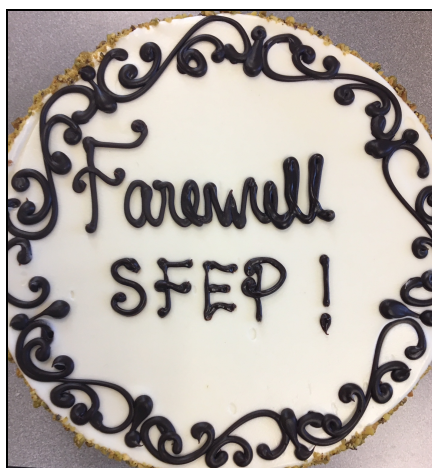


# Director's Report

March 7, 2018

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### New Home for SFEP

On January 19th we packed our bags (well actually, we filled about 60 large orange crates) and said our goodbyes to our home for over twenty years at the office of the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Water Board has not only provided SFEP with office space and equipment, but has been a key partner in developing and implementing our programs and projects. The fact that SFEP has resided at the Water Board for so long speaks to the Board's history of innovative approaches to solving complex problems and its recognition of the benefits of our close partnership. We will miss interacting with our Board colleagues on a daily basis but look forward to continuing to work together to advance common goals. Susan Glendening and Leslie Perry will remain in the Oakland office to better facilitate their permit assistance roles. Thank you in particular to Executive Officer Bruce Wolfe who has supported this creative and somewhat unusual arrangement, and of

course to Assistant Executive Officer Tom Mumley who has been a long-time supporter and key partner.



On January 22nd we began a new chapter of SFEP at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco, joining our colleagues at ABAG, MTC, BARC, and the Air District. We are pleased to be more integrated into the consolidated staff who have made us feel very welcome. We look forward to the programmatic efficiencies the move will provide, as well as the increasing opportunities for integrated land use,

transportation and environmental planning.

Our website has been updated with our new contact information, including phone numbers for individual staff members. We look forward to hosting future IC meetings in our new home.



## SF Bay Restoration Authority

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) received 22 project proposals requesting \$47.4 million in November 2017. The SFBRA will be awarding the first set of projects at the April 11th Governing Board meeting in Santa Rosa.

The SFBRA has also sent out a call for members of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee will work independently of the Advisory Committee of the Authority, providing a completely independent annual analysis of the work of the Authority, focused on the Authority's expenditures and finances and on the Authority's conformance with the requirements of Measure AA. The committee will be made up of 6 members representing different regions and counties of the Bay Area. No person may serve on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee who: is an elected official or government employee; has had or could have a financial interest in a decision of the Authority; or is affiliated with an organization associated with a member of the Governing Board. Applications will be due in late March.

For more information on the SFBRA visit the web site: [www.sfbayrestore.org](http://www.sfbayrestore.org).

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

### National Estuary Program Award: 2010-2017

Last fall, we closed out our agreement with US EPA that covered seven years of National Estuary Program (NEP) funding and entered into a new agreement beginning October 1 2017. The NEP project funds provide critical funding for SFEP to support staff, provide for basic organizational needs such a training and equipment, and to fund CCMP implementation projects that do not otherwise fit other funding opportunities.

Over the past seven years, NEP funding has supported the release of the *2011 State of the Bay Report*, the *2015 State of the Estuary Report*, the *2016 Estuary Blueprint* and associated website and tracking and reporting tools, four State of the Estuary Conferences, and 28 issues of ESTUARY News Magazine.

The NEP funds also supported many projects with a diversity of partners including: SFEP's 2013 Small and Micro Grants Program; the Methane Monitoring for Blue Carbon Project; the Transition Zone Mapping Project; launch of an ocean acidification monitoring program, release of the 2015 report, *San Francisco Bay: The Fresh-Water Starved Estuary*, and completion of a series of interpretive and public access maps for the Bay Area Water Trail.

The total award over the seven year timeframe was \$4,471,134. Figure 1 below shows the variation in Federal funding awarded annually over the time period of the award.

