SAN FRANCISCO
# Estuary Blueprint

2022

San Francisco ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

# PROGRESS REPORT 3

## August 9, 2023

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

This report shares progress toward completion of the 25 Blueprint actions including current status of 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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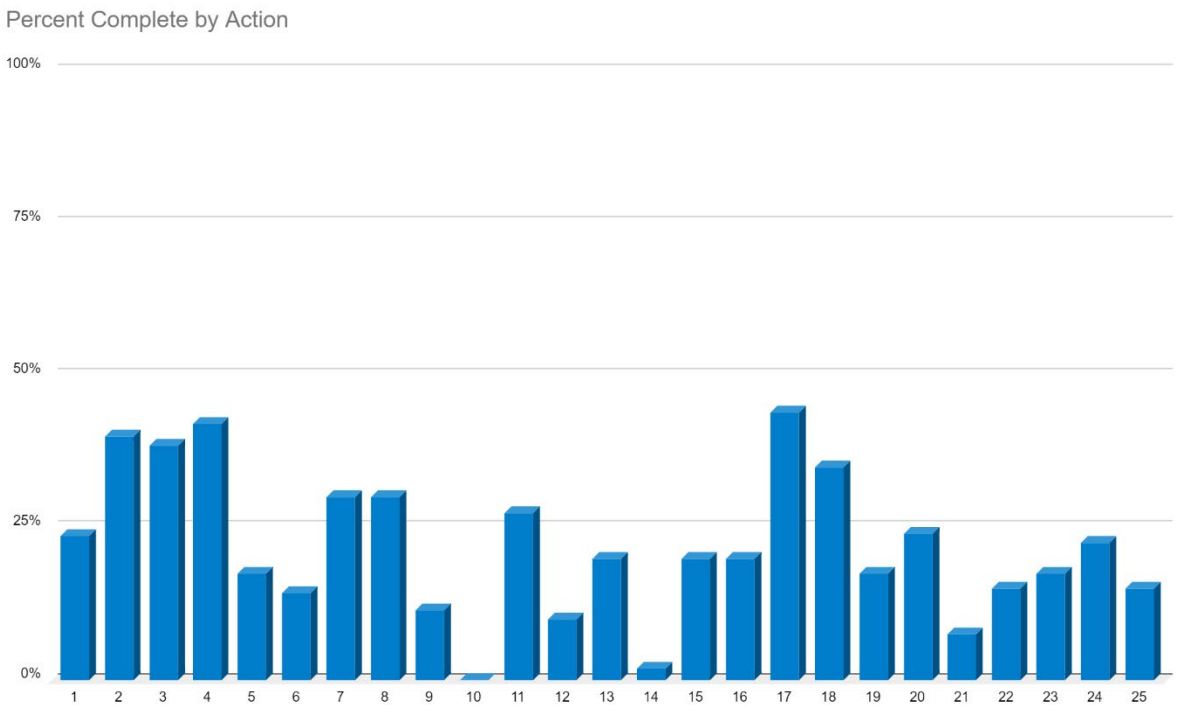
# ACTION PROGRESS



