

SAN
FRANCISCO
**Estuary
Blueprint**

2022



San Francisco
**ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP**

PROGRESS REPORT 2

3/15/2023

Welcome to the March 2023 progress report of the 2022 Estuary Blueprint.

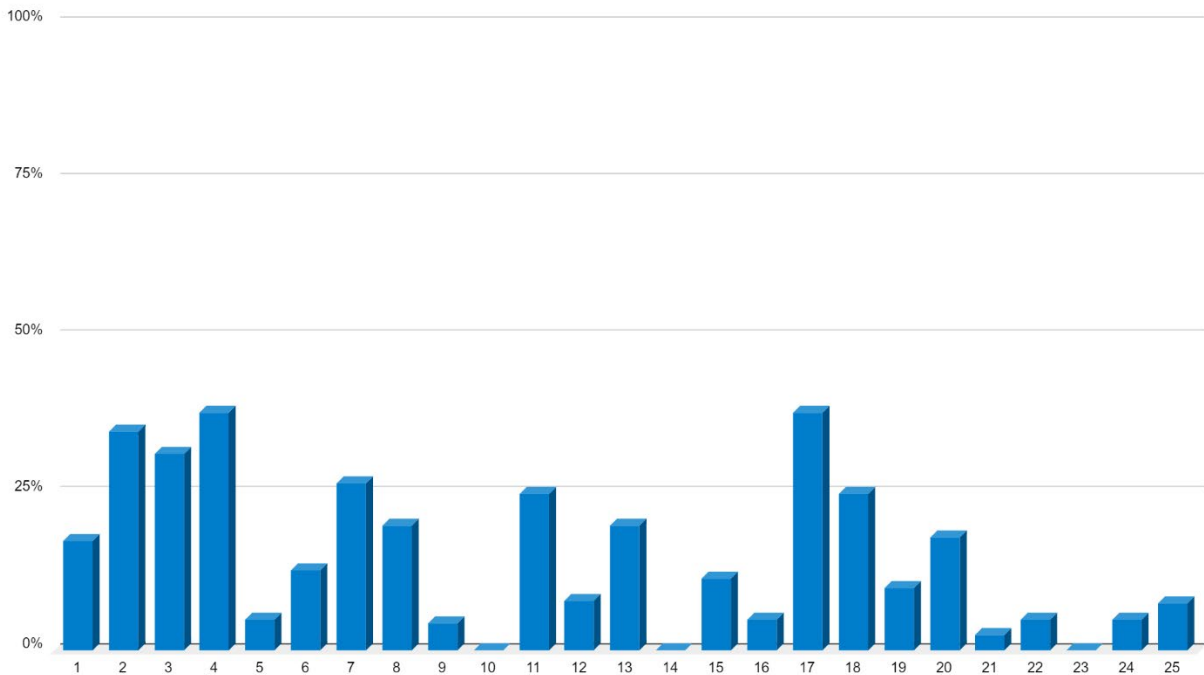
This report shares progress toward completion of the 25 Blueprint actions and tracking status for the 126 Blueprint tasks, and highlights successes and significant progress made in implementing the Blueprint, including the completion of three tasks.

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ACTION PROGRESS

Percent Complete by Action



With the most recent tracking completed, almost all 25 Actions are showing some progress. Tasks are tracked at 10% increments; therefore, any Task with less than 10% progress will be represented here as 0%.