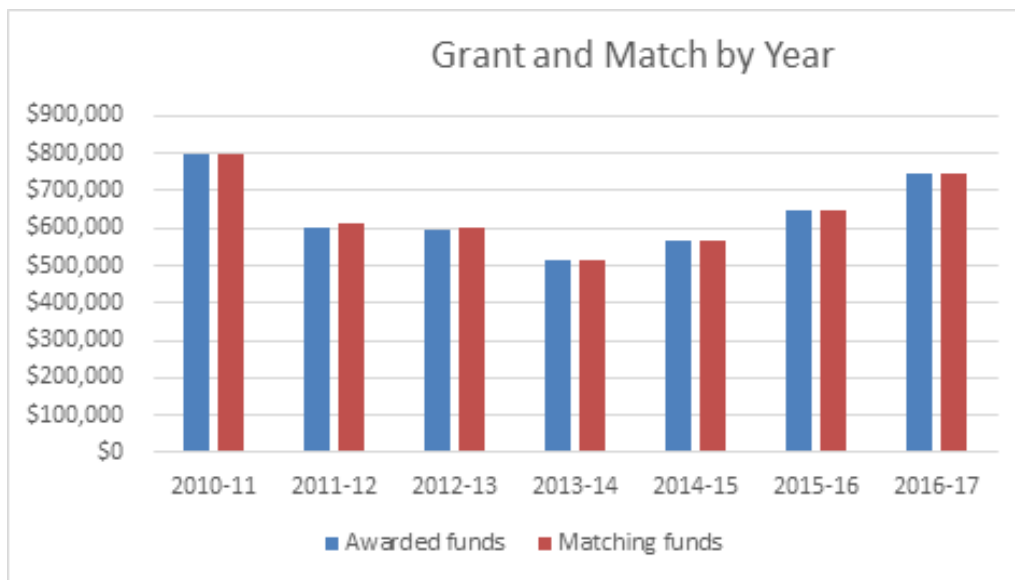


Figure 1. NEP awarded funds and match per Federal Fiscal Year

Figure 2, below, shows the variation in leverage amount, which reflects the variability in the other awards we received, notably the addition of Integrated Regional Water Management projects funded through the State Department of Water Resources.



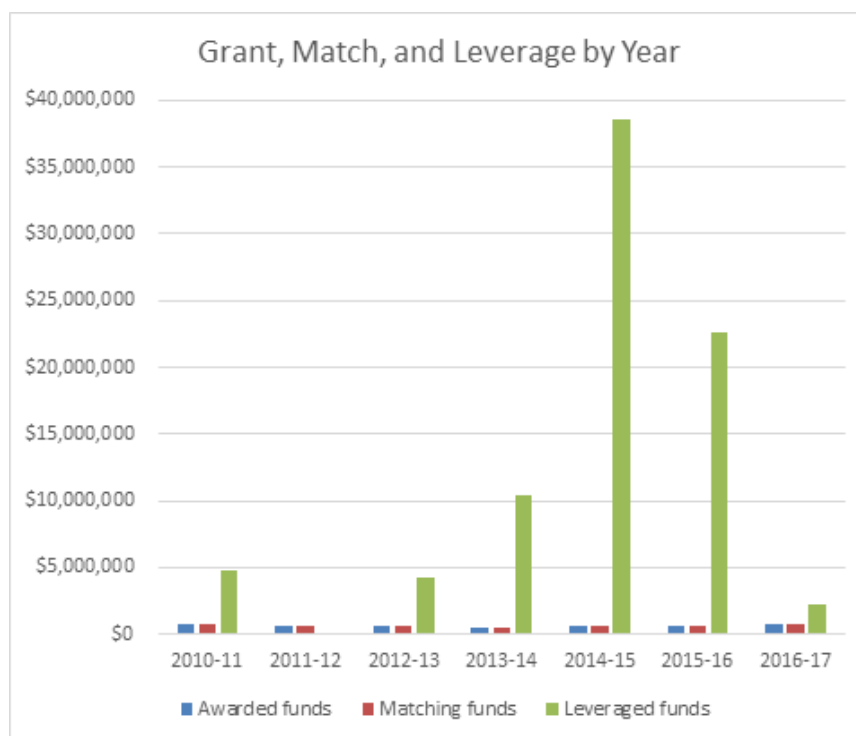


Figure 2. NEP awarded funds, match, and leveraged funds per Federal Fiscal Year

## Greener Pesticides Project

The Greener Pesticides project was funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund and ran from 2012 - 2017. The primary focus of the Greener Pesticides project was to address water bodies impaired for pesticide toxicity through outreach and education to residential home and garden pesticide users. During initial phases of the project, the project focused on partnering with Our Water Our World (OWOW) to educate the public on less-toxic practices. This entailed engaging retail stores with in-person outreach through the IPM Advocates program and through updated materials. We will also conduct advertising to support the program's goals. Later phases of the project took lessons learned to develop, implement and evaluate a measurable behavior change-focused campaign in the County of Marin. This project helped to implement the public outreach strategy listed included in the Diazinon and Pesticide-Related Toxicity in Urban Creeks TMDL adopted for all urban creeks in the S.F. Bay Region. For more information about the project visit:

<http://www.sfestuary.org/reducing-pesticide-use/>.

