



San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

AGENDA

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting December 8, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Doors Open at 9:30 am for Get-to-Know-Your-Colleagues Coffee Time

Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 9
Oakland, CA 94612

For additional information, please contact:

Anna Schneider, Clerk of the Advisory Committee: (510) 286-0325

Agenda and attachments available at:

www.sfbayrestore.org

1. Call to Order

Chair Luisa Valiela, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2. Determination of Quorum

Anna Schneider, Clerk of the Advisory Committee

3. Public Comment (3 min)

Each speaker is allowed three minutes.

4. Announcements (INFORMATION) (5 min)

5. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2017 (ACTION) (3 min)

Item 5: Draft Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2017

6. Staff's Report from September 8, 2017 Governing Board Meeting (INFORMATION) (5 min)

7. Bay Restoration 101: Restoration Pilot Projects (INFORMATION) (45 min)

Roger Leventhal, Senior Engineer, Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Item 7: References for Multi-Benefit Habitat Restoration Pilot Projects

Attachment 1: Novato Creek Case Study Abstract

- 8. Review Working Group's Recommendation and Consider Appointing Ad Hoc Committee(s) (ACTION) (45 min)**
Item 8: *Report of the Working Group on Setting 2018 Goals for the Advisory Committee*
Attachment 1: *Summary of Brainstorming Session from October 13, 2017 Meeting*
- 9. Set AC Meeting Schedule for 2018 (ACTION) (5 min)**
Item 9: *Proposed 2018 Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule*
- 10. Meeting Process Check-In: What's Working, What's Not (3 min)**
Chair Valiela
- 11. Public Comment (3 min)**
- 12. Adjourn**

Note: Any person who has a disability and requires reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting should contact Taylor Samuelson no later than five days prior to meeting. Questions about reasonable accommodation can be directed to Taylor Samuelson at (510) 286-4182 or Taylor.Samuelson@scc.ca.gov or at the Restoration Authority:

c/o State Coastal Conservancy
1550 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612



Advisory Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Yerba Buena Room, First Floor
San Francisco CA 94105

1. Call to Order

Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee (AC) Chair, called the meeting to order.

AC Member Attendance: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez (Vice Chair), Brian Benn, Bruce Beyaert, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Francesca Demgen, Nahal Ghoghaie, Letitia Grenier, Beth Huning, Andrea Jones, Mike Mielke, Anne Morkill, Erika Powell, Marina Psaros, Ana Maria Ruiz, Laura Tam, Laura Thompson, Luisa Valiela (Chair), Bruce Wolfe, Sarah Young

Staff Attendance: Sam Schuchat, Caitlin Sweeney, Jessica Davenport, Kelly Malinowski, Karen McDowell, Anna Schneider

2. Determination of Quorum

AC Clerk Anna Schneider determined that there was a quorum.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Announcements

Anne Morkill announced National Wildlife Refuge Week events on October 14, 2017 at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont. Mike Mielke announced that he is part of a group looking at leveraging Measure AA funding. Bruce Beyaert announced that the migratory birds have arrived. Chair Valiela noted that several AC members were unable to attend the meeting because of the fires in the North Bay and our thoughts are with them. She also notified the AC that two important meetings just occurred, the State of the Estuary Conference and the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) Annual Meeting. The RMP's *Pulse of the Bay* report (<http://www.sfei.org/rmp/pulse>) is now available and presentations from the State of the Estuary Conference will be online soon.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2017

Decision: Bruce Beyaert moved and Mike Mielke seconded the motion to approve the minutes. There was consensus to approve the minutes.

6. Chair's Report from September 8, 2017 Governing Board Meeting

Chair Valiela reported that the Board approved the Measure AA Proposal Solicitation or request for proposals (RFP), which staff released on September 15, 2017. She noted that the Board also discussed the SFBRA Oversight Committee, but has not yet taken action to recruit and appoint members.

7. Bay Restoration 101: Baylands Goals Science Update

Letitia Grenier, Resilient Landscapes Program Director and Senior Scientist for the San Francisco Estuary Institute, gave a presentation on the report *The Baylands and Climate Change: What We Can Do*. The AC discussed various wetland restoration and climate adaptation issues, such as prioritization of restoration sites based on their relative resilience to sea level rise, the political sensitivities around prioritization, and the pros and cons of fragmented governance, i.e., needing a diverse set of agencies and groups to implement the Baylands Goals. Opportunities to reconnect creeks to wetlands to enhance sediment supply and the use of treated effluent to provide fresh water inputs to wetlands were also discussed.

