

San Francisco Estuary Partnership  
Implementation Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Attendees:**

**IC Members:** Tom Mumley, Adrian Covert, Alyson Aquino, Amanda Bohl, Arthur Feinstein, Ashley Cooper, Barbara Salzman, Beth Campbell, Brad Paul, Campbell Ingram, Carin High, Carol Mahoney, Casey Arndt, Chris Barr, Eryan Borgnis Sloane, Greg Martinelli, Jane Lavelle, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Kristen Isom, Letitia Grenier, Lorien Fono, Luisa Valiela, Mark Gold, Moira McEnespy, Sandra Scoggin, 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, Liz Juvera, Natasha Dunn, Sarina Seaton

**1. Welcome/Intros**

Chair Tom Mumley called the meeting to order.

**2. Approve 11/16/21 and 1/25/22 Meeting Summaries (Action)**

**Tom:** As January was a special meeting of the IC, we did not conduct our usual business, so we have two meeting summaries to approve today, from the November 16 2021 meeting as well as the January 25 2022 meeting. We will have separate actions for each summary.

Motion to Approve 11/16/21 Meeting Summary by Amanda Bohl, seconded by Adrien Covert.  
Motion carried.

**Tom:** Regarding the January 25th meeting summary, I received written notification from Andy Cohen on Monday regarding two sections of the meeting summary. First, Mr. Cohen stated that the sentence in the summary that states "Mr. Cohen urged the IC to include actions in the Blueprint to direct EPA to adopt discharge standards" is incorrect and that, rather than directing EPA, Mr. Cohen and the signatories of the public input letter asked for an action "urging SFEP members" to persuade the EPA. Although the result is the same either way the suggested language is phrased, in the spirit of accurately capturing the wording of Mr. Cohen's statement, I suggest revising the meeting summary sentence in question to state instead "Mr. Cohen urged the IC to include actions in the Blueprint to direct Estuary Partners to use all available means to persuade EPA to adopt discharge requirements." Mr. Cohen also suggested deleting the sentence in the meeting summary that states "The IC did not recommend any further revisions to the Blueprint on the topic of invasive species/ballast water." Mr. Cohen suggested that as the Blueprint was not agendaized as an action item, the IC could not have taken any action on the item. However, the IC does not have to have an item agendaized for action to provide direction to staff. The item was scheduled for information and discussion and IC members did not recommend any further revisions on that topic. I suggest the summary remain as written.

Tom asked for a motion to approve the January 25 meeting summary with the edit correcting the wording of Mr. Cohen's statement.

Motion to Approve 1/25/22 Meeting Summary by Carol Mahoney, seconded by Lorien Fono.  
Motion carried.

### 3. Director's Report

Caitlin directed the attendees to Attachment 3, the Director's Report. Caitlin noted the departure of Amy Hutzler from the IC due to her appointment as the Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy and welcomed Moira McEnespy as Amy's replacement as the primary representative for the SCC on the IC.

### 4. 2022-2027 Estuary Blueprint Approval (Action)

Darcie provided a presentation on the Final Draft 2022 Estuary Blueprint, covering:

- Updates and revisions since the January IC meeting
- The public input process and results
- The overall Blueprint Update process and timeline
- The full document structure
- Next steps

Darcie presented the staff recommendation that the Implementation Committee approve the Final Draft 2022 Estuary Blueprint, allowing for minor additional refinements as necessary.

