



AGENDA

**San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting
June 29, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**

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

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale St., Yerba Buena Room, 1st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

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**
Each speaker is allowed three minutes.
- 4. Announcements (INFORMATION)**
- 5. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2018 (ACTION)**
Item 5: *Draft Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2018*
- 6. Chair's Report from June 1, 2018 Governing Board Meeting (INFORMATION)**
- 7. Recommendation to the Governing Board on Performance Measures (ACTION)**
Roger Leventhal, Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
(Subcommittee Lead)
Item 7: *Proposed Recommendation to the Governing Board on Performance Measures*
Attachment 1: *Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Performance Measures (Revised)*

8. Environmental Justice Panel Discussion (INFORMATION)

Nahal Ghoghaie, Environmental Justice for Water Coalition (AC Member, Moderator)

Speakers:

Anthony Khalil, Literacy for Environmental Justice

Sandra Corzantes, Latino Outdoors

Phoenix Armenta, Resilient Communities Initiative

9. Update from Staff on Proposed Revisions to the Grant Program Documents (INFORMATION)

Matt Gerhart, Restoration Authority Program Manager

Kelly Malinowski, Restoration Authority Project Manager

Item 9: *Lessons Learned from the First Grant Round and Proposed Revisions to the Grant Program Guidelines, Request for Proposals, and Grant Application Form (Staff Memo to the Governing Board)*

Attachment 1: *Draft Round 2 Grant Program Guidelines (Redline Version)*

Attachment 2: *Draft Round 2 Request for Proposals (Redline Version)*

Attachment 3: *Draft Round 2 Grant Application (Redline Version)*

10. Update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Communications (INFORMATION)

Anne Morkill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Subcommittee Lead)

Item 10: *Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Communications Meeting Notes*

11. Remaining AC Meetings in 2018 (INFORMATION)

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

- October 5, 2018: Elihu Harris State Building, 1515 Clay Street, Rm. 11, Oakland, CA 94612

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

Chair Valiela

13. Public Comment

14. 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

May 4, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 11
Oakland, CA 94612

1. Call to Order

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

AC Member Attendance: Brian Benn, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, John Coleman, Francesca Demgen, Letitia Grenier, Zahra Kelly, Roger Leventhal, David Lewis, Greg Martinelli, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Mike Mielke, Anne Morkill, Gaylon Parsons, Erika Powell, Mita Prakash, Diane Ross Leech, Ana Maria Ruiz, Gary Stern, Laura Tam, Luisa Valiela (Chair), Bruce Wolfe

Staff Attendance: Sam Schuchat, Amy Hutzel, Matt Gerhart, 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

David Lewis announced that the California Water Bond of 2018, which will be on the November ballot, contains \$200 million for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. John Coleman announced that the Bay Planning Coalition's 2018 Spring Summit would be held on May 11. Anne Morkill announced that a public meeting would be held on May 8 for the South Bay Salt Ponds Phase 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, with comments due June 5. She also announced that the AC's Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Communications would be holding a half-day workshop to develop a Communications Strategy for the SFBRA on June 12, and that the 2018 Annual Mother's Day Celebration would be held at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge on May 12.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2018

Decision: There was consensus to approve the minutes.

6. Report from Staff on Lessons Learned from First Grant Round and Request for Feedback on Staff's Proposed Revisions to the Grant Program Documents

Staff presented proposed revisions to the Grant Program Guidelines, Request for Proposals, and application form. The most substantive revisions included a proposal to recommend that the Governing Board add acquisitions to the list of project phases eligible for Measure AA funds and a proposal that wetland mitigation activities incurred as part of restoration project also be made explicitly eligible for funding. The AC provided feedback on ways to improve the proposed revisions to the grant program documents. Staff and the AC agreed that more input is needed from agencies and stakeholders involved in the *Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region (LTMS)* to advise on how to evaluate proposals seeking Measure AA funds when the project involves funding the mechanics of obtaining dredged materials, for instance, covering the incremental cost or storage of dredged material.

7. Chairs' Report from the April 11, 2018 Governing Board Meeting

Chair Valiela reported that the Board approved the grant awards and discussed the coordinated permitting proposal as an information item.

8. Report from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Performance Measures

Roger Leventhal gave a presentation of the work to date of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Performance Measures and got feedback from the AC. Several members encouraged narrowing the list of performance measures to those that are most useful to inform future grant making and the public. Clear distinctions between what the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee will want to track and what the AC wants to recommend to the Governing Board as a suite of performance measures to track will be needed. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee will prepare a recommendation to the Governing Board for the full AC to consider approving at its next meeting.

9. Recommendation to Governing Board on Funding Coordinated Permitting Proposal

Amy Hutzel, Deputy Executive Officer of the SFBRA, presented the staff's recommendation for the Governing Board to fund a coordinated permitting proposal that would support dedicated regulatory agency staff to work together as a team to review projects and issue permits for multi-benefit wetland restoration projects. The AC was asked to make a recommendation to the Governing Board on whether to fund the proposal.

Decision: The AC did not reach consensus on the recommendation and the Chair called for a vote. The AC approved a recommendation to fund the proposal by a majority vote of 9 yeses, 4 noes, and 4 recusals. Those opposed to the proposal supported the goal of regulatory

integration but did not think it should be supported by Measure AA funds. Four AC members representing agencies that would receive funds from the proposal recused themselves from the vote to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee

Proposed Recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Governing Board on Performance Measures and Annual Report Format

The following are the proposed recommendations from the Advisory Committee (AC) to the Governing Board regarding performance measures for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA), as well as recommendations for the annual report covering Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and future years. These recommendations were initially developed by an ad hoc subcommittee and presented to the AC in May 2018. Following review of both written and verbal comments, the memo of the ad hoc subcommittee was updated and attached to this list of recommendations.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the Governing Board direct staff, as time permits, to do the following:

- Summarize and report out the performance measures contained in Table 1 below for the annual report covering Fiscal Year 2017-2018, focusing on primary metrics while continuing to evaluate secondary metrics for tracking and inclusion in future reports. Future reports should also include cumulative totals in relevant categories, as well as an assessment after five years to determine if changes to the grant program are needed. Gather Governing Board input and finalize this table while understanding that this table is a living document and may be updated as the program is implemented.
- Develop a more qualitative “story” side to the projects that describes goals and eventually performance in a visually appealing format including photos, videos and charts. Ensure that the annual reports are clear and easy for nontechnical people to understand and identify with.
- Coordinate with the staff of the agencies and organization developing the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP), who are separately developing performance metrics for assessing regional wetlands restoration progress, and determine how the metrics developed for the WRMP can be used to assess the effectiveness of SFBRA-funded wetland restoration projects over time.
- Review the “Measures and Metrics Requiring Further Development” section of the attached memo and report to the Governing Board on which measures that staff recommends for further development and why, along with a process and timeline for doing so.

Table 1 contain a summary of the recommended performance measures.

Table 1 – Performance Measures Table

<u>Performance Metrics</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Types of Organization Funded		
Public Agency	# projects	
Non-Profit Organization	# projects	
Private For-Profit Entity	# projects	
Public-Private Partnership	# projects	

Multi-Agency Partnership or Joint Powers Authority	# projects	
Types of Projects Funded		
Habitat only projects	# projects/ \$ *	
Habitat and public access projects	# projects/ \$ *	
Habitat and flood protection projects	# projects/ \$ *	
Habitat and flood protection and public access projects	# projects/ \$ *	
Pilot or demonstration projects	# projects/ \$ *	Projects that are by design small in size but demonstrate restoration approaches of value beyond their immediate project limits
Special projects (permitting facilitation or monitoring)	# projects/ \$ *	
Benefits to Economically Disadvantaged Communities		
Percentage of projects providing benefits to economically disadvantaged communities	percentage of total projects/ of total \$ *	
Youth Involvement		
Percentage of projects with significant youth involvement component	percentage of total projects/ of total \$ *	“Significant” to be determined by staff
Project Phases Funded		
Pre-Construction Only Projects	# projects/ \$ *	can include planning, CEQA, design, permitting
Construction Projects	# projects/ \$ *	can include other phases, too, but must include construction
Post-Construction Only Projects	# projects/ \$ *	can include maintenance and monitoring including periodic photos
Habitat Restoration and Enhancement		
Number of plans completed	# plans	This is used to measure outcomes of projects that involve funding the development of a plan
Specific species targeted for restoration	# list of specific target species for restoration	Habitat projects usually focused on specific species of concern in the design

Number of acres of habitat to be constructed divided by type (see Grant Program Guidelines for definitions of eligible habitat categories)	# acres	To avoid double counting acres of habitat, a project that involves developing a plan for habitat restoration will be counted as 1 plan under “number of plans completed” above, whereas a project that involves construction will be measured by the number of acres of habitat to be constructed.
• Subtidal habitats	# acres	
• Baylands habitats	# acres	
• Upland habitats providing transition habitat and/or migration space	# acres	
Public Access		
Trail miles planned or constructed	# trail miles	Divide into miles of Bay Trail or miles other trails
Water trail sites planned or constructed	# water trail sites	
Geographic Distribution of Funds		
Dollars allotted to each region	# dollars	
Dollars allotted to each county	# dollars	
Funds Leveraged		
Total dollars leveraged by all projects funded that year	# dollars	
Private funds	# dollars	
Other government funds	# dollars	
Volunteer Hours		
Number of volunteer hours	# hours	
Number of unique volunteers participating in restoration	# volunteers	
Administrative Costs		
Program administrative costs	% of total grants awarded	Enabling legislation limits admin costs to 5% of total spent over the life of the program

* The dollar units indicated with an asterisk are secondary units that need further evaluation.

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San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Performance Measures:
Summary of Progress, Preparation of Performance Measures Table and Recommendations for
Annual Report Format**

June 22, 2018

Roger Leventhal on Behalf of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Performance Measures¹
Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee Chair
With staff support provided by Jessica Davenport, SFBRA Project Manager

This memo presents work of the ad hoc subcommittee on performance measures under the Advisory Committee (AC) of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA). This subcommittee took on the following tasks:

- Assess and make recommendations to the Governing Board on how best to track progress toward achieving the goals stated in the SFBRA enabling legislation and Measure AA; prepare a table of recommended performance measures for review and endorsement by the full AC;
- Make recommendations on both performance measures and qualitative information to include in annual reports on work funded by Measure AA; and
- Identify additional performance measures that will need more work to develop.

Tracking and reporting on the work accomplished using Measure AA funds is important to evaluate the progress of the program and to identify areas in need of improvement. It is also important to report out to taxpayers funding the measure how well the program is meeting its stated objectives.

The ad hoc subcommittee has engaged in conference calls and email exchanges to develop the table of recommended performance measures (Table 1). There was lively debate over many issues and differing viewpoints on approaches to meeting the goals of the subcommittee. This memo lays out the main results to date, but also has a section 6 below where unresolved issues have been framed as discussion questions. Our goal is to provide the basis for the full AC to make a recommendation to the Governing Board on performance measures.

1. Goals and Caveats for Development of Measure AA Performance Measures

During the work of the subcommittee, we have identified goals and caveats related to the development of performance measures for the Measure AA grant program, which are discussed below. Gaining clarity on these issues aided in the development of the draft table in the following section.

¹ Ad hoc subcommittee members included Brian Benn , Erika Castillo , Francesca Demgen , Letitia Grenier Zahra Kelly, Erika Powell, and Ameer Raval . For affiliations and expertise, see <http://www.sfbayrestore.org/sf-bay-restoration-authority-advisory.php>.

Goals

1. ***Develop Clear Metrics and Require Grantees to Report Them.*** In order to report on the progress of the grant program over time, the staff will need to obtain information about various aspects of projects in consistent units, such as acres of habitat and miles of trails. This will enable the staff to report on cumulative totals, for example, to assess progress after five years of grant making.
2. ***Develop the First Iteration of Performance Measures for the First Year of the Program While Making Recommendations for the Development of Performance Measures Needed in Future Years.*** As described in more detail below, there were many issues identified by the ad hoc subcommittee that were not quickly or easily resolved. Given the nature of these identified issues and the need to produce the first draft of performance measures table to inform for the first annual report due in Fall 2018, the ad hoc subcommittee proposes that the AC focus on the table of measures contained within this memo. After AC discussion, the intent is to have consensus-based performance measures to recommend to the Governing Board and SFBRA staff. The subcommittee proposes recommending that staff continue to develop those performance measures that will require additional work, possibly assisted by outside experts.

Caveats

1. ***Tidal Wetland Habitat Restoration Metrics Are Being Developed by Another Group.*** The subcommittee members were initially interested in developing metrics to evaluate the progress of wetland habitat restoration projects funded by Measure AA. However, a parallel effort is currently underway to develop such metrics as part of a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program for San Francisco Bay. The project manager, Heidi Nutters of the San Francisco Estuary Project, attended a subcommittee conference call to explain the purpose, participants, and timeline for that project. She noted that a group of managers and scientists will develop management questions, which will be translated into monitoring questions. This will inform the development of indicators, metrics and methods by scientists. A steering committee will review and advise on the science content, recommend a governance structure, develop a budget and identify potential funding sources for the program. The ad hoc subcommittee will not duplicate this work. The subcommittee will continue to coordinate with this project, as well as others as described in more detail below.
2. ***Measure AA Requirements Should Not Significantly Increase Project Monitoring and Reporting Costs.*** Monitoring and reporting can be very expensive. The ad hoc subcommittee members tended to support the goal that we should not add expensive and/or complex monitoring requirements onto applicants that may not only be difficult to achieve but also would require additional AA funds to achieve. Subcommittee members tended to support the idea of using the already required project monitoring by the permitting agencies wherever possible. However, there was consensus that where easily and low cost trackable and reportable monitoring can be performed by projects, that staff work with project applicants to ask them to report in a consistent reporting format to allow for ease of folding up results into the annual report and cumulative reports on multiple years of work. (See Goal 1, above.)
3. ***It Will be Difficult and Potentially Expensive to Develop and Track Metrics Related to Every Stated Goal in the Measure AA Ballot Language – At Least Initially.*** This was perhaps one of the more

contested and open to debate potential limitations to the proposed program. Measure AA contains many stated goals across a number of areas. Many if not most of them are fairly easily and relatively inexpensively tracked and reported. However, there are some goals (i.e. many of those involving water quality) that could be much more difficult and expensive to monitor and also to even decide what is the best metric to use. For example, a metric for trash removal that reported out as “tons of trash” removed might discriminate against a project that prevented trash from entering the system in the first place, a much better goal. However, if the applicant proposes to remove trash and to measure the amount, and the project is funded, then a standard unit can be selected and future projects involving trash removal can be required to use the same units of measure.

Also, there are some goals that are regional in nature and not the direct result of any individual projects (e.g. trends in water quality) and are thus subject to broader forces in the Bay. For AA monitoring to ask projects to track and report out some of the goals could be potentially complex and expensive and may show success or failure of parameters that may not be legitimately the result of AA funding. The goals are important, but the ad hoc subcommittee did not feel like there was sufficient time and/or expertise in the group to resolve these issues. Section 3 below contains a fuller description of these goals and possible next steps.

Note that for many types of programs that use natural systems for water quality treatment, such as green stormwater infrastructure to treat stormwater runoff, there is no requirement to measure pollutant loads. Rather, there is a “treatment by design” approach that says if the facilities are designed correctly and are maintained and working, the regulatory agencies assume treatment is occurring thereby, saving applicants from costly field measurements. This same approach may be suitable for some AA funded projects as well.

4. ***Measure AA Staff Time is Limited*** – Measure AA limits administrative cost to no more than 5% of funding. Therefore, by design, Measure AA staff resources are limited and they also have numerous duties already and do not have the capacity to track and roll up large amounts of data across a range of measures. Therefore, any monitoring program has to acknowledge the current limitations in staffing. In addition, some monitoring is extremely technical in nature and may require expertise in literally dozens of scientific fields from biology to chemistry to physical processes in wetlands and flood control) and would therefore, require a number of technical staff to accomplish – well beyond the current capabilities of existing staff.

