

**San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting**
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, San Francisco

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introduction: *Carol Mahoney, Chair*

Carol called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approve 8/22/18 Meeting Summary (Action)

The August 22, 2018 Meeting Summary was approved. Motion to approve by Andrew Fremier, seconded by Carol Mahoney. Motion carried.

4. Director's Report: *Caitlin Sweeney, SFEP*

Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items from the Director's Report.

National Estuary Program Tech Transfer Meeting

The meeting took place at the Bay Area Metro Center from October 3-6, 2018. It served as a great learning and networking experience for all, and provided a reminder of the national component to our program facilitation. Letitia Grenier of SFEI gave an informative keynote speech on ecological resilience, Debbie Raphael of the SF Dept. of the Environment spoke extensively on environmental justice and equity, and many estuary partners contributed to interactive panel discussions. The group also enjoyed a cruise on the San Francisco Bay, a night of hands-on science at the Exploratorium's After Dark event, and a day of educational field trips to various Estuary locations.

State of the Estuary Conference 2019

The 14th Biannual State of the Estuary Conference will take place Oct 21-22, 2019 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. The Steering Committee is being assembled and will begin to meet monthly starting in December 2018. Karen and Liz will be reaching out to partner agencies about event sponsorship in the coming weeks. As soon as the event website is updated, a Save the Date email will be sent.

Bay Delta Science Conference

Karen McDowell coordinated the Bay Delta Science Conference in Sacramento. Reported that there was a good breadth of information for science and discussions amongst attendees.

Restoration Authority

New call for proposals due November 26th – all information available on website. Currently \$23M available for RA projects.

Budget Allocations

SFEP successfully received an allocation of \$710K for this year's EPA National Estuary Program funding, including \$600 in base funding and an additional \$25K dedicated to performing an organizational analysis of SFEP and an additional \$85 through the Climate Ready Estuaries program to advance natural infrastructure in Palo Alto. EPA also released a solicitation for proposals to run a competitive grant program (\$1M per year for 4 years) focused on NEP priority issues.

Communications

Latest version (September 2018) of Estuary News is now available. Legacy notes are included in this issue from the last 25 years of reporting on the CCMP.

SFEP sent a letter (under Caitlin's name) to John Laird, the Secretary of Natural Resources, regarding supporting the State Board's process to update freshwater flow directives.

New staff members

Eva Bedford and Liz Juvera have joined the SFEP team. Welcome!

5. Estuary Blueprint Progress Report: *Caitlin Sweeney, SFEP*

There are no changes in the number of actions, and we will continue to track 2019 actions. Currently two actions complete and seven in progress for 2019.

6. Blueprint Updates

a. 2019 State of the Estuary Report (Action 32): *Letitia Grenier, SFEI*

SFEP's approved FY 19 work plan and budget includes the completion of an *Interim* State of the Estuary Report (SotER). This 2019 report will serve as a progress report and set ourselves up for a full 2021 report. It will amplify some of the messages coming out of the RMP, and highlight estuary-wide indicators that have available data, show change, and tell a compelling story.

There was a discussion about introducing new (emerging) indicators, perhaps through the lens of estuary stewardship and resiliency, to focus on a unified story more so than data. Proposed indicators included: safe to swim, tidal marsh, public access, EMERGING: subsidence and land elevation.

Letitia gave a synopsis of the 2015 SotER and segmented indicators into levels of feasible inclusion for the interim report.

Comments from the IC members included adding fish, climate change, subsidence, levee stability, storm water, and sea level rise as critical indicators to the interim report. The report should show the status and trends of the indicators we ultimately choose, and explain where the gaps remain that lead us into the next CCMP with consistent and sustainable messaging.

b. **ABAG/MTC Horizon Initiative (Action 23): *Michael Germerad, ABAG/MTC Darcie Luce, SFEP***

The Plan Bay Area team is using the Horizon process to generate three divergent future scenarios based on several external factors outside of regional control, such as immigration trends, global economic trends, federal regulatory landscape, sea level rise, earthquakes, etc. The Horizon process is also providing a way to expand into new topical areas and evaluate societal and environmental influences from autonomous vehicles, fire dangers, economic shifts, etc. A number of perspectives papers will be released over the next six months on the following new topic areas: 1) Autonomous vehicles; 2) Demand for single-occupancy travel; 3) Growth strategies and Priority Development Areas (PDAs); 4) Bay crossings; 5) Governance; 6) Future of jobs; 7) Sea level rise.

