

SFEP

SAN FRANCISCO



ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP

MEMO

DATE: October 16, 2019

TO: Implementation Committee Members

FROM: Caitlin Sweeney, Director

RE: November 6 Strategic Planning Workshop - Background Materials

The November 6, 2019 IC Strategic Planning Workshop will focus primarily on an assessment of Estuary Blueprint progress to date and development of strategies for stalled actions.

In preparation for the workshop, SFEP staff have prepared Action Status Briefing Sheets for all Blueprint Actions that are not yet complete (30 out of 32 actions).

Each Status Briefing Sheet includes:

- Staff assessment of priority level for IC review (low, medium, or high)
- Current status summary and details
- Staff recommendation

During the Workshop, IC members will break into workgroups to review, prioritize and develop action plans for specific actions. Attendees at the workshop will self select into one of 3-5 workgroups (depending on number of attendees), based on Blueprint Goals. The Action Briefing Sheets include the Blueprint Goal each action is most associated with.

Please review the Action Status Briefing Sheets prior to the Strategic Planning Workshop, paying particular attention to actions assessed as high and medium priority, and/or any actions you are specifically interested in. For your easy reference, here is a [link to the 2016 Estuary Blueprint](#) for background information. Hard copies will be provided at the workshop as well.

A detailed agenda and additional workshop materials as needed will be emailed closer to the Workshop date.

ACTION 1

Develop and implement a comprehensive, watershed-based approach to aquatic resource protection

Recommended Priority for Workshop Review/Action: HIGH

Owner(s):

- SF Estuary Institute
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 1: 55% complete (but this may be exaggerated)
- Task 2: 5% complete
- Task 3: 10% complete

Average % overall completion: 23% Complete

Current Status Details:

The overall framework for a comprehensive watershed scale approach (Task 1-1) is making progress as individual policy pieces and tools that are separate efforts with their own purposes – they are not about building the framework per se, although they are contributing important pieces of it (examples include: policy pieces such as Santa Clara Valley One Water Program, USACE 2015 Regional Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines, and State Board 2017 Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State; visioning pieces such as Flood Control 2.0; and and tools such as Green Plan-IT, RipZET, and Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan).

Task 1-2 is to develop criteria to evaluate watersheds that be used to pilot the framework and select a pilot watershed. This step would necessarily follow the development of a watershed evaluation framework, which is still incomplete. Josh C. suggested the Napa & Coyote Creek Watersheds as potential pilot opportunities, and potentially working backwards towards building the assessment framework and reporting from there. Josh Bradt has suggested Wildcat Creek as another option. The Alameda Creek watershed would also be a good pilot candidate. The promising candidates listed above each have standing coordinating bodies with local, regional, and state agency representation. Josh C. has suggested that this effort might begin with the selection of candidate pilot watersheds based on status of on-going study/planning to compile existing data. He has also proposed using SFEI's Operational Landscape Units as a template for watershed-based adaptive planning. Various metrics would be selected for meeting target conditions and objectives.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Focused time and attention are the key barriers for this unfunded action.

This concept is a big idea that requires both outreach and coordination to create a body with the resources and expertise to flesh out and organize the intended framework document. If the preferred approach is to select a pilot watershed first then work towards developing evaluation criteria that can apply the framework principles, then concerted effort is needed to engage local contacts in the potential watersheds to share the concept, get buy-in, and status of on-going studies and plans.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☒ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Based on the lack of progress and focused attention, this action is well behind schedule. Either the deadlines should be moved with owners' commitment and action plan in place for making head way or the Action could be changed to eliminate Task 1-1 and move forward with Tasks 1-2 & 1-3 which can be accomplished in partnership with exiting watershed councils and planning groups.

ACTION 2

Establish a regional wetland and stream monitoring program

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Joint Venture
- SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- SF Estuary Institute
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 2.1 70% Complete
- Task 2.2 45% Complete
- Task 2.3 25% Complete
- Task 2.4 50% Complete
- Task 2.5 15% Complete

Average % overall completion: 42% Complete

Current Status Details:

The Wetland Regional Monitoring (WRMP) development process has focused on implementing Task 2-1 and 2-2 since receiving funding from EPA Region 9 Wetland Program Development Grant. A Steering Committee (Task 2-1) was formed to develop the program for the SF Bay. Delta stakeholders including the Delta Stewardship Council have considered similar actions but have moved away from the formation of a Steering Committee to advance this initiative.

For the SF Bay, the WRMP process is identifying funding needs and will complete a business plan (Task 2-2) by the end of 2020.

The CA Department of Water Resources, Delta Conservancy, and San Francisco Estuary Institute are mapping the wetlands of the Delta (Task 2-3). In the process, this initiative is merging the standard operating procedures for the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) and the Bay Area Aquatic Resource Inventory (BAARI) into one SOP for the whole Estuary. Once the map of surface waters is done, their riparian areas can be mapped using RipZET (Riparian Zone Estimator Tool). In the meantime, RipZET is being used and further developed by the SC Valley Water District (and others outside the Bay Area).

The SF Bay NERR has been spearheading the work of establishing sentinel tidal marsh monitoring stations within the Delta and the Bay (Task 2-4). This work has now merged with the establishment of a benchmark network as part of the WRMP. Benchmark network sites are currently being proposed and will be finalized in 2020.

The establishment of the stream gauge network (Task 2-5) has also been slowly moving forward. SFEI is in coordination with Valley Water to establish the Bay Area Fisheries Forum to share information about fish and their habitats in local watersheds. The Forum consists of staff biologists from water agencies and flood control districts and other stakeholders. The Forum is prioritizing data and information sharing among its members, with a focus on flows, water temperature, and fish abundance. It is considering producing a publication on the natural history of salmon and steelhead in small coastal streams of the central coast. SFEI is seeing funds to support the production of that publication.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

- Closer coordination between the Bay and Delta for all tasks
- Need for further funding to support Task 2-5 and the Bay Area Fisheries Forum

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Task 2.1 - The Delta is not moving forward with the formation of a Steering Committee for a wetland monitoring priorities. Suggest amending this task to focus on the SF Bay which has already convened and is working actively with a Steering Committee.