5. ***Some Monitoring Results May Not be Available for Several Years Following Project Implementation***
– The results for some monitoring will require construction of the project and follow-up monitoring for several years and then analysis of results by experts. This limitation adds to the rationale for phasing the development of the performance measures program.

2. Summary of Performance Measures Table

Table 1 below contains the performance measures table with the metrics we believe are achievable for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 annual report (as well as future annual reports). The list of performance measures is expected to be expanded later as the metrics described in Section 3 below are developed. As described in the table, we propose that the following metrics are easily trackable and reportable for at least years one through five of the project:

Table 1 – Performance Measures Table

* The dollar units indicated with an asterisk are secondary units that need further evaluation, as described in Section 6 below.

<u>Performance Metrics</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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Number of plans completed	# plans	This is used to measure outcomes of projects that involve funding the development of a plan
Specific species targeted for restoration	# list of specific target species for restoration	Habitat projects usually focused on specific species of concern in the design
Number of acres of habitat to be constructed divided by type (see Grant Program Guidelines for definitions of eligible habitat categories)	# acres	To avoid double counting acres of habitat, a project that involves developing a plan for habitat restoration will be counted as 1 plan under “number of plans completed” above, whereas a project that involves construction will be measured by the number of acres of habitat to be constructed.
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• Baylands habitats	# acres	
• Upland habitats providing transition habitat and/or migration space	# acres	
Public Access		
Trail miles planned or constructed	# trail miles	Divide into miles of Bay Trail or miles other trails
Water trail sites planned or constructed	# water trail sites	
Geographic Distribution of Funds		
Dollars allotted to each region	# dollars	
Dollars allotted to each county	# dollars	
Funds Leveraged		
Total dollars leveraged by all projects funded that year	# dollars	
Private funds	# dollars	
Other government funds	# dollars	
Volunteer Hours		
Number of volunteer hours	# hours	
Number of unique volunteers participating in restoration	# volunteers	
Administrative Costs		
Program administrative costs	% of total grants awarded	Enabling legislation limits admin costs to 5% of total spent over the life of the program

3.0 Measures and Metrics Requiring Further Development

The measures described in this section may be more difficult and more expensive to track and report. As previously indicated, some of the measures may reflect influences that are beyond the control of Measure AA funding which is on a project by project level.

Flood Risk Reduction Benefits – This measure would track how well the project achieves its stated flood risk reduction benefits. Since flood risk reduction can be tracked using many different metrics (i.e., acres of reduced flooding, protection from 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) event, reduction in storm-related monetary losses) this category needs further work to develop some common metrics that can be tracked across many projects without excessive costs.

Comparison of Intended Benefits to Actual Benefits – This measure would track how well the project delivered on the intended versus in its project proposal, i.e., the grant application. Since this requires implementation and actual monitoring data, it is anticipated that this metric would not likely be added until sometime past Year 5 at the earliest and more likely later in the program like at Year 10 for many metrics as natural systems can take years to develop. For planning level projects, performance measures may include production of plans or acquisition of permits.

Benefit to Region's Economy – Although a stated goal, this metric may be difficult to measure as direct result of AA funding. It is likely that an expert in economics may be required to provide advice and input in how to structure this performance measure. Job creation is a potential metric.

Cost-Effectiveness and Efficiency of Funds Expended – Like the regional economic benefit above, evaluating the cost-efficiency is difficult in practice. A simple metric like dollars per acre isn't always meaningful since costs can vary for a number of reasons and wetlands have different values that are difficult to normalize for comparison. It is likely that an expert in economics may be required to provide advice and input in how to structure this performance measure. Alternatively, the AC with support of staff could review the funded projects' total nominal costs by year per acre (or per other units measured) and develop project categories for potentially relevant comparison over time. We could also look at responses to application section I, questions 9 and 10 regarding measuring success, and barriers/risk. Evaluation of this information could help guide potential next steps toward structuring this performance measure.

Habitat Quality of Wetlands Restored or Enhanced – There are a number of performance measures related to the quality of the constructed habitat. These include responses across a number of scientific areas:

1. Physical processes (tidal channel formation, sedimentation)
2. Wildlife response (especially threatened and endangered species and other species of concern)
3. Vegetation response
4. Vector control & mosquito abatement

Local and Regional Water Quality Benefits – Measure AA describes several water quality goals, from trash removal to pollution reduction. Since these metrics for water quality benefits may be more complicated and regional in extent, we propose working with other programs like the Wetlands Regional Monitoring program (WRMP) to utilize their expertise to develop these measures. More details on the WRMP and other regional programs is in the next section.

4.0 Coordination with Other Regional Monitoring Programs

As described above, there are other ongoing programs around San Francisco Bay involved in the monitoring of wetland restoration projects. These other programs provide expertise in performance monitoring of these types of projects that should be coordinated and integrated in with the SFBRA performance tracking work to avoid duplicative and/or contradictory monitoring and reporting and to better leverage monitoring dollars. Two of the major efforts for monitoring and reporting are as follows:

Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided a grant to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) and two other partners (the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) to develop the WRMP. The SFEP project manager Heidi Nutters joined the ad hoc subcommittee on one of the conference calls to facilitate coordination. The WRMP Project has a Scientific Advisory Team with expertise from many disciplines that will develop indicators, metrics, methods and a budget. The project is intended to result in a program that will monitor the performance of wetland restoration projects in San Francisco Bay, including those funded Measure AA.

The WRMP is in its early stages and will likely not have developed monitoring metrics until 2019. The project team is evaluating which metrics are best done on a project scale and which are best done on a regional scale. It is possible that Measure AA could fund some monitoring activities if approved by the Governing Board as consistent with the ballot language. It is also not known at this time whether these monitoring measures will be required by the permitting agencies.

At this point, staff and ad hoc committee members will be coordinating with Heidi and will track the progress of the project and report back to the full AC.

Measures Assessed in the State of the Estuary Report (SFEP, 2015)

The *State of the Estuary Report*, if updated periodically, can help the public evaluate whether the combination of projects funded by Measure AA and other sources are resulting in improvements to “the Bay as a whole in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents”.

The subcommittee learned that this report will be updated in the near future.

The following is a list of indicators from this report that are of most relevant to SFBRA and Measure AA Goals:

- 1. Water Quality**
 1. Safe for Aquatic Life: toxicity and concentrations of chemical pollutants
 2. Fishing: concentrations of pollutants in fish popular for consumption by anglers
- 2. Habitat**
 1. Tidal Marsh: Total extent (acres) and tidal marsh in big patches (>500 acres)
 2. Eelgrass: acreage
- 3. Wildlife**
 1. Benthic: Community composition
 2. Fish: Native fish abundance, percent native fish, percent native species
 3. Harbor Seals: Index of abundance

4. Wintering Waterfowl: abundance of six species of dabbling ducks and six species of diving ducks
 5. Breeding Waterfowl: annual abundance of five of the most of the most abundant dabbling duck species in the estuary
 6. Shorebirds: Abundance per hectare during the winter
 7. Herons and Egrets: nest density and nest survival
 8. Tidal Marsh Birds: index
 9. Ridgway's Rail: density per hectare
- 4. Processes**
1. Migration Space: percentage of undeveloped space and percentage protected from development
 2. Feeding Chicks: for Brandt's cormorants, # of fledged young produced per breeding pair; for egrets and herons, # of young produced per successful nest
- 5. People**
1. Public Access: increases in mileage of the Bay Trail and sites on the Water Trail

5. Input Received During May 2018 AC Meeting

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Lead Roger Leventhal presented the draft memo and table during the May 6, 2018 Advisory Committee meeting for comment.

AC members commented on the need to use a tight filter for selecting performance measures to avoid overburdening the staff, and that measurements that inform future grantmaking are the most important.

Two sets of written comments were received and incorporated as edits, with review by Ad Hoc Subcommittee Lead and SFBRA staff.

6. Discussion Questions

Unresolved issues have been framed as discussion questions.

1. Should a trash removal metric be included in advance of having a shoreline cleanup project? Should removal of a rusting barge (i.e., Encinal Dunes project) be aggregated with trash collected during shoreline cleanup projects, with both measured in terms of weight of trash removed?
2. Should the metrics include the number of youth engaged, as well as number of projects with significant youth involvement?
3. Should metrics include trail miles *enhanced* as well as trail miles constructed?
4. Should a dollar value be reported for volunteer hours, e.g., at \$24.69/hour?
5. Should the dollar values in Table 1 be reported for items with an asterisk (*)?
 - a. Pro: More transparency about spending.

- b. Con: There will be an annual report summarizing all income and expenditures that will be audited and the audit will be reviewed by the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. This performance measures table should focus primarily on other units since dollars are covered elsewhere. The budget will have to be prepared following accounting standards. We do not want to cause confusion by having dollar amounts in a performance measures table that are different because of different goals in calculating sums for categories. Also, it would be difficult to assess the percent of total dollars that benefit economically disadvantaged communities. I.e., if a given project benefits such a community, the total dollars provided to the grantee would not all benefit the community, as some of the dollars would benefit wildlife, etc.

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c/o State Coastal Conservancy
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Oakland, CA 94612

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sfbayrestore.org
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2018

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Matt Gerhart, Program Manager; Kelly Malinowski, Project Manager
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned from the First Grant Round and Proposed Revisions to the Grant Program Guidelines, Request for Proposals, and Grant Application Form

Staff requests feedback from the Governing Board on proposed revisions to the Grant Program Guidelines (Grant Guidelines), Request for Proposals (RFP), and Grant Application Form (Application). The proposed changes will be presented to the Governing Board for adoption at the Authority's September 2018 meeting, which along with this meeting and two associated items at Authority Advisory Committee public meetings, will constitute four public opportunities for comment over four months of review of the next year of grantmaking activities.

Background

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) adopted amendments to the Grant Guidelines in June 2017. The Grant Guidelines are a summary of the requirements of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act (Restoration Act) and the language included in the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention, and Habitat Restoration Measure (Measure AA), as well as some explanation of how the Authority will apply them.

The Authority adopted and released an RFP and Application for the Measure AA grant program 1 in September 2017. The RFP and Application provide additional guidance on project eligibility and evaluation criteria.

Since that time, the Measure AA grant program has gone through its first grant cycle. Project proponents submitted applications, staff and members of the Advisory Committee (AC) reviewed applications, staff prepared recommendations, and the Governing Board approved grant awards in April 2018.

During the Authority’s first grant cycle this past year, staff tracked lessons learned and received input on suggested improvements to the grant program documents. Proposed revisions based on these are shown in the three attached, updated redline versions of the documents.

- Draft Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment 1)
- Round 2 Draft Request for Proposals (Attachment 2)
- Draft Round 2 Grant Application Form (Attachment 3)

Many of the lessons learned and comments received involved clarifications of eligibility requirements. The following sections present three overarching issues that came up repeatedly; a brief summary of additional edits made to clarify eligibility requirements; and a summary of two public comments received on the first grant round documents.

1. Key Issues

The three most critical issues that surfaced during the first grant cycle are:

- Acquisitions: Are acquisition projects eligible for funding?
- Mitigation: Are a restoration project’s mitigation requirements eligible for funding?
- Dredging and Beneficial Reuse: How should requests for funding the cost of beneficial reuse of dredged material in habitat restoration projects be evaluated?

Staff proposes to address these issue as described below.

Acquisition Projects

Although the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act (Act) explicitly prohibits the Authority from owning real property, the Act does not explicitly prohibit or allow grants for acquisition projects. Acquisition is not included as an eligible project phase in the section of the Act that states that the Authority may fund all phases of planning, construction, monitoring, operation, and maintenance of eligible projects. However, the Act defines “eligible projects” to include those that protect or restore natural habitats and those that provide public access as part of a restoration project. In some situations, acquisition of real property is necessary to protect or restore wetlands or to provide public access. Therefore, staff proposes to interpret the Act as allowing an acquisition of real property interests to be an eligible project when necessary to protect habitat or provide access, and as allowing acquisition to be a phase of planning or construction of an eligible project. This is consistent with Measure AA, which broadly authorizes funding for projects that further the described programs without restrictions on the types of projects that can be funded. Therefore, staff is recommending that “acquisition” be added to the list of eligible project phases described on page 13-14 of the Grant Guidelines and added to the list of eligible project phases on page 4 of the RFP, with additional guidance specifying requirements for acquisitions to be considered eligible. Further, the application would be revised to request necessary information for these projects.

Staff received input on this proposal at the Authority’s Advisory Committee May 4th meeting, and has addressed comments and questions received regarding prioritization and assessment of the benefits of acquisition projects, as well as factors critical to their success in providing public benefits.

Authority staff recommend using the Conservancy's process for funding acquisitions with one exception: because the Authority cannot own property, the means of protecting the public interest in the property will be different than the Conservancy's, which relies upon the Conservancy obtaining a future interest in the property.

Staff proposes to make the following revision on page 13-14 of the Grant Guidelines:

“According to the Restoration Act, grant funds may be used to support “all phases of a project including planning, construction, monitoring, operation, and maintenance” of [eligible projects].” The Authority interprets "all phases of planning [and] construction” of a project" to include acquisition, planning, design, environmental studies, permitting, construction, monitoring and evaluation, operation, scientific studies as part of the project to guide adaptive management, and maintenance. In addition, an acquisition may be considered an eligible project.

The Authority will consider funding acquisitions (fee and/or less-than-fee (e.g. easement) interests in land where demonstrably significant opportunity exists to either protect existing natural baylands resources from loss, degradation or development or to meaningfully enhance or restore baylands resources and/or provide habitat-related public access and flood benefits. In general, the Authority will seek to fund the least costly, most efficient and effective method of securing the long-term benefits of site tenure; acquisitions will therefore be judged on the tangibility, significance and likelihood of success of the eventual restoration or enhancement opportunity. In addition to the eligibility and prioritization criteria for any other Measure AA-funded project, eligible acquisitions must:

- Be transacted with willing sellers;
- Be for no more than fair market value as determined in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards;
- Have legal access to the property and be acceptably free and clear of defects of title;
- Be free of contamination that could impact the projected use and benefits of the property, as demonstrated through a Phase I environmental assessment or higher-level site analysis;
- Be secured in perpetuity for the Measure AA-purposes. For any acquisition by a private entity, a third-party public entity must partner to secure the public's interest in the acquisition.
- If an easement, include terms sufficient to achieve the protection, restoration, or public access purposes of the easement.”

Also added via a footnote on Page 13: “Please include details of the protection and restoration benefits of the project in the project description section of the application.”

Staff proposes to make the following revision on page 4 of the RFP:

“Eligible project phases include acquisition, planning, design, environmental studies, permitting, construction, monitoring and evaluation, operation, scientific studies as part of the project to guide adaptive management, and maintenance.”

Add a footnote: “If your project is an acquisition, please include details of the restoration benefits in the project description section of the application. The Authority will consider funding acquisitions (fee and/or less-than-fee (e.g. easement) interests in land where demonstrably significant opportunity exists to either protect existing natural baylands resources from loss, degradation or development or to meaningfully enhance or restore baylands resources and/or provide habitat-related public access and flood benefits. In general, the Authority will seek to fund the least costly, most efficient and effective method of securing the long-term benefits of site tenure; acquisitions will therefore be judged on the tangibility, significance and likelihood of success of the eventual restoration or enhancement opportunity. In addition to the eligibility and prioritization criteria for any other Measure AA-funded project, eligible acquisitions must:

- Be transacted with willing sellers;
- Be for no more than fair market value as determined in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards;
- Have legal access to the property and be acceptably free and clear of defects of title;
- Be free of contamination that could impact the projected use and benefits of the property, as demonstrated through a Phase I environmental assessment or higher-level site analysis;
- Be secured in perpetuity for the Measure AA-purposes. For any acquisition by a private entity, a third-party public entity must partner to secure the public’s interest in the acquisition.
- If an easement, include terms sufficient to achieve the protection, restoration, or public access purposes of the easement.”