The team will be using the Urban Sim land use model system to envision the region at 2050 under these three future scenarios, which will then help inform the Preferred Scenario that will form the foundation of the next Plan Bay Area. Over the next few months, the MTC planning team will be running the Urban Sim model and will have the analysis for each Horizon future scenario completed by March. Between March and June, the team will be seeking public input for strategies and policy recommendations for the Preferred Scenario. The team will be ground truthing to see where gaps in data can be closed.

7. **Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE): *Allison Brooks, BARC/Caitlin Sweeney, SFEP***

Two SFEP staff members have been participating in the 2018 GARE cohort. Allison Brooks, the Executive Director of the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, coordinated the involvement of the Air District, BCDC, ABAG and MTC in the GARE program and two SFEP staff members have been participating in the 2018 GARE cohort. GARE is looking into making institutional and sector change that can level the playing field and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities to achieve environmental justice and racial equity. SFEP recognizes the urgency of this agenda wants to focus on what equitable resilience looks like and to work on setting up numerical objectives for the next Estuary Blueprint.

8. **IC Member Announcements**

Amanda Bohl (Delta Stewardship Council): Invited representatives from the government accountability office to submit recommendations to the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC).

Arthur Feinstein (Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge): SFEP was not at the table during the last water bond (Prop 3) decision making period, and we should play a role the next time around by telling our legislative bodies what we want to see.

Warner Chabot (San Francisco Estuary Institute): Suggestion that if we try to put any bond measure on the next ballot, it would be critical to have the Restoration Authority and BCDC on board, especially regarding climate adaptation that would benefit the entire region. The IC could bring this up as a future topic and create a committee to put to this bond to the state. We want to have our

positions set and start building a consortium to decide who (which organization) will spearhead the conversation.

Luisa Valiela (US EPA, Reg. 9): The San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund RFP is now out. There is only \$4M available, since one grant has already been awarded with 2018 money.

Pat Eklund (Association of Bay Area Governments): Updates on Hwy 37 revisions: ABAG wants to consider alternate alignments in terms of CEQA and is looking into three different projects. Two projects would involve a new bridge or causeway across the bay (one working with SPUR) the third would be an elevated causeway (this is the one they are pushing for and want to study). New Caltrans lead for CEQA was interested in having all options studied under CEQA, but it is too costly to pursue all studies.

Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team assembled with dedicated regulatory staff from various teams who will be able to move projects (that are eligible for Measure AA funding) along more quickly.

Greg Martinelli (CDFG): There have been ~350 Nutria found so far, with reports stemming throughout the Delta and Sherman Island (Merced is hot spot). They are currently working to re-direct staff and move money to be able to control and eradicate this issue, but will need a lot of help from other agencies.

9. Concluding Business/ Meeting Road Map: Carol Mahoney, Chair

Staff will add possible agenda item on land use data (Urban Sim, Conservation Land Network, etc.).

Staff will add updates on 2019 State of the Estuary Conference planning.

Staff will add possible agenda item on BCDC's Flood Explorer, created with SFEI.

10. Adjourn

Attendees:

IC Members: Carol Mahoney, Luisa Valiela, David Williams, Greg Martinelli, Campbell Ingram, Amanda Bohl, Tom Mumley, Brad Paul, Greg Martinelli, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Paula Trigueros, Chris Potter, Matt Fabry, Julie Ekstrom, Arthur Feinstein, Andrew Fremier, Amy Hutzler, Pat Eklund, Warner Chabot, Melanie Sturm, Beth Huning, Brenna Mahoney

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Athena Honore, Josh Bradt, Adrien Baudrimont, Darcie Luce, Natasha Dunn, Ian Kelmartin, Heidi Nutters, Liz Juvera, James Muller, Karen McDowell, Eva Bedford

Guests: Michael Germerad (ABAG/MTC), Allison Brooks (BARC), Letitia Grenier (SFEI)