8. Brainstorming Session: Set AC Goals for Coming Year

The AC engaged in a brainstorming session about additional activities in which they would like to engage. Topics included advising the Governing Board on measures of success for the Measure AA grant program; monitoring at the project and regional levels; developing a communications strategy; assessing accomplishments and opportunities related to public access and flood protection in restoration projects; assessing needs related to environmental justice; consideration of public health issues, such as vector control; and many other ideas. Next steps include categorizing the ideas generated and determining which tasks are 1) already being worked on by another group that AC members may wish to join; 2) more appropriate for staff to do; and 3) most suitable for the AC to undertake and what ad hoc subcommittees therefore may be needed.

9. Restoration Authority Grant Reviewer Selection Process

Jessica Davenport, Project Manager, reminded AC members that staff will be requesting volunteers who do not have a conflict of interest to serve as grant application reviewers. Conflicts include not just one's employer submitting an application, but also if one significantly contributes to writing a partner's application. Providing letters of support would also reveal bias. Giving general advice is permitted. Staff will be assessing the need for reviewers after reviewing what kind and how many applications are received. The tentative time commitment is 6-10 hours in the months of December and January. AC members interested in serving as reviewers should email Kelly Malinowski (Kelly.Malinowski@scc.ca.gov) and save the date and time of November 28, 2017, 2-4 pm, for a reviewers meeting at the State Coastal Conservancy.

10. AC Meeting Dates for 2018

AC members reviewed the proposed 2018 AC meeting dates. AC members were asked to email Chair Valiela and Jessica Davenport if they have conflicts with the proposed dates. The AC will need to take action at its next meeting to approve the dates.

11. Meeting Process Check-In: What's Working, What's Not

AC members provided feedback on the meeting process. They felt that the interactive discussions with presenters and brainstorming sessions worked well. There was a request to expand the public comment procedure to include an opportunity for time-limited public comment on each agenda item; speakers would be required to sign up to speak on a given item before the Chair opened that item for discussion.

Reminder: Advisory Committee's Remaining 2017 Meeting Dates and Locations

December 8, 2017: Harris State Office Building, 1515 Clay St, Oakland

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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References for Multi-Benefit Habitat Restoration Pilot Projects

The projects listed below restore or enhance shoreline habitat while providing a variety of additional benefits, such as flood protection, sea level rise adaptation, shoreline stabilization, water quality improvement, and dredged sediment reuse.

1. **Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Project, Alameda County**
<https://oroloma.org/horizontal-levee-project/>
2. **San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines: Nearshore Linkages Project (San Rafael Oyster and Eelgrass Restoration Project), Marin County**
http://www.sfbaylivingshorelines.org/sf_shorelines_about.html
3. **Aramburu Island Beach Restoration Demonstration Project, Marin County**
<http://richardsonbay.audubon.org/conservation/aramburu-island>
4. **Seal Beach Thin-Lift Dredging Pilot Project, Orange County**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/seal_beach/what_we_do/resource_management/Sediment_Pilot_Project.html
5. **Novato Creek Dredged Sediment Reuse Pilot Project, Marin County** (See attached abstract from the 2017 State of the Estuary Conference.)

Another useful reference is The Nature Conservancy's *Case Studies of Natural Shoreline Infrastructure in Coastal California*, which summarizes the following projects:

- Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge Thin-layer Salt Marsh Sediment Augmentation Pilot Project;
- Surfers' Point Managed Shoreline Retreat Project;
- San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines: Nearshore Linkages Project;
- Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project; and
- Humboldt Coastal Dune Vulnerability and Adaptation Climate Ready Project.

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The Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Sediments to Construct Ecotone Levees: Challenges and Results from Lower Novato Creek

Roger Leventhal, Marin County Flood Control, rleventhal@marincounty.org

There is a much increased awareness in recent years of the importance of beneficial reuse of dredged sediments to prepare for sea level rise (so called “sediment capital”). Across many vulnerable areas around the Bay there is almost certainly a deficit of sediment to raise shoreline elevations and construct ecotone levees for habitat and sea level rise. However, in practice this goal has been very difficult to achieve given a number of technical, economic and permitting challenges. In Fall 2016, Marin County Flood Control District #1 performed their quadrennial creek dredge from Middle and Lower Novato Creek. Instead of hauling the dredged sediments to the landfill or uplands as typically done in the past, the District worked closely with the RWQCB (especially Christina Toms) as well as other permitting agencies to place these sediments along the alignment of future sea level rise ecotone levees within jurisdictional wetlands in order to prepare these areas for restoration to full tidal conditions. The District's goal was to place these sediments cost-effectively and without mitigation. The District completed the project construction in November 2016 and placed several thousand yards of dredged sediments both for the levee core as well as the ecotone levee slope.