Also, in the Application, staff proposes to add a checkbox on Page 1 for “acquisition” projects, as well as to add a question #15 on acquisitions:

“15. Acquisitions. For acquisition projects, please address the following:

- i. What type of acquisition are you proposing, why are you structuring the acquisition the way that you propose, and why is this type of acquisition the best approach?
- ii. What are the benefits of pursuing an acquisition in this location? Please speak to the significance of this land, in either protecting existing natural baylands resources, or meaningfully enhancing or restoring baylands.
- iii. How do you plan to manage and steward the land?
- iv. Where are you in the negotiation process?
- v. Specifically:
 1. Are you acquiring the land from a willing seller?

2. Will the land be purchased at no more than fair market value (as described in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards)?
3. Will you have legal access to the property, and will this land be acceptably free and clear of defects of title?
4. Is there any known contamination on site? Has any site investigation been undertaken to date?"

Mitigation

During the first grant round, a question arose about whether the mitigation requirements of a restoration project are eligible for funding. The grant guidelines already state that “The Authority will not fund mitigation requirements of a project that will result in net damages to habitat elsewhere.” However, if mitigation is required for a project that will achieve the purposes of the Restoration Authority Act and Measure AA, staff recommends that it be eligible for Measure AA funding. The following edits will be made to the Grant Guidelines, the RFP, and the Application regarding mitigation projects:

Staff proposes to make the following revision on page 17 of the Grant Guidelines:

“The Restoration Authority will primarily fund voluntary habitat restoration projects. The Authority will not fund project impacts that are not compensated on-site as part of the restoration project (e.g. through private mitigation banks or other off-site mitigation actions). However, the Authority may fund the on-site compensatory requirements of a project that will result in is eligible for Measure AA funds and that demonstrates net damages to habitat elsewhere positive benefits. The Authority may contribute to a project that is making use of mitigation funds, but the Authority's share of the funds must pay for an incremental improvement beyond compensation for damages ~~elsewhere.~~ that may have occurred elsewhere as part of the mitigation requirements.”

Staff proposes to add this section under “d. Eligible Types and Activities” on page 6 of the RFP:

“Additional Eligibility Considerations

Mitigation projects are generally not eligible for Measure AA funds. Please refer to the Grant Program Guidelines for eligibility requirements for mitigation projects.”

Staff proposes to add question #14 on page 5 of the Application:

“Permitting and Mitigation. If your project has progressed to this phase, please describe the status of your permits, as well as the general nature of any mitigation requirements. If your project has not yet reached the permit phase, do you anticipate any particular permitting or mitigation challenges?”

Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Material in Restoration Projects

The Authority received several applications for funding some or all of the cost of bringing dredged material to subsided restoration sites, but reviewers encountered difficulty in interpreting a series of issues related to the efficacy, suitable costs, and eventual benefits of these proposals. The staff recommends that additional guidance be developed before encouraging the submittal of such proposals, including clarifying the need for an application to be tied to a specific restoration site.

Staff has sought additional guidance from the Advisory Committee and will be working with participants in the working groups of the *Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region (LTMS)* on how to evaluate such applications when comparing them to other restoration project applications that do not need dredged material, and how to compare various types of reuse with one another.

No revisions related to these issues are proposed at this time.

2. Summary of Additional Edits Made to Clarify Eligibility Requirements

Proposed Edits to the Grant Guidelines:

- Adjusted release date.
- Fixed spacing.

Proposed Edits to the RFP:

- Adjusted release date.
- Added page numbers.
- Fixed spacing.
- Noted, on page 15, that the application [link will be added before final version for the September 21, 2018 SFBRA Board Meeting.]
- Under V.a, changed language to read that “Grant applications will be initially ~~reviewed~~ screened by Authority staff for completeness.”

Proposed Edits to the Application:

- Adjusted release and due dates.
- Added a note at the top of Page 1 that “*Application instructions can be deleted to allow for full use of the page limits.”
- Added clarification to the “Acres” box on Page 2, to indicate either habitat acreage to be restored, or land to be acquired.
- Added clarification to the “Trail Miles” box on Page 2, to include “length” after “trail.”
- Added clarification to the “Shoreline length” box on Page 2, to include “miles.”
- Added additional check boxes for further clarification on CEQA on page 1-2:
 - i. “~~For implementation projects, is~~ What are the CEQA completed? requirements for your project?
 - i. Not a project under CEQA
 - ii. Exempt from CEQA (statutorily or categorically)
 - iii. ND
 - iv. MND

- v. EIR
 - ii. If required, has the CEQA document been approved and filed?
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - iii. If yes, date filed; if no, expected filing month/year: _____
- Edited “Cost” to read “Costa” for “Contra Costa” under “Location Information.”
- Edited “answer” to read “answers” under Question #11 on page 4.
- Added clarification to Question #11. Environmental Review, regarding CEQA, to match edits made on pages 1-2:
 - i. “The proposed project (select the appropriate answer(s)):
 - i. Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA Guidelines exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption.
 - ii. Requires a Neg Dec, MND, or EIR. Specify which: _____
 - iii. Also please specify the CEQA lead agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) date for adoption or certification: _____
 - iv. Please note that the Authority will need to review and consider the adopted or certified CEQA document prior to authorizing a grant.”
- Edited Section II. Grant Application – Preliminary Budget and Schedule on page 6 to remove the embedded budget, which will instead be attached to the application. The following language edits were made in this section to reflect this change:
 - i. Edited the following sentence:
 - i. “Please use the ~~embedded~~ provided budget matrix (in excel document form) to ~~provide the project’s preliminary budget and schedule information. In Outline your completed budget, and attach that excel document to this application, the budget can be sent separately in excel, or embedded below.~~
 - ii. In the budget matrix ~~below~~ attached to your application, relist the tasks identified in #7 above and for each provide: 1) Project costs per year, adding additional columns as needed, 2) the estimated cost of the task, and 3) the funding sources (applicant, Authority, and other) for the task, and for other funds, please describe below all sources of other funding and whether secured or pending. The table will automatically sum the totals for each row and column. To do this, highlight the whole table and hit F9.
 - iii. You may include a task for direct project management for no more than 15% the cost of the project. If you choose to include contingency or overhead, please include as a separate task and be advised that overhead calculations must be justifiable for an audit.
 - iv. Below, and in addition to completing the attached budget matrix, please also include a discussion of any uncertainties in this budget, and your anticipated ability to operate and maintain the project, as well as explain how you will handle any contingency costs.
 - ii. Change in the second paragraph “In the budget matrix attached to your application ~~below~~, relist the tasks identified in #7 above.”
 - iii. Change in the fifth paragraph “Below, and in addition to completing the attached budget matrix ~~the budget matrix~~, please also include a discussion of any uncertainties in the budget...”

3. Summary of Public Comments on the Grant Guidelines, RFP, and Grant Application

Comment #1:

Sarah Young, former Advisory Committee member and staff at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, submitted a general comment email on February 14, 2018, requesting that staff “add a page to the SFBRA website with resources for grantees, including: 1. Timeline of what to expect from grant application to completion, and 2. Template for board resolution for grantee agency.”

Staff let Ms. Young know that several of these already were available and another is under development. Resources for grantees are hosted on the SFBRA website (the “Grants” tab for resources related to the grant program specifically, and the “Resources” tab for additional resources). There is also a “Typical Sequence of Events for Accepting a San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Grant” document, found on the “Grants” tab of the SFBRA website, that explains what to expect from a SFBRA grant from application to completion. The Authority is also currently developing a template board resolution for grantees.

Comment #2:

Robert E. Doyle, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District submitted a comment letter specific to the Grant Guidelines and RFP on April 6, 2018, to express that the Park District will work collaboratively with the SFBRA to identify future projects in Contra Costa County. Mr. Doyle also noted that the Park District has found the Grant Guidelines to be challenging in finding suitable projects in urban areas. He specified that “linking every eligible project to restoration severely limits the types of projects which can be physically completed along an urban shoreline.” Mr. Doyle further commented that “many of our proposed projects along the Richmond, Oakland, and North Contra Costa County shorelines involve increasing access, cleaning up degraded areas, and stabilizing shoreline infrastructure.” Mr. Doyle outlined some thoughts on how to improve the Grant Guidelines:

1. “Support eligibility for grants for acquisition.
2. Provide flexibility in allowing public access or flood management projects that are not part of a restoration project.
3. Allow cleanup projects or repair of failing shoreline infrastructure, particularly in areas where physical and regulatory limitations would preclude any meaningful restoration.
4. Consider climate resiliency projects as a way to reduce SF Bay pollution.”

After reviewing the comment letter, staff have determined that:

- Comment #1 above is covered under the current edits to the Grant Guidelines, as outlined in this memo.
- Comments #2 and #3 above conflict with both the language in Measure AA, as well as the language in the Restoration Act, which require that both public access and flood protection projects must be tied to a restoration project.
- Comment #4 is possible under the current Grant Guidelines.

Next Steps

Staff expects to further refine these proposed amendments based on Governing Board and Advisory Committee input in June and present a proposed version for adoption at the Authority’s September meeting.

Attachments

1. Proposed Revisions to the Grant Program Guidelines (Redline Version)
2. Proposed Revisions to the Proposal Solicitation (Redline Version)
3. Proposed Revisions to the Application Form (Redline Version)

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San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Grants Funded by Measure AA: The San
Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution
Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure

June ~~2017~~2018

Style Definition: Comment Text

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I. Introduction

A. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and the Restoration Act

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (“Authority”) is a regional government agency with a Governing Board made up of local elected officials appointed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Its purpose is to raise and allocate resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. The Authority was created by the California legislature in 2008 with the enactment of AB 2954 (Lieber), the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act (“Restoration Act”).

B. Measure AA: The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure

After the Authority’s Governing Board placed Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (“Measure AA”) on the June 7, 2016 ballot, residents of the nine-county Bay Area voted with a 70% majority to pass it. This measure is a \$12 parcel tax, which will raise approximately \$25 million annually, or \$500 million over twenty years, to fund shoreline projects that will protect and restore San Francisco Bay.

Measure AA proceeds will fund shoreline projects that protect and restore San Francisco Bay by: reducing trash, pollution and harmful toxins; improving water quality; restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife; protecting communities from floods; and increasing shoreline public access and recreational areas. Proceeds will be disbursed via competitive grants, as outlined in these guidelines.

C. Grant Program Implementation

The Authority will make funding decisions at public meetings based on its enabling legislation and the requirements of Measure AA. As required by the Restoration Act (Section 66704.5(d)), the Authority shall solicit input from the Advisory Committee in adopting a procedure for evaluating project proposals, as well as in reviewing and assessing projects. Opportunities for public input will be provided at all meetings of the Governing Board and the Advisory Committee. The [Advisory Committee Procedural Document](#), available on the Authority’s website, provides more information on the Advisory Committee’s roles and responsibilities, process for appointment, and current membership.

Authority staff supports the grant program by drafting grant program guidelines and requests for proposals, managing and participating in the application review process and presenting proposed projects to the Board. The California State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) and ABAG, including the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (“SFEP”), provide staff services to the Authority, subject to the terms of a joint powers agreement, for purposes of implementing the Restoration Authority Act and Measure AA. The Conservancy provides Executive Officer services for the Authority under the direction of the Authority’s Governing Board. ABAG provides a financial officer to act as treasurer to the Authority. The Conservancy and ABAG provide staff members to provide, under the direction of the Executive Officer, project management and administrative services, including accounting and legal support, within total general government expenditures of no more than 5% of the funds raised by Measure AA, as set forth in the text of the measure.

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D. Grant Program Oversight

As stated in Measure AA, under section 3.C., Accountability and Oversight: “The Authority shall prepare annual written reports that show: (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from Special Tax proceeds, and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the Special Tax, as identified above. The report shall comply with Government Code section 50075.3, be posted on the Authority’s website, and be submitted to the Advisory Committee for review and comment.” The Advisory Committee provides advice to the Authority on all aspects of its activities to ensure maximum benefit, value, and transparency.

In addition, Measure AA requires the Restoration Authority to publish annual financial statements and commission independent annual audits, by preparing annual written reports showing the amount of funds collected and expended and the status of any projects or programs. An Independent Citizens Oversight Committee made up of Bay Area residents will annually publish a review of the Authority’s audits and program and financial reports. The [Independent Citizens Oversight Committee Procedural Document](#), available on the Authority’s website, provides more information on the Oversight Committee’s roles and responsibilities, process for appointment, and membership.

II. Program Purpose, Project Eligibility and Prioritization Criteria

A. Purpose of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Grant Program Guidelines

These San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Grant Program Guidelines (“SFBRA Grant Guidelines”) establish the process and criteria that the Authority will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants, pursuant to Measure AA and the Restoration Act. All projects funded by the Authority with funds generated from Measure AA must be consistent with the Authority’s enabling legislation and Measure AA. These SFBRA Grant Guidelines interpret the requirements applicable to projects funded under Measure AA and describe the project evaluation process for those projects. These SFBRA Grant Guidelines are adopted pursuant to the Restoration Act and may be updated periodically by the Governing Board.

B. Project Eligibility

Eligibility is based on a combination of requirements of the Restoration Act and Measure AA. (See Appendix A for relevant sections of the Restoration Act. The full text of Measure AA is available at <http://sfbayrestore.org/docs/BallotMeasureLanguage.pdf>.)

Eligible project activities must be consistent with the Restoration Act (66704.5(b)), which states:

An eligible project shall do at least one of the following:

- (1) Restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay area, excluding the Delta primary zone.*
- (2) Build or enhance shoreline levees or other flood management features that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified in paragraph (1).*
- (3) Provide or improve public access or recreational amenities that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified in paragraph (1).*

In addition, revenues generated by Measure AA may be used solely for the purpose of supporting the programs and priorities and other purposes set forth in the Measure and shall be spent only in accordance with the procedures and limitations set forth in the Measure, as cited below.

Under this Measure, the Authority may fund projects along the Bay shorelines within the Authority's jurisdiction, which consists of the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma and the City and County of San Francisco. The shorelines include the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of the Delta Primary Zone. These projects shall advance the following programs:

1. Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to remove pollution, trash and harmful toxins from the Bay in order to provide clean water for fish, birds, wildlife, and people.

- a. Improve water quality by reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities, protecting public health and making fish and wildlife healthier.*
- b. Reduce pollution levels through shoreline cleanup and trash removal from the Bay.*
- c. Restore wetlands that provide natural filters and remove pollution from the Bay's water.*
- d. Clean and enhance creek outlets where they flow into the Bay.*

2. Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to significantly improve wildlife habitat that will support and increase vital populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife in and around the Bay.

- a. Enhance the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, shoreline parks and open space preserves, and other protected lands in and around the Bay, providing expanded and improved habitat for fish, birds and mammals.*
- b. Protect and restore wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats to benefit wildlife, including shorebirds, waterfowl and fish.*
- c. Provide for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay, to ensure their ongoing benefits to wildlife and people.*

3. Integrated Flood Protection Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to use natural habitats to protect communities along the Bay's shoreline from the risks of severe coastal flooding caused by storms and high water levels.

- a. Provide nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay's edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.*
- b. Build and/or improve flood protection levees that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities, to protect existing shoreline communities, agriculture, and infrastructure.*

4. Shoreline Public Access Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents, including those with disabilities, through safer and improved public access, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay.

- a. Construct new, repair existing and/or replace deteriorating public access trails, signs, and related facilities along the shoreline and manage these public access facilities.*

- b. *Provide interpretive materials and special outreach events about pollution prevention, wildlife habitat, public access, and flood protection, to protect the Bay's health and encourage community engagement.*

See Appendix B for definitions and discussion of how these eligibility criteria will be applied.

C. Prioritization Criteria

The Authority must ensure that Measure AA's revenue is spent in the most efficient and effective manner, consistent with the public interest and in compliance with existing law.