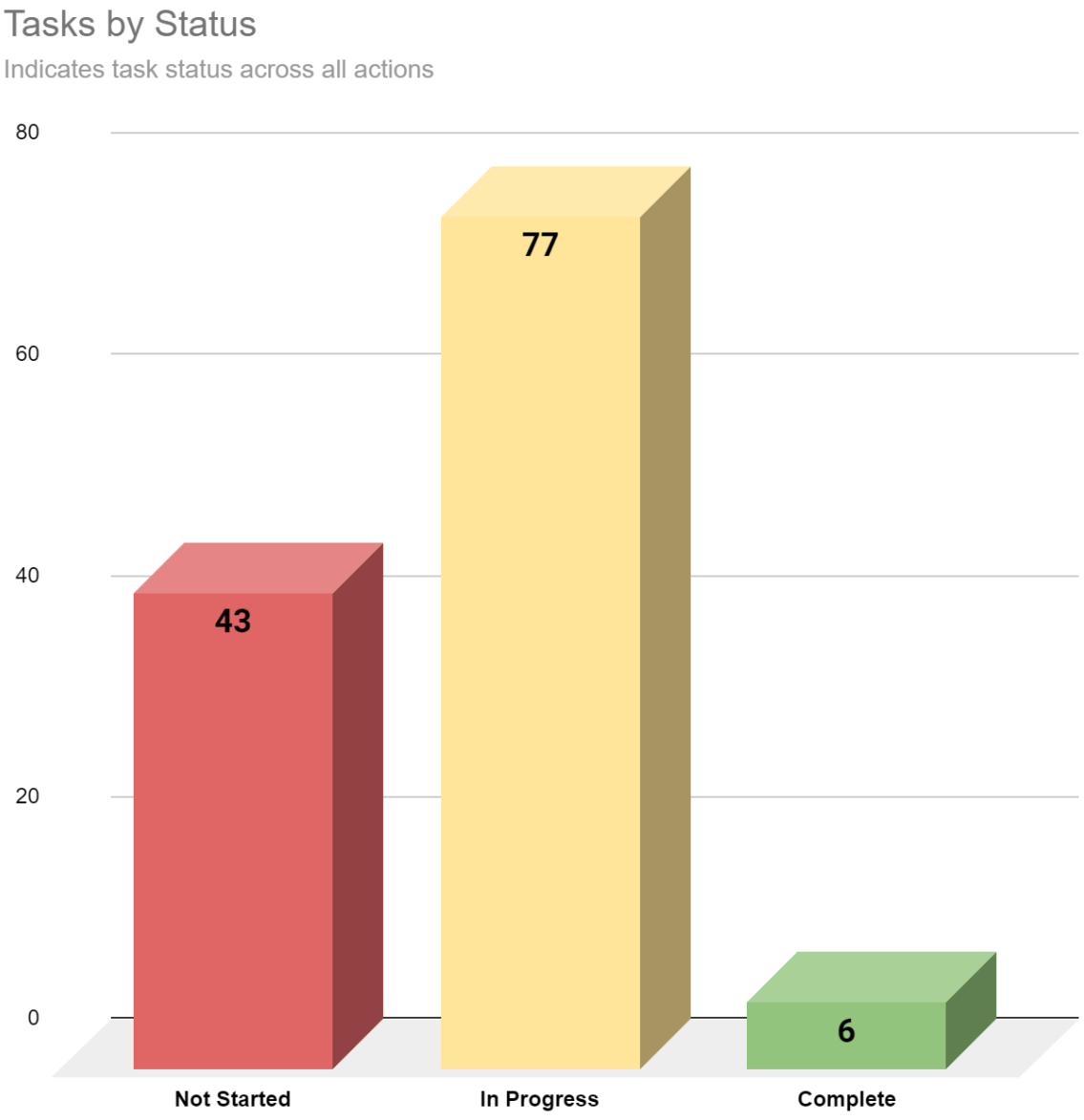

The 2022 Estuary Blueprint was released at the end of July 2022, so the above graph represents the first year of progress on Blueprint implementation. Already, most Actions are showing substantial progress overall and are on track for a five-year implementation timeframe.

Tasks are tracked at 10% increments; therefore, any Action with less than 10% progress on each Task will be represented here as 0%. For instance, Action 10 (Tidal Marsh) appears to be at 0 but is making progress: over 1,000 acres of tidal marsh have been restored in the past year. However, this Action represents an ambitious, if feasible, vision for the Estuary, and the milestones for each Task are high; therefore, the progress reported to date did not reach the 10% threshold. As some large restoration projects are completed over the next few years, this Action's progress is expected to jump ahead.

Other Actions with a number of challenging tasks, such as Action 14, are being brought to the Blueprint Steering Committee for assistance and recommendations. Some of these will likely be brought to the IC at future meetings.

As a reminder, this graph is most useful for showing which Actions are off to a strong start, since the Actions do not have a uniform number of Tasks. In future reports, this graph will be replaced with a visualization that more accurately reflects progress between Actions.

# TASK PROGRESS




Approximately two-thirds of the tasks have started, including the six tasks that have been completed. Of the 43 tasks that are listed here as “not started,” most are, in fact, under review and development. This includes the challenging tasks that staff are actively seeking to advance by pursuing funding sources and reaching out to potential project partners among other activities. In addition, some tasks that are listed as “not started” make progress in large increments, such as those that implement biennial reports or conferences.

# PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS: COMPLETED TASKS

## Action 3: Adaptation Planning

Overcome challenges to accelerate implementation of climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies.