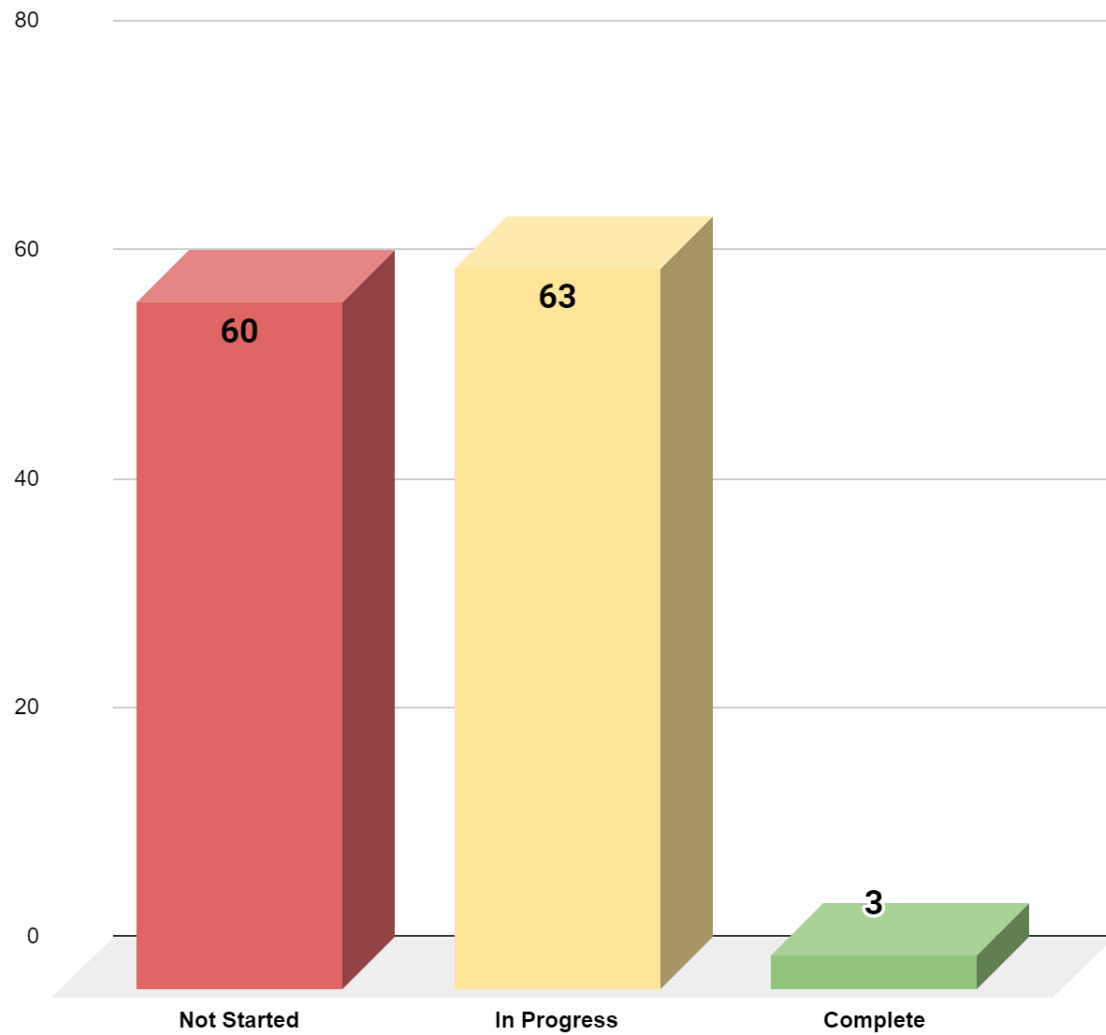
Keeping in mind that there isn't a uniform number of tasks per Action, this graph is most useful for showing which Actions are off to a strong start and which appear to have made minimal to date; namely, Actions 10 (Tidal Marsh), 14 (Creeks), and 23 (Trash). At this early stage, this may not be significant. Over time, however, these Actions may warrant closer attention by the Steering Committee, depending on the reasons behind the low number.

Once additional tracking periods have been completed, this graph will be replaced with a visualization that more accurately compares progress between Actions.

TASK PROGRESS

Tasks by Status

Indicates task status across all actions



At the task level, we are excited to report early successes in the form of three completed tasks (see below). Approximately half of the remaining tasks have started.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS: COMPLETED TASKS

Action 7: Carbon Management

Decrease carbon emissions and subsidence in the Delta and increase carbon sequestration on natural and agricultural lands.

