

# ACTION 23

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

Expand the focus of the *Plan Bay Area* update to incorporate a full range of issues related to water and San Francisco Bay. Incorporate water related issues in other regional planning efforts related to transportation, housing, and greenhouse gas reduction.

**TASK 23-1** Organize a regional water summit to help incorporate related water issues in regional planning efforts and *Plan Bay Area*, in support of Task 23-2. Coordinate staff of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the Association of Bay Area Governments to complete this task.

**BY 2016** Hold water summit.

**TASK 23-2** Incorporate water and San Francisco Bay related issues into the *Plan Bay Area* 2017 update. Consider ways to reduce per capita water use and optimize water recycling in the update, as well as issues such as landscape water use, water quality, stormwater management (low impact development and green infrastructure), and drought preparedness.

**BY 2017** Complete an update of *Plan Bay Area*.

**TASK 23-3** Evaluate opportunities to take similar action through state mandated *Sustainable Communities Strategies* in the Delta region, using the *Plan Bay Area* update process as a model.

**BY 2019** Complete evaluation.

### BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) reflects California's commitment to greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) and climate change adaptation. SB 375's requirement that metropolitan planning organizations develop "Sustainable Communities Strategies" is an important step forward in integrating GHG reduction efforts with transportation, housing, and land use planning in urban areas. The act falls short, however, of making a strong link to water and resource protection issues.

In the Estuary region, the Sustainable Communities Strategy has been incorporated in *Plan Bay Area*. *Plan Bay Area* is a long-range (through 2040) integrated transportation, land use and housing strategy for the region developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

The 2013 version of *Plan Bay Area* was jointly approved by the ABAG Executive Board and MTC, and also includes the 2040 *Regional Transportation Plan*. The update of *Plan Bay Area* is anticipated

in 2017, presenting an important opportunity for the region to demonstrate the benefits of integrating water issues into the SB 375 process.

Updates to Sustainable Communities Strategies for Delta metropolitan areas offer a similar opportunity for integration of water and resource protection issues. This CCMP action supports an integrated approach to the *Plan Bay Area* update. Integrated projects can provide multiple benefits: new transportation projects can be designed to improve stormwater management, and infill development to incorporate green infrastructure and use greywater and recycled water, for example. Infill projects can also contribute to efforts to reduce per capita water use and prepare for future droughts. Participants in the Climate Readiness Institute's 2015 workshop, "Bay Area Water in a Changing Climate" identified the inclusion of water issues in *Plan Bay Area* and other regional planning efforts as a priority action to address drought and long-term water uncertainties.

### OWNERS

SF Estuary Partnership/Association Bay Area Governments (Tasks 23-1, 23-2, 23-3, 23-4)

### COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Metropolitan Transportation Commission, SF Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Coordinating Committee, State Water Resources Control Board

### NEXUS

Actions 1, 9, 13, 16-22, 24, 26, 30

Goals 3, 4

Objectives g, h, i, k, l