The challenges and results of this design and permitting process will be shown along with the results of several approaches to slurring and hydraulically placing dredged sediments transported by truck to the placement area and a discussion of constructability. This talk will present a very straightforward presentation of the practical obstacles to beneficial sediment reuse from the perspective of a practitioner in local government.

Keywords: sea level rise, dredged sediment, beneficial reuse

Session Title: Science Innovations for Sea Level Rise Adaptation

Speaker Biography: Roger Leventhal, P.E. is a Senior Engineer with the Marin County Public Works Flood Control Division. He has a MS from U.C. Berkeley in Hydraulics and Coastal Engineering and worked for over 24 years as a private engineering consultant specializing in creek/tidal wetlands restoration prior to coming to Marin County. He has particular expertise in the beneficial reuse of dredged sediments by leading the Montezuma Wetlands project and as a technical advisor to the USACE on the Hamilton Wetlands project. He has helped design and build several innovative projects that use natural systems to provide flood protection with habitat; especially tidal wetlands and coarse-grained bay beach systems. He is currently working closely with County planning staff to develop sea level rise adaptation alternatives that use both these “soft” engineering approaches to flood protection, such as wetlands and beaches, with more traditional “hard” engineering measures.

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**Report of the Working Group on
Setting 2018 Goals for the Advisory Committee:
Summary of Process and Proposed Recommendations**

November 16, 2017

Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee Chair

Sarah Young, Advisory Committee Member

Jessica Davenport and Karen McDowell, Staff Project Managers

Background

The Advisory Committee (AC) held a brainstorming session to identify priority issues for discussion in 2018 at its October 13, 2017 meeting. The results, which are summarized in Attachment 1, include:

- Preliminary ideas to further develop into recommendations to the Governing Board;
- Proposed ways for AC members to support the Restoration Authority; and
- A list of topics for future presentations to the AC.

In addition, the AC did some initial work on developing measures for success for the Measure AA grant program, suggested changes to AC processes, and defined next steps for setting AC goals.

Working Group's Analysis and Recommendations

A small Working Group formed and met on November 13, 2017 to carry out the next steps identified at the meeting:

1. Determine what actions are being undertaken by other groups, e.g., San Francisco Bay Joint Venture committees and others, and connect interested AC members to those groups.
2. Determine what tasks are more appropriate for staff and other organizations, rather than AC, to do.
3. For remaining items that are not being done by other groups or staff, set priorities for AC tasks.
4. Recommend formation of AC Ad Hoc Subcommittees to take on specific tasks.

The Working Group reviewed the results of the brainstorming session (Attachment 1) and extracted a set of actions that had generated the most interest at the meeting and/or already had some momentum behind them.

- Developing measures of success for Measure AA grant program
- Supporting the development of a wetlands regional monitoring program
- Developing communication priorities and/or a communications strategy

- Involving disadvantaged communities
- Lending support to speed up restoration work, e.g., seeking more funding
- Holding a workshop to explain how to develop a project labor agreement
- Helping jurisdictions collaborate on adaptation to sea level rise combining Bay restoration and flood protection

The Working Group used the four steps described above to further categorize these seven actions to determine which ones should be the focus for the AC in 2018.

1. Actions Being Undertaken by Other Groups

The Working Group noted that four of the actions of interest are already being undertaken by other groups, including groups represented on the AC.

Supporting the development of a wetlands regional monitoring program. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the San Francisco Estuary Institute received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2017 to work on this.

Lending support to speed up restoration work, e.g., seeking more funding. Save the Bay, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and others have engaged in supporting bond measures that would increase funding for Bay restoration. This is likely to continue in the future.

Holding a workshop to explain how to develop a project labor agreement. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture intends to host this workshop.

Helping jurisdictions collaborate on adaptation to sea level rise combining Bay restoration and flood protection. San Francisco Estuary Institute and SPUR are working on a project to support this.