TASK 7- 2

Continue to conduct applied research to better understand the processes of carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions generated from wetlands and open water systems in the Bay-Delta. Work within reference systems and utilize scenario testing to inform management and restoration approaches that can be applied at larger scales. Quantify the greenhouse gas fluxes from different types of wetlands and different management regimes.

MILESTONE

One to three technical reports on the carbon implications of land management and wetland restoration activities in the Delta and/or Bay.

UPDATE

2023 paper titled "[Carbon Sequestration and Subsidence Reversal in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Bay: Management Opportunities for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation](#)" meets the intent of this milestone.

Milestone complete,

although tracking will continue to ensure subsequent papers are captured for this task.

PERCENT COMPLETED - 100%

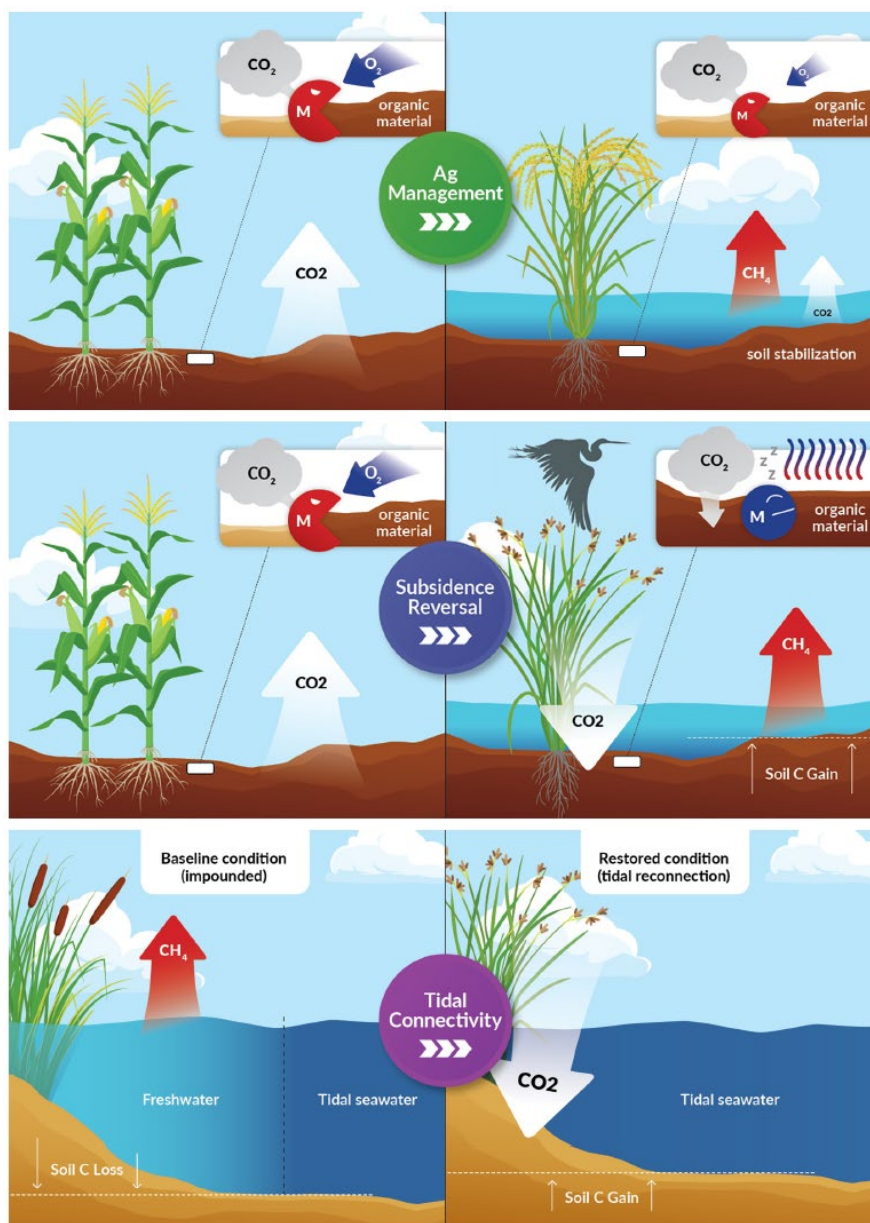