Task 2-4 - The SF Bay NERR has recommended as owner of this task to amend it to focus on establishment of the WRMP Benchmark Network, which will be considered the Sentinel Site network for the SF Bay.

Task 2.5 - The stream gauge network is unlikely to be established by 2021. Recommend amending this task to create a near-term goal or action towards this task.

ACTION 3

Protect, restore, and enhance tidal marsh and tidal flat habitat

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Joint Venture

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 3.1 Bay-10%, Delta – 40%
- Task 3.2 20% Complete

Average % overall completion: 18% Complete

Current Status Details:

Tidal Habitat Restoration - 366 acres through July 2019

- 200 acres: Bahia Restoration Phase 2 - reported in 2017, but actually completed in 2013
- 150 acres: Dotson Family Marsh - completed in 2017 (although initial construction was completed in 2015 and additional work focused on vegetation and other enhancements; also, this acreage included a range of habitat types)
- 11 acres: Inner Bair Island - reported in 2017, but original Bair levee breaches were completed in 2012 and we have since updated our records. Not sure what this 11 acre restoration references.
- 5.2 acres: Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion and Restoration - reported and completed in 2018 (in this case, tidal marsh habitat was restored by removing fill, don't think there was a levee breach).

Tidal Habitat Protection – Bair Island (7 acres) in 2017

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

- Funding, permitting, and sediment
- Great progress has been made on with respect to funding (SF Bay Restoration Authority Funding) and permitting (BRRIT), which should accelerate restoration.
- Although the numbers of acres is not where it should be, progress has been made.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion

☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The recommendation would be to possibly add in some additional measures to note progress in obtaining funding and removing obstacles to restoration. The overall target for the 5-year period was ambitious, but that might still be good strategy.

ACTION 4

Identify, protect, and create transition zones around the Estuary

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Joint Venture
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 4.1 100% Complete
- Task 4.2 100% Complete
- Task 4.3 100% Complete
- Task 4.4 80% Complete

Average % overall completion: 73% Complete

Current Status Details:

Task 4.1: The Upland Transition Zone Mapping Methodology Task Force, led by SFEP, and the Net Landscape Change Upland Transition Zone Working Group, led by the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Science Steering Committee, were both established to lead related efforts. A joint effort produced a report resolving two methods for mapping transition zones in the SF Bay. The report can be found at: <https://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Transition-Zone-Mapping-Report-FINAL-2.pdf>

Task 4.2: The mapping methodology has been completed and approved by the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Science Steering Committee. View the baseline map at this link: <http://sfbayjv.org/project-transition-zone-baseline-map.php>.

Task 4.3: The following projects achieve the milestones for this task

1. North Richmond Shoreline Vision was completed November 2017. Read more at: <http://sfestuary.org/vision>.
2. The South Bay Salt Ponds Phase project work
3. Student and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) project
4. Deer Island Basin
5. Southern San Francisco Bay
6. San Leandro Treatment Wetland

7. The Oro Loma Horizontal Levee was completed in 2018 and serves as a living laboratory for transition zone/ecotone levee projects that can also provide co-benefits with treated wastewater and public access.
8. Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Pilot Project
9. East Bay Dischargers Authority “First Mile” project
10. Lower Walnut Creek Restoration project

Task 4.4: The following projects achieve the milestone for this task:

1. The Dotson Family Marsh restoration project was completed. Read the success story at this link: <http://www.sfestuary.org/climate-change-and-community-built-into-dotson-family-marsh/>
2. Ravenswood Pond SF2
3. Eden Landing Ecological Reserve
4. The Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Project

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

The task is progressing steadily with no major barriers to completion thanks to additional funding for restoration in the SF Bay.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Task is projected to be completed on schedule.

ACTION 5

Protect, restore, and enhance intertidal and subtidal habitat

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- State Coastal Conservancy
- NOAA Fisheries

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 5.1 20% Complete
- Task 5.2 20% Complete
- Task 5.3 20% Complete

Average % overall completion: 20% Complete

Current Status Details:

5.1 and 5.2 Status: Modest increases in acreage to date. Major atmospheric river events in early 2017 caused prolonged low salinity and widespread die-off of eelgrass (and native oysters and other invertebrates) at many existing habitat sites in the Central Bay; however, other regions of the bay were not affected, including Richardson Bay, where eelgrass restoration plantings have been thriving. Eelgrass restoration in 2019 included Middle Harbor in Oakland, Red Rocks and Giant Marsh along the north Richmond Shoreline, and continued planting in Richardson Bay.

For native oysters: 350 oyster reef elements placed at Giant Marsh; 1 acre placed within 4 acre footprint at Red Rocks site in 2018 as part of San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project. Additional placement at Red Rocks planned for spring 2019 as well as potential additional 2019-2020 projects at India Basin, Pier 94, Dunphy Park, and other places

5.3 Status: Several projects in planning stages: three sandy beach sites in Marin County; and Rockweed (seaweed) and eelgrass at Red Rocks. SF/Heron's head proposed shoreline reinforcement including sandy beach and oysters.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Progress on this action was impacted by the atmospheric River events in early 2017, which caused widespread die-offs. Other barriers to restoration include funding and permitting. Great progress has been made on with respect to funding (SF Bay Restoration Authority Funding) and permitting (BRRIT), which should accelerate restoration.

Staff Recommendation:

☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track

- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The action is moving forward. With new funding and expedited permitting the pace of restoration should improve over the next few years.