For these activities, it will be important for those AC members who are involved to update the AC on their progress over the course of the coming year. These updates may lead to agenda items at AC meetings.

2. Actions More Appropriate for Staff

The Working Group suggests that two of the actions of interest would be more appropriate for the staff than the AC to undertake.

Developing communication priorities and/or a communications strategy. The AC discussed the proposal to develop a communications strategy. The staff does not have sufficient capacity to develop a full communications strategy, but it may develop priority communications products, such as media releases and talking points to accompany the first annual report that includes a summary of grants awarded.

Involving disadvantaged communities. This is an area in which the staff is already engaged, by connecting members of community-based organization with proposed restoration projects in their areas.

3. Actions Most Appropriate for the Advisory Committee

The Working Group suggests that two of them actions are most appropriate for the AC to undertake.

Developing measures of success for the Measure AA grant program and recommending related communications products. Developing measures of success for the Measure AA grant program generated the most interest during the brainstorming session and resulted in some preliminary work to define the measures. The AC appears ready and willing to take on this action. As discussed above, the topic of communications related to the Measure AA grant program also generated a lot of interest. This action is closely related to developing measures of success, which would then need to be communicated to a range of audiences.

Recommending revisions to the RFP. In addition to the topics generated during the brainstorming session, the Working Group agreed that the AC should also consider advising the Governing Board on changes to the 2018 Project Solicitation, or request for proposals (RFP).

The Working Group recommends these two actions as the focus for AC's work in 2018.

4. Recommendations on Forming Ad Hoc Subcommittees

The Working Group recommends forming no more than two ad hoc subcommittees to lead the AC in undertaking actions. In order for an ad hoc subcommittee to form, the action needs a champion who feels strongly about the need to undertake the work and will do the majority of the work, and at least two other people who are willing to help do the work.

The Working Group recommends that, if sufficient leadership and support among AC members exists, two ad hoc subcommittees should be formed to take on those actions which are most appropriate to the AC's mission and most likely to be useful to the Governing Board, staff and the public. They are the following:

Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Developing Measures of Success. The first ad hoc subcommittee would focus on developing and recommending measures of success for Measure AA grant program. This group could also make recommendations regarding priority communications products that educate various audiences about the progress of the SFBRA using these success indicators.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Revisions to the RFP. The second ad hoc subcommittee would focus on developing recommendations on revisions to the RFP. Ideally, any recommended revisions to the RFP should be developed in

January and February, discussed by the AC in March, revised in April, and brought to the AC for action in May.



Advisory Committee

SUMMARY OF BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON SETTING 2018 GOALS

Preliminary Ideas to Develop into Recommendations to Board

1. Use specific metrics to measure success of Measure AA program (see below)
2. Develop a monitoring program:
 - Create a Restoration Authority monitoring program to ensure coordination of monitoring across projects funded by Measure AA. I.e., all projects should have a baseline and similar projects should use consistent monitoring protocols.
 - Define the role of Measure AA funding in supporting a long term Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program that would include assessing how wetland restoration is contributing to the overall health of the Bay.
3. Develop a communications strategy to inform local elected officials, legislators, communities, and tax payers about what's going on with implementation of Measure AA
 - Communicate about how the Restoration Authority is achieving effectiveness and efficiency
 - Should be accessible
 - Reach and involve tribal and disadvantaged communities
 - Weave ecological services information into the communications strategy
 - Communicate multiple benefits of restoration projects
 - Use before/after photos (Available in Project Tracker in EcoAtlas database)
 - Communicate with public and private partners
 - Explain the relationship between restoration benefits, flood management benefits, and the use of recycled water in restoration projects (we note that there will be increasing pressure to direct recycled water to non-habitat uses)
 - Hold a workshop as part of a communication strategy
 - Conduct ongoing outreach with simple messages that relate back to the Measure AA campaign
4. Involve disadvantaged communities
 - Support proposals from disadvantaged communities and nongovernmental organizations
 - Help small nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations build capacity to apply for grants, to overcome barriers
 - Invite representatives of disadvantaged communities to speak to Board about their proposals (*Staff note: It would be more appropriate to invite speakers to discuss completed projects. Proposed projects should go through the RFP process.*)
5. Explore financing mechanisms beyond government leverage.

