

DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting February 6, 2026 10 am – 12 pm

Agenda and meeting materials are available at:

www.sfbayrestore.org

1. Call to Order

Casey Skinner, Chair of the Advisory Committee (AC), called the meeting to order

2. Determination of Quorum

Paul Johnson, Clerk of the Advisory Committee

AC Member Attendance: Chris Barton, Erik Buehmann, Erika Castillo, Adrian Covert, Paul Detjens, Laura Feinstein, Heleine Grewe, Lee Huo, Dulce Jimenez, David Lewis, Kelli McCune, Christopher Nakamura, Emily Perales, Marquita Price, Brian Rowley, Casey Skinner, William Tinajero-Noriega, Charlie Toledo, Craig Weightman, Diane Williams, Michael C. Williams, Beckie Zisser

3. Public Comment

Sara Haugen, Grant Program Coordinator, provided an update about the 18 projects we received during Grant Round 9. Staff have chosen projects to be recommended to the Governing Board, and the project list will be shared at the next Board meeting on March 6, 2026.

4. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025

Casey Skinner, Chair

Item 5: [Draft Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2025](#)

David Lewis moved for approval and Dulce Jimenez seconded. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

5. Chair's Report from Governing Board Meetings on December 5, 2025

(INFORMATION)

Casey Skinner, Chair,

Casey Skinner, Chair, delivered a recap of the governing board meeting on December 5, 2025.

- The Board accepted financial statements and approved the annual report from FY 24-25.
- The Board reappointed members of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee and approved the staff's response to the ICOC's annual review.
- The Bay Restoration Integration Team (BRRIT) provided a report on their annual performance .

- The Board approved funding for two projects: Huichica Creek Riparian and Salt Marsh Restoration Project, and Community Action and Shoreline Restoration through Storytelling (Community Grant).

6. Revised 2026 AC Meeting Schedule (INFORMATION)

Casey Skinner, Chair

Item 6: [Revised 2026 AC Meeting Schedule](#)

Chair Skinner shared revised meeting dates for 2026. Most members did not have major conflicts.

Revised AC meeting dates:

Friday, May 8, 2026

Friday, August 21, 2026

Friday, November 6, 2026

7. Updating Conflict of Interest Language in AC Charter and Document Review Form (ACTION)

Sara Haugen, Grant Program Coordinator

Item 7A: [Advisory Committee Charter \(Revised January 2026\)](#)

Attachment 1: [Redline Advisory Committee Charter \(Revised January 2026\)](#)

Item 7B: [Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest and Document Review Confirmation Form](#)

Attachment 2: [Redline Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest and Document Review Confirmation Form](#)

Sara Haugen presented proposed updates to the Conflict of Interest language in the AC Charter to match the updated Conflict of Interest form that AC members sign before serving as a grant application reviewer. The language has been updated to clarify that if a member is a consultant or subcontractor on an Authority grant, they cannot be involved in the scoring process for that grant round.

Craig Weightman moved to approve, and Christopher Nakamura seconded.

Ayes: Chris Barton, Erik Buehmann, Erika Castillo, Adrian Covert, Paul Detjens, Laura Feinstein, Heleine Grewe, Lee Huo, Dulce Jimenez, David Lewis, Kelli McCune, Christopher Nakamura, Emily Perales, Marquita Price, Brian Rowley, Casey Skinner, William Tinajero-Noriega, Charlie Toledo, Craig Weightman, Diane Williams, Michael C. Williams, Beckie Zisser

There were no objections or abstentions.

8. State of the Estuary Report (INFORMATION)

Alex Thomsen, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Laura Feinstein, San Francisco Estuary Institute

Item 8: Presentation on State of our Estuary

Alex Thomsen from San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and Laura Feinstein from San Francisco Estuary Institute presented on the most recent [State of the Estuary Report](#). It is a major collaborative effort of many scientists to evaluate the health of the Bay and Delta, led by San Francisco Estuary Partnership and San Francisco Estuary Institute.

SFEP/SFEI have released the [State of Our Estuary website](#), which tracks 24 indicators of the health of the estuary. They will update the data of these indicators over the next two years and hope to regularly update these in the future. The goal is to make this information easy and accessible to use. Some key findings from this data include:

- Where the approaches to restore ecosystem health are well understood and managers have taken action, the results are visible.
 - Other problems persist that are physically difficult to address or come with social and economic tradeoffs.
 - The estuary continues to support important community uses, such as swimming and fishing.
 - Most Bay indicators are in fair condition and stable, while most Delta indicators are in poor condition and declining.
 - Better (and worse) trends become apparent when looking at finer-scale data.
- These trends provide insight into what the ecosystem needs.

Members discussed that some indicators are a work in progress and will be incorporated later, and that the website may benefit from more context added to the indicator data. The website includes a link to the Authority's website, but linking metrics to specific Authority projects may be beneficial. Members also requested an option to receive notifications about future updates to the website.

9. Annual Report of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (INFORMATION)

Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer

Erica Johnson, Project Manager

Item 9: [Annual Report of Fiscal Year 2024-2025](#)

Staff presented the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Annual Report of Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The Annual Report was presented and approved at the Governing Board meeting on December 5, 2025. Staff reported that the Authority is ahead of its 2024-2025 regional allocation goals for funding habitat restoration projects but have made slow progress with certain habitat goals. Staff gave an overview of the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) and some equity metrics that are being developed. Staff gave an overview of the 6 new projects funded this year.

There was a discussion about determining whether projects are serving EDCs. Staff highlighted the [Equity Gap Analysis](#) and other measures beyond census data that are used to determine whether a project benefits an EDC. There was a discussion about the Invasive Spartina Project, and when that may reach completion.

10. Overview of Lessons Learned from Completed SFBRA Projects (INFORMATION)

Katya Beener, California Sea Grant Fellow

Item 10: [Lessons Learned Memo](#)

Attachment 1: [Lessons Learned Report Template](#)

Katya Beener, SFBRA Sea Grant Fellow, presented a summary of lessons learned from SFBRA projects that have been completed thus far. As funders, SFBRA staff can glean general insights into a wide array of projects and help make connections between restoration practitioners who may be working on similar projects.

A member requested information about projects that have utilized the BRRIT and what the timeline looks like when grantees work with BRRIT. This information is available on the BRRIT website, and a member of the BRRIT team plans to present at the next AC meeting.

There was discussion about technical assistance for applications and grants. Project managers are available to assist grantees at all stages of the grant process.

11. Announcements (INFORMATION)

The next AC meeting will be on Friday, May 8, 2026.

Emily Perales announced a [notice of funding opportunity](#) by the US Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco Bay Program. They have \$88 million in grant funding available. The application period will close March 3, 2026. Grants may range from \$1-5 million. More information is available on the [website](#).

There will be a national summit on coastal and estuarine resilience (Restore America's Estuaries) in September. Call for proposals is currently out. More information can be found here: [Restore America's Estuaries 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#).

Chris Nakamura invited other members to join personal field trip visits to completed Authority projects on weekends from May to August 2026. The AC may also request tours with staff for larger groups of members.

Paul Detjens will be leading a tour of Lower Walnut Creek on March 6, 2026 for the Contra Costa County Shoreline Leadership Academy. He will be speaking about funding, government collaboration, and resiliency. Members are invited to attend interact with these community ambassadors.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjourn

Casey Skinner adjourned the meeting at 11:59am.