ACTION 6

Maximize habitat benefits of managed wetlands and ponds

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- CA State Coastal Conservancy
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 6-1 100% Complete
- Task 6-2 60% Complete
- Task 6-3 20% Complete
- Task 6-4 10% Complete

Average % overall completion: 48% Complete

Current Status Details:

Task 6-1: USGS produced 2018 waterbirds trends report based on 13 years of data, analyzing bird abundance in relation to various habitat characteristics (such as depth, salinity, topographic relief, etc.). A Midwinter waterfowl survey report 2013-2018 was also released. While this task is 'complete', the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project continues to develop and evaluate ways to continue efficiently evaluating waterbird responses (as well as those of other types of wildlife) to changes in the configuration and management actions of former salt ponds, muted tidal ponds, managed (i.e., diked) wetlands, and other modified habitats.

Task 6-2: The SBSP Project Management Team is tracking and monitoring wildlife use of managed pond and managed wetlands. The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) recently completed an assessment of trends in waterbird counts in the SBSPRP and Cargill ponds using over 10 years of monitoring data. SFBBO also completed an analysis of the statistical power of waterbird and shorebird surveys currently being done in support of the project to determine if they are adequate to detect population-level changes and also of whether the level of effort of those surveys could be reduced without sacrificing that same statistical power. The SBSP Restoration Project is developing a plan for more targeted surveys to better capture peak periods of occurrence in San Francisco Bay in an effort to understand apparent phalarope declines within the SBSPRP and how they relate to broader population trends. In addition, the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program and other collaborative efforts are searching for ways to plan for and coordinate the timing and spatial extent of surveys that

assess bird counts and other wildlife numbers (as well as mudflats, vegetation, and other aspects of regional wetland restoration outcomes and impacts) to leverage all of these efforts and provide a more regionally complete set of results that allows comparisons of habitat by type and by restoration action.

Task 6-3: The SBSP team continues to advance this task with studies, but at this point producing an actual report as described in the milestone isn't identified as a priority. A new Lead Scientist will be joining the team soon and the Project Manager will work with them to discuss options and priorities.

Task 6-4: Other than a lot of interest and some discussions, this task is not moving forward.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Funding and allocation of limited resources.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

This action was initially developed in close collaboration with the Project Manager of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Last year, a new Project Manager came on board and is also now in the process of hiring a Lead Scientist. The intent of the action is being met, with some expected variance due to evolving conditions, changing leadership, and shifts in priorities.

Task 6-4 remains of high interest but will likely not move forward without a collaborative effort among multiple partners (and a funding source). Staff recommends keeping the Task as is and continuing to support efforts to implement it, including consideration of carrying it forward to the next version of the Blueprint.

ACTION 7

Conserve and enhance riparian and in-stream habitats

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Joint Venture

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 1: 100% complete
- Task 2: 5% complete
- Task 3: 5% complete
- Task 4: unknown

Average overall completion: 27.5% Complete

Current Status Details:

Task 7-1: Merge completed with new forms for updating project information, added flexibility, and polygons for geographic representation

Task 7-2: No progress, pending completion of SFBJV Implementation Plan update and re-establishment of Riparian Subcommittee

Task 7-3: No progress, pending completion of SFBJV Implementation Plan update and re-establishment of Riparian Subcommittee.

Task 7-4: Riparian corridor and instream restoration/conservation projects are on-going throughout the region. SFBJV typically sends out a call for groups to update its Project Tracker on-line tool annually. These self-reported project forms include acres restored.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

The key author of this Action was Gordon Becker, Fisheries Biologist, who passed away. His absence may be reflected in the lack of progress in advancing the tasks 2-4, as these tasks need a focused champion or committee. SFBJV is in process of updating its Implementation Plan (to incorporate both BEGHU findings and CCMP). Sandra Scoggin, (new) SFBJV Coordinator, is leading this update process and has developed conceptual models that include habitat targets, strategies, actions, and threats. The current SFBJV focus is on baylands & coastal settings, but the hope is to revive the Riparian Subcommittee when Implementation Strategy is complete. This body when reconstituted would steer actions 7-2 and 7-3.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The target dates of tasks 7-2 thru 7-4 are 2021, so there is still time to make good progress. However, it is unclear when the Riparian Subcommittee will be reconvened. There is synergy between Action 1 (watershed approach to aquatic resource protection) and Action 7 (conserve/enhance riparian/in-stream habitats - based on policy and technical guidance). The Riparian Subcommittee may be a vehicle for identifying a set of pilot watersheds and beginning to identify the appropriate steering committees for both actions.

ACTION 8

Protect, restore, and enhance seasonal wetlands

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: HIGH

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Joint Venture
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 8-1 0% Complete
- Task 8-2 50% Complete
- Task 8-3 15% Complete

Average % overall completion: 22% Complete

Current Status Details:

Task 8-1: This has not progressed at all and is unlikely to ever progress. There is little interest in re-establishing the Interagency Vernal Pool Stewardship Initiative with the retirement of a key EPA staff person who previously spearheaded this effort.

Task 8-2: The milestone for vernal pool protection has been met in the Bay with one project (Byron Vernal Pools in east Contra Costa County – 320 acres). The Bay project is at the very edge of SFEP's planning area, but is a critical vernal pool and dune area. The milestone in the Delta (500 acres) has not been met. The milestone in the Delta (500 acres) has been harder to track but appears to have not yet been met.

Task 8-3: Discussions between SFEP and NRCS and RCDs have begun to develop a strategy to advance this task, but to date a specific strategy has not been identified. Discussions have included potentially moving away from a white paper as described in the milestone and focusing on one or more workshops to provide information to partners.

Overall, the specific tasks within this action may not be the most effective approaches for advancing protection, restoration and enhancement of seasonal wetlands.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Lack of interest/prioritization for Task 8-1, lack of resources/capacity to advance Task 8-3. Possible disconnect between intent of action and resulting tasks. Lack of prioritization of task by task owners.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☒ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

This action would benefit from a comprehensive evaluation and possible revision of tasks, milestones, and owners.

