



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 18, 2022

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### 2022 San Francisco Estuary Blueprint COMPLETE!



The Final 2022 Estuary Blueprint has been approved by both the Implementation Committee and the Executive Council and is currently undergoing review by the US EPA! This document captures the hard work and thoughtful consideration of hundreds of stakeholders over the past two years through countless online meetings, emails, and conversations. Congratulations to the many IC members who joined these meetings, particularly the Blueprint Steering Committee!

The 2022 Estuary Blueprint will lead the region through the next five years to achieve tangible progress toward a healthy and resilient Estuary by 2050. In many cases, implementation is already underway, but will kick into high

gear later this year. In the meantime, the next step is to publicize the document and celebrate this great milestone. As the implementation body of the Blueprint, the IC has an essential role to play in improving visibility of the plan and invigorating new and existing partners to champion its Actions and Tasks. IC members will have the chance to assist with publicizing the final plan and promoting its release when the updated Blueprint website is finished this summer.

Link to final document is here: <https://www.sfestuary.org/estuary-blueprint-2022-update/>

Before we turn to implementation of the 25 Actions, however, we plan to celebrate! Stay tuned for an announcement of an in-person event and celebration before the end of the summer.

Where will the Blueprint take YOU?

[#partnershipinaction](#)

## Coastal Conservancy Strategic Planning Process

The Coastal Conservancy is seeking input that will not only help update their five-year strategic plan, but also guide investment of anticipated Coastal Resilience funds in FY22/23. Please attend the May 25th input session to share your ideas; they are particularly interested in input related to these three topics: (1) What would you like the SCC to address that is not already on their radar? (2) What support is desired other than funds, e.g., specific types of technical assistance? (3) How can SCC continue to support social equity through grant-making or other means? A link to register for the “Bay Area” input session on May 25, noon-1:00pm, can be found here:

[Strategic Plan – California State Coastal Conservancy.](#)

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

### Urban Greening Bay Area

SFEP closed the Urban Greening Bay Area project this spring, submitting its final report to the EPA’s San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund.



*Green Stormwater Infrastructure Installed on Chynoweth Ave, San Jose*

This \$1.73M project successfully expanded regional capacity for widespread, effective green stormwater infrastructure through improved planning and communications; design resources to minimize costs; construction support for five retrofit projects; and development of an interactive GIS-based green infrastructure project database for regional tracking. This collaborative effort involved many participating partners including US EPA Region 9, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, Contra Costa County, and the Cities of Richmond, Oakland, San Jose, San Mateo, and Sunnyvale.

Project deliverables and additional information can be found on the SFEP Project webpage:

<https://www.sfestuary.org/urban-greening-bay-area/>.



*Before and After of GSI Retrofit in San Mateo Residential Neighborhood Intersection*

## NEW FUNDING

### Clean Water State Revolving Fund - Oro Loma Horizontal Levee (\$1,000,000)

A new phase of research is beginning at the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee, a living laboratory at the Oro Loma Sanitary District (OLSD) in San Lorenzo. SFEP is managing a new \$1 million funding award from the State Water Resources Control Board through the State Revolving Fund, including pass-through to OLSD to redesign of a portion of the existing site to test more efficient designs and treatment of reverse osmosis concentrate (ROC). The results of this new phase of research, led by UC Berkeley with funding support from Valley Water, will help optimize future designs (replicability, treatment capacity, and cost-effectiveness) for other horizontal levee projects in the region and beyond.

### 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant - Petaluma River Watershed: Land Resilience Partnership (\$5,000,000)

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership received an award for \$5 million to partner with Daily Acts to implement The Petaluma River Watershed: Land Resilience Partnership (PRWLRP). The PRWLRP will employ the [Land Resilience Partnership Water Toolkit](#) model to directly address the drought impacts and achieve the water reductions critically important to the greater Petaluma area. This community-based drought resilience and response model provides multiple benefits including water use reduction, fire resilience, flood reduction, habitat and urban shade.

The PRWLRP will 1) conduct a geospatial analysis of the Petaluma River Watershed in the urbanized Petaluma area 2) identify suitable locations for small-scale implementation projects (also referred to as interventions) to achieve the benefits listed above, and 3) provide technical assistance on 150 properties and implement interventions identified in the LRP Water Toolkit on 75 properties. These interventions will provide multiple benefits, in addition to those addressing the drought, that respond to the needs identified in the community needs assessment completed by Daily Acts and Sonoma Ecology Center in Petaluma as part of the San Francisco Bay Area Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program, a grant funded program managed by SFEP.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Knee Deep Times

The [April issue](#) of the newest regional digital magazine from the Estuary News Group, KneeDeep Times, highlights stories about managing shorelines, atmospheric rivers, and springing forward with newborn moths and seals. This newsletter also features the groundbreaking of San Jose's new shoreline levee and restored habitats.

I hope you didn't miss an earlier [story on horizontal levees](#), featuring several projects SFEP is working on, with quotes from SFEP's Josh Bradt and Heidi Nutters.

KneeDeep Times is now able to accept donations! Please consider supporting journalism at the frontiers of climate resilience through a [tax-deductible donation](#).

### Dockside: A Podcast



SFEP's Clean Vessel Act team has begun a new outreach & education initiative using the power of podcasts! Dockside is an educational podcast helps boaters save and enjoy the waters they love by sharing clean and safe boating practices.

This podcast is produced in conjunction with California State Parks, the California Coastal Commission, and covers topics from marina management, oil spills, sewage pollution, and more!

Dockside is available on all major podcast platforms, including Apple, Spotify, and Audible/Amazon Music.

## Partnership in the News



[Episode 73](#) of “OpenRoad with Doug McConnell” aired on NBC on March 24. The episode was titled “Saving San Francisco Bay” and focused on projects and programs funding by Measure AA.

SFEP’s Heidi Nutters is featured in the episode in a section highlighting the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program.

SFEP’s Josh Bradt spoke with NPR about the importance of green infrastructure for stormwater management. Listen to his interview on [All Things Considered](#).



## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT/PARTNER NEWS

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