### TASK 3-6

Increase funding for adaptation planning and implementation that values long-term protection of habitats and communities.

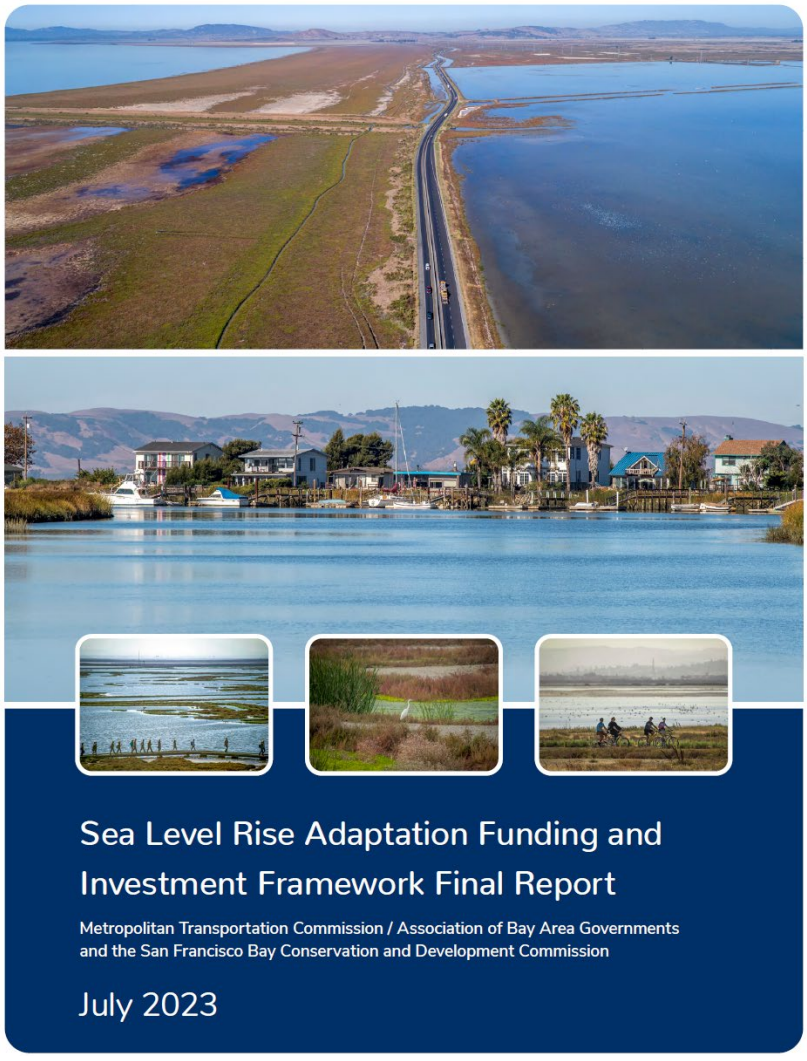
**MILESTONE**

A sea level rise adaptation funding and investment framework for the San Francisco Bay Area.

**UPDATE**

In July, MTC, in partnership with ABAG and BCDC, released the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Funding and Investment Framework. The agencies developed a funding analysis that can inform local and regional efforts to adapt to sea level rise. The resources include an interactive map-based Shoreline Project Inventory and a final report. As covered in several regional newspapers, the projected total regional cost estimate for sea level rise adaptation through 2050 is $110 billion.

This task was presented to the IC at the May 17 meeting.




**PERCENT COMPLETED – 100%**

# Action 16: Freshwater Flows

Improve the timing, amount, and duration of freshwater flows critical to Estuary health.

## TASK 16-3

Integrate Tribal priorities regarding improvements to freshwater flows, such as pursuing legal personhood for traditional waterways and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into water management and decision-making for tributaries of the San Francisco Estuary. Support Tribes in developing capacity to co-manage or lead freshwater flows resources management.


**MILESTONE**

At least one convening of Tribes and Tribal organizations to review state data and plans, including opportunities for Tribe-to-Tribe conversations, in preparation for meeting with state agencies at the Tribal Water Summit or similar event.