ACTION 9

Minimize the impact of invasive Species

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- State Coastal Conservancy
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 9-1 75% Complete
- Task 9-2 10% Complete
- Task 9-3 5% Complete
- Task 9-4 5% Complete

Average overall completion: 50%

Current Status Details:

Great progress has been made on 9-1. 9-2 is important and work is being done to continue to highlight this action as a priority and to gain funding at the State and Federal Levels.

It has been difficult to collect data for 9-3 and 9-4, but work is definitely being done on 9.3 with respect to Spartina. Quantifying it by reduction in acreage might not be the best measure for Spartina at this stage in the program.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The action is moving forward. With new funding and expedited permitting the pace of restoration should improve over the next few years.

ACTION 10

Increase the efficacy of terrestrial predator management

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- Point Blue Conservation Science
- USFWS

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 10-1 10%
- Task 10-2 0%

Average Overall Completion: 8%

Current Status Details:

Action 10 includes two tasks, one focused on developing a feral cat threat and opportunities map and one focused on developing a management assessment report and recommendations, and implementing those recommendations at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge. Although the action had a lot of support and engagement during the development stage, and terrestrial predator management remains a high priority, the action has been progressing very slowly.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Funding is the key barrier to completion. Point Blue and the USFWS have been actively trying to find funding for this work, but have been unsuccessful thus far.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Point Blue and USFWS have developed workplans and budgets for completing this task, continue to support it as a priority as written. A strategy to find a funding source and/or additional partners would help advance the action.

ACTION 11

Develop processes for increasing carbon sequestration through wetland restoration, creation, and management

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- California Department of Water Resources
- Delta Conservancy
- SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 11-1 51% Complete
- Task 11-2 100% Complete
- Task 11-3 100% Complete

Average Overall Completion: 80%

Current Status Details:

Task 11-1:

Four projects have been completed in the Suisun and Delta regions since 2016, totaling 1,523 acres of restored wetlands on former agricultural lands. An additional 410 acres of wetlands and tidal marshlands are expected to be restored by 2021, and 3,000 acres expected to be completed by 2023. It is anticipated that by the end of the CCMP implementation window, we will have completed just short of 2,000 acres of restoration in the Suisun Marsh and Delta regions. Future restoration sites and their acreage include: Dutch Slough (150 acres between 2021 and 2023), Hill Slough (950 acres), Prospect Island (1,000 – 1,500 acres), Wings Landing (270 acres). Additional sites where the number of acres of wetlands restored on previously agricultural land is currently uncertain include: Arnold Slough, Bradmoor Island, Chipps Island, Lower Yolo Ranch.

Task 11-2:

Two papers have published that implement this task including

1) Hemes et al. January 2019. Assessing the carbon and climate benefit of restoring degraded agricultural peat soils to managed wetlands. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*. 268 (202 - 214).

2) Hemes, K. S., Chamberlain, S. D., Eichelmann, E., Knox, S. H., & Baldocchi, D. D. (2018). A biogeochemical compromise: The high methane cost of sequestering carbon in restored wetlands. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 45, 6081–6091.

Task 11-3:

The American Carbon Registry partnered with the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, HydroFocus, University of California Berkeley and Tierra Resources to develop a new carbon

offset methodology to quantify greenhouse gas emissions reductions from the restoration of California deltaic and coastal wetlands. This methodology was published online November, 2017

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Delays in the conversion of historical agricultural land in the Suisun Marsh and Delta regions indicate that the goal of 3,000 acres will not be met.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The projects currently being planned and constructed cannot be implemented earlier than their current timelines, and the staff are confident that the achievable number of acres will fall short of the 3,000 acre goal. However, it is unlikely that any strategy could be developed to advance the number of acres within the timeframe of the Task. The IC may consider reducing the acres in the milestone for Task 11-1 (1,900 acres is feasible).

ACTION 12

Restore watershed connections to the Estuary to improve habitat, flood protection and water quality

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- CA Department of Water Resources
- SF Estuary Institute
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 12-1: 100% complete
- Task 12-2: 100% complete
- Task 12-3: 100% complete
- Task 12-4: 65% complete

Average Overall Completion: 91%

Current Status Details:

This overall Action derives from the Flood Control 2.0 project, its products, and the multi-benefit projects that stemmed out of this effort.

The remaining Task 12-4 is to secure funding in conjunction with partners to complete designs and construction documents. Obtain necessary permits and approvals for selected sites. Measures of success are to initiate implementation phase of two projects. Out of four projects that derived from the Flood Control 2.0 effort (Lower Walnut Creek; San Francisquito; Novato Creek; Healthy Watersheds Resilient Baylands), the San Francisquito project completed all implementation. The other three projects are making progress on designs and permitting.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Projects tracked are making progress and should start implementation by 2021.

ACTION 13

Manage sediment on a regional scale and advance beneficial reuse

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: MEDIUM

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- SF Bay Joint Venture
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 13-1: 92% complete
- Task 13-2: 60% complete
- Task 13-3: 70% complete
- Task 13-4: 0% complete

Average Overall Completion: 44%

Current Status Details:

This Action took longer than expected to show progress but is mostly on track now. Tasks 13-1 (SediMatch) and 13-3 (Sediment source and need study) are ongoing but are already beyond their scheduled completion.

Task 13-2 is focused on identifying funding to cover the incremental cost of dredge material disposal beyond “least-cost” options and is being worked on by several partners on a per project basis. One possible source is Measure AA funds.

Tasks 13-4 regarding sandy beach creation has made no progress.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

It has been difficult to gain interest and momentum in moving forward with Task 13-4, which is focused on developing a monitoring tool to identify potential sites and track progress, and implementing a pilot project. However, some sandy beach restoration projects have been advanced, despite the lack of the monitoring and tracking tool envisioned by the Task (and by Peter Baye specifically).

Staff Recommendation:

☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track

☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion

☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Tasks 13-1 and 13-3 are advancing, but will not meet the milestone dates. Consider pushing the completion dates to 2021. Task 13-2 is gaining some traction on a per project basis but no comprehensive funding source has been identified. Consider rewording Task/milestone date accordingly.

