

# SFEP

SAN FRANCISCO



**ESTUARY**  
PARTNERSHIP

## Implementation Committee

November 6, 2019  
9:30 am - 10:00 am  
Bay Area MetroCenter  
Yerba Buena Room, 1st Floor  
San Francisco, CA

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## BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- 9:30*      **1. Welcome, Introductions**  
*Tom Mumley, Vice Chair*
- 9:35*      **2. Public Comment**
- 9:40*      **3. Approve 08/21/19 Meeting Summary (ACTION)**  
(Attachment 1)
- 9:45*      **4. Director's Report**  
(Attachment 2)
- 9:50*      **5. Chair and Vice Chair Nominations**
- 10:00*     **6. Adjourn to Strategic Planning Workshop**

San Francisco Estuary Partnership  
Implementation Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, August 21, 2019  
375 Beale St., San Francisco

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **1. Approve 5/15/19 Meeting Summary (ACTION)**

Carol Mahoney called the meeting to order. Motion to approve 5/15/19 meeting summary by Pat Eklund, seconded by Barbara. Motion carried.

### **2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **3. Director's Report**

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

- *State of the Estuary Conference is October 21-22. Registration coming soon.*
- *Clean Vessel Act Outstanding Service Award will be presented to SFEP staff at the annual States Organization for Boating Access Conference*
- *San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine – the first shovels in the ground this fall in Berkeley, with more sites to come*
- *New funding – EPA funding for the Transforming Urban Water Initiatives and the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program Phase II*
- *Communications – National Estuaries Week is Sept 14 – 21. Partners are encouraged to add their events to the website*
- *Staff changes -Leslie Perry is coming over from the Oakland offices. She previously worked with Water Board permitting for Alameda County and is joining us at the Bay Area Metro Center on various projects*

### **4. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mahoney invited everyone to introduce themselves.

### **5. Estuary Blueprint Progress Report**

Reporting is over five years, see status updates for details.

### **6. New Member Approval**

Caitlin Sweeney introduced the item, a recommendation to approve Audubon California as new IC member. Chair Mahoney set the stage for the discussion by bringing forward concerns voiced from other IC members regarding multiple representation from one organization and the

possibility of emphasis being placed on one area. Chair Mahoney also reviewed the IC Operating Procedures with regard to new members and voting. Discussion followed regarding the process for adding new members in general and the proposed new member specifically. Several members expressed opinions regarding supporting interested new members and continued IC engagement.

Motion to accept membership of California Audubon by Barbara Salzman, seconded by Pat Eklund. Motion carried with no opposition.

## **7. Communications Plan - Darcie Luce and Tommy Alexander, SFEP**

The Communications Plan was identified in the 2018/19 Work Plan and brought to the IC in the summer of 2018. Current work includes working with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and other project partners on an informal regional communications workgroup, which is open to new members. SFEP has also been coordinating with MTC's Legislative and Public Affairs section. Increased visibility includes a digital display during IHeartEstuaries week, a Facebook Live video, articles for MTC's Bay Link publication and an updated Estuary Blueprint Newsletter – these can be tracked through social media and website metrics (see details in the Powerpoint). The website is gaining traffic each year with a distinct spike during the SOE conference. Next steps include updating website accessibility tools with an eye on social and racial equity issues and ADA compliance.

IC discussion followed on outreach to and engagement of cities and regional planners.

## **8. Blueprint Updates**

**Priority Conservation Areas - Laura Thomson, Mallory Atkinson, Mark Shorett, MTC**  
Plan Bay Area 2040, adopted in 2017, includes economic and transportation forecasts with the larger aim of integrating development, transportation and conservation efforts within the region. Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are areas nominated and approved by cities and counties that can help focus protection, preservation and access (PCAs), and growth and development (PDAs) within the region. ABAG/MTC has suggested a new area type - Priority Production Areas, which are industrial swaths that jurisdictions can prioritize for protection. Local jurisdictions applying for areas to be included in the next Plan Bay Area must submit letters of interest by 9/16/19. Background on the 165 designated PCAs can be found on the Powerpoint and proposed projects in these areas can apply for One Bay Area Grant Program funds. Some examples include Tomales Bay, Bayview Hill, San Bruno Mountain, Napa County Ag lands, Bay Area Coastal Trail, Coyote Creek Trail. Funding summary for the 2013 round can be seen on the Powerpoint. 2019 funding is underway, and projects are currently being reviewed for a \$10 million pot of state bond and regional funds. Funding occurs roughly every five years.