Measure AA states:

The Authority shall give priority to projects that:

- a. *Have the greatest positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.*
- b. *Have the greatest long-term impact on the Bay, to benefit future generations.*
- c. *Provide for geographic distribution across the region and ensure that there are projects funded in each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area over the life of Measure AA.*
- d. *Increase impact value by leveraging state and federal resources and public/private partnerships.*
- e. *Benefit economically disadvantaged communities.*
- f. *Benefit the region's economy, including local workforce development, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.*
- g. *Work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.*
- h. *Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship to develop the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.*
- i. *Meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy.*

Project prioritization is based on a combination of requirements of the Restoration Act and Measure AA. See Appendix C for definitions and discussion of how these prioritization criteria will be applied.

D. Potential Project List and Map

The Authority has produced and placed on its website a potential project list and map, showing the types of projects that could potentially be supported with grant funds from Measure AA to be expended in accordance with these grant guidelines. (The list is available at <http://sfbayrestore.org/docs/Projects.pdf>; the map is available at <http://sfbayrestore.org/docs/Map.pdf>.)

This list of projects that are potentially eligible for Authority funding will be used to help inform the Authority and its staff of the number, timing and funding needs of the projects that may apply for funding. The Authority's project list will help guide the development of requests for proposals, as well as their timing. However, neither the presence nor the absence of a project on the Authority's list will have any bearing on its prioritization for funding.

The project list and map will be updated continuously, as projects are submitted. The Authority staff will seek nominations for additional projects to be added to the list via emails and other outreach to public agencies and nongovernmental organizations engaged in bay restoration work. Nominated projects will be evaluated for their consistency with the purposes of the Authority's enabling legislation and Measure AA (Appendix B).

III. Grant Application Process and Timeline

A. Solicitation Planning

Authority staff will draft requests for proposals and evaluation guidelines. These draft documents will be provided to the Advisory Committee for their review. Any necessary revisions will be made by Authority staff before being presented to the Governing Board for review. Revised draft documents and a summary of Advisory Committee recommendations will be presented to the Governing Board at a public meeting for its consideration and potential adoption.

B. Project Solicitation

At least once each year, and twice each year subject to the availability of and demand for funds, a Request for Proposals, to be funded with funds generated by Measure AA, will be posted on the Authority's website and sent out to the Authority's mailing lists.

C. Optional Pre-Proposal Consultation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Authority staff prior to submitting their applications. Pre-proposal consultation will be available to any potential applicant but will not be required.

D. Application Review and Evaluation

1. Completeness

Grant applications will be initially reviewed by Authority staff for completeness. Incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Applicants may choose to complete their application and resubmit it within five business days or in a future solicitation period.

2. Screening

The Authority staff will screen complete grant applications to ensure that:

- The project and potential grantee meets the Authority's eligibility requirements as outlined in the Authority's enabling legislation; and
- The project is consistent with supporting the programs and priorities and other purposes set forth in Measure AA.

Applications that do not pass the screening process will not proceed to the review process. Authority staff will return the application. The applicant may request feedback from Authority staff on whether and how the proposal could be modified to meet the screening criteria and may resubmit it in a future solicitation period. The initial screening will also eliminate projects that will not have environmental documents completed in time to be presented to the Governing Board within the next 12 months.

3. Review

Complete applications that have passed the screening process will be reviewed and evaluated by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise in the Authority's program areas (as described in the enabling legislation and Measure AA). Reviewers may include, but are not limited to, public agency staff, consultants, academics, Authority staff and Advisory Committee members. All reviewers who are not subject to the Political Reform Act will be required to document that they do

not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. All reviewers will evaluate each proposal in accordance with the evaluation guidelines that will be developed as described above.

E. Grant Award

Authority staff will determine which qualified applications to recommend to the Governing Board for funding and the amount of funding, taking into account the project's merit and urgency relative to other eligible projects, the total amount of funding available for projects, the readiness of the projects to proceed, and whether the Governing Board will be able to make any necessary findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Authority expects that it will take an average of six months from application submittal to Governing Board approval and at least one additional month for execution of the grant agreement.

F. Board Meetings

The Governing Board will consider recommended grants and make any and all grant approvals at public meetings that are noticed in advance, with meeting materials made available in advance to the public. The Authority typically holds four public meetings per calendar year, though this number is subject to change as board meetings are held on an as-needed basis. The meeting schedule is published on the Authority's website. The agenda for each public meeting will be published on the Authority's website at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Staff will prepare a report for each proposed grant presented to the Governing Board at a public meeting. The staff report will describe the project, will explain how the project is consistent with and advances the purposes of the Authority's enabling legislation and Measure AA, and will be made available to the public in advance of the meeting.

G. Grant Agreement

Once the Governing Board has approved a grant at a public meeting, Authority staff will prepare a grant agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant. The grantee must sign the grant agreement and comply with its conditions in order to receive funds.

IV. Additional Information

A. Available Funding

The Authority expects to generate approximately \$25 million each year for twenty years for a total of \$500 million, which will be disbursed through grant rounds as outlined in these guidelines, with no more than 5% going to administrative costs.

B. Additional Project Considerations

Where appropriate, grantees will be required to provide signage informing the public that the project received Authority grant funding. This requirement will be addressed in the grant agreement.

C. Grant Provisions

Following Governing Board approval of a grant, staff will prepare a grant agreement with detailed conditions specific to the project. The grant agreement must be signed by the grantee before funds will be disbursed. Several typical grant agreement provisions are:

- Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the Authority.
- Grantees must submit a detailed project work program and budget and the names of any contractors.
- Grantees must provide proof that all necessary permits have been obtained.
- Grant funds will only be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.
- Grantees must submit invoices and progress reports regularly.

- Grantees must meet project completion requirements (typically grants will include a 10% withholding that is not paid until the project is completed).
- Grantees may be required to reimburse the Authority for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not satisfactorily completed.
- Grantees must provide proof of liability insurance and name the Authority as an additional insured.
- In executing the project for which the grant has been given, grantees will comply with all terms set forth in the grant agreement and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

In addition, the Authority requires grantees to negotiate, enter into and execute a project labor agreement with the local building trades council or councils, subject to certain conditions and exceptions outlined in its Resolution 22, adopted November 30, 2016.

D. Environmental Documents

The Authority is required to comply with the CEQA and all other applicable environmental laws. Grant applicants should consider whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies. How CEQA applies and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the grant application. Grant applicants that are not potential CEQA lead agencies, e.g., nongovernmental organizations, should work with a lead agency to determine whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies. Additionally, grant applicants should consider all other applicable environmental laws, on a project by project basis, report accordingly, and address compliance in the grant application.

E. Project Monitoring and Reporting

All grant applications must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. The monitoring and reporting component will vary depending on the nature of the project, and may include regional monitoring approaches as appropriate. The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program. In addition, Authority staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures.

All projects must complete a final report, including a lessons-learned summary report fully and clearly describing lessons learned under all phases of the project including design, construction and monitoring. Lessons learned must focus on project trouble areas and issues to be addressed as a guide to future projects to avoid these issues to the extent possible.

Appendix A: Relevant Sections of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act

(The full text of the Restoration Act is available at <http://www.sfbayrestore.org/docs/EnablingLegislation.pdf>.)

1. Project Eligibility

This section cites the requirements for a project to be eligible for funding under the Restoration Act:

A. Definitions (California Government Code Section 66701):

“‘Delta primary zone’ means the area described in Section 29728 of the Public Resources Code.”

“‘San Francisco Bay Area’ means the area within the State Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program created pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 31160) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code and includes the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma.”

B. Eligible Grantees (Section 66704.5(a)):

“The authority may raise funds and award grants to public and private entities, including, but not limited to, owners or operators of shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay area, excluding the Delta primary zone, for eligible projects in the counties within the authority’s jurisdiction.”

C. Eligible Project Activities and Locations (66704.5(b)):

“An eligible project shall do at least one of the following:

- (1) Restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay area, excluding the Delta primary zone.
- (2) Build or enhance shoreline levees or other flood management features that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified in paragraph (1).
- (3) Provide or improve public access or recreational amenities that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified in paragraph (1).”

D. Eligible Project Phases (66704.5(e))

“Grants awarded pursuant to subdivision (a) may be used to support all phases of planning, construction, monitoring, operation, and maintenance for projects that are eligible pursuant to subdivision (b).”

2. Prioritization Criteria (66704.5(c))

“The Authority will give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of the State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 31163 of the Public Resources Code, and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission coastal management program for the San Francisco Bay segment of the California coastal zone and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture implementation strategy updated list of Ongoing and Potential Wetland Habitat Projects.”

Appendix B: Definitions and Clarifications of Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is based on a combination of requirements of the Restoration Act (Appendix A) and Measure AA.

1. Eligible Project Locations

According to Measure AA, to be eligible for funding, projects must be located “along the Bay shorelines” within one of the nine Bay Area counties. In addition, Measure AA states, “The shorelines include the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of the Delta Primary Zone.” Thus, the geographic extent of the shoreline is clear.

A. Definition of “Along the Bay Shorelines”

The question is how far from the shoreline a project may be located. “Baylands” is the technical term adopted by the science community within *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* (1999) to refer to the areas adjacent to the Bay that are of primary ecological importance to it; it defines these as “the lands that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides over multiyear cycles, including those areas that would be covered by the tides in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures.” Additionally, the 2015 Science Update to the goals report (*The Baylands and Climate Change: What We Can Do*) recognizes the importance of transition zones moving inland above the extent of high tide, as well as the need to plan ahead for the effects of sea level rise. Therefore, the Authority defines “along the Bay shorelines” to include these important lands adjacent to the Bay.

B. Definition of “Creek Outlets”

Measure AA states that eligible projects may: “Clean and enhance creek outlets where they flow into the Bay” or “Provide nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay’s edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.” However, these descriptions of eligible project activities still fall under more general requirement for projects to be located “along Bay shorelines.” Therefore, the Authority interprets the language of Measure AA regarding creek outlets to mean that projects located in rivers or creeks also must be located along the Bay, i.e. adjacent to the part of the river or creek subject to tidal action. This area is also referred to as being below the head of tide. Similar consideration of the value of transitional habitats and the effects of future sea level rise should be made when considering the extent of creek outlets.

C. Conclusion

To be eligible, projects must be located within the nine Bay Area counties along the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of, but not including, the Delta Primary Zone, that are in areas consistent with guidance provided in the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update* (2015) and *Subtidal Habitat Goals Report* (2010), including:

- In subtidal areas (lying below mean low tide), within a reasonable distance of the shoreline;
- In baylands, i.e., areas that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides over multiyear cycles, including those areas that would be covered by the tides

- in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures, including the portion of creeks or rivers located below the head of tide; or
- On uplands adjacent to potential or actual tidal wetlands that can provide transitional habitat and/or marsh migration space, as well as areas that are needed to enhance the project’s resilience to projected sea level rise.

2. Eligible Project Activities

The Authority will fund activities described under the four program areas in Measure AA. In addition, the Authority interprets eligible project activities according to the Restoration Act, as described below.

A. Habitat Projects

The Restoration Act calls for funding projects that “restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats” (Section 66704(b)). The Authority defines “natural habitats” as those consistent with existing guidance on baylands, riparian and subtidal habitats (see relevant local or regional plans, Appendix E); these can include habitats that have been modified by human activity but still provide tangible wildlife support and/or ecological value. Projects should restore, protect or enhance habitat for native species, including native plants.

B. Flood Management and Public Access Projects

The Restoration Act states that eligible projects include those that provide or improve flood management features or public access or recreational amenities “that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats” (Section 66704.5(b)). The Authority interprets this to mean that such projects will be considered eligible for funding if they are part of a restoration project that is in the planning stages, underway, or partially complete. In general, such elements will be considered part of a restoration project if they are included in the plan, environmental documents and/or permits for the particular habitat restoration project with which they are associated. Therefore, closing a trail gap or extending a project levee are eligible activities if the elements are or were part of a habitat restoration project as described above.

3. Eligible Project Phases

According to the Restoration Act, grant funds may be used to support “all phases of ~~a project, including~~ planning, construction, monitoring, operation, and maintenance.” of [eligible projects].” The Authority interprets “all phases of planning [and] construction” of a project” to include acquisition, planning, design, environmental studies, permitting, construction, monitoring and evaluation, operation, scientific studies as part of the project to guide adaptive management, and maintenance. In addition, an acquisition may be considered an eligible project.

The Authority will consider funding acquisitions (fee and/or less-than-fee (e.g. easement) interests in land where demonstrably significant opportunity exists to either protect existing natural baylands resources from loss, degradation or development or to meaningfully enhance or restore baylands resources and/or provide habitat-related public access and flood benefits¹. In

¹ Please include details of the restoration benefits of the project in the project description section of the application.

general, the Authority will seek to fund the least costly, most efficient and effective method of securing the long-term benefits of site tenure; acquisitions will therefore be judged on the tangibility, significance and likelihood of success of the eventual restoration or enhancement opportunity. In addition to the eligibility and prioritization criteria for any other Measure AA-funded project, eligible acquisitions must:

- Be transacted with willing sellers;
- Be for no more than fair market value as determined in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards;
- Have legal access to the property and be acceptably free and clear of defects of title;
- Be free of contamination that could impact the projected use and benefits of the property, as demonstrated through a Phase I environmental assessment or higher-level site analysis;
- Be secured in perpetuity for the Measure AA-purposes. For any acquisition by a private entity, a third-party public entity must partner to secure the public's interest in the acquisition.
- If an easement, include terms sufficient to achieve the protection, restoration, or public access purposes of the easement.

4. Eligible Grantees

According to the Restoration Act (Section 66704.5(a)), the Authority may award grants to “public and private entities, which include but are not limited to owners and operators of shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay Area.” The Authority interprets this to mean that eligible grantees also include federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Appendix C: Definitions and Clarifications of Prioritization Criteria

Project prioritization is based on a combination of requirements of the Restoration Act and Measure AA.

1. The Restoration Act

The Restoration Act (66704.5(c)) states:

In awarding grants pursuant to subdivision (a), the authority shall give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of the State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 31163 of the Public Resources Code, and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission coastal management program for the San Francisco Bay segment of the California coastal zone and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture implementation strategy updated list of Ongoing and Potential Wetland Habitat Projects.

(Measure AA repeats this in a slightly different form: “The Authority shall give priority to projects that...[m]eet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture’s implementation strategy.”)

A. San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy's Selection Criteria.

The Restoration Act states that the Authority will “give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of and are consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy program (in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 31163 of the Public Resources Code).” These criteria are:

1. “Are supported by adopted local or regional plans;
2. Are multijurisdictional or serve a regional constituency;
3. Can be implemented in a timely way;
4. Provide opportunities for benefits that could be lost if the project is not quickly implemented;
5. Include matching funds from other sources of funding or assistance.”

The Authority interprets “local or regional plans” to include, but not be limited to the following (see Appendix E for full citations):

- *Restoring the Estuary: An Implementation Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture*
- *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update*
- *Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems for Northern and Central California*
- *San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report*
- *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (“Estuary Blueprint”)*
- *Surviving the Storm*
- *San Francisco Bay Trail Plan*
- *San Francisco Bay Trail Design Guidelines & Toolkit*
- *Enhanced San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan*
- *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan)*
- *Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region, Management Plan*

The Authority interprets “can be implemented in a timely way” to mean that projects are demonstrably at a stage where they will be able to proceed upon the receipt of funding, considering factors such as site control, landowner agreement, support of the public, design constraints, permitting considerations, security of match funding. For initial planning or design phases, these factors may be judged relative to the ability to implement the project once planning is completed. Similarly, “benefits that could be lost” may be interpreted in the context of a project’s full implementation.