## BOB and MARI Deployed to Monitor Ocean Acidification in the SF Bay



Although ocean acidification is a global phenomenon, emerging research indicates that the West Coasts of the United States and Canada will face some of the earliest, most severe changes in ocean carbon chemistry. However, the current status and impacts of ocean acidification on the San Francisco Estuary are largely unknown. Last year, a coalition of organizations hosted the workshop “Monitoring for Acidification Threats in West Coast Estuaries: A San Francisco Bay Case Study.” This workshop brought together approximately 50 regional technical and policy experts from throughout the West coast of the United States for the first time. [Read the success story here.](#)

The second phase of the project was recently completed with deployment a five-foot tall, bright yellow buoy anchored just offshore San Francisco State University’s Estuary and Ocean Science (EOS) Center. The Bay Ocean Buoy (BOB) and its companion mooring for Marine Acidification Research Inquiry (MARI) represents the first effort to perform long-term scientific monitoring of ocean acidity and carbon dioxide in the waters of the Bay. The newly deployed BOB and MARI moorings carry sensors for measuring carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the water, dissolved oxygen, pH, chlorophyll-a (a measure of the amount of microscopic algae in the water), water clarity, temperature and salinity. The sensors will make measurements at the surface and deep in the Bay where ocean waters flow in.

These two tasks signal completion of Estuary Blueprint Action 29: Engage the scientific community in efforts to improve baseline monitoring of ocean acidification and hypoxia effects in the Estuary. [Read more at the project website.](#)

## Calcine Paved Roads

This remediation project was funded by the EPA's San Francisco Water Quality Improvement Fund and the County Parks Charter fund with the goal of removing over 3 miles of calcine paved trails in the Almaden Quicksilver County Park, just south of San Jose. Calcine material is cinnabar mining waste that has toxic levels of inorganic mercury. This TMDL implementation project removed 3,831 yd<sup>3</sup> of the toxic pavement that was safely sequestered in a DTSC regulated disposal site within the park. This work will prevent an estimated 680 pounds of inorganic mercury from eroding into aquatic environments where bacteria convert it to organic mercury, making it orders of magnitude more bioavailable. Learn more about mercury and the projects SFEP has worked on in the Guadalupe Watershed at <http://www.sfestuary.org/mercury>.



## Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants

Since the November 2017 meeting, two additional projects have completed construction. This means that 12 out of the total 36 Projects under Grant Rounds 2 , 3, and 4 are now fully built.

### Round 2

**19. Student and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) Project - North and East Bay Watersheds** *Project Sponsor: Point Blue Conservation*



This Project implements professionally designed and installed habitat restoration projects integrated with an innovative education program that provides water quality benefits, habitat improvement and positive impacts on economic, social and environmental sustainability. The Program provides teachers and students (grades 1 - 6) with scientific, educational and technical resources to create student-centered education and restoration projects. STRAW students and teachers work within riparian and wetland areas throughout the nine counties that touch directly on the San Francisco Bay, to understand human impacts on them and their potential for restoration, and to actually perform the physical work to help restore their ecological function.



***Leiss Ranch during STRAW Restoration Phase 1 in February 2014***



***Eroded Banks at Seasonal Stream in January 2016 before Phase 2 Restoration at Leiss Ranch***



***Same Seasonal Stream at Leiss Ranch after Phase 2 Willow and Native Plant Installations, August 2017***

## Round 3

### 8. Stinson Beach Water Supply & Drought Preparedness Plan

*Project Sponsor: Stinson Beach County Water District*

This Project replaced leaking pipes, installed new water meters and drilled a new well to provide the communities the District serves with a reliable water source for an additional 10 million gallons per year, and to annually reduce leaked water by 5 million gallons.

## North Richmond Community Vision

We are excited to announce the North Richmond Shoreline Vision project was completed in late 2017. The project was funded with support from EPA Climate Ready Estuaries to help implement Action 4 of the Estuary Blueprint: “Identify, protect, and create transition zones around the Estuary.” The project was a multi-organizational collaboration, including SFEP, The Watershed Project, Urban Tilth and the San Francisco Estuary Institute. The IC will receive a presentation on the Vision at the March 7 meeting.

The Vision proposes a number of long-term and near-term actions to advance shoreline resilience, recreation access and environmental justice within the shoreline transition zone.



The project included a community survey with an educational component that was developed to collect North Richmond resident perspectives on shoreline access and uses, future opportunities for the shoreline, and major barriers to shoreline access such as public transit and safety. Community outreach findings informed the final Vision. The project team is now working to expand resident input surveys, outreach and to advance implementation of equity-focused shoreline resilience and nature-based shoreline infrastructure projects. To read more about the project, go to:

<http://www.sfestuary.org/vision/>.

## OUTREACH

### Estuary Blueprint Template Presentation Available

**Reminder** - SFEP staff have developed a template presentation of the Estuary Blueprint for IC members to use. The 17-slide deck includes speaker notes and can be modified as needed for various uses and audiences. The Google Slides presentation can be accessed via [this link](#), or SFEP staff can email a PowerPoint version of the presentation upon request.

