San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee
Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economically Disadvantaged Communities

MEETING NOTES
Prepared by Alexis Barrera, Sea Grant Fellow, State Coastal Conservancy
September 19, 2019
10AM-11:30PM
Meeting Location:
State Coastal Conservancy - Del Norte Conference Room
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor, Oakland CA

Attendees
Advisory Committee (AC) Members
- Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Advisory Committee Vice Chair, Lead for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economically Disadvantaged Communities
- Sally Lieber
- Mike Mielke, Vice President / Silico Valley Leadership Group
- Anne Morkill, SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Letitia Grenier, Resilient Landscapes Program Director, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- Shin-Roei Lee, Board Director / Chinese American Environmental Professional Association
- Myla Ablog, Sole Proprietor, Environmental Consultant
- Diane Williams, Health Educator / Planting Justice

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Staff
- Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager
- Linda Tong, Project Manager

East Bay Regional Park District Staff (Supporting)
- Katherine Dudney, Management Analyst

SFBRA Consultant
- Nahal Ipakchi, EcoEquity Consulting
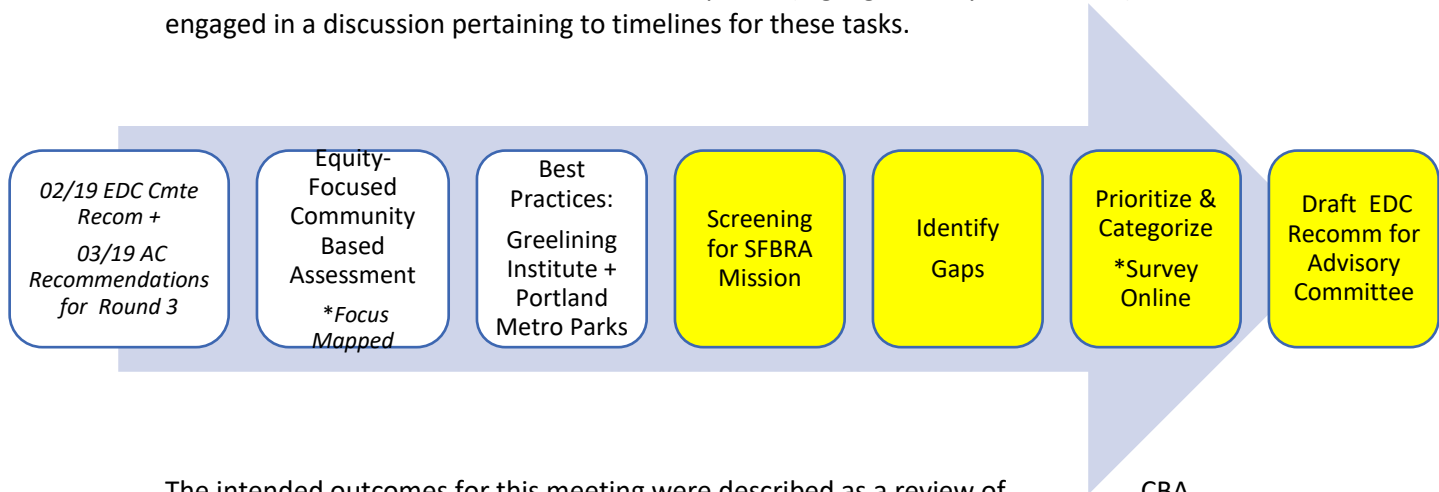
1. Welcome & Introductions

Facilitator: Ad Hoc Subcommittee Lead Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, East Bay Regional Park District

Each attendee introduced themselves and their role. Facilitator described the history of equity and environmental justice work pursued by the Authority and the EDC subcommittee. This is the third meeting of the EDC subcommittee. The Authority had an environmental justice panel with local experts that resulted in a set of recommendations to include equity in the grant program. An equity consultant was contracted to create an Equity-Focused Community Based Assessment (CBA) at the request of Governing Board. Facilitator also briefly described the CBA findings/recommendations and the Focus-Mapping exercise conducted at the last meeting to determine value based on feasibility and impact.

2. Formulating ED Recommendations Pathway

Presenter: Ad Hoc Subcommittee Lead Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, East Bay Regional Park District

Dr. Alvarez reviewed a graph that visually captures the work tasks completed up to date by the Subcommittee and what remained to be completed (highlighted in yellow below). The Subcommittee engaged in a discussion pertaining to timelines for these tasks.

02/19 EDC Cmte Recom + *03/19 AC Recommendations for Round 3*	Equity-Focused Community Based Assessment *Focus Mapped*	Best Practices: Greelining Institute + Portland Metro Parks	**Screening for SFBRA Mission**	**Identify Gaps**	**Prioritize & Categorize** ***Survey Online**	**Draft EDC Recomm for Advisory Committee**

The intended outcomes for this meeting were described as a review of   CBA recommendations to screen for mission and prevent "mission creep" and identify any items that are missing from the CBA that will be important to include in Subcommittee draft recommendations to the AC. An online survey was introduced as a tool to ensure full participation of Subcommittee members in the prioritization and categorizing of recommendations. With all of this information, the EDC subcommittee will then draft recommendations by October 02, 2019 to be included in the packet for the October 11, 2019 Advisory Committee meeting.