Discussion Ensued:

**Carol:** *Question for Luisa - if the legislature takes action that impairs our ability to address an action, can we change course?*

**Luisa:** *Generically or specific actions?*

**Carol:** *Like freshwater flows or regulations that come out. We may want to tweak an action. Curious about process.*

**Luisa:** *What is being described wouldn't trigger an event where we would have to change our actions. Since it is every 5 years. We are always able to pivot.*

**Caitlin:** *Agreed. The critical aspect is the intent of the action, but the Blueprint remains strategic as things change over time.*

**Tom:** *Balancing aspirations and practicalities. Have had specific actions and tasks that didn't get implemented. On our own initiative we can do whatever we want to modify. We can update the Blueprint whenever we want.*

**Stuart:** *A couple of suggested adjustments to the document that would be beneficial. Table partners not in table of contents. Table K. Title is not what the content is. Two Table A's, A & B. Change the name of the table. Make a Section Heading equal to the action. Change the footer so it matches.*

**Barbara:** Delete emergent wetlands as primary habitat for canvasbacks.

Public Comment:

**Andrew Cohen:** Want to address the ballast water issue. Earlier versions of the CCMP/Blueprint called to adopt stringent regulations. The format and approach of the Blueprint has changed. But at no point did the EPA restrict what the IC can put into the Blueprint. If you wanted to put in a strong statement it can be done. 2018 congress passed an amendment to the clean water act only the EPA can set standards. All up to EPA. The EPA is under a court order to establish stringent regulations to obey the court order. 30 organizations have asked for a strong statement to be included in the Blueprint. Wording can be flexible. Statement that SFEP pushes forward EPA. Focus on substance.

**Mark Holmes:** Here to second Andy's suggestion. To put in some language calling for urgent action addressing this significant problem. Time to weigh in with many other voices and let the EPA & Federal Gov't know that people are watching.

**Tom:** The recommendation is to approve the Blueprint as provided to the IC. Floor is open to discuss the recommendation.

**Stuart:** I'd like to see a little more specificity with regard to the ballast water task. Incredibly broad and vague the way it's worded right now.

**Arthur:** Good to see the language in the task. Would be awkward as an EPA entity to call out EPA.

**Luisa:** We work collaboratively.

**Arthur:** The ballast water issue has been addressed.

**Barbara:** Voice acceptance of the current language. Gives flexibility to take more intense action should there be reason to do that in the future. Supports the current language

**Tom:** I share what was just said and have stated directly to Andy the concern of ballast water. It's a critical issue. A super high priority. We did have strong language and we succeeded to the extent where we had state action. Two things are changed. We changed the approach of the blueprint to reflect more of a collaborative spirit. Doesn't mean we can't but it's a reflection of how things have changed. We call out ballast water.

Action to approve the Final Draft 2022 Estuary Blueprint:

Motion to approve the Final Draft 2022 Estuary Blueprint by Arthur Feinstein, Seconded by Lorien Fono.

**Tom:** Reminder that the goal of the IC is consensus but can rely on majority vote if needed.

**Mark Holmes:** What more can we do? Want to remind all of the significance of the governmental documents and we can take those statements. Going back to the goals documents. For us to be able to point to those statements. Agencies are not as aware of the power of those statements. The IC document is one of those documents. Recognize that.

Tom called for a vote on the motion to approve the Final Draft 2022 Estuary Blueprint.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**5. FY 23 Draft Budget and Workplan**

Caitlin provided a presentation on the Draft FY 23 Budget & Work Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding coming to SFEP. Caitlin then provided an overview of the various sources of new/increased funding for Estuary Blueprint implementation.

*Discussion ensued regarding clarification on the various sources of possible funding.*

**6. Select Chair and Vice Chair (Action)**

Tom Mumley was nominated for Chair with Amanda Bohl as Vice Chair for the next two years.

Motion to approve Tom as Chair and Amanda as Vice Chair by Luisa Valiela, seconded by Warner Chabot.

Motion carried unanimously.

**7. IC Member Announcements**

**Brad:** Add to good news of all funding. Next week we welcome new CFO for ABAG/MTC, Derek Hansel.

**Amanda:** At the March 28<sup>th</sup> DPICC meeting Caitlin will be presenting the Blueprint.

**Tom:** The proposed Basin Plan amendment focusing on climate change is underway.

**8. Meeting Road Map**

Tom reviewed the confirmed and potential agenda items for the next meeting to be held on May 18, 2022.

**9. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at Noon.