Task 13-4 needs either a strategy for completion and/or reassess interest in developing a monitoring and tracking tool for sandy beaches (also keeping in mind the intent of the action itself to manage sediment and advance beneficial re-use).

ACTION 14

Demonstrate how natural habitats and nature-based shoreline infrastructure can provide increased resiliency to changes in the Estuary environment

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- SF Estuary Institute
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 14-1: 100% complete
- Task 14-2: 100% complete
- Task 14-3: 50% complete
- Task 14-4a: 40% complete
- Task 14-4b: 5% complete

Average Overall Completion: 45%

Current Status Details:

This Action calls for research elements to categorize variety of shoreline and optimize multi-benefit projects. With the completion of SFEI's Operational Landscape Units and the resulting Adaptation Atlas, Tasks 14-1 and 14-2 can be considered complete (primer, outreach, and shoreline typology) as the Atlas meets the intent of those Tasks. In addition, SFEP launched the Transforming Urban Water (TrUW) initiative to promote and explore multi-benefit nature-based solutions mixing shoreline flood protection, habitat creation and water quality enhancement. SFEP has been awarded several grants to advance elements of TrUW, including funding to develop a guidelines on how to design and implement horizontal levees and multi-benefit shoreline infrastructure (Task 14-3). Finally, multi-benefit nature-based shoreline projects are moving forward in Palo Alto, San Leandro, and on the East Bay shoreline (East Bay Dischargers Authority).

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Time and funding.

Staff Recommendation:

☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track

☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion

☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The TrUW initiative is gathering much interest from many partners, including Publicly Owned Treatment Works, which could lead to more funding and additional projects. Action 14 is moving along, although fully implementing three pilot projects by 2021 is probably not doable. Staff recommends keeping the Action as is but acknowledging that Task 14-4 will not be fully complete by 2021 and consider carrying forward some elements to the next CCMP cycle.

ACTION 15

Advance natural resource protection while increasing resiliency of shoreline communities in the Bay Area

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC)
- CA State Coastal Conservancy

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 15.1 100% Complete
- Task 15.2 100% Complete
- Task 15.3 90% Complete

Average Overall Completion: 97%

Current Status Details:

15.1 The Bay Area Climate Technical Task Force has evolved into project-specific, cross-agency teams designed to best serve stakeholders on a range of climate-related efforts. These teams are formulated to support and deliver around specific mitigation and adaptation projects, such as energy efficiency, and planning for sea level rise and flooding. BARC is coordinating and/or collaborating on four key projects, to enhance the delivery of coordinated and integrated technical assistance.

15.2 The resilience report was approved by the BARC Board. It can be found online at this link: <https://barc.ca.gov/tools-and-resources>.

15.3 BCDC have completed vulnerability assessments for all 9 counties in the asset categories of transportation, priority development areas, priority conservation areas (plus some other natural systems), and vulnerable communities. Vulnerability assessments were done for regionwide systems, not necessarily every location where an asset in that category is present. East Contra Costa assessments are nearing completion as well. ART Bay Area will be released in November, and East Contra Costa will be released in December.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

This task is projected to be successfully completed within the expected timeline.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Action is on track and no changes are needed.

ACTION 16

Integrate natural resource protection into state and local government hazard mitigation, response and recovery planning

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: HIGH

Owner(s):

- Association of Bay Area Governments

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 16-1: 100% Complete
- Task 16-2: 5% Complete
- Task 16-3: 10% Complete

Average overall completion: 38%

Current Status Details:

Task 16-1: the Delta Levee Investment Strategy, has been completed.

Task 16-2: The milestone is to complete 30 Bay Area city or county hazard mitigation plans that include natural resources as an asset category. Although SFEP has had initial discussions with the resilience team at ABAG/MTC on how to accomplish this, there has been no progress beyond that.

Task 16-3: The milestone is to complete ten local (city or county) Disaster Recovery Plans that include FEMA's NDRF RSFs for natural resources. At this time, only one Disaster Recovery Plan including FEMA's Recovery Support Function (RSF) for natural resources has been completed and it is unknown whether other municipalities are pursuing

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Tasks 16-2 and 16-3 have been difficult to move forward. The Planning Section of ABAG/MTC has undergone significant staffing and organizational changes and this area of resiliency is not currently a priority. SFEP staff has not had the time/resources to put forward to developing an approach to move the tasks. Advancing the tasks will require a clear plan of how to accomplish goals, development of a work plan and staff hours to complete. In addition, the timing of updates to city and county hazard mitigation plans is key. Most local jurisdictions updated their local hazard mitigation plans in 2018 and won't update them again until 2023.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Tasks 16-2 and 16-3 need strong partnerships, prioritization at a management level, and a strategy for moving forward as written. Alternatively it may be worth exploring further the current priority level, timeliness, and usefulness of tasks as written to advance the action. There may be other opportunities to work collaboratively with municipalities to include natural resource protection as part of their hazard planning and recovery processes.

ACTION 17

Improve regulatory review, permitting and monitoring processes for multi-benefit climate adaptation projects

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group

Summary of Current Status:

- 17.1: 100% Complete
- 17.2a: 100% Complete
- 17.2b: 100% Complete
- 17.3a: 90% Complete
- 17.3b: 25% Complete
- 17.4: 75% Complete

Average overall completion: 77%

Current Status Details:

This broad action seeks to improve regulatory processes to facilitate innovative multi-benefit climate adaptation projects such as new approaches to integrated flood management, shoreline alteration, sediment disposal and habitat restoration. Also to support and assist existing efforts to address permitting challenges posed by changing conditions and coordinate permitting to encourage synergies and efficiencies among projects. Two of the tasks (17-2 and 17-3) focus on the individual efforts of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to advance revised policies. The BCDC policy revisions have been approved by the Commission, but the Board policy revisions are not yet at that stage.