### Estuary News



The December issue of Estuary News explores the fire-ravaged North Bay's preparations for a wet winter, a mud-minded proposal for the Resilient by Design challenge, invasive species such as the channeled apple snail, the water hyacinth, and innovative methods of bio-control meant to curb their expansion. The issue also delves into the unique advantages provided by the intermittent creeks, the vitality of marsh-upland transition zones, and initiatives in one-water management, among other topics. [Explore the December issue online.](#)

### Clean Vessel Act

As part of the 2017 Clean Vessel Act Grant under the CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, SFEP staff monitored sewage pumpouts used by recreational boaters in San Francisco Bay and up into the Delta. The Delta in particular has unique challenges and limitations around sewage management capacity, stemming from a heavy reliance on septic systems along with aging infrastructure. One critical piece of the conversation has included understanding the connections between issues marinas face, from decreased boater traffic and revenue to leach field maintenance and permitting hurdles.

To help address recreational boater sewage in particular, and to start broader work around the challenges both public and private marinas face, SFEP and the State convened marinas and partner agencies in the first of hopefully many meetings to discuss where some solutions might lie. The meeting was held in January at the Walnut Grove Library, and SFEP



was happy to have the support of The Delta Conservancy, the Delta Protection Commission, Assemblymember Jim Frazier's office, and the Delta Watermaster. We look forward to making more inroads into the shared challenges in the region.

## I Heart Estuaries Campaign

The #iheartestuaries social media campaign is coordinated jointly by Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP), and the National Estuary Research Reserve Association (NERRA) to raise awareness of the benefits of federal funding for estuary programs. It takes place annually around Valentine's Day and is timed to coincide with the release of the President's budget and the appropriations review process.



This year, #iheartestuaries ran 2/12-2/14. SFEP posted across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using both native content and sample posts and images provided by RAE. This year we put out a last-minute call to our IC partners and others, and saw broader participation in the campaign than previously. Special thanks to Delta Stewardship Council, SF Bay Joint Venture, Resilient By Design, SFBayNERR, and Save the Bay for their participation!

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

### SFEP to Join the 2018 GARE Cohort

SFEP is participating in the 2018 cohort of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), and recently attended the kick-off two-day training. GARE is a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity through yearlong trainings. Heidi Nutters and Darcie Luce are attending along with MTC/ABAG staff through the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC). The BARC cohort also includes staff from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. This cohort will coordinate with the previous year's cohort to identify and implement a racial equity action plan for MTC/ABAG.

SFEP's participation in GARE provides an excellent look ahead to the next Estuary Blueprint. One of the next steps identified in the 2016 Estuary Blueprint is the need for greater integration of Estuary health with community health, by using resiliency planning to address issues related to environmental justice and social equity. SFEP already manages several projects that tackle these issues. One example is an informal interagency working group on environmental justice with the Coastal Conservancy and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. This working group has hosted two popular brown bags on environmental justice at the Coastal Conservancy offices. Deldi Reyes, US EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice Program Coordinator, and Debbie Raphael, Director of the San Francisco Department of the Environment, spoke at these well-attended events. Another is the recently completed North Richmond Shoreline Vision (see information above).

### IC Changes



March 7 marks Amy Hutzel's last meeting as the current Chair. In 2011, the IC voted to revise the operating procedures and add a Vice Chair position to support the Chair. Amy Hutzel was selected as the IC's first Vice Chair in 2012. In 2014, she was selected as Chair, and was re-appointed to that position in 2016.

During her tenure as Vice Chair/Chair, Amy has been intimately involved in the development of the 2013 Strategic Plan, the 2015 State of the Estuary Report, the 2016 Estuary Blueprint, the 2017 expansion of IC membership and revised Operating Procedures, three State of the Estuary Conferences, and six rounds of yearly budgets and work plans! She also has helped guide the Partnership through a change in staff leadership and the consolidation of ABAG and MTC. We thank Amy for her hard work and her commitment to the Partnership and look forward to her continuing role as an IC member.

Dianne Ross-Leech has retired from PG&E after a long and successful career. She was a recent addition to the IC, but a familiar face to many of us from her participation on other boards and committees focused on protecting the Bay's resources, such as the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. Dianne's alternate, Anne Jackson, remains on the IC and I will work with her to find a replacement primary representative from PG&E.



Leigh Sharp has left her position with the Napa County Resource Conservation District. Leigh stated that she is thankful that the RCD's are represented on the IC and was privileged to have been a representative for them, even for a short time. I will work with the alternate RCD representative, Kellyx Nelson of San Mateo RCD, to find a replacement for Leigh.

Andrew Fremier, Deputy Executive Officer of Operations, is replacing Randy Rentschler as MTC's primary representative on the IC. Andrew also serves as Deputy Executive Director of the Bay Area Toll Authority, supervising administration of all toll revenue from the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges.