B. Coastal Management Program for San Francisco Bay

The Restoration Act states that the Authority will “give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of and are consistent with... the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission coastal management program for the San Francisco Bay segment of the California coastal zone.” This coastal management program is based on the provisions and policies of the McAteer-Petris Act, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, the San Francisco Bay Plan, the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, and the Commission’s administrative regulations. The McAteer-Petris Act and the Bay Plan apply to the entire Bay, while the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act and Suisun Marsh Protection Plan apply only to Suisun Marsh. The Bay Plan elements most relevant to this grant program (see Appendix D) include policies related to habitat goals, climate change resilience, setting goals

and success criteria, monitoring and adaptive management, public access, and mosquito abatement. Consistency with these policies is required in order to obtain a permit for project construction from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

C. San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Implementation Strategy Updated List of Ongoing and Potential Wetland Habitat Projects

The Restoration Act states that the Authority will “give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of and are consistent with... the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Implementation Strategy Updated List of Ongoing and Potential Wetland Habitat Projects.” The Implementation Strategy is referenced in Appendix E. More information about the Joint Venture’s list of priority projects and criteria used to select them can be found in the “Projects” section of their website, <http://www.sonic.net/~sfbayjv/projects.php>. Applicants must either demonstrate that their project is on Joint Venture’s list or consult with the Joint Venture prior to applying for funding to assess and characterize their consistency with the selection criteria of the list.

2. Measure AA Prioritization Criteria

Measure AA states:

The Authority shall give priority to projects that:

- a. *Have the greatest positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.*
- b. *Have the greatest long-term impact on the Bay, to benefit future generations.*
- c. *Provide for geographic distribution across the region and ensure that there are projects funded in each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area over the life of Measure AA.*
- d. *Increase impact value by leveraging state and federal resources and public/private partnerships.*
- e. *Benefit economically disadvantaged communities.*
- f. *Benefit the region’s economy, including local workforce development, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.*
- g. *Work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.*
- h. *Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship to develop the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.*
- i. *Meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture’s implementation strategy.*

A. Greatest Positive Impact

Projects that “have the greatest positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents” are projects that demonstrate, through the use of established best available scientific knowledge, adopted regional and local plans, and relevant studies, the greatest potential benefits to the Bay ecosystem. In addition,

they include restoration projects that provide co-benefits, including, but not limited to, improved flood protection, public access and recreational amenities, beneficial reuse of dredged material and carbon sequestration.

With respect to flood protection, the Restoration Authority will prioritize funding for the use of nature-based flood protection through restoration of wetlands and transitional habitats. A second priority for funding will be hybrid flood protection strategies, such as horizontal levees, that integrate habitat restoration with new or improved levees that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities, to protect existing shoreline communities and other assets. However, the Authority may also fund flood protection necessary to a restoration project that is not integrated with habitat restoration.

The Restoration Authority will primarily fund voluntary habitat restoration projects. The Authority will not fund project impacts that are not compensated on-site as part of the restoration project (e.g. through private mitigation banks or other off-site mitigation actions). However, the Authority may fund the on-site compensatory requirements of a project that will result in eligible for Measure AA funds and that demonstrates net damages to habitat elsewhere positive benefits. The Authority may contribute to a project that is making use of mitigation funds, but the Authority's share of the funds must pay for an incremental improvement beyond compensation for damages elsewhere—that may have occurred elsewhere as part of the mitigation requirements.

B. Greatest Long-Term Impact

Projects that “have the greatest long-term impact on the Bay, to benefit future generations” are those that best demonstrate an ability to provide benefits over long timeframes despite the potential for changing circumstances such as changes in freshwater supply, sediment delivery, species composition, and rising sea levels. Projects should use the best available science to incorporate future climate variability, ideally providing resilience across multiple climate change scenarios.

C. Geographic Distribution

Projects that “provide for geographic distribution across the region” are those that contribute to Measures AA’s funding distribution requirement. It states, “The Authority shall ensure that 50% of the total net revenue generated during the 20-year term of the Special Tax is allocated to the four Bay Area regions in proportion to each region’s share of the Bay Area’s population, as determined in the 2010 census. The minimum percentages that shall be allocated to each of the four Bay Area regions according to their share of the Bay Area’s population are included below. The four Bay Area regions are defined as follows:

- North Bay (Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Solano Counties): 9% minimum allocation;
- East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties): 18% minimum allocation;
- West Bay (City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County): 11% minimum allocation; and
- South Bay (Santa Clara County): 12% minimum allocation.

The remaining 50% of total net revenue shall be allocated consistent with all other provisions of Measure AA.”

D. Benefits to Economically Disadvantaged Communities

An economically disadvantaged community (EDC) is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80% of the area median income (AMI). Within this set of low-income communities, communities of particular concern include those that: are historically underrepresented in environmental policymaking and/or projects, bear a disproportionate environmental and health burden, are most vulnerable to climate change impacts due to lack of resources required for community resilience, or are severely burdened by housing costs, increasing the risk of displacement.

A proposed project's ability to provide benefits to these communities will be judged on the basis of the direct involvement and support of local community groups; a demonstrated track record working within communities; the use of proven strategies to increase relevance of messaging and outreach; and the ability to alleviate multiple stressors within communities, including, but not limited to, addressing the need for additional recreational amenities, resilience to climate change, reductions in pollution burden, greater civic engagement, and enhanced leadership development opportunities.

E. Workforce Development

The Authority will interpret this criterion in accordance with its policy on project labor agreements, adopted in November 2016.

F. Monitoring

The Authority will interpret this criterion to mean it will prioritize projects that commit to the regular assessment and reporting of project outcomes and include meaningful ways of sharing their results with the broader community.

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Appendix D: Bay Plan Policies Most Relevant to the Grant Program

- 1. Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife, Policy 3:** “In reviewing or approving habitat restoration programs the Commission should be guided by the recommendations in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals report and should, where appropriate, provide for a diversity of habitats to enhance opportunities for a variety of associated native aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species.”
- 2. Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats, Policy 4:** “Where feasible, former tidal marshes and tidal flats that have been diked from the Bay should be restored to tidal action in order to replace lost historic wetlands or should be managed to provide important Bay habitat functions, such as resting, foraging and breeding habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife. As recommended in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals report, around 65,000 acres of areas diked from the Bay should be restored to tidal action to maintain a healthy Bay ecosystem on a regional scale. Regional ecosystem targets should be updated periodically to guide conservation, restoration, and management efforts that result in a Bay ecosystem resilient to climate change and sea level rise. ...The public should make every effort to acquire these lands for the purpose of habitat restoration and wetland migration.”
- 3. Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats, Policy 6:** “Any ecosystem restoration project should include clear and specific long-term and short-term biological and physical goals, and success criteria, and a monitoring program to assess the sustainability of the project. Design and evaluation of the project should include an analysis of: (a) how the system’s adaptive capacity can be enhanced so that it is resilient to sea level rise and climate change; (b) the impact of the project on the Bay’s sediment budget; (c) localized sediment erosion and accretion; (d) the role of tidal flows; (e) potential invasive species introduction, spread, and their control; (f) rates of colonization by vegetation; (g) the expected use of the site by fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife; (h) an appropriate buffer, where feasible, between shoreline development and habitats to protect wildlife and provide space for marsh migration as sea level rises; and (i) site characterization. If success criteria are not met, appropriate adaptive measures should be taken.”
- 4. Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats, Policy 8:** “Based on scientific ecological analysis and consultation with the relevant federal and state resource agencies, a minor amount of fill may be authorized to enhance or restore fish, other aquatic organisms or wildlife habitat if the Commission finds that no other method of enhancement or restoration except filling is feasible.
- 5. Subtidal Areas, Policy 3:** “Subtidal restoration projects should be designed to: (a) promote an abundance and diversity of fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife; (b) restore rare subtidal areas; (c) establish linkages between deep and shallow water and tidal and subtidal habitat in an effort to maximize habitat values for fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife; or (d) expand open water areas in an effort to make the Bay larger.
- 6. Subtidal Areas, Policy 4:** “Any subtidal restoration project should include clear and specific long-term and short-term biological and physical goals, and success criteria and a monitoring program to assess the sustainability of the project. Design and evaluation of the project should include an analysis of: (a) the scientific need for the project; (b) the effects of relative sea level rise; (c) the impact of the project on the Bay’s sediment budget; (d) localized sediment erosion and accretion; (e) the role of tidal flows; (f) potential invasive species introduction, spread and their control; (g) rates of colonization by vegetation, where applicable; (h) the expected use of the site by fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife; and (i) characterization of and changes to local bathymetric features. If success criteria are not met, corrective measures should be taken.”
- 7. Public Access, Policy 4:** “Public access should be sited, designed and managed to prevent significant adverse effects on wildlife. To the extent necessary to understand the potential effects

of public access on wildlife, information on the species and habitats of a proposed project site should be provided, and the likely human use of the access area analyzed. In determining the potential for significant adverse effects (such as impacts on endangered species, impacts on breeding and foraging areas, or fragmentation of wildlife corridors), site specific information provided by the project applicant, the best available scientific evidence, and expert advice should be used. In addition, the determination of significant adverse effects may also be considered within a regional context. Siting, design and management strategies should be employed to avoid or minimize adverse effects on wildlife, informed by the advisory principles in the Public Access Design Guidelines. If significant adverse effects cannot be avoided or reduced to a level below significance through siting, design and management strategies, then in lieu public access should be provided, consistent with the project and providing public access benefits equivalent to those that would have been achieved from on-site access. Where appropriate, effects of public access on wildlife should be monitored over time to determine whether revisions of management strategies are needed.

8. **Public Access, Policy 13:** “Public access should be integrated early in the planning and design of Bay habitat restoration projects to maximize public access opportunities and to avoid significant adverse effects on wildlife.
9. **Salt Ponds, Policy 3:** “Any project for the restoration, enhancement or conversion of salt ponds to subtidal or wetland habitat should include clear and specific long-term and short-term biological and physical goals, success criteria, a monitoring program, and provisions for long-term maintenance and management needs. Design and evaluation of the project should include an analysis of:
 - a) The anticipated habitat type that would result from pond conversion or restoration, and the predicted effects on the diversity, abundance and distribution of fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife;
 - b) Potential fill activities, including the use of fill material such as sediments dredged from the Bay and rock, to assist restoration objectives;
 - c) Flood management measures;
 - d) Mosquito abatement measures;
 - e) Measures to control non-native species;
 - f) The protection of the services provided by existing public facilities and utilities such as power lines and rail lines;
 - g) Siting, design and management of public access to maximize public access and recreational opportunities while avoiding significant adverse effects on wildlife; and
 - h) Water quality protection measures that include management of highly saline discharges into the Bay; monitoring and management of mercury methylation and sediments with contaminants; managing the release of copper and nickel to the Bay; and the minimization of sustained low dissolved oxygen levels in managed ponds.
10. **Salt Ponds, Policy 5:** “To determine where and how much water surface area should be retained and how much public access should be provided consistent with any development proposal in a salt pond(s), a comprehensive planning process should be undertaken as part of the development project that integrates with regional and local habitat restoration and management objectives and plans, and provides opportunities for collaboration among local, state and federal agencies, landowners, other private interests, and the public. In addition, the planning process should incorporate:

- a) A baseline scientific assessment of existing and historical natural conditions and resource values of the pond(s);
- b) Natural resource conservation objectives that will protect and enhance onsite and adjacent habitat and species diversity;
- c) Provisions for public access and recreational opportunities appropriate to the land's use, size and existing and future habitat values; and
- d) Flood and mosquito management measures.

11. Managed Wetlands, Policy 3: “Any project for the restoration, enhancement or conversion of managed wetlands to subtidal or wetland habitat should include clear and specific long-term and short-term biological and physical goals, success criteria, a monitoring program, and provisions for long-term maintenance and management needs. Design and evaluation of the project should include an analysis of:

- a) The anticipated habitat type that would result from managed wetland conversion or restoration, and the predicted effects on the diversity, abundance and distribution of fish, other aquatic organisms and wildlife;
- b) Potential fill activities, including the use of fill material such as sediments dredged from the Bay and rock, to assist restoration objectives;
- c) Flood management measures;
- d) Mosquito abatement measures;
- e) Measures to control non-native species;
- f) Opportunities for a diversity of public access and recreational activities; and
- g) Water quality protection measures that may include monitoring for constituents of concern, such as methylmercury.

12. Dredging, Policy 5: “To ensure adequate capacity for necessary Bay dredging projects and to protect Bay natural resources, acceptable non-tidal disposal sites should be secured and the Deep Ocean Disposal Site should be maintained. Further, dredging projects should maximize use of dredged material as a resource consistent with protecting and enhancing Bay natural resources, such as creating, enhancing, or restoring tidal and managed wetlands, creating and maintaining levees and dikes, providing cover and sealing material for sanitary landfills, and filling at approved construction sites.

13. Dredging, Policy 11:

- a) “A project that uses dredged material to create, restore, or enhance Bay or certain waterway natural resources should be approved only if:
 - 1. The Commission, based on detailed site-specific studies, appropriate to the size and potential impacts of the project, that include, but are not limited to, site morphology and physical conditions, biological considerations, the potential for fostering invasive species, dredged material stability, and engineering aspects of the project, determines all of the following:
 - a. the project would provide, in relationship to the project size, substantial net improvement in habitat for Bay species;
 - b. no feasible alternatives to the fill exist to achieve the project purpose with fewer adverse impacts to Bay resources;

- c. the amount of dredged material to be used would be the minimum amount necessary to achieve the purpose of the project;
 - d. beneficial uses and water quality of the Bay would be protected; and
 - e. there is a high probability that the project would be successful and not result in unmitigated environmental harm;
2. The project includes an adequate monitoring and management plan and has been carefully planned, and the Commission has established measurable performance objectives and controls that would help ensure the success and permanence of the project, and an agency or organization with fish and wildlife management expertise has expressed to the Commission its intention to manage and operate the site for habitat enhancement or restoration purposes for the life of the project;
 3. The project would use only clean material suitable for aquatic disposal and the Commission has solicited the advice of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Dredged Material Management Office and other appropriate agencies on the suitability of the dredged material;
 4. The project would not result in a net loss of Bay or certain waterway surface area or volume. Any offsetting fill removal would be at or near as feasible to the habitat fill site;
 5. Dredged material would not be placed in areas with particularly high or rare existing natural resource values, such as eelgrass beds and tidal marsh and mudflats, unless the material would be needed to protect or enhance the habitat. The habitat project would not, by itself or cumulatively with other projects, significantly decrease the overall amount of any particular habitat within the Suisun, North, South, or Central Bays, excluding areas that have been recently dredged;
 6. The Commission has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that at least one of these agencies supports the proposed project; and
 7. After a reasonable period of monitoring, if either:
 - a. the project has not met its goals and measurable objectives, and attempts at remediation have proven unsuccessful, or
 - b. the dredged material is found to have substantial adverse impacts on the natural resources of the Bay, then the dredged material would be removed, unless it is demonstrated by competent environmental studies that removing the material would have a greater adverse effect on the Bay than allowing it to remain, and the site would be returned to the conditions existing immediately preceding placement of the dredged material.
- b) To ensure protection of Bay habitats, the Commission should not authorize dredged material disposal projects in the Bay and certain waterways for habitat creation, enhancement or restoration, except for projects using a minor amount of dredged material, until:
1. Objective and scientific studies have been carried out to evaluate the advisability of disposal of dredged material in the Bay and certain waterways for habitat creation, enhancement and restoration. Those additional studies should address the following:

- a. The Baywide need for in-Bay habitat creation, enhancement and restoration, in the context of maintaining appropriate amounts of all habitat types within the Bay, especially for support and recovery of endangered species; and
- b. The need to use dredged materials to improve Bay habitat, the appropriate characteristics of locations in the Bay for such projects, and the potential short-term and cumulative impacts of such projects; and

The Commission has adopted additional Baywide policies governing disposal of dredged material in the Bay and certain waterways for the creation, enhancement and restoration of Bay habitat, which narratively establish the necessary biological, hydrological, physical and locational characteristics of candidate sites; and

- 2. The Oakland Middle Harbor enhancement project, if undertaken, is completed successfully.