Figure from paper: Three interventions, including (A) agricultural hydrologic management via flooding, such as in rice agriculture, (B) impounded wetland construction to reverse subsidence, and (C) tidal connectivity restored or maintained. M = microbial activity. Source and credit: Figures adapted from Stern et al. (2022). Illustrated by Vincent Pascual, California Office of State Publishing.

Action 11: Transition Zones

Protect, restore, and enhance estuarine-upland transition zones and adjacent upland ecosystems.

TASK 11-3

Determine an approach for maintaining an updated estuarine-upland transition zone mapping inventory over time. Integrate the approach into long-term monitoring by the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). Identify opportunities to coordinate with the Delta Adapts and Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment analyses.

MILESTONE

Standard Operating Procedures for completing periodic mapping of Bay transition zones.

UPDATE

The SOP for transition zone mapping has been posted on the [WRMP website](#) and this milestone is complete.

PERCENT COMPLETED - 100%



Action 17: Water Conservation

Reduce water use around the Estuary.

TASK 17-5

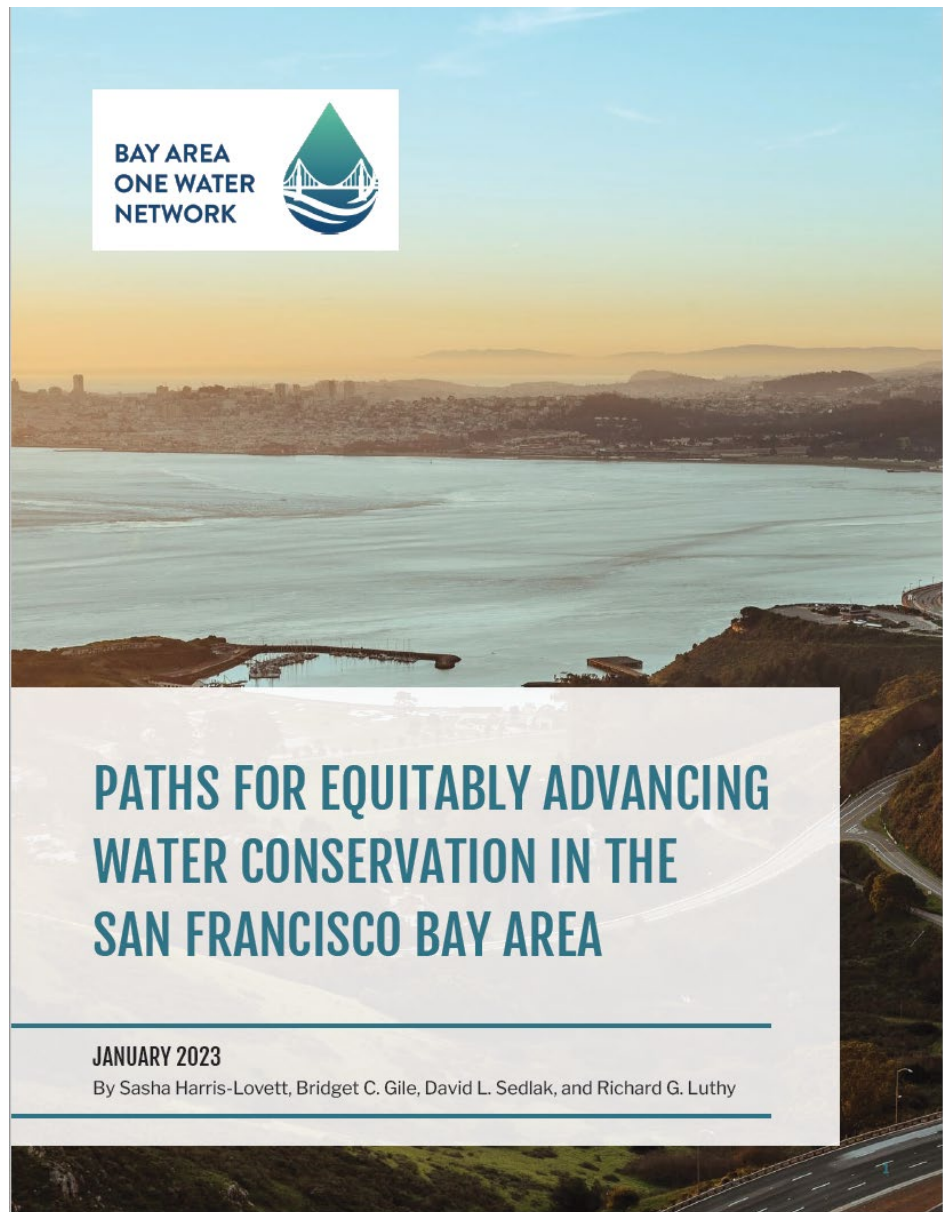
Convene Bay Area water and wastewater agencies to discuss regional water conservation targets, opportunities, and limitations, resulting in a synthesis report.