**UPDATE**

At the Tribal Water Summit held on April 1-3 in Sacramento, the California Indian Environmental Alliance and Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians held a workshop in collaboration with Mono Lake Kutzadika's Tribe, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, and San Francisco Baykeeper to discuss water quality and water quantity in the San Francisco Estuary and its headwaters. As part of this workshop, panel leaders discussed the Estuary Blueprint's connection to protection of water quality, improvement in water quantity, and Tribal Beneficial Uses. This task completion was highlighted in the June Estuary Blueprint e-newsletter.

**PERCENT COMPLETED - 100%**

# Action 18: Recycled Water

Expand the use of recycled water.

## TASK 18-2

Collaborate with the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies' Recycled Water Committee stakeholders and others to identify opportunities to expand incorporation of recycled water in local and regional water resources planning processes.

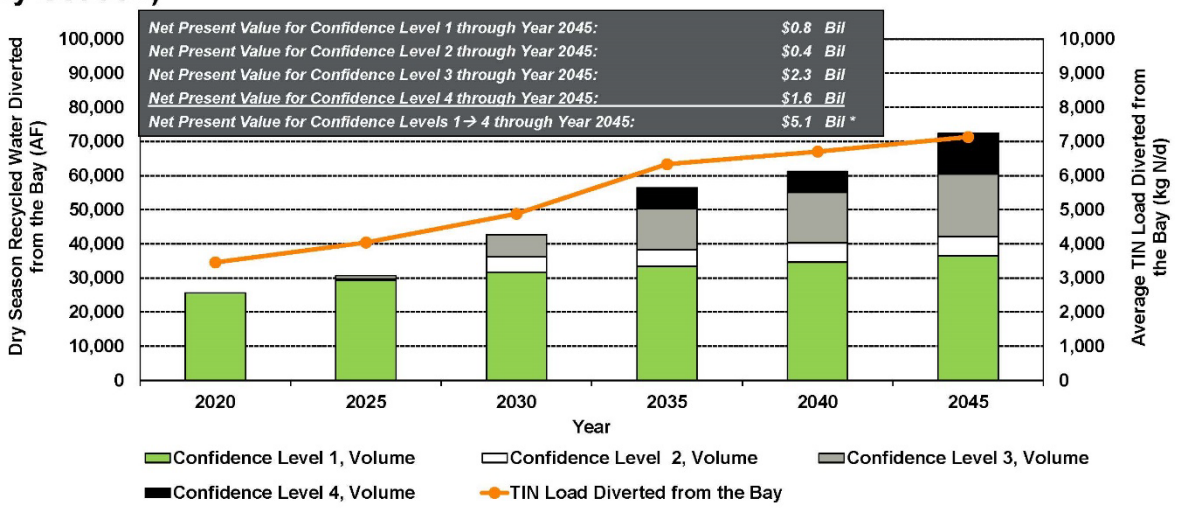
**MILESTONE**

Bay Area Clean Water Agencies Recycled Water Study finalized.

**UPDATE**

In June, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) finalized a report evaluating the regional potential for nutrient discharge reduction through water recycling. The report identifies a range of recycled water projects from 37 participating Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) that will increase recycled water volume and reduce nutrient loading into the Bay.

**DRAFT Recycled Water Flows Diverted from Bay Projected into the Future (Dry Season)**

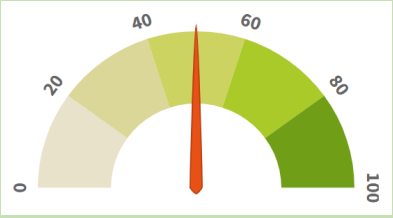
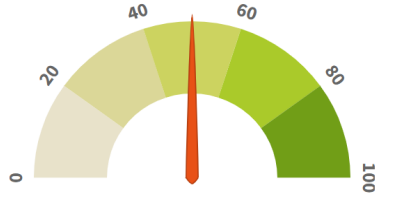
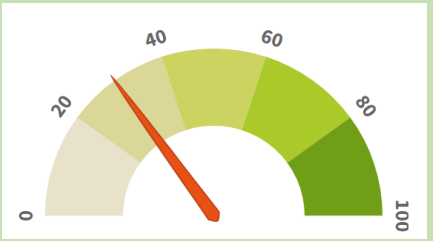