14. Dredging, Policy 12: “The Commission should continue to participate in the LTMS, the Dredged Material Management Office, and other initiatives conducting research on Bay sediment movement, the effects of dredging and disposal on Bay natural resources, alternatives to Bay aquatic disposal, and funding additional costs of transporting dredged materials to non-tidal and ocean disposal sites.”

Appendix E: Full Citations for Regional Plans Most Relevant to the Grant Program

As discussed in Appendix C, the Restoration Act states that the Authority will “give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of and are consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy program (in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 31163 of the Public Resources Code).” One of these criteria is, “Are supported by adopted local or regional plans.” Full citations for the regional plans the Authority considers most relevant to the grant program are provided below.

Restoring the Estuary: An Implementation Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. (2001.) San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. <http://www.sonic.net/~sfbayjv/estuarybook.php>

The Baylands and Climate Change: What We Can Do. Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update 2015. (2015.) California State Coastal Conservancy. <http://baylandsgoals.org/science-update-2016/>

Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems for Northern and Central California. (2013.) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/ES/Recovery-Planning/Tidal-Marsh/Documents/TMRP_Volume1_RP.pdf

San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report: Conservation Planning for the Submerged Areas of the Bay. (2010.) California State Coastal Conservancy, Ocean Protection Council, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and Restoration Center, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Estuary Partnership. <http://www.sfbaysubtidal.org/report.html>

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary. (2016.) San Francisco Estuary Partnership. <http://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CCMPFinalOct2016.pdf>

Surviving the Storm. (2015.) Bay Area Council Economic Institute. <http://documents.bayareacouncil.org/survivingthestorm.pdf>

San Francisco Bay Trail Plan: A Recreational Ring Around San Francisco Bay. (1989.) Association of Bay Area Governments. http://baytrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/San-Francisco-Bay-Trail_-Bay-Trail-Plan-Summary.pdf

San Francisco Bay Trail Design Guidelines & Toolkit (2016.) San Francisco Bay Trail. http://baytrail.org/pdfs/BayTrailDGTK_082616_Web.pdf

Enhanced San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan. (2011.) California State Coastal Conservancy. http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/sccbb/2011/1103/20110317Board08_SF_Bay_Area_Water_Trail_Ex3.pdf

Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). (2017.) San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/basin_planning.shtml#basinplan

Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region, Management Plan (2001.) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.
<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/Dredging/LMTS/entire%20LMTF.pdf>

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San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

MEASURE AA ~~2017~~2018 PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Grants Funded by the San Francisco Bay Clean Water,
Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure

Applications due November ~~15, 2017~~XX, 2018

September ~~8, 2017~~XX, 2018

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I. Introduction

a. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and the Restoration Act

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (“Authority”) is a regional government agency with a Governing Board made up of local elected officials appointed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Its purpose is to raise and allocate resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetland and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. The Authority was created by the California legislature in 2008 with the enactment of AB 2954 (Lieber), the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act (“Restoration Act”).

b. Measure AA: The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure

After the Authority’s Governing Board placed Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (“Measure AA”) on the June 7, 2016 ballot, residents of the nine-county Bay Area voted with a 70% majority to pass it. This measure is a \$12 parcel tax, which will raise approximately \$25 million annually or \$500 million over twenty years, to fund shoreline projects that will protect and restore San Francisco Bay.

Measure AA proceeds will fund shoreline projects that protect and restore San Francisco Bay by: reducing trash, pollution and harmful toxins; improving water quality; restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife; protecting communities from floods; and increasing shoreline public access and recreational areas. Proceeds will be disbursed via competitive grants, as outlined in this RFP.

II. Eligibility and Required Criteria

To be eligible for Measure AA funds, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria below for grantees, project locations, and projects. Eligibility and required criteria are based on the Restoration Act and Measure AA as described in the SFBRA Grant Program Guidelines (June 2017) and reviewed below.

a. Eligible Grantees

Eligible grantees are federal, state, and local agencies; tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; and owners or operators of shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay Area, excluding the Delta primary zone.

b. Eligible Project Locations

To be eligible, projects must be located within the nine Bay Area counties (Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, or City and County of San Francisco), along the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of, but not including, the Delta Primary Zone, that are in areas consistent with guidance provided in the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update* (2015) and *Subtidal Habitat Goals Report* (2010), including:

- In subtidal areas (lying below mean low tide), within a reasonable distance of the shoreline;
- In baylands, i.e., areas that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides over multiyear cycles, including those areas that would be covered by the tides in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures, including the portion of creeks or rivers located below the head of tide; or
- On uplands adjacent to potential or actual tidal wetlands that can provide transitional habitat and/or marsh migration space, as well as areas that are needed to enhance the project’s resilience to projected sea level rise.

For a map of the Delta Primary Zone, see Appendix C.

c. Eligible Project Phases

Eligible project phases include acquisition¹, planning, design, environmental studies, permitting, construction, monitoring and evaluation, operation, scientific studies as part of the project to guide adaptive management, and maintenance.

d. Eligible Project Types and Activities

To be eligible for Measure AA funds, prospective projects must qualify as one or more of the three Restoration Act project types listed below:

1. Habitat Project

A habitat project will restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay area, excluding the Delta Primary Zone.² “Natural habitats” are considered those habitats that are consistent with existing guidance on baylands, riparian, and subtidal habitats, including those that have been modified by human activity, but still provide tangible wildlife support and/or ecological value.³

2. Flood Management, as part of a Habitat Project

¹ If your project is an acquisition, please include details of the restoration benefits in the project description section of the application. The Authority will consider funding acquisitions (fee and/or less-than-fee (e.g. easement) interests in land where demonstrably significant opportunity exists to either protect existing natural baylands resources from loss, degradation or development or to meaningfully enhance or restore baylands resources and/or provide habitat-related public access and flood benefits. In general, the Authority will seek to fund the least costly, most efficient and effective method of securing the long-term benefits of site tenure; acquisitions will therefore be judged on the tangibility, significance and likelihood of success of the eventual restoration or enhancement opportunity. In addition to the eligibility and prioritization criteria for any other Measure AA-funded project, eligible acquisitions must:

- Be transacted with willing sellers;
- Be for no more than fair market value as determined in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards;
- Have legal access to the property and be acceptably free and clear of defects of title;
- Be free of contamination that could impact the projected use and benefits of the property, as demonstrated through a Phase I environmental assessment or higher-level site analysis;
- Be secured in perpetuity for the Measure AA-purposes. For any acquisition by a private entity, a third-party public entity must partner to secure the public’s interest in the acquisition.
- If an easement, include terms sufficient to achieve the protection, restoration, or public access purposes of the project.

² A Delta Primary Zone map can be found in Appendix C.

³ A list of relevant local or regional plans regarding habitat types can be found in Appendix B.

A flood management project will build or enhance shoreline levees or other flood management features that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified under Habitat Project (as defined in #1 above). Flood management projects will be considered part of a habitat project if the habitat project is in the planning stages, underway, or partially complete. Generally, flood management projects will be considered part of habitat projects if they are included in the plan, environmental documents, and/or permits for the particular habitat restoration project with which they are associated.

3. Public Access, as part of a Habitat Project

A public access project will provide or improve public access or recreational amenities that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified in Habitat Project (as defined in #1 above). Public access projects will be considered part of a habitat project if the habitat project is in the planning stages, underway, or partially complete. Generally, public access projects will be considered part of habitat projects if they are included in the plan, environmental documents, and/or permits for the particular habitat restoration project with which they are associated.

Eligible projects may receive funding for the following activities described in Measure AA:

The *Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program's* purpose is to remove pollution, trash and harmful toxins from the Bay in order to provide clean water for fish, birds, wildlife and people. Eligible activities are:

- a. Improving water quality by reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities, protecting public health and making fish and wildlife healthier.
- b. Reducing pollution levels through shoreline cleanup and trash removal from the Bay.
- c. Restoring wetlands that provide natural filters and remove pollution from the Bay's water.
- d. Cleaning and enhancing creek outlets where they flow into the Bay.

The *Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program's* purpose is to significantly improve wildlife habitat that will support and increase vital populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife in and around the Bay. Eligible activities are:

- a. Enhancing the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, shoreline parks and open space preserves, and other protected lands in and around the Bay, providing expanded and improved habitat for fish, birds and mammals.
- b. Protecting and restoring wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats to benefit wildlife, including shorebirds, waterfowl and fish.
- c. Providing for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay, to ensure their ongoing benefits to wildlife and people.

The *Integrated Flood Protection Program's* purpose is to use natural habitats to protect communities along the Bay's shoreline from the risks of severe coastal flooding caused by storms and high water levels. Eligible activities are:

- a. Providing nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay's edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.

- b. Building and/or improving flood protection levees that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities, to protect existing shoreline communities, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The *Shoreline Public Access Program*'s purpose is to enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents, including those with disabilities, through safer and improved public access, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay. Eligible activities are:

- a. Constructing new, repairing existing and/or replacing deteriorating public access trails, signs, and related facilities along the shoreline and managing these public access facilities.
- b. Providing interpretive materials and special outreach events about pollution prevention, wildlife habitat, public access, and flood protection, to protect the Bay's health and encourage community engagement.

Additional Eligibility Considerations

Mitigation projects are generally not eligible for Measure AA funds. Please refer to the Grant Program Guidelines for eligibility requirements for mitigation projects.

III. Solicitation Priorities

The Authority will give priority to eligible projects that achieve as many as possible of the following:

- a. Have the greatest positive impact⁴ on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.
- b. Have the greatest long-term impact⁵ on the Bay, to benefit future generations.

⁴ *Greatest positive impact* refers to projects that demonstrate, through the use of established best available scientific knowledge, adopted regional and local plans, and relevant studies, the greatest potential benefits to the Bay ecosystem. In addition, they include restoration projects that provide co-benefits, including, but not limited to, improved flood protection, public access and recreational amenities, beneficial reuse of dredged material and carbon sequestration.

⁵ *Greatest long-term impact* refers to projects that best demonstrate an ability to provide benefits over long timeframes despite the potential for changing circumstances such as changes in freshwater supply, sediment delivery, species composition, and rising sea levels. Projects should use the best available science to incorporate future climate variability, ideally providing resilience across multiple climate change scenarios.

- c. Provide for geographic distribution⁶ across the region and ensure that there are projects funded in each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area over the life of Measure AA.⁷
- d. Increase impact value by leveraging state and federal resources and public/private partnerships.
- e. Benefit economically disadvantaged communities⁸.
- f. Benefit the region's economy, including local workforce development⁹, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.
- g. Work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.
- h. Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship to develop the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.
- i. Meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy.¹⁰

IV. Grant Application Process and Timeline

a. Project Solicitation Period

⁶ *Geographic distribution* refers to projects that contribute to Measure AA's funding distribution requirement. Over the life of Measure AA, 20 years, 50% of funds will be allocated based on geographic distribution to each of the four Bay Area regions, which are defined as follows:

- North Bay (Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Solano Counties): 9% minimum allocation;
- East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties): 18% minimum allocation;
- West Bay (City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County): 11% minimum allocation; and
- South Bay (Santa Clara County): 12% minimum allocation.

⁷ Geographic distribution will be assessed by the location of projects proposed and assessed over multiple grant cycles.

⁸ "An *economically disadvantaged community* (EDC) is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80% of the area median income (AMI). Within this set of low-income communities, communities of particular concern include those that: are historically underrepresented in the environmental policymaking and/or projects, bear a disproportionate environmental and health burden, are most vulnerable to climate change impacts due to lack of resources required for community resilience, or are severely burdened by housing costs, increasing the risk of displacement." A proposed project's ability to provide benefits to these communities will be judged on the basis of the direct involvement and support of local community groups; a demonstrated track record working within communities; the use of proven strategies to increase relevance of messaging and outreach; and the ability to alleviate multiple stressors within communities, including, but not limited to, addressing the need for additional recreational amenities, resilience to climate change, reductions in pollution burden, greater civic engagement, and enhanced leadership development opportunities.

⁹ The Authority requires grantees to negotiate, enter into and execute a project labor agreement with the local building trades council or councils, subject to certain conditions and exceptions outlined in its Resolution 22, adopted November 30, 2016.

¹⁰ See Appendix A for the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program, and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy and project list link. This criteria is captured via three separate questions in the grant application.

Annual Requests for Proposals funded with funds generated by Measure AA will be posted on the Authority’s website and sent out to the Authority’s mailing lists.

The Authority anticipates a 6-month grant award schedule, as outlined below, for this current grant round. The evaluation and grant recommendation periods below are subject to change.

Solicitation Released	September 15 th , 2017
Webinar (optional)	October 4 th , 2017 from 2pm – 3pm PST
Proposals Due	November 15 th , 2017
Evaluation	November 16 th 2017 – January 31 st 2018
Grant Recommendations and Board Meeting	Starting in Spring 2018

Sign up for the webinar by following this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2923137809738527490>

All Authority grants will be awarded at a San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board meeting. The specific meeting when a grant will be considered will depend on project readiness and staff capacity.

b. Optional Pre-Proposal Consultation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Authority staff prior to submitting their applications. Pre-proposal consultation will be available to any potential applicant but will not be required.

c. Grant Application

Applicants must submit a grant application cover page, and a grant application form. All of these materials are posted on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority’s webpage (<http://www.sfbayrestore.org/sf-bay-restoration-authority-grants.php>)

V. Application Review and Evaluation

a. Completeness

Grant applications will be initially ~~reviewed~~screened by Authority staff for completeness. Incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Applicants may choose to complete their application and resubmit it within five business days, or in a future solicitation period.

b. Application Screening

The Authority staff will screen complete grant applications to ensure that:

- The project and potential grantee meets the Authority’s eligibility requirements as outlined in the Authority’s enabling legislation;
- Proposed activities are eligible for funding as set forth in Measure AA; and
- Projects will have environmental documents completed in time to be presented to the Governing Board by September 2018.

Applications that do not pass the screening process will not proceed to the review process. Authority staff will notify the applicant. The applicant may request feedback from Authority staff on whether and how the proposal could be modified to meet the screening criteria and may resubmit it in a future solicitation period.

c. Review

Complete applications that have passed the screening process will be reviewed and evaluated by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise in the Authority’s program areas (as described in the enabling legislation and Measure AA). Reviewers may include, but are not limited to, public agency staff, consultants, academics, Authority staff and Advisory Committee members. All reviewers who are not subject to the Authority’s Conflict of Interest Code will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. All reviewers will evaluate each proposal in accordance with the scoring criteria as described below.

d. Scoring Criteria: Quantitative and Qualitative

Reviewers will score projects quantitatively within the categories below, as well as evaluate projects qualitatively against one another.

Criteria	Points	Where to Find the Corresponding Content in the Grant Application
I. The extent to which the project implements the programs and activities of Measure AA (Section II).	20	I. Grant Application – Project Description: #1. Project Eligibility, #3. Goals and Objectives, #5. Project Description, #7. Specific Tasks #12. Public Access
II. The extent to which the project achieves the priorities of Measure AA, as defined by the prioritization criteria under Section III.	40 Total Projects judged on both the breadth and depth with which they meet criteria.	III. Solicitation Priorities: #1 - #10
III. The project’s likelihood of success, based on the applicant’s demonstration of capacity and resources to complete the project in an effective and timely way, the likelihood the project will be	40 Total 20 = Project’s likelihood of success 10 = Project’s likelihood of maintenance over time, <i>(or completion of the project, if the project proposed is planning)</i> 10 = Grantee’s likelihood of success	<u>Project’s likelihood of success (20):</u> • I. Grant Application – Project Description: ○ #2 Need for the project, ○ #5 Project Description, ○ #6 Site Description, ○ #9 Measuring Success, ○ #10 Barriers and Risks, ○ #11 Environmental Review,

<p>maintained over time, and the likelihood of success in addressing the project’s barriers and risks.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #13. Community Support, Involvement, and Benefits. ● II. Grant Application – Preliminary Budget and Schedule, specifically Contingency Costs and Uncertainties. ● III. Grant Application – Prioritization Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #3 Leveraging Resources and Partnerships. <p><u>Project’s likelihood of maintenance overtime (10):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I. Grant Application – Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #6 Site Description, ○ #9 Measuring Success, ○ #13. Community Support, Involvement, and Benefits. ● II. Grant Application – Preliminary Budget and Schedule. ● III. Grant Application – Prioritization Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #2 Greatest Long-term impact, ○ #7 Monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship. <p><u>Grantee’s likelihood of success (10):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I. Grant Application – Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #4 Applicant and Project History ○ #13. Community Support, Involvement, and Benefits.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Grant Application – Preliminary Budget and Schedule.
	100	

Quantitative Scoring

Each of the three above point categories will be assigned a numerical rating using the following scoring tiers as a guide when evaluating how well the proposal addresses that category, as explained below.