MILESTONE

One workshop held with Estuary stakeholders, resulting in a synthesis report.

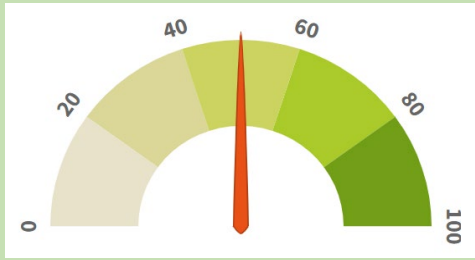
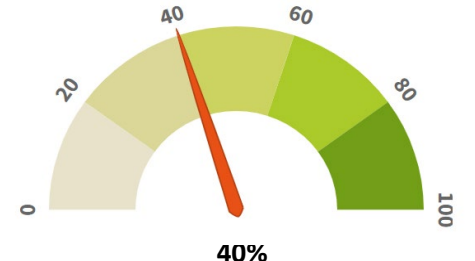
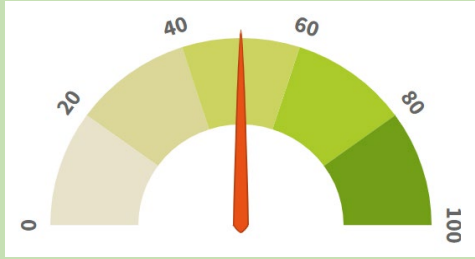
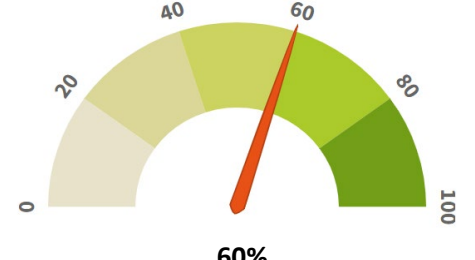
UPDATE

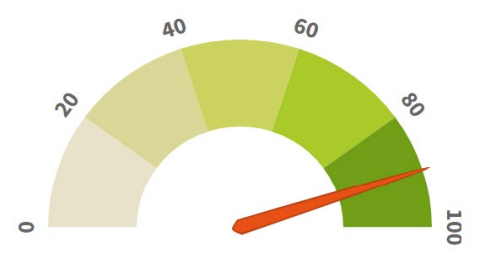
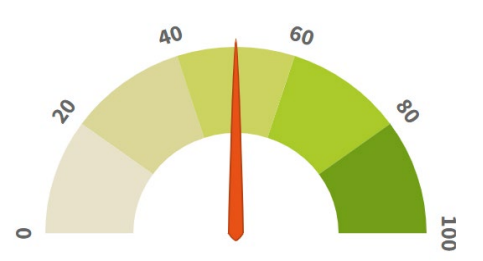
The workshop was held by Bay Area One Water Network (BAOWN) with Bay Area water agencies June 28-29, 2022. A draft version of the report was sent out to workshop participants in October 2022; the final report was released in January 2023 and is posted on the [Bay Area One Water Network website](#).



