

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

IC Members: Tom Mumley, Amy Hutzler, Amanda Bohl, Andrew Fremier, Arthur Feinstein, Ashley Cooper, Barbara Salzman, Beth Campbell, Brad Paul, Carin High, Carol Mahoney, Casey Arendt, Chris Barr, Debra Kustic, Elke Rank, Emily Loper, Eryan Borgnis Sloane, Greg Martinelli, Jane Lavelle, Jessica Martini-Lamb, John Andrew, Lorien Fono, Luisa Valiela, Mark Gold, Martin Perales, Pat Eklund, Sandra Scoggin, Sarah Azat, Steve Goldbeck, Stuart Siegel, Warner Chabot

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Alex Thomsen, Athena Honore, Carmen Zamora, Darcie Luce, Diana Fu, Heidi Nutters, James Muller, Josh Bradt, Karen McDowell, Leslie Perry, Natasha Dunn, Sarina Seaton

1. Welcome/Intros

Tom Mumley called the meeting to order. As this was a special meeting rather than a regularly scheduled IC meeting, there were no meeting minutes to approve.

2. 2016-2021 Estuary Blueprint: Final Status Report

Caitlin Sweeney provided a presentation on the 2016 Estuary Blueprint. The report included reporting on the final status on progress of tasks and actions, as well as a summary of highlights in several categories including: climate resilience/adaptation, habitat protection and restoration, water quality improvement, water management, and outreach/education/capacity building. The summary also highlighted challenge areas.

3. Draft 2022-2027 Estuary Blueprint

Darcie Luce presented an overview of the progress made on the 2022 Estuary Blueprint since the November 16 IC meeting, provided a summary of the 6-week public input period, reviewed the updated Blueprint against the Guiding Principles, walked through the draft Blueprint, and covered key dates and next steps.

Public comment was received from Andy Cohen who referenced a public comment letter, and a discussion ensued regarding preventing invasive species introductions through ballast water discharge. Mr. Cohen urged the IC to include actions in the Blueprint to direct EPA to adopt discharge standards. In response to concerns specifically involving ballast water, staff recommended a minor revision to Task 15.1 (to maintain, expand, and improve invasive species prevention programs) to specifically mention ballast water as a key vector to be addressed. The IC did not recommend any further revisions to the Blueprint on the topic of invasive species/ballast water.

A question was posed by Sara Azat regarding Task 15.7 and staff agreed to work offline with Sara/NOAA to further refine that task.

Sara Azat questioned the milestone for eelgrass restoration. Staff responded that the milestone was developed in alignment with the Subtidal Habitat Goals Report and eelgrass restoration practitioners based on an earlier habitat suitability model, but could be adjusted.

Andy Cohen provided further comment regarding the invasive species task and ballast water. Tom offered to bring the matter back to the Steering Committee for further discussion.

Several IC members expressed their support for the Draft Blueprint and commended staff and the Steering Committee for all their work.

Darcie asked for any additional IC comments on the Blueprint to be provided by February 1, and outlined the next steps including a Steering Committee meeting on February 15, possible approval of the Blueprint at the March 16th IC meeting, and Executive Council and U.S. EPA approvals following IC approval in the April-July timeframe.

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.