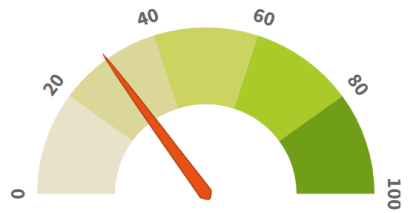
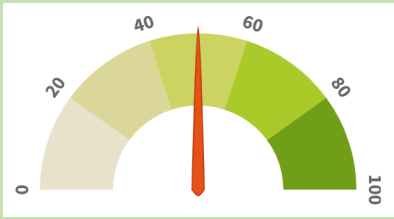
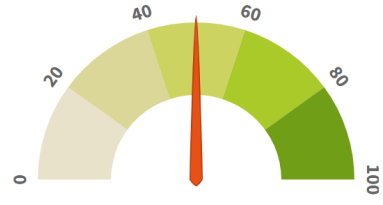

Confidence level = level of confidence in the values provided. 1 = includes projects that are already in place and/or currently budgeted; 2 = includes projects that are in master planning stages; 3 = includes projects that are conceptual, and 4 = includes projects that are conceptual in nature and require agreements across multiple jurisdictions/agencies.
* The total net present value might vary from the sum of the listed confidence levels due to rounding.

For Perspective: the Current Discharge Flows to the Bay are Approximately 340 mgd (about 14% of Effluent is Currently Recycled)

**PERCENT COMPLETED - 100%**

## PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS: SIGNIFICANT UPDATES

| Task Number | Task Description | Milestone | Update | Percent Complete |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 3-5 | Further integrate resilience and natural resource protection into Plan Bay Area by restructuring Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments' Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Program to advance natural and nature-based strategies for climate resilience. | Restructured Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments' Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Program. | Draft PCA refresh framework includes a potential new desgnation for Climate Adaptation, with potential metrics and data identified. |  50% |
| Task 6-2 | Pilot shallow water placement of sediment in restoration projects and conduct pre- and post-placement modeling and monitoring such that the regulatory agencies can evaluate the benefits and impacts | 2016 Water Resources Development Act Resilient San Francisco Bay Strategic Placement Project and associated monitoring completed. | The Redwood City Port dredging project is the pilot project for this task; all permitting is complete and implementation is expected later this year. |  50% |
| Task 6-4 | Improve coordination of dredged sediment supply with demand to reduce sediment disposal and increase beneficial reuse by convening a long-term working group that includes restoration community practitioners, dredgers, and regulators. This group will coordinate a regional approach and develop a programmatic roadmap for beneficial reuse opportunities and increase the use of SediMatch by dredgers and restoration practitioners. | One to two meetings of a long-term working group convened and one to three workshops held with small dredgers. | The Regional Dredge Material Management Plan group is functioning as this long-term working group and has convened several times. |  30% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 6-5 | Secure federal and non-federal (state and local) long-term funding sources for the incremental cost of beneficial reuse of dredged sediment beyond the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers least cost alternatives (Federal Standard), including costs to deliver and place sediment at beneficial reuse projects on the Estuary's shoreline. | Long-term funding program, cost-shared with federal and non-federal funds, established for the incremental cost of beneficial reuse of dredged sediment for projects across the Estuary. | Funding directed to the San Francisco District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for beneficial reuse, as well as funding secured through the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for Montezuma Wetlands, significantly advances short-term funding strategies while a longer term funding plan is being developed. |  **30%** |
| Task 9-1 | Determine habitat suitability for native eelgrass in context with potential future climate changes in San Francisco Bay. Learn, respond, and adapt strategies to account for natural variability and climate change stressors. | Habitat Suitability Model for Eelgrass in San Francisco Bay. | Model development is underway and a release of significant products is expected later this year. |  **50%** |
| Task 15-2 | Increase early detection, monitoring, and rapid response programs by identifying additional funding sources and creating a Rapid Response Fund. Monitoring includes: 1) assessing and mapping Estuary-wide distribution of key invasive species; and 2) increasing citizen scientist monitoring through Calflora, iNaturalist, and other similar websites. | Rapid response fund established, and three to four funding sources identified for monitoring and/or mapping. | A white paper, "Rapid Response to Invasive Species: Federal Agency Roles," has been released by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, the ANS Task Force approved Model Process: Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species at its July 2023 Meeting. This is a pilot project which will create a Rapid Response Fund ($1 million/year for three years). The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected to be released on a quarterly basis starting August 1, 2023. |  **50%** |