

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Remote via Zoom

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approve 8/26/2020 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

Tom Mumley called the meeting to order. Motion to approve 8/26/2020 meeting summary by Barbara Salzman, seconded by Pat Eklund. Motion carried.

3. Director's Report

Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items from the Director's Report

- *2021 State of the Estuary Conference – we've made the decision to conduct next year's conference in a hybrid model with some virtual programming and some in-person sessions at the Bay Area Metro Center as well as satellite sessions in other cities. Target date is September 29 – October 1. Bay Delta Science Conference is going to be remote as well, in April 2021, and sharing experiences will be valuable.*
- *New funding – In addition to new EPA award, we have gotten \$1.8 million from DWR for Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program work through the ongoing Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program. We also secured 3-year funding from the Delta Stewardship Council for the SOE Conference, the SOE Report and Estuary News among other programs.*
- *Communications over the last few months have included podcasts, social media task-overs and highlighting National Estuaries Week.*
- *The Blueprint update process is under way with staff convening the Steering Committee and forming working groups. Expect to see Blueprint-related items including reviewing draft content, viewing presentations and giving feedback.*

4. 2016 Estuary Blueprint Progress Report

Owners continue to make progress. No tasks or actions have been completed in the last quarter.

5. 2022 Estuary Blueprint Update Topic Series: Climate Resilience / Sea Level Rise

Goal 2 of the Blueprint is "bolster the resilience of estuary ecosystems, shorelines and communities to climate change." To advance these, we want to make sure we're aligning with partners and their complimentary planning efforts including BCDC's Bay Adapt, MTC's Plan Bay Area, the Estuary Blueprint and the DSC's Delta Adapts. These presentations will highlight areas of collaboration and ways to inform the Blueprint update.

- **Plan Bay Area 2050, Rachael Hartofelis, ABAG/MTC Resilience Planner**

Plan Bay Area 2050: Integrating Sea Level Rise. Plan Bay Area is the region's long-range planning document with the vision to ensure affordability, connectedness, diversity, health and vibrancy within the region and associated transportation, housing, economic and environmental strategies achieve those goals. In the current stage, 25 strategies have been identified under eleven themes. Climate change, parks and open space and protecting homes from hazards new components in the 2050 update, and integrating sea level rise was a particularly substantial inclusion in this plan. First steps were to understand the region's vulnerabilities in terms of communities and growth areas. A regional needs and revenue assessment was performed, and an estimated \$19 billion is needed for the region based on 2 feet of sea level rise. The Implementation Plan focuses on near-term actions, and work on that has just begun. Staff have begun to identify financial resources, technical capacity, partners, etc., and have identified complementary planning efforts throughout the region.

Discussion ensued around the \$19 billion cost estimate, and the inclusion of fire and stormwater/watershed/other urban inputs in Plan Bay Area. The protection of unprotected marsh areas may be a tricky element to pin down, both in terms of cost and planning.

- **Bay Adapt, Jessica Fain, BCDC**

Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay. BCDC has been working on multiple sea level rise initiatives including updating bay policies, the Adapting to Rising Tides Program and the Shoreline Flood Explorer and a newer collaborative effort called Bay Adapt. The purpose of Bay Adapt is to develop and adopt a regional, consensus-driven strategy that lays out the actions necessary to adapt the Bay Area to rising sea level to protect people and the natural and built environment. The development of guiding principles prioritized inclusion and collaboration and the identification of barriers. The development of a joint platform includes well-defined actions with intended outcomes, detailed proposals and implementation roles.

Draft categories include Regional Vision + Consistency, Environmental Justice, Local-Regional Alignment, and a few other buckets, with draft Actions nested beneath. Actions range from improving coordinated permitting to empowering communities to lead in planning for equitable climate adaptation to establishing a regional adaptation vision and consistency framework to developing a regional adaptation funding plan. Next steps are to refine draft actions, meet with frontline communities, elected officials, and civic and industry representative. BCDC encourages those interested in the process to participate.