IC discussion followed on the tension between PDAs and PCAs, and conservation groups versus the jurisdictions that have potentially contrary interests as well as where ABAG might play a role.

## **Urban Biodiversity Framework - Erica Spotswood, Robin Grossinger (SFEI)**

The Multi-Benefit Urban Greening Strategy Project is one of a large cluster of projects under the

Healthy Watersheds, Resilient Baylands Project (under an EPA Water Quality Improvement Fund grant). The goal of this report was to make the case for biodiversity within cities and how urban ecology can inform planning and maximize biodiversity. A deep literature review showed that the science of how a high level of urban biodiversity impacts our physical and mental health and our social cohesion is becoming more well-understood and robust, but the results appears to be inaccessible to planners and designers. Multiple elements (patch size, habitat connectivity, native vegetation, management etc.) emerged as important elements to layer together when building coherent and biodiverse landscapes. This process can benefit planners by helping them understanding what resources they have and where gaps can be filled. Next steps include connecting the health research to real-world planning efforts.

IC discussion followed the presentation.

## **9. Meeting Road Map / November Strategic Planning Retreat**

Strategic planning workshop is an all-day event scheduled for the November 6 meeting, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Agenda and materials will be sent ahead of time. The workshop will be at the Bay Area Metro Center.

Chair and Vice-Chair nominations will be coming up, and the vote will be at the first 2020 meeting. Dates for next year's meetings are set and calendar invites will be sent.

## **10. IC Member Announcements**

USFWS – Tideline publication available (this is the last print issue) with interesting citizen science contributions.

NRDC is releasing online map of harmful algal blooms.

Marin Audubon – Measure AA grant received and project moving forward.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

### **Attendees:**

**IC Members:** Carol Mahoney, Tom Mumley, Melanie Sturm, Alison Aquino, Aimee Good, Barbara Salzman, Amy Hutzler, Sandra Scoggin, Melody Tomar, Brian Meux, Brad Paul, Pat Eklund, Becky Smith, Steve Goldbeck, John Klochak, Anne Morkill, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Jane Lavelle, Campbell Ingram (phone), Debra Kustic (phone)

**SFEP Staff:** Caitlin Sweeney, Athena Honore, James Muller, Darcie Luce, Natasha Dunn, Tommy Alexander, Jillian Burns, Liz Juvera, Karen McDowell, Sarina Seaton, Josh Bradt, Heidi Nutters, Leslie Perry

**Guests:** Laura Thompson, Mark Shorett, Mallory Atkinson (MTC/ABAG), Erica Spotswood, Robin Grossinger (SFEI)



# Director's Report

November 6, 2019

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### 2019 State of the Estuary Conference



The 2019 State of the Estuary Conference is a wrap! About 820 people attended the two day event, which had over 100 speakers and 150 poster presenters. In addition, over 130

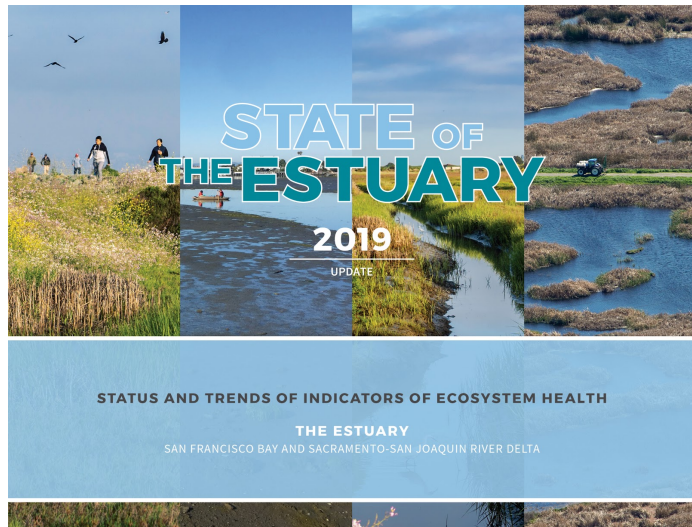
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students and teachers from five different schools attended specific sessions. The program and abstracts are available on the conference web site: [www.sfestuary.org/soe](http://www.sfestuary.org/soe), and a slide show of some of the photos of the event will also be available.