6. Support public access that goes beyond the Bay Trail and interpretive panels
7. Prioritize helping existing marshes adapt to sea level rise
8. Conduct research on demographics relative to gaps in environmental education opportunities and recreation areas.
9. Protect public health, e.g., by designing wetland restoration projects to avoid increasing mosquito populations.
10. Track projects from acquisition to completion (*Note: This is done in Project Tracker in the EcoAtlas online database.*)
 - acreage
 - planning stage
 - timeline

Proposed Ways for AC Members to Support Restoration Authority

1. Helping with communications
2. Lending support to speed up restoration work, e.g., seeking more funding
3. Holding a workshop to explain how to develop a project labor agreement (San Francisco Bay Joint Venture will host)
4. Helping jurisdictions collaborate on adaptation to sea level rise combining Bay restoration and flood protection (San Francisco Estuary Institute and SPUR are working on a project to support this)
 - Identify natural breaks in the shoreline/ support urban planning within ecologically defined areas
 - Engage the public

Suggested Future Presentations to AC (Beyond Bay Restoration 101 Series)

1. Environmental justice opportunities and gaps: what are needs and vulnerabilities?
2. Demonstration of Project Tracker
 - See if additional fields are needed for Measure AA projects
3. Public access
 - What has been constructed so far
 - What we are hoping for with Measure AA funding
4. Continue *Bayland Goals Science Update* discussion
 - AC needs a better understanding beyond “Bay Restoration 101” classes in order to make recommendations to the Governing Board, i.e., how mosaic of projects work together to address overall restoration strategy
5. Hurdles to getting projects implemented (*Note: Make sure AC is aware of Save The Bay work.¹*)
6. How to get projects on the ground quickly

¹ Save the Bay has developed a short list of projects from the SFBRA project list that have barriers to implementation and is currently reaching out to the project proponents to help them overcome those barriers. The contact is Beckie Zisser.

7. Short presentation on Measure AA grant agreement and its terms (This will be presented to the Governing Board in February 2018, which AC member may attend.)
8. Napa River: 20 Years of Experience with Flood Protection

Initial Work on AC Action 1a: Possible Measures of Success for Measure AA Grant Program

1. Goal: accountability to the public
2. Metadata on proposals received
 - Number of submittals
 - Type of originating organization
 - Type of project by goal (e.g., habitat restoration, flood protection, public access, etc.)
 - Project size
 - Geographic location
3. Available Metrics of Effectiveness and Efficiency
5. Acres restored (Need definition of “restored,” i.e., must marsh vegetation be present?)
6. Amount of other funds leveraged by Measure AA funds
7. Amount of dredged material used
8. Amount of trash removed
9. Number of activities focused on pollution prevention
4. Metrics to be developed
10. Other metrics of effectiveness and efficiency?²
11. How do we measure success beyond effectiveness and efficiency?
12. How to measure impact? What’s working well to create larger positive impact and how to measure?
13. Need to determine how flood risk reduction and its economic benefits are quantified
 - Draw on Santa Clara Valley Water District experience with integrating habitat into flood control projects
 - Assess economic impact on community that will benefit from flood protection (e.g., what is the protection provided to disadvantaged communities?)
5. How do we ensure that we prioritize funding for long-lasting projects?
6. How do we measure success in going from science to action?
14. How are data and science translating to action on the ground?
15. How can monitoring facilitate action?

Proposed Changes in AC Process

1. Hold meetings at different locations
 - Attract other partners

² Perhaps consider FieldDoc or similar calculator for grant application. (Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund uses this application for measuring success.)

- Educate and motivate folks around the Bay, e.g., folks in the Midpeninsula Open Space District's area

Next Steps

1. Determine what actions are being undertaken by other groups, e.g., San Francisco Bay Joint Venture committees and others, and connect interested AC members to those groups.
2. Determine what tasks are more appropriate for staff and other organizations, rather than AC, to do.
3. For remaining items that are not being done by other groups or staff, set priorities for AC tasks.
4. Form AC Ad Hoc Subcommittees to take on specific tasks.



Proposed 2018 Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

(Governing Board Schedule Provided for Reference)

Advisory Committee (proposed)

Meeting Time:
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Meeting Location:
TBD

Friday, March 9, 2018

Friday, May 4, 2018

Friday, June 29, 2018

Friday, October 5, 2018

Governing Board (adopted 11/3/17)

Meeting Time:
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:
TBD

Friday, February 2, 2018

Friday, April 6, 2018

Friday, June 1, 2018

Friday, September 21, 2018

Friday, November 2, 2018

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