Discussion around the inclusion of wildlife and natural resources, the importance of implementing the plan with projects.

- **Delta Adapts, Harriet Ross, DSC**

Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future. Delta Adapts is the Delta Stewardship Council's climate study that consists of a Vulnerability Assessment phase and an Adaptation Strategy with the goal of building climate resilience in the Delta region including Suisun Marsh. The goals are to inform future work, help the State prioritize future work, provide a toolkit and serve as a framework to be built on. The regional study covers a broad range of asset categories and is designed to be complementary to other planning efforts. The vulnerability assessment is currently in process and focuses on equity, flooding and ecosystem analyses, which were reviewed with partner agencies and stakeholders. Tools

include a social vulnerability indicator along with maps that show vulnerable populations, how future flooding scenarios affect communities, various drivers of flooding, where to focus adaptation efforts and risk and potential loss to Delta wetlands. This has been the first comprehensive climate change study done in the region and uses modeling of a broad range of conditions and impacts. The Adaptation Strategy is the next stage of planning. The process has highlighted multiple connection points to the Estuary Blueprint update.

6. SF Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), Amy Hutzel, SCC, Valary Bloom, USFWS, and Luisa Valiela, US EPA

The BRRIT's goal is to address some of the hurdles in permitting multi-benefit habitat restoration projects in the Bay, focusing on expedited and coordinated permitting, policy changes and performance measures. Funding goes through 2024 and is provided by Measure AA, the State Coastal Conservancy, EBRPD, Valley Water and the Bay Area Toll Authority. The BRRIT has begun to permit projects, with many in the consultation stage. The BRRIT's Policy and Management Committee commits additional staff time and resources to work through issues that limit the flexibility of permitting projects and helps resolve issues on a case-by-case basis.

Project proponents with an interest in the BRRIT need to get on their list and be on EcoAtlas, but don't need to be funded by Measure AA. Steps include holding a pre-application meeting with the BRRIT team; coordinating with agencies on their questions, concerns and feedback; scheduling a site visit with the team (Covid-permitting); and actively engaging with the permittees on project detail and feedback. Early engagement is critical. BRRIT@sfbayrestore.org or visit the website for more information.

7. IC Member Announcements

Luisa Valiela – San Francisco Bay WQIF for FY2020 – awards have been announced

Greg Martinelli – CDFW – Hill Slough Tidal Restoration Project is mostly complete with levee breach late 2021

Becky Smyth – National Coastal Resilience Fund winners announced; San Mateo County Resilience Plan was awarded \$37 million; provides money for project design and funding. NFWF can do a presentation for more Bay Area partners to apply

8. Meeting Roadmap

Next (remote) meeting is March 17, 9:30 – 12:30 pm with a list of 2021 meeting dates in the meeting packet. Some meetings are on non-Wednesdays. Congratulations on a year of remote IC meetings and looking forward to potential in-person meetings next year.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Attendees:

IC Members: Luisa Valiela, Mike Vasey, Tom Mumley, Barbara Salzman, Amy Hutzel, Beth Campbell, Melody Tovar, Carol Mahoney, Jane Lavelle, Amanda Bohl, Jessica Martini-Lamb,

Brad Paul, Carol Mahoney, Adrian Covert, Greg Martinelli, Becky Smyth, Debra Kustic, Alyson Aquino, Brian Meux, Warner Chabot, John Coleman, Andrew Fremier, Jessica Fain, Harriet Ross, Sandra Scoggin, Chris Potter, Pat Eklund, Steve Goldbeck,

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Darcie Luce, Karen McDowell, Kelley Santos, Josh Bradt, James Muller, Leslie Perry, Sarina Seaton, Natasha Dunn, Athena Honore, Heidi Nutters

Presenters: Rachel Hartofelis (ABAG/MTC), Jessica Fain (BCDC), Harriet Ross (DSC) Amy Hutzell (SCC), Valary Bloom (USFWS), Luisa Valiela (US EPA)

Members of the Public: Michael Germeraad (ABAG/MTC), Crissy Pickett