting issues raised by Permitting Team that require policy shifts or upper management involvement.
- Resolve long-standing "sand in the gears" policy issues faced by regulator agencies.
- Manage and execute inter-agency agreements, and billing for Permitting Team staff.

RESOURCES

- \$1.16m - \$1.25m/year
- 1-1.5 FTEs @ \$210k/yr x6 agencies: USACE, NOAA, US F&W, BCDC, CA F&W, RWQCB.
- Funding from SFBRA, others?