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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 15, 2019

**TO:** Governing Board  
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

**FROM:** Amy Hutzel, Deputy Executive Officer  
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

**SUBJECT:** Update on Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

Significant progress has been made on the establishment of a Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) since the June 1, 2018 authorization of funding by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Governing Board. Below are major highlights.

### **Matching Funds**

The Authority authorized \$650,000 per year for five years (with annual increases for inflation). The Authority also authorized the acceptance and disbursement of up to \$600,000 per year for five years in matching funds (also with annual increases for inflation). The total cost of the BRRIT is approximately \$1,250,000 per year (with annual increases for inflation). Authority staff have successfully raised the remaining needed funds, as follows:

- On September 6, 2018, the State Coastal Conservancy authorized a total of \$1,250,000 (\$250,000 per year for 5 years). Conservancy funds will be directly provided to BRRIT agencies and will not go through the Authority.
- On November 5, 2018, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and the Authority entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA). SCVWD committed to \$200,000 for the first year of the BRRIT and to undertaking reasonable efforts to annually seek \$200,000 for the following four years.
- On January 15, 2019, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) authorized \$375,000 in funding for the BRRIT at \$75,000 per year for five years.
- On February 13, 2019, the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) authorized funding for the BRRIT. BATA committed to \$100,000 per year for five years, subject to availability of funds in annual budgets after the first year.

The matching funds total \$625,000 per year, which will allow for increases due to inflation in future years.

## **Formation of the BRRIT**

Agreements to fund the designated BRRIT staff have been drafted by Authority staff and are being negotiated with each of the six state and federal regulatory agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries); San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW); and San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). These agreements will all be executed in the winter or spring of 2019, after which designated BRRIT staff will be hired or assigned by each agency.

As described further in Attachment 1, the BRRIT staff will be co-located for at least a portion of their workweek, will meet as a group regularly, will tour project sites together, and will conduct pre-project consultation meetings and permit application review as a team. Performance measures for the BRRIT are based on timelines for permitting.

## **Permit and Policy Improvement List**

The Policy and Management Team, made up of agency managers from the Corps, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, RWQCB, DFW, BCDC, and EPA, has met five times over the past six months to discuss their roles and responsibilities and governance. The PMT has also developed a Permit and Policy Improvement List. This list was called for by the Authority's Governing Board and is Attachment 2. Prior to finalizing the list, the PMT sought input from a number of restoration practitioners who have significant experience with permitting restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay; the response to comments is Exhibit 1 to Attachment 2. The PMT will implement at least one of the policy initiatives on the list each year.

## **Priority Project List**

Authority staff will provide a Priority Project List to the BRRIT agencies, which will review only projects that are included on the List, and in the order of priority designated on the List. Authority staff will add projects to the Priority Project List using the eligibility criteria for San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority funding, as described in the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act and Measure AA. Authority staff will prioritize projects on the List using various criteria, including whether the project has been funded by the Authority and its readiness for pre-application consultation or permitting. Only projects that are ready to begin their pre-consultation or permitting process will be given a high priority. The full set of prioritization criteria will be developed by Authority staff in consultation with the BRRIT.

## **Annual Reporting**

Authority staff will report to the Governing Board six months after formation of the BRRIT, and then annually thereafter. These reports will focus on how well the BRRIT and the PMT have met the performance measures, as well as a summary of work accomplished.