## 2019 State of the Estuary Report Released

Concurrent with the opening day of the State of the Estuary Conference on October 21, we released the 2019 State of the Estuary Report! This year's report includes status and trends on urban water conservation, fish, freshwater flows, tidal marshes and beneficial floods. In addition, the report looks at "emerging indicators"; measures of landscape and community



resilience across the Estuary, including vulnerabilities in terms of lands at and below sea level that are protected by berms and levees, and the resilience of our shorelines as measured by fully developed and engineered shorelines to fully nature-based wetland shores. The report also notes the human health benefits of access to green space and nature.

To access the full report and executive summary, as well as view a brief video, visit: <https://www.sfestuary.org/our-estuary/soter/>.

Thank you to our partners at the San Francisco Estuary Institute who took on the lead scientist and overall science coordination roles, and the Delta Stewardship Council as a key funder and Steering Committee member. A full list of credits and acknowledgements, including contributing scientists and Steering Committee members, can be found in the report and on the website.

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## Clean Vessel Act Program Receives Outstanding Environmental Project Award

Pumpout Nav, the Clean Vessel Act Program's mobile app to locate recreational boater sewage pumpouts, was selected for an Outstanding Environmental Project Award. Every two years, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary celebrates the most outstanding environmental projects of the region at the biennial State of the Estuary Conference. Awards go to those projects that significantly benefit the Estuary; are completed or show measurable results, have not been externally mandated (for example, to resolve an enforcement action), and further the goals and objectives of the 2016 Estuary Blueprint. Congratulations to Adrien Baudrimont, Natasha Dunn, and Liz Juvera - SFEP's Clean Vessel Act Program team.



## San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority - Ground Round 3

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority has released a call for proposals for Round 3 of Measure AA grants to fund projects that: improve Bay water quality; restore, monitor and maintain habitat for fish, birds and wildlife; use natural habitats to protect communities from floods; and increase shoreline access and encourage public participation



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in protecting the Bay's health. Proposals are due by December 13 at 5pm PST. Visit the [Authority's website](#) for more information.

## San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine Breaks Ground!



After many years of planning, raising funds, and moving through an array of challenges, the San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine project broke ground on September 23rd in Berkeley!

The Berkeley site groundbreaking was covered in several media outlets, including a [lengthy article in Berkeleyside](#).

The next site scheduled to break ground in November is in Oakland (one block north of Frank Ogawa Plaza), followed next year by Emeryville and El Cerrito.

Congratulations to Project Manager Josh Bradt who with focused determination and considerable creative problem solving was able to keep this innovative project afloat for the many years it took before it finally broke ground. For more information contact Josh Bradt ([Josh.Bradt@sfestuary.org](mailto:Josh.Bradt@sfestuary.org)).



## NEW FUNDING

### Prop 1 (\$500,000)

We are excited to share the [Transforming Urban Water Initiative](#) has been recommended for funding through the State Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 Grant. The grant, which will total \$500,000.00 will support further design and permitting of the Palo Alto Horizontal Levee



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Pilot Project. The Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Pilot Project is working to bring a habitat-focused levee to the community. The project is a partnership between the City of Palo Alto and the SF Estuary Partnership. Project objectives include (1) Restore rare and historic ecotone transition slope habitat for special-status species Adapt to sea level rise by providing a transitional ecotone slope that will support freshwater plants to build organic soils to keep pace with some level of sea level rise and to allow wetland habitat bands to migrate up-slope with rising water levels; (2) Engage community members and other stakeholders in conversations about multiple benefits and climate change, and (3) Provide tertiary-treated wastewater to enhance ecological functionality of the horizontal levee.

The proposal will go before the SCC Governing Board in February 2020 for full consideration. For information about the project, please contact Heidi Nutters ([heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org](mailto:heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org)).

## COMMUNICATIONS

### ESTUARY News Magazine



The September [issue of ESTUARY News](#) covers progress on the region's 20-year-old invasive spartina eradication program and concerns about contaminated Camp Fire runoff into Butte Creek, and resulting Chinook salmon survival. The issue also follows a group of women walking the entire Bay Trail, profiles the new chief of the SF Regional Water Board, and describes the recent groundswell of interest in floodplain reactivation. Other stories touch on the BPAs, basking sharks, drones, and the state's recent water plan update.