PERCENT COMPLETED - 100%

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS: SIGNIFICANT UPDATES

Task Number	Task Description	Milestone	Update	Percent Complete
Task 1-2	Complete and implement Delta Adapts to advance climate adaptation in the upper Estuary that supports protection of the Estuary's resources and its communities.	Delta Adapts Adaptation Strategy.	Delta Stewardship Council staff are planning to release the public draft Adaptation Strategy in the fall of this year and the final document early next year.	 <p>50%</p>
Task 1-8	Determine potential influence of rising sea level on groundwater elevations (and contaminated sites) within counties using an interpolated groundwater model based on empirical measurements.	Groundwater data model for nine counties.	Pathways Climate Institute LLC and the San Francisco Estuary Institute collaborated with city and county partners to analyze and map data for four counties. The resulting report, GIS data, and a story map were released by SFEI: https://www.sfei.org/projects/shallow-groundwater-response-sea-level-rise	 <p>40%</p>
Task 3-3	Revise or create regulatory policies, guidelines, or regulations to accelerate natural and nature-based adaptation projects consistent with the overall protection of the health of the Estuary (such as San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission's creation of new sediment management policies, revision of the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's revised sediment reuse and climate change policies, the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan revised ecosystem guidelines, or creation of new programmatic permitting approaches).	Three new or revised policies, guidelines, or regulations to facilitate natural or nature-based adaptation projects.	The SF Bay Regional Water Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment on Climate Change and Aquatic Habitat Protection, Management, and Restoration. Also there are several emerging regulatory streamlining tools including the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife's Restoration Management Permit, the State Water Board's Statewide Restoration General Order, and US Fish and Wildlife Service's Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion.	 <p>50%</p>
Task 7-4	Advance research on submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and its potential for carbon management in the Estuary, and develop recommendations on how to better protect, plan for, and manage existing SAV habitats and restoration efforts to maximize the potential of native SAV to provide sustained carbon storage.	Reported results and initial recommendations from at least one project gathering site-based carbon sediment core data in or adjacent to eelgrass habitat.	Estuary & Ocean Science Center (SFSU) has received funding to collect blue carbon samples from within restored eelgrass, natural eelgrass, and mudflat areas, using four trios of sampling sites located throughout the estuary for comparison. The samples will be processed this spring and summer and preliminary results are expected to be available by late 2023.	 <p>60%</p>

Task 17-3	<p>Improve Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) compliance by providing MWELO and regenerative landscape trainings, and an MWELO Toolkit to municipal staff throughout the Estuary and other regions that obtain water from the Estuary or its watersheds.</p>	<p>20 regenerative landscape and MWELO trainings throughout the Estuary and its watersheds.</p>	<p>ReScapeCA has held 18 trainings, webinars, workshops, roundtables, and presentations in the past year, focusing on different aspects of regenerative landscaping. All events include an orientation to MWELO.</p>	 <p>90%</p>
Task 20-3	<p>Undertake studies in the Estuary related to developing and evaluating alternatives for nutrient management actions, including initial considerations of costs and environmental effects.</p>	<p>Evaluation of opportunities completed to manage nutrient loading via nature-based solutions and recycled water.</p>	<p>The BACWA-funded study on nature-based solutions for nutrient management is nearly complete. Additional funding has been identified to continue to work with wastewater treatment plants around the region on nutrient removal potential using nature-based approaches.</p>	 <p>50%</p>