Task 17-4 is focused on bringing regulatory agencies together with project implementers in a workshop format to facilitate creation of a more transparent and predictable system. The action was originally owned by CHARG, which subsequently became inactive for several years. However, several other efforts to facilitate similar forums have been ongoing, including the creation of the BRRITT. With CHARG now recently active again, it remains to be seen whether regulatory improvements continue to be a high priority.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Regulatory process for policy revisions can be slow. Several efforts to improve regulatory processes are happening concurrently but may not result in the milestone as drafted. Where CHARG focuses its efforts next remains to be seen.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The action is proceeding as intended, despite the minor evolution of Task 17-4. Staff recommends reviewing this action during the next Blueprint revision process to assess opportunity/need for carrying forward priorities for advancing regulatory improvements.

ACTION 18

Improve the timing, amount, and duration of freshwater flows critical to Estuary health

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 18.1: 100% complete
- Task 18.2: 30% complete
- Task 18.3: 30% complete

Overall Average Completion: 53%

Current Status Details:

Progress on this action hinges largely on a politicized process that in recent years has included delays and intervention or attempted intervention by Congress and the current Presidential administration. Any scientific findings on freshwater flows are largely seen as advocacy in this polarized environment. An analysis of Task 18.3 found that most partners and agencies are either already incorporating freshwater flows messages or are not likely to do so based on political perceptions or advocacy restrictions. Furthermore, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, which led the implementation of Tasks 18.2 and 18.3, no longer has the funding to do this work.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

With the loss of Friends of the San Francisco Estuary's leadership, Tasks 18.2 and 18.3 should be discussed to determine possible progress or eliminated.

ACTION 19

Develop long-term drought plans

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 19.1: 90% complete
- Task 19.2: 90% complete
- Task 19.3: 80% complete

Overall Average Completion: 87%

Current Status Details:

All California urban water agencies are now required to submit a Water Shortage Contingency Plan that includes planning for droughts of at least five years. The Delta Stewardship Council, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, PPIC, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and SWRCB Office of the Delta Watermaster have all released drought synthesis reports that include lessons learned and recommendations.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

This action is proceeding through the efforts of other agencies and partners; some SFEP staff time could be devoted to an Estuary-focused brief summarizing progress.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Action is nearly complete and proceeding on schedule.

ACTION 20

Increase regional agricultural water use efficiency

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: HIGH

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 20-1: 20% complete
- Task 20-2: 10% complete

Overall Average Completion: 15%

Current Status Details:

The scope of work implied by Task 20-1 could be very labor-intensive and expensive. Staff explored several potential partners for this task but found none with the capacity and funding to complete assessments in both the Bay and Delta. In addition, UC Davis researcher Dr. Sam Sandoval conducted a study of the application efficiency of irrigation methods by hydrologic region and crop type and found high efficiencies in the range of 78-79% in the Bay and Delta region. The primary remaining question for this task may be to identify the mechanisms by which conserved water could produce great instream flow and groundwater recharge.

Task 20-2, which was developed primarily with the input of RWQCB, is focused on facilitating the shift from onstream to offstream storage for riparian water right holders. Onstream storage does not appear to be a significant factor in all agricultural regions of the Estuary; therefore, a region-wide forum on this topic does not hold strong appeal. The areas (Napa, Marin, and San Mateo) that are working on this problem have developed different strategies that may not be scalable. A forum for these specific areas may be beneficial; however, San Francisco Estuary Partnership does not currently have funding or social/geographic positioning to host such a forum.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Funding and capacity.

Staff Recommendation:

☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track

☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion

☒ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Both tasks are unlikely to be completed as they are currently written. In addition, the connection between the description and milestone for Task 20.2 is weak: one could happen without completion of the other.

ACTION 21

Reduce water use for landscaping around the Estuary

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: HIGH

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- ReScape California

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 21.1: 15% complete
- Task 21.2: 5% complete
- Task 21.3: 75% complete
- Task 21.4: 0% complete

Overall Average Completion: 24%

Current Status Details:

This is one of several actions which was identified as a priority by committee members but lacked a partnering organization in position to ensure implementation (for Tasks 21.1, 21.2, and 21.4). One partner on this and Action 22, California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC), has been dissolved. Staff at DWR and NRDC who work on this topic did not respond to requests for information; [publicly available information](#) indicates that these tasks are not progressing.

For Task 21.3, ReScape California has continued to expand into new parts of the Estuary and state and the task is progressing on track. The task is gaining new traction with the development of native plant and biodiversity-oriented green infrastructure and urban greening.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Lack of owners with capacity and funding

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☒ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

SFEP is not the best owner for this action; partners on Tasks 21.1, 21.2, and 21.4 have not been responsive, and these tasks do not appear to be progressing to completion. Other strategies to achieve the intent of this action may be more appropriate for SFEP and its partners.

ACTION 22

Expand the use of recycled water

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership,
- Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA)

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 22.1: 35% complete
- Task 22.2: 35% complete

Average Overall Completion: 35%

Current Status Details:

Task 22-1: The idea of this task was to develop a platform for the region's recycled water and wastewater utilities to share resources and work toward a more cohesive regional public message about recycled water, to encourage its expanded use. However, BACWA Recycled Water Committee members have indicated that a formal shared platform may not be needed at this time.

Task 22-2: BACWA has made significant progress on the intent of this task, although the original idea of convening 3 multi-stakeholder meetings has not gained any traction for implementation since the release of the final CCMP. There has been at least one broad, multi-stakeholder meeting convened by Silicon Valley Clean Water on potable reuse, and the SWRCB has released a proposed framework for regulating DPR in California.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

The priorities for this action have shifted away from these tasks since they were developed in 2016. The BACWA Recycled Water Committee is continuing to work on the intent of these tasks but may not bring them to completion, and SFEP is not positioned to bring them to completion independently of BACWA.