To achieve the maximum amount of points, the proposal must provide clear, substantive, and coherent evidence that the proposed work will adequately address all relevant aspects of that category. Proposals that describe in sufficient detail how the proposed work will effectively address multiple, or excel in a particular, aspect/s of a category can achieve up to 75% of a category’s points. Proposals that address multiple or single aspects of a category without clearly describing how these aspects would result in measurable benefits will not receive more than half a category’s points. Proposals that need significant work may mention, but not adequately describe, how the proposal would meet some or one relevant aspect/s of that category, or not mention or adequately describe those aspects at all, and shall not receive more than 25% of a category’s points.

Additional Detail on Three Categories of Criteria Above

- I. Programs and Activities of Measure AA
 - a. The four programs, and related activities, of Measure AA are listed in **Section II.d** above: *II. Eligibility and Required Criteria, d. Eligible Project Activities*. Eligible projects must implement at least one program, and related activity, of Measure AA. A proposal can receive high scores by either implementing many activities to an adequate degree, or implementing a particular or few activities very well. In other words, a proposal will not rank higher just because it implements more activities than other proposals, and the extent to which a project implements an activity will be considered in ranking proposals.
- II. Measure AA Priorities
 - a. Measure AA Priorities are listed in **Section III** above: *Solicitation Priorities*. To excel in this category, a project proposal would meet all or most of the priority criteria outlined above, as interpreted by the Authority and explained in the footnotes of the above section. Projects will be judged both on the depth and breadth with which they meet criteria.
- III. Likelihood of Success
 - a. This category captures the likelihood of success of the project, the project’s likelihood of maintenance overtime (or the likelihood the eventual project will get implemented, if the project proposed is a planning project), as well as the likelihood of success of the proposed grantee and project team. Overall, this category considers whether the proposal: is written consistently and according to instructions; includes a complete, reasonable and well thought-out scope of work,

budget and schedule; identifies in its work plan how the project will be implemented (including obtaining permits, etc. if applicable); addresses the barriers and risks identified; and clearly demonstrates the applicant has the ability to successfully complete the project within the schedule and budget proposed. Applicants that excel across these elements will score highly in this category.

Qualitative Scoring

In addition to quantitative points as described above, each proposal will have an additional qualitative scoring section. The qualitative scoring section will include a space for reviewers to record the proposal's top three strengths, as well as the proposal's top three weaknesses, when considering Measure AA's four programs and related activities (quantitative Section I above), Measure AA's priority criteria (quantitative section II above), and the applicant and project's likelihood of success (quantitative section III above).

e. Grant Award

Based on proposal review and scoring, authority staff will determine which qualified applications to recommend to the Governing Board for funding and the amount of funding, taking into account the project's merit and urgency relative to other eligible projects, the total amount of funding available for projects, the readiness of the projects to proceed, and whether the Governing Board will be able to make any necessary findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Authority expects that it will take an average of six months from application submittal to Governing Board approval and at least one additional month for execution of the grant agreement.

f. Board Meetings

The Governing Board will consider recommended grants and make any and all grant approvals at public meetings that are noticed in advance, with meeting materials made available in advance to the public. The Authority typically holds four public meetings per calendar year, though this number is subject to change as board meetings are held on an as-needed basis. The meeting schedule is published on the Authority's website. The agenda for each public meeting will be published on the Authority's website at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Staff will prepare a report for each proposed grant presented to the Governing Board at a public meeting. The staff report will describe the project, will explain how the project is consistent with and advances the purposes of the Authority's enabling legislation and Measure AA, and will be made available to the public in advance of the meeting.

g. Grant Agreement

Once the Governing Board has approved a grant at a public meeting, Authority staff will prepare a grant agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant. The grantee must sign the grant agreement and comply with its conditions in order to receive funds. Typical grant agreement provisions will include:

- Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the Authority.
- Grantees must submit a detailed project work program and budget and the names of any contractors.
- Grantees must provide proof that all necessary permits have been obtained.

- Grantees must provide proof of liability insurance and name the Authority as an additional insured.
- Where appropriate, grantees will be required to provide signage informing the public that the project received Authority grant funding.
- Grant funds will only be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.
- Grantees must submit invoices and progress reports regularly, and at least quarterly.
- Grantees must meet project completion requirements (typically grants will include a 10% withholding that is not paid until the project is completed), including a final report as outlined in section VI.e Project Monitoring and Reporting, below.
- Grantee must agree to monitor and maintain the project for an agreed-upon time, typically for a period of 20 years, and if the grantee is not the landowner, the grantee must secure the landowner's written permission to monitor and maintain for that period.
- Grantees may be required to reimburse the Authority for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not satisfactorily completed.
- In executing the project for which the grant has been given, grantees will comply with all terms set forth in the grant agreement and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- The Authority requires grantees to negotiate, enter into and execute a project labor agreement with the local building trades council or councils, subject to certain conditions and exceptions outlined in its Resolution 22, adopted November 30, 2016.
- Grantees must agree to maintain records and may be subject to audits.
- Construction projects will need to be bonded.

VI. Additional Information

a. Available Funding

The Authority expects to generate approximately \$25 million each year for twenty years for a total of \$500 million, which will be disbursed through grant rounds as outlined in the Grant Guidelines, with no more than 5% going to cover the administration of the Restoration Authority. This 5% does not refer to or apply to prospective grantees, who will have a percentage limit of 15% for direct project management costs in their projects.

b. Project Timeframe

The Authority may request that proponents of projects with schedules longer than 3-5 years break their projects into phases and return to the Authority for the funding and authorization of each phase of the project.

c. Funding Range

There is not a set funding range for proposals, however the Authority encourages projects of at least several hundreds of thousands of dollars, as well as multi-million dollar projects. The Authority currently anticipates funding approximately 5-10 projects per grant round.

d. Environmental Documents

The Authority is required to comply with CEQA and all other applicable environmental laws. Grant applicants should consider whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies.

How CEQA applies and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the grant application. Grant applicants that are not potential CEQA lead agencies, e.g., nongovernmental organizations, should work with a lead agency to determine whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies. Additionally, grant applicants should consider all other applicable environmental laws and address compliance in the grant application.

e. Project Monitoring and Reporting

All grant applications must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. The monitoring and reporting component will vary depending on the nature of the project, and may include regional monitoring approaches as appropriate. The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program. In addition, Authority staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures.

All projects must complete a final report, including a lessons-learned summary report fully and clearly describing lessons learned under all phases of the project including design, construction and monitoring. Lessons learned should focus on project trouble areas and issues to be addressed as a guide to helping future projects to avoid these issues to the extent possible. The Authority's monitoring requirements will seek to assess the ongoing effectiveness of the project. The Authority does not currently intend to require monitoring activities that exceed monitoring needed to measure and report project effectiveness.

f. Pilot Projects

Pilot and demonstration projects are eligible under this grant program and serve to enhance our technical understanding of methods and approaches that improve our ability to design and construct "nature based" approaches to wetlands enhancement and flood protection around the Bay.

VII. Grant Application

Please follow this link [\[link will be added before final version for the September 21, 2018 SFBRA Board Meeting\]](#) to access the Grant Application, which is linked on the Restoration Authority's website, under the 'Grants' tab here:

http://sfbayrestore.org/docs/Final_SFBRA_Application_9-15-17.docx

[\[link will be added before final version for the September 21, 2018 SFBRA Board Meeting\]](#)

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Relevant Sections of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act

Appendix B: Full Citations for Regional Plans Most Relevant to the Grant Program

Appendix C: Delta Primary Zone Map

Appendix A: Selection Criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program, and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy and Project List Link

Please see below for additional detail regarding bullet point i above under section III. Solicitation Priorities.

I. Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

1. "Are supported by adopted local or regional plans;
2. Are multijurisdictional or serve a regional constituency;
3. Can be implemented in a timely way;
4. Provide opportunities for benefits that could be lost if the project is not quickly implemented;
5. Include matching funds from other sources of funding or assistance."

II. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program is based on the provisions and policies of the McAteer-Petris Act, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, the San Francisco Bay Plan, the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, and the Commission's administrative regulations. The McAteer-Petris Act and the Bay Plan apply to the entire Bay, while the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act and Suisun Marsh Protection Plan apply only to Suisun Marsh. The Bay Plan elements most relevant to this grant program (see Appendix B) include policies related to habitat goals, climate change resilience, setting goals and success criteria, monitoring and adaptive management, public access, and mosquito abatement. Consistency with these policies is required in order to obtain a permit for project construction from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

III. San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy

Applicants must either demonstrate that their project is on Joint Venture's list or consult with the Joint Venture prior to applying for funding to assess and characterize their consistency with the selection criteria of the list.

- San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Implementation Strategy:
<http://www.sonic.net/~sfbayjv/estuarybook.php>
- San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Project List:
<http://www.ecoatlas.org/regions/adminregion/sfbjv/projects>

Appendix B: Full Citations for Regional Plans Most Relevant to the Grant Program

The Restoration Act states that the Authority will “give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of and are consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy program (in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 31163 of the Public Resources Code).” One of these criteria is, “Are supported by adopted local or regional plans.” Full citations for the regional plans the Authority considers most relevant to the grant program are provided below.

Restoring the Estuary: An Implementation Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. (2001.) San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. <http://www.sonic.net/~sfbayjv/estuarybook.php>

The Baylands and Climate Change: What We Can Do. Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update 2015. (2015.) California State Coastal Conservancy. <http://baylandsgoals.org/science-update-2016/>

Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems for Northern and Central California. (2013.) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/ES/Recovery-Planning/Tidal-Marsh/Documents/TMRP_Volume1_RP.pdf

San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report: Conservation Planning for the Submerged Areas of the Bay. (2010.) California State Coastal Conservancy, Ocean Protection Council, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and Restoration Center, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Estuary Partnership. <http://www.sfbaysubtidal.org/report.html>

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary. (2016.) San Francisco Estuary Partnership. <http://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CCMPFinalOct2016.pdf>

Surviving the Storm. (2015.) Bay Area Council Economic Institute. <http://documents.bayareacouncil.org/survivingthestorm.pdf>

San Francisco Bay Trail Plan: A Recreational Ring Around San Francisco Bay. (1989.) Association of Bay Area Governments. http://baytrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/San-Francisco-Bay-Trail_-Bay-Trail-Plan-Summary.pdf

San Francisco Bay Trail Design Guidelines & Toolkit (2016.) San Francisco Bay Trail. http://baytrail.org/pdfs/BayTrailDGTK_082616_Web.pdf

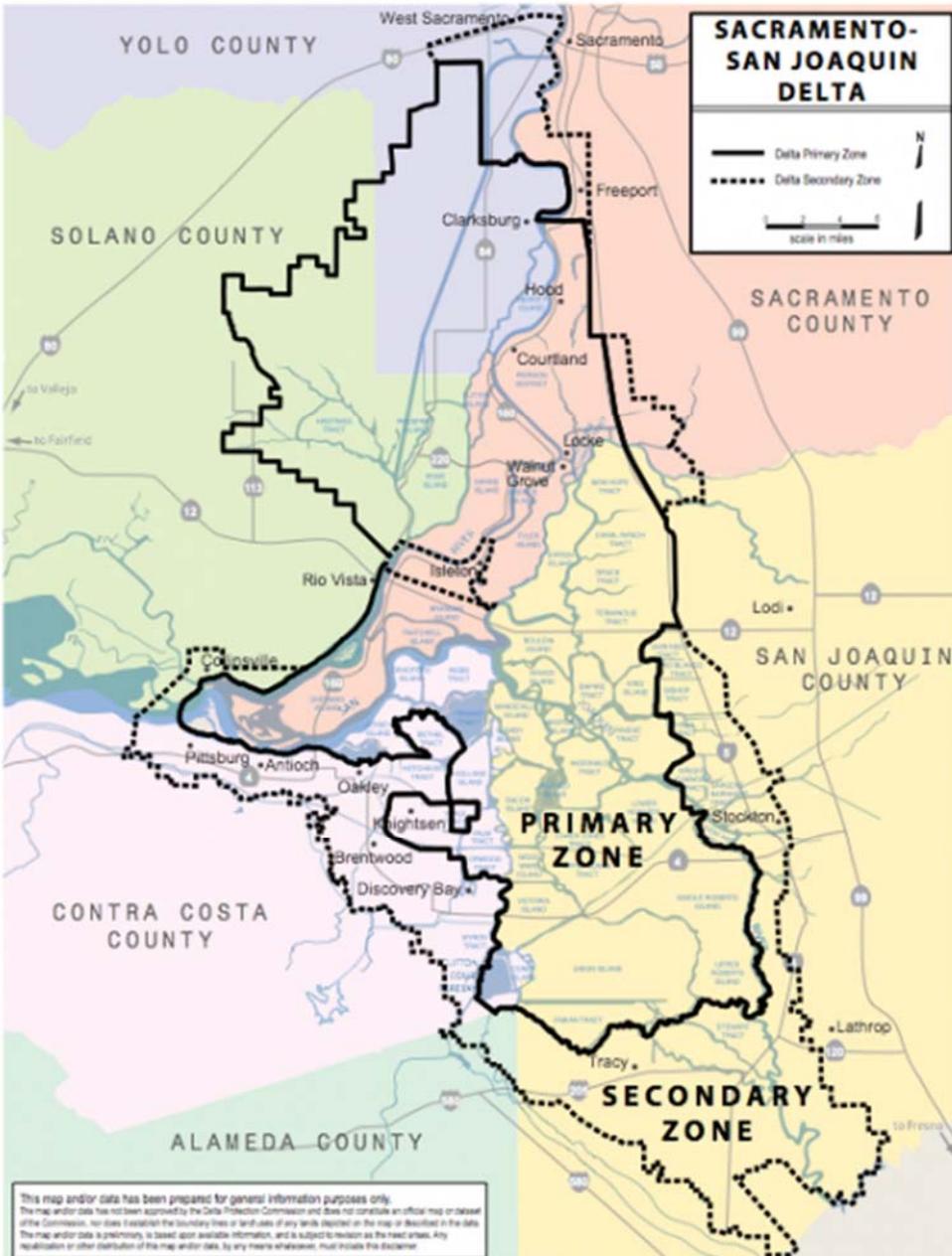
Enhanced San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan. (2011.) California State Coastal Conservancy. http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/sccbb/2011/1103/20110317Board08_SF_Bay_Area_Water_Trail_Ex3.pdf

Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). (2017.) San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/basin_planning.shtml#basinplan

Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region, Management Plan (2001.) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/Dredging/LMTS/entire%20LMTF.pdf>

Appendix C: Delta Primary Zone Map¹¹



¹¹ Source: Water Education Foundation: <http://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/sacramento-san-joaquin-delta-land-use-and-boundaries>



Rev. ~~September 2017: Final~~ June 2018: DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY MEASURE AA
GRANT APPLICATION – COVER PAGE

**Application instructions can be deleted to allow for full use of the page limits*

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Organization			
Contact Persons (Primary/Alternate)		Email	
Phone		Fax	
Address			
Partner Entities			

PROJECT INFORMATION			
Project Name			
Summary			
Total Project Cost	\$	Amount Requested	\$
Other Funding Sources (Amount)	\$	Other Funding Sources	
Start Date		End Date	
Project Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Flood/Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Public Access/Habitat		
Project Phase (check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Design <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Implementation		
CEQA	For implementation projects, is What are the CEQA completed?—requirements for your project?		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project under CEQA <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from CEQA (statutorily or categorically) <input type="checkbox"/> ND <input type="checkbox"/> MND <input type="checkbox"/> EIR If required, has the CEQA document been approved and filed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, date filed; If no, expected filing month/year: _____				
Acres <i>(habitat acreage to be restored, or land to be acquired)</i>		Trail length <i>h</i> Miles <i>(miles)</i>		APNs <small>(Acquisition Only)</small>
Shoreline length (miles)				

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LOCATION INFORMATION			
SFBRA REGION	<input type="checkbox"/> North (Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano) <input type="checkbox"/> East (Alameda, Contra Costa)		<input type="checkbox"/> West (San Francisco, San Mateo) <input type="checkbox"/> South (Santa Clara)
County		Specific Location	
Latitude Format: 33.3333		Longitude Format: -111.1111	
What point is represented by the lat/longs (eg., parking lot, center of site, etc):			

ELECTED OFFICIALS		
Districts	Number(s)	Name(s)
State Senate		
State Assembly		
Congressional		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

I. GRANT APPLICATION – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Complete each of the elements of the project description below with clear, but detailed answers. Limit your response to this section to no more than six pages.