A question was raised about the timeline of the implementation of "Round 3 Recommendations" from the Subcommittee, AC and the community interviews led by the equity consultant. Staff responded by indicating that due to timing, those recommendations will be deferred to a future round; although some have already been implemented as part of Grant Round 3. For example:

1. the RFP was extended from 2 to 3 months
2. a guidance document, *Tips for Meaningful Community Engagement*, was also released to project applicants.
3. During the actual scoring of project applications, scorers will also be flexible in prioritizing equity issues that have been previously discussed.

A reminder will be sent to the community interviewees who participated in the surveys letting them know that their input will be reflected in future grant rounds.

Discussion on what implementation could look like took place. Authority staff may need to develop an Equity Work Plan, supported and approved by the Governing Board, which the Authority staff will commit to developing in a staff memo presented along with the AC recommendations.

3. Debrief on Focus Mapping Results on Equity-Focused CBA Recommendations

Presenter: Katherine Dudney, Management Analyst

The presenter summarized the process for the Focus Mapping exercised that took place at the last Subcommittee meeting of August 30, 2019; an analysis of the results was highlighted. CBA recommendations were scaled for feasibility and impact. The recommendations that were highlighted were selected because they were scored high in both feasibility and impact. These recommendations will be prioritized for short-term or long-term implementation, however no recommendations will be deleted or removed.

The presenter then summarized the prioritized recommendations that scored well in feasibility and impact (the numbers are referenced from the CBA Report):

> *CBA Recommendation #14*: Amend scoring criteria: scored high in both categories
>
> *CBA Recommendation #1*: Simplify language: scored mid-high in both
>
> *CBA Recommendation #5*: Clarify eligibility: one of the most feasible, less so on impact
>
> *CBA Recommendation #11*: Offer technical assistance: high on feasibility
>
> *CBA Recommendation #8*: Establish a hub to facilitate connections: mid-range on both
>
> > -Hub would be for ecological, social justice, community empowerment types of funding.
> > -"Match making" hub for funding organizations
>
> CBA Recommendation #9: Develop separate application track ~

A question was raised about whether developing a separate application track would impact timing and staff resources as there would be a lot of issues for implementation. Timing for implementation of these recommendations is crucial because of the rapidly approaching 2030 year, after which restoration projects will be more costly and difficult to implement. It was suggested by Authority staff that the separate proposal track could be implemented on a trial basis, 2-3 years, to see if it helped applicants. There are similar separate application tracks used by other agencies such as the California Department of Water Resources that could be used as a model. Another suggestion was made to have larger organizations act as an umbrella entity to support smaller organizations with processing and receiving government grants.

4. Working Session

a)   Screening for SFBRA Mission & EDC Ad Hoc Committee Scope

For the Authority, eligible projects must be a habitat restoration project, but can have flood or public access elements. As such, some of these recommendations could only be implemented using the administrative budget, not the projects appropriation . If a community-based organization (CBO) applied for a planning grant that had a lot of community engagement, then it could be funded as the first phase of a restoration project. This action would also send a positive message to include equity work for other potential projects.

Specific recommendations from the equity assessment that might be beyond the mission of the Authority were discussed in more detail, as follow:

CBA Recommendation #8: Establish a hub to facilitate connections ~ This seems to be outside the scope of the Authority, but could be a better fit for the Bay Conservation and Development Commission or the San Francisco Foundation

CBA Recommendation #16: Hold committee meetings throughout the subregions of the Bay Area ~ a central location was preferred by AC. However, AC tours could include locations of potential projects in economically disadvantaged areas as defined by the Authority, where applicants could better explain their story.

CBA Recommendation #17: Reach beyond diversity for leadership roles
Appointments to the executive levels of Authority staff are controlled by the State Coastal Conservancy, not the Authority. Appointments to the Governing Board are also not controlled by the Authority. The recommendation would have to be to the Association of Bay Area Governments, which appoints the board. However, it was noted that this recommendation should still be strived for at all levels of staffing, through recommendations to other agencies.

b) Identify Gaps

One gap was brought up concerning the trash in East Oakland affecting the Bay. There was support in having larger organizations handle government grants for smaller organizations to keep restoration funds flowing.

c) Solicit Priorities (in person)

A suggestion was made to clarify grant application language so that restoration priorities are clear to applicants. Use less technical language and try to extend language that non-technical people can understand and relate to.

Support was raised for a separate application track for CBOs and technical assistance, particularly on NEQA/CEQA documents. Involvement of communities in planning with bigger organizations is also needed.

5. Full Committee Engagement in Prioritizing & Categorizing (online survey)

Participants were asked to take the online survey, which will close September 25, 2019 . The survey will solicit for priorities and categorizing by what can be done in near, short and longer term. The survey will also serve as a second screening process for "mission creep" and gaps.

6. Next Steps & Review of EDC Committee Scope of Work

Draft recommendations will be sent out for review to the EDC subcommittee then submitted to Authority staff October 2, 2019. The next AC meeting will be on October 11, 2019 where Subcommittee recommendations will be presented along with the CBA Report. Final recommendations will be forwarded to the Governing Board in time for their December 2019 meeting.

Note from Jessica Davenport to strive for consensus from the full AC, with the potential option to go with a majority vote, if necessary, and include dissenting opinions in the presentation to the Governing Board.

7. Adjourn