Staff Recommendation:

☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track

☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion

☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Since BACWA Recycled Water Committee members are continuing to make progress on the intent of this action, SFEP staff recommends working with BACWA to revise these tasks to reflect shifted priorities.

ACTION 23

Integrate water into the updated Plan Bay Area and other regional planning efforts

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW*

**but progress on Task 23.3 unlikely without revision*

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership,
- Association of Bay Area Governments

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 23.1 100% complete
- Task 23.2 100% complete
- Task 23.3 33% complete

Overall Average Completion: 78%

Current Status Details:

Task 23.1: This task is complete with the November 2016 summit produced by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Task 23.2: The Final Plan Bay Area 2040, released in August 2017, includes an Action Plan section on Resilience that incorporates some of the issues identified in this task. Work continues to bolster the incorporation of water and green infrastructure policies in the next Plan Bay Area 2050.

Task 23.3: The San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) RTP/SCS was adopted in 2018 and includes a goal to reduce average residential household energy and water consumption by 193 gallons of water per household per day. Other topics such as stormwater management are not explicitly mentioned. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments' (SACOG) MTP/SCS is undergoing an update for 2020. Through the Plan Bay Area 2050 update process, a conversation is underway between ABAG/MTC, SJCOG, and SACOG about areas of overlap within the plans for the emerging mega-region.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Plan Bay Area and other Sustainable Communities Strategies are focused on greenhouse gas reduction requirements as well as state-administered housing allocations; therefore, water, green infrastructure, and San Francisco Bay-related issues are often seen as optional. Regarding Task 23.3, influence over the SACOG and SJCOG RTP/SCS by the task owners (SFEP and ABAG) is likely to be very limited.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Despite the overall progress on this action, Task 23.3 is largely outside the sphere of influence by the current task owner; therefore, it should either be revised or handed to other partners.

ACTION 24

Manage stormwater with low impact development and green infrastructure

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- SF Estuary Partnership
- US Environmental Protection Agency

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 24-1: 100%
- Task 24-2: 100%
- Task 24-3: 100%
- Task 24-4: 100%
- Task 24-5: 100%
- Task 24-6: 95%

Average overall action completion: 99%

Current Status Details:

TASK 24-1: Completed, materials available on SFEP website

TASK 24-2: Completed, materials on GreenPlan-IT website hosted by SFEI

TASK 24-3: Completed GreenPlan-IT analyses for cities of San Mateo, San Jose, Richmond, Sunnyvale, Oakland, the East Bay Green Corridor, and portions of Contra Contra County

TASK 24-4 Completed Roadmap of Funding Solutions for Sustainable Streets available on SFEP website.

TASK 24-5 Completed GI Design Charrette process with typical conceptual designs for intersections, available on SFEP website

TASK 24-6 LID Tracker database developed and piloted with City of Richmond. It is a complicated tool in need of a standing host and technical support. So it is developed, but not officially *launched* for use by jurisdictions in the region

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

The final outstanding task is 24-6 which is launching of the LID Tracker Tool. It is a complicated tool that requires training, hosting, and maintenance. Thus SFEI has suggested a subscription-type approach, where SFEI would manage inputs and servicing for a nominal fee. It is unlikely

that individual jurisdictions would manage it on their own or subscribe for this service for a fee. Potential exists for higher level subscribers such as: countywide Clean Water Programs, BACWAA, or even the SFBRWQCB.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

While the targeted completion date for Task 24-6 has passed, SFEP is still working under the grant that funded the LID Tracker Tool development. SFEP intends to work with SFEI on a strategy for officially launching the tool by Spring of 2020. This seems like good timing, as required GI Master Plans were submitted to the Water Board in Sept 2019.

ACTION 25

Address emerging contaminants

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group
- California Product Stewardship Council
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 25.1: 66% complete
- Task 25.2: 100% complete
- Task 25.3: 100% complete

Overall Average Completion: 88%

Current Status Details:

Task 25.1 includes the regular review and update of SF Bay's CECs management strategy, action plans, and monitoring strategy. Pulse of the Bay and updated RMP CEC Monitoring Strategy released in 2017. Updated CEC strategy released in Sept. 2018. The action is advancing as expected and an updated CECs strategy should be released in 2020.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

No barriers to completion identified.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

ACTION 26

Decrease raw sewage discharges into the Estuary

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owner(s):

- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 26-1: 100% complete
- Task 26-2: 100% complete
- Task 26-3: 100% complete
- Task 26-4a: 100% complete
- Task 26-4b: 40% complete
- Task 26-5: 25% complete

Average Overall Completion: 77%

Current Status Details:

SFEP's Clean Vessel Act Program works directly with the boating community and boating facility managers to provide education and outreach on proper vessel waste disposal. Task 26-4b is dependent on the CA DBW capacity to award grants for installation of on-shore sewage disposal facilities. 4 are being processed, the CVA team works with boating facility managers to increase the installation of new units in the region.

Task 26-5 is to identify new audiences for outreach messages about reducing non-flushable items to sanitary sewers. SFEP has worked with the waterboard to determine if the BAPPG has identified new audiences. Despite their continued work to address non-flushables, which includes radio ads and other outreach mechanisms, they have not identified new audiences to target for their outreach efforts and this task is stalled.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Lack of capacity/resources for SFEP to continue to work regularly with the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group.

Staff Recommendation:

☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track

☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion

☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

The action has been largely successful with the exception of Task 26-5, which needs modifying or a strategy for moving forward.

ACTION 28

Advance nutrient management in the Estuary

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owners:

- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- SF Estuary Institute

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 28-1 75% Complete
- Task 28-2 75% Complete
- Task 28-3 15% Complete
- Task 28-4 100% Complete
- Task 28-5 100% Complete
- Task 28-6 50% Complete

Overall Average Completion: 55%

Current Status Details:

Task 28-1, 28-2: Local POTWs and BACWA are contributing funds to support these efforts. Continuation of funding for certain studies and programs, including USGS funding, remains uncertain.