1. **Project Eligibility.** Describe how your project meets the RFP’s Eligibility and Required Criteria (See Section II in the RFP – Eligible Grantees and Project Locations, Phases, Types and Activities).
2. **Need for the Project.** Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.
3. **Goals and Objectives.** The goals and objectives should clearly define the expected outcomes and benefits of the project.
4. **Applicant and Project History.** Describe your experience with similar projects and/or how your organization is best suited to carry out the proposed project.
5. **Project Description.** Describe all of the major project components (i.e., what will actually be done to address the need and achieve the goals and objectives). Include the history and context for the development of the project.
6. **Site Description.** Describe the project site or area, including site characteristics that are tied to your project objectives (i.e.: for acquisition of habitat, describe current vegetation assemblages, condition of habitats, known wildlife migration corridors, etc.). When relevant, include ownership and management information.
7. **Specific Tasks.** Identify the specific tasks that will be undertaken and the work that will be accomplished for each task.

#	Task Name	Description
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Add or delete rows as necessary.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

8. **Work Products.** List the specific work products or other deliverables that the project will result in.
9. **Measuring Success.** For projects involving restoration, construction or land acquisition, describe the plan for monitoring, evaluating and reporting project effectiveness, and implementing adaptive management strategies if necessary. Who will be responsible for funding and implementing ongoing management and monitoring?¹
10. **Barriers and Risks.** Please discuss any barriers that may exist in implementing your project, and how they may be overcome, as well as how you would address and overcome any anticipated undesired outcomes or risks regarding the proposed project. Examples may include addressing current and projected sea level rise impacts, infrastructure present at the project site (e.g. transmission lines), risks of invasive species, and other potential barriers and risks associated with the proposed project.
11. **Environmental Review.** Projects funded by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority must be reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). If the project is statutorily or categorically exempt under CEQA, no further review is necessary. If the project is not exempt, the potential environmental effects of the project must be evaluated in a "Negative Declaration (Neg Dec)," "Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)," or "Environmental Impact Report," prepared by (or under contract to) a public agency and adopted or certified by the public agency. Please select the appropriate ~~answer~~ answers below, and then describe how CEQA applies to your proposed project, and address the status and timing of CEQA compliance. For more information on CEQA, visit: <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/>

The proposed project (select the appropriate answer ~~-(s)~~):

- Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA Guidelines exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption.
- Requires a Neg Dec, MND, or EIR. Specify which: _____
- Also please sSpecify the CEQA lead agency (the agency preparing the document) and ~~the~~ the (expected) date for adoption or certification: _____

~~-~~Please note that the Authority will need to review and consider the adopted or certified CEQA document prior to authorizing a grant.

¹ All grant applications must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. The monitoring and reporting component will vary depending on the nature of the project, and may include regional monitoring approaches as appropriate. The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program. In addition, Authority staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures. All projects must complete a final report, including a lessons-learned summary report fully and clearly describing lessons learned under all phases of the project including design, construction and monitoring. Lessons learned must focus on project trouble areas and issues to be addressed as a guide to future projects to avoid these issues to the extent possible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please describe how CEQA applies to your proposed project, and address the status and timing of CEQA compliance:

12. **Public Access.** Does your proposed project include or overlap with a proposed alignment for the San Francisco Bay Trail or San Francisco Water Trail? If so, how do you plan to integrate Bay Trail or Water Trail designations into your project?
13. **Community Support, Involvement and Benefits.**² Please explain the extent to which the project has community support, has included community engagement and input, and provides tangible community benefits. In particular, explain any community engagement process undertaken and relevant community partnerships that could impact project success.

14. **Permitting and Mitigation.** If your project has progressed to this phase, please describe the status of your permits, as well as the general nature of any mitigation requirements. If your project has not yet reached the permit phase, do you anticipate any particular permitting or mitigation challenges?

15. **Acquisitions.** For acquisition projects, please address the following:

- i. What type of acquisition are you proposing, why are you structuring the acquisition the way that you propose, and why is this type of acquisition the best approach?
- ii. What are the benefits of pursuing an acquisition in this location? Please speak to the significance of this land, in either protecting existing natural baylands resources, or meaningfully enhancing or restoring baylands.
- iii. How do you plan to manage and steward the land?
- iv. Where are you in the negotiation process?
- v. Specifically:
 1. Are you acquiring the land from a willing seller?
 2. Will the land be purchased at no more than fair market value (as described in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards)?
 3. Will you have legal access to the property, and will this land be acceptably free and clear of defects of title?
 4. Is there any known contamination on site? Has any site investigation been undertaken to date?

² Competitive applications should be inclusive of diverse groups to ensure that benefits to the community extend beyond simple input and engagement.

II. GRANT APPLICATION – PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

~~Please use the embedded provided budget matrix (in excel document form) to provide the project's preliminary budget and schedule information. In Outline your completed budget, and attach that excel document to this application, the budget can be sent separately in excel, or embedded below.~~

In the budget matrix below attached to your application, relist the tasks identified in #7 above and for each provide: 1) Project costs per year, adding additional columns as needed, 2) the estimated cost of the task, and 3) the funding sources (applicant, Authority, and other) for the task, and for other funds, please describe below all sources of other funding and whether secured or pending. The table will automatically sum the totals for each row and column. To do this, highlight the whole table and hit F9.

You may include a task for direct project management for no more than 15% the cost of the project. If you choose to include contingency or overhead, please include as a separate task and be advised that overhead calculations must be justifiable for an audit.

Below, and in addition to completing the attached budget matrix, please also include a discussion of any uncertainties in this budget, and your anticipated ability to operate and maintain the project, as well as explain how you will handle any contingency costs.



Final SFBRA
BUDGET_9 15 17.xls>

In Kind Services: *In-kind services or contributions include volunteer time and materials, bargain sales, and land donations. Describe and estimate the value of expected in-kind services.*

Contingency Costs: *Please describe contingency costs, if applicable, and any plans for managing them.*

Other Funds: *Please describe below all sources of other funding and whether secured or pending.*

Operation and Maintenance. Please describe your operation and maintenance expectations and capabilities.

Uncertainties. *Please discuss any other budget or key uncertainties that would affect the success of the project.*

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SFBRA MEASURE AA PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

III. GRANT APPLICATION - PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA³

Complete each of the elements of the prioritization criteria below with clear but detailed answers. Limit your response to this section to no more than four pages.

1. **Greatest positive impact.** Describe the degree to which the project will have the greatest positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.
2. **Greatest long-term impact.** Describe the degree to which the project will achieve the greatest long-term impact on the Bay, to benefit future generations.
3. **Leveraging resources and partnerships.** Describe how the project will leverage state and federal resources, and public/private partnerships. If applicable, indicate if Authority funds are needed to meet match requirements of other secured funding sources.
4. **Economically disadvantaged communities⁴.** Describe to what degree the project will benefit economically disadvantaged communities.
5. **Benefits to economy.** Describe how the project will benefit the region's economy, including local workforce development, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.
6. **Engage youth and young adults.** Describe how the project will work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.
7. **Monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship.** Describe how the project will incorporate these to develop the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.
8. **Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program⁵.** Describe how the project is consistent with the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program's Criteria.

³ Refer to the Request for Proposals, Section III, for the interpretation and definitions of the Prioritization Criteria.

⁴ Please refer to the "Grants" tab for a link to the SFBRA 80% Area Median Income Map for the San Francisco Bay Area.

⁵ Refer to the Request for Proposals, Appendix A, for a list of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program's Criteria.

SFBRA MEASURE AA PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

9. **San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program⁶.**

Please describe if and how the project is consistent with San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program.

10. **San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy⁷.** Please address your project's consistency with the Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy, its inclusion on the Joint Venture's list, and/or describe your consultation with the Joint Venture prior to applying for funding.

⁶ Refer to the Request for Proposals, Appendix A, for more information on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program.

⁷ Refer to the RFP, Appendix A for links to the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy and project list.



GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A complete application will consist of the following files:

- Cover Letter (optional) – no more than one page.
- Grant application form (in Microsoft word or rtf format), includes:
 - o cover page
 - o project description
 - o preliminary budget and schedule
 - o prioritization criteria
- Project maps and design plans (in one pdf file, 10 MB maximum size)
- Project photos (in jpg format)

Project Maps and Graphics. Provide the following project graphics with your application. Project maps and design plans should be combined into one pdf file with a maximum size of 10 MB. Project photos should be provided in jpg format.

- Regional Map – Clearly identify the project’s location in relation to prominent area features and significant natural and recreational resources, including regional trails and protected lands.
- Site-scale map – Show the location of project elements in relation to natural and man-made features on-site or nearby. Any key features discussed in project description should be shown.
- Design Plan – Construction projects should include one or more design drawings or graphics indicating the intended site improvements.
- Site Photos – One or more clear photos of the project site

I have reviewed the **Grant Agreement Provisions** listed in the Grant Guidelines (Page 9) and understand the likely requirements for receiving and administering Measure AA Funds.

Applications should be emailed to: grants@sfbayrestore.org. If you are unable to email your application, you may send the electronic files on a CD or other common electronic storage device. Mail the files to:

State Coastal Conservancy 1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor Oakland, CA 94612

Grant applications must be received by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority by 5pm PST on November ~~15, 2017~~XX, 2018.

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SFBRA AC Ad Hoc Committee on Communications

Meeting and Conf Call 6/12/2018

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Committee Members: Anne Morkill (Lead), Erika Castillo, Marina Psaros, Diane Ross-Leech, Ana Maria Ruiz

Staff: Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer; Jessica Davenport, Advisory Committee (AC) Coordinator

Guest/Expert: Caroline Warner, Public Outreach Coordinator, SF Bay Joint Venture

Introductions – How does your organization communicate with its audiences?

- Website
- Social media
- Short videos
- E-Bulletin
- Print ads in local papers, e.g., East Bay Express
- Geotargeted online ads, e.g., Google Adwords
- Billboards
- Ads at Muni stations
- King Tides Initiative (website, online photo sharing by community members)
- Tours
- Events at Exploratorium
- Working with schools on Next Generation Science Standards

What the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) already does to communicate

- **Materials:**
 - [one-pager](#) and [two-pager](#) overviews
 - press releases
 - first grant round [project fact sheets](#)
- **Communications channels:**
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Website](#)
 - Coverage by major news media and more specialized publications, such as the SFEP's ESTUARY News, SF Bay JV's e-Bulletin
 - Grantees required to acknowledge SFBRA/Measure AA in signs, newsletters, etc.
 - Webinars for prospective grant applicants
 - Email list

Outreach Goals

Outreach goals are most useful and meaningful when connected to specific audiences and desired outcomes. The following goals may need to be further refined as key audiences and outcomes are clarified.

- **Educate Key Audiences about the Benefits of Restoration:** Continue to spread the message that “Restoration is Working” and provides benefits for nature (wildlife, water

quality) and people (beauty, recreation, flood protection). Highlight projects that are underway and what they are expected to achieve.

- **Show Accountability and Good Governance:** Ensure transparency about SFBRA grant management and oversight structure. Show the voters that funds are being spent well.
- **Build Awareness among Potential Grantees.** Let potential grantees know this program exists and will be around for 20 years. This provides time to build capacity among groups that are not yet experienced in grant management.
- **Provide Guidance to Achieve Benefits for EDCs.** Provide guidance on ways for community-based organizations in economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs), to partner with restoration groups and agencies. Provide guidance in community engagement to potential grantees who are not experienced in this aspect of restoration project planning and implementation.
- **Educate Elected Officials about the Need for Additional Funds.** Keep a high profile among elected officials because funds in addition to Measure AA are needed.

Who are the audiences for the SFBRA?

- Cities along the shoreline, both government agencies and communities
- City managers
- Community leaders
- Nonprofit organizations, including environmental justice organizations
- Media
- Elected officials
- High schools: career centers, internship opportunities, service learning, work force development, environmental leadership academies
- Universities: opportunities for graduate-level research on restoration, partnerships with grantees on monitoring and evaluation, including measuring human dimensions of benefits
- Tech workers: influential, service days

Key messages and themes

1. SFBRA is an effective organization that is achieving restoration outcomes.
2. Restoration is working, providing benefits related to human health, recreation, water quality, job creation.
3. Measure AA is funding multi-benefit restoration projects.
4. The Bay is for everybody: these are public resources for all to enjoy.
5. We value living in a beautiful place.
6. "New era of restoration" because of having a long-term local source of funds.
7. Yet more funds are needed.
8. Wildlife is coming back.
9. "Sharing our home" (with other species).

Tactics, resources, and metrics for success

- **Planned for FY 2018/2019 (July 2018-June 2019)**
 - See "What the Restoration Authority already does to communicate" above
 - Provide grantees with guidance for creating project signage with SFBRA logo - develop common language (e.g. "this project paid for by taxpayers" or "brought to you by the SFBRA and funded by Measure AA")

- Revamp the website
- Provide content to AC member organizations and other partners to publicize using their existing communication channels, including:
 - Information about the next grant cycle
 - Updates on progress of SFBRA-funded projects
 - “Wetland Restoration is Working” videos
 - KQED California Report series on SFBRA-funded projects.¹
- **Possible activities for future years, particularly if November Water Bond passes:**
 - Expand staff time available for public outreach (currently only 12% of the State Coastal Conservancy public information officer’s time is budgeted for SFBRA)
 - Refresh website and post to social media frequently
 - Survey different audiences to see what messages resonate with them
 - Create a calendar around key project milestones to schedule times to highlight Measure AA throughout the year as projects are being implemented e.g. ribbon cutting, breach event, public meetings, etc.
 - Conduct a webinar series about the projects but also promoting the Measure AA, every 2-3 months
 - Expand group of grantees to economically disadvantaged communities and non-traditional groups - reach out to local community groups; ethnic media contacts
 - Host community events or shoreline tours to bring local residents out to learn about wetlands and promote Measure AA funding opportunities
 - Promote opportunities for youth involvement, including volunteering, service learning, and work force development.
 - SFBRA pop-up tents at community events for Earth Day, Bay Day, etc.

Action items:

1. Taylor will develop a draft outreach strategy for review and comment by the ad hoc subcommittee over the summer.
2. Taylor will revise the strategy based on subcommittee input and present a proposed strategy to the full AC at the 10/5 meeting.

Notes compiled by Jessica Davenport, 6/12/2018

¹ The first KQED segment ran on 6/17/18: <https://www.kqed.org/news/11675409/south-bay-salt-ponds-its-not-pretty-yet>.

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