



SAN FRANCISCO



**ESTUARY**  
PARTNERSHIP

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## MEMO

DATE: August 19, 2020

TO: Implementation Committee Members

FROM: Darcie Luce, Estuary Partnership staff

**RE: Estuary Blueprint Update Progress**

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This memo provides a status report on the Estuary Blueprint update process since the IC meeting held in May. At the May IC meeting, eight IC members volunteered to serve on the Steering Committee for the update. The Steering Committee has met twice, on July 9 and August 11. Estuary Partnership staff have also met to contribute input and support planning for the Steering Committee meetings.

The **July 9 kickoff meeting** focused on a review of the 2016 Estuary Blueprint revision process, and recognized the distinction between the 2016 overhaul and the current, more minor, update. After reviewing the key objectives, or Guiding Principles, of the 2016 process, the Steering Committee discussed the Guiding Principles for the current update. Several themes emerged from this discussion, leading to the following Guiding Principles for the 2022 update:

**Remain aspirational yet feasible:** as with the 2016 update, maintain a vision for the future, but also consider capacity for implementation

**Expand and deepen multi-sectoral engagement:** engage more sectors in Estuary Blueprint update and implementation while also expanding Estuary Blueprint priorities to more sectors for integration in regional and local plans

**Integrate further geographically, topically, and across plans:** as with the 2016 update, seek greater integration between the Bay and Delta, among topics where opportunities exist, with the National Estuary Program, and with other plans and programs

**Focus on equity and environmental justice** in process and content

**Improve clarity of roles and responsibility of partners**

The **August 11 meeting** focused on a review of IC member and staff analyses of existing actions. All actions were sorted by staff into three levels of revision: 1) Keep Action/Update Tasks (minimal revision), 2) Revise Action (more substantial work needed), or 3) More Discussion Needed (potentially eliminate or radically revise action). The discussion focused primarily on the most challenging actions under More Discussion Needed. The Steering Committee recommended the following steps:

- Action 1 - watershed-based approach: Remove and elevate this action to the objective level. A watershed-based approach should be part of every action in the Estuary Blueprint.
- Action 10 - terrestrial predator management: Remove and either elevate to an objective or make a task under multiple actions. The intent of this action was focused on feral cats which is relevant but too specific; it could be broadened to an objective or remain focused at the task level.
- Action 16 - hazard planning: This remains a priority but needs additional input from ABAG/MTC. Needs more discussion before making a recommendation.
- Action 19 - long-term drought plans: This action could be considered a part of Action 16. Needs more discussion before making a recommendation.
- Action 20 - agricultural water use: Remove and make this a task under Action 18. The concept of agricultural water use efficiency is largely irrelevant to most of the Delta, and the action is far outside of SFEP's wheelhouse.
- Action 21 - landscaping water use: Remove and make this a task under Action 18. Much of the work on this action is done at the state level through DWR, and opportunities for a regional approach may be limited.
- Action 29 - ocean acidification: Remove and make this a part of other actions. Ocean acidification is an important issue for a limited part of the Bay and does not affect the whole region.

Other actions were discussed, but no additional actions were recommended for removal at this time.

The meeting also included a brainstorming exercise for new or emerging topics to consider in the Estuary Blueprint update; the exercise results--which include input from Estuary Partnership staff--are still open for additions at:

<https://app.conceptboard.com/board/fhgu-o1fy-ds95-it7c-msi2>

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the role of environmental justice and equity in the Estuary Blueprint update process.