Task 28-3: Progress is being made through the BACWA Nutrient initiative in coordination with the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Task 28-4: During its August meeting, the Central Valley Water Board approved resolution Resolution R5-2018-0059 to approve the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.

Task 28-5: The DWR report 'Characterizing and quantifying nutrient sources, sinks and transformations in the Delta: synthesis, modeling and recommendations for monitoring' is included in the larger Delta Regional Monitoring Program Technical Advisory Committee report 'Assessment of Nutrient Status and Trends in the Delta in 2001-2016: Effects of drought on ambient concentrations and trends' published in March 2018, found here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/delta_regional_monitoring/reports/nutrients/20012016_drmp_nutsynths_task1_rpt.pdf

Task 28-6: Progress is tied to the BACWA work. Initial studies should be completed by the end of 2019.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Research and monitoring efforts require more funding.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Either seek further funding for 28-1 and 28-2, or amend milestone to be more specific about quantity of funding that would complete the task.

ACTION 30

Reduce trash input into the Estuary

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: Medium

Owner(s):

- San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 30-1: 25% complete
- Task 30-2: 50% complete

Average Overall Completion: 38%

Current Status Details:

Task 30-1: While few EPR ordinances have been passed in the 12 county Estuary region, polystyrene ban ordinances are being passed, including City of Davis (2017) and Milpitas (2018). City of Davis and City and County of San Francisco have also passed plastic straw ordinances (2017, 2019). Two statewide EPR bills (SB 54 and SB 372) have been proposed targeting single-use plastics and plastic packaging; they are currently on hold as two-year bills.

Task 30-2: An advisory team has met and provided input into the development of a trash reduction indicator. A draft summary and narrative on the state of trash tracking methodology development efforts has been produced by SFEP staff and distributed to the advisory team for feedback. A baseline metric is under development at the state level but is not expected until 2020 or 2021; the advisory team has proposed putting development of a trash indicator on hold until the statewide metric has been finalized.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

Task 30-1: Statewide and regional interest in reducing plastic waste, particularly from food and beverage packaging, is high and some progress has been made beyond the scope of EPR strategies. SFEP staff capacity to advance EPR ordinances, however, is constrained by both funding and advocacy/lobbying limitations, despite a proximity to elected officials through ABAG.

Task 30-2: Progress on this task should be linked to statewide efforts, which are on track but may not be completed by the task timeline of 2020.

It should be noted that completion of these tasks may not result in actual reductions of trash input to the Estuary due to other changing factors (global changes to the recycling industry, increasing intensity of homelessness, etc.).

Staff Recommendation:

- ☐ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

Explanation of Recommendation:

Progress is being made on the intent of Tasks 30-1 and 30-2, although the ability of the action owner (SFEP) to bring these tasks to completion is limited.

ACTION 31

Foster support for resource protection and restoration by providing Estuary-oriented public access and recreational opportunities compatible with wildlife

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owners:

- Association of Bay Area Governments
- CA State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 31-1 100% Complete
- Task 31-2 28% Complete
- Task 31-3 83% Complete

Overall Average Completion: 70%

Current Status Details:

Task 31-1: Five regional use maps have been developed and a SF Bay Water Trail website has been fully developed and launched. Website URL: <http://sfbaywatertrail.org/>

Task 31-2: The Bay Trail has completed 11 miles since 2016 and expects to complete another 5.5 miles before the end of the year. Bay Trail staff anticipate the completion of another 1.5 – 2 miles of trail by 2021.

Task 31-3: A total of five trail enhancement sites have been completed at locations around the bay including Albany Beach, Point Isabel, Marina Bay, Bayfront Park (Mill Valley), and Petaluma Small Craft Center. There are an additional seven sites that are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

The progress on building the Bay Trail has been delayed due in part to decreased or delayed funding and in part to the challenging nature of the remaining segments. Regional Measure 3, currently under litigation, has \$150m in funding that has been tied up while the case is decided. Additionally, state grants have not been as large as anticipated when the Estuary Blueprint was created. The final stretches of Bay Trail are typically difficult and expensive to implement as the low hanging fruit has been addressed. Many of these stretches are gaps that will connect major segments. An example of this is a one-mile segment that will be completed before the end of the year that will result in 55 uninterrupted trail miles across three counties.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☒ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed

SFEP discussed this task with the Bay Trail staff and have found that 40 miles of trail is far too optimistic given the challenges described above. Bay Trail staff are confident that an additional 1.5 – 2 miles of trail can be completed by 2021 and have recommended changing the total trail miles built to 18. Additional funding and continued/increased local partner support for the Bay Trail in their local jurisdictions will certainly benefit the project in the long term. However the progress that can be made in the next two years is unlikely to change much due to the planning and implementation horizons for these final segments of Bay Trail.

ACTION 32

Champion and implement the CCMP

Priority for Workshop Review/Action: LOW

Owners:

- SF Bay Joint Venture
- SF Estuary Partnership

Summary of Current Status:

- Task 32-1 60%
- Task 32-2a 60%
- Task 32-2b 66%
- Task 32-2c 66%
- Task 32-3a 100%
- Task 32-3b 100%
- Task 32-4a 60%
- Task 32-4b 25%
- Task 32-5 60%
- Task 32-6 60%

Overall Average Completion: 66%

Current Status Details:

Many of the tasks are ongoing and progressing as expected, including communication materials, conferences, Estuary News, Blueprint progress reports, BAWN website maintenance, and Joint Venture funding opportunities webpage. Task 32 is now 100% complete with the release of the 2019 State of the Estuary Report.

Key Barriers to Completion Include:

No barriers to completion, action progressing as expected.

Staff Recommendation:

- ☒ No Change or Strategy Needed – Action Proceeding on Track
- ☐ Keep Action as Is or with Minor Revisions to Task(s) – Develop Strategy for Moving to Completion
- ☐ Major Change/Decision needed