



# Creating a More Effective and Actionable Estuary Blueprint Through Integration of Human Dimensions

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San Francisco  
ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

November 6, 2024



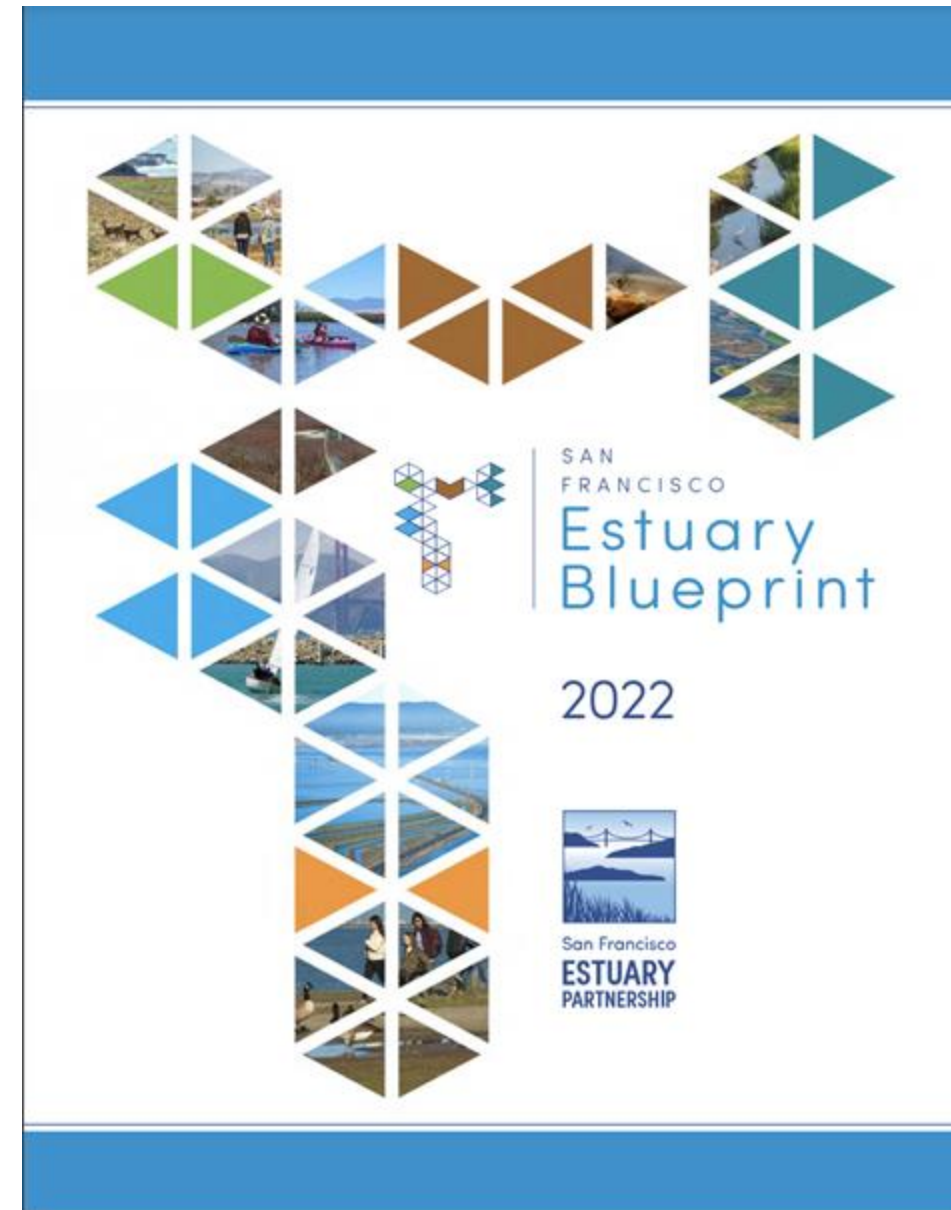
# The Estuary is a complex social-ecological system

- Effective restoration, protection, and enhancement requires attention to both biophysical and social aspects.
- The Social Science Advisory Team's goal: assess the Estuary Blueprint for areas where it should further address the human dimensions of ecosystem protection, recovery, and enhancement.



# Social Science Advisory Team Project Scope

- How are social science and human dimensions represented in the 2022 Blueprint's Tasks and Actions? How can these be improved for better estuary stewardship?
- The Social Science Advisory Team convened from July 2023-August 2024 to provide recommendations to systematically integrate human dimensions into the Blueprint.



# Social Science Advisory Team Members

Michael Mascarenhas\*

Mike Antos

Rachel M. Gregg

Leah A. Kintner



Pam Rittelmeyer

Alejo Kraus-Polk

Olivia Won



\* Team chair



# Methods



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# Approach

- Identified **5 Cross-Cutting Themes** of human dimensions
- Assessed each Blueprint Action to:
  - Determine whether cross-cutting themes were sufficiently included in each Blueprint Action and its associated tasks
  - Identify social science knowledge needs
  - Provide specific recommendations to fill knowledge gaps for each Blueprint Action
- Provided overall suggestions for revisions of the Blueprint to better integrate human dimensions.



# Cross-Cutting Themes of Human Dimensions in the Blueprint

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# Equity and Environmental Justice

- Environmental benefits related to the Estuary should be equally available to all people in the region, irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, age, ability, and other demographic markers.
- Cultivating equity and pursuing environmental justice through increasing inclusion, fairness, and diversity considerations should be fundamental to the Blueprint's actions and tasks.

## Equity

Custom tools that identify and address inequality

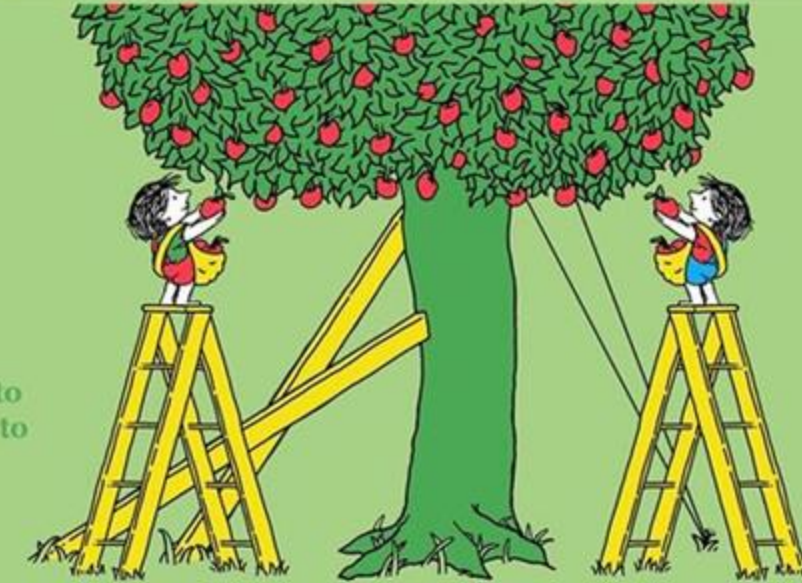


With apologies to Shel Silverstein from @lunchbreak

2019 Design & Tech Report | Addressing Inequality

## Justice

Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities



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# Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

San Francisco Estuary communities must effectively prepare for and adapt to climate change to maximize positive outcomes for ecosystems and people over time.



# Identity and Sense of Place

Stewardship of land and water is a cultural value for a diverse range of communities across the Bay Area. These diverse perspectives should be reflected in the Estuary Blueprint to ensure the broadest set of leaders and champions for protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Estuary.





# Governance and Representation

Representation on decision-making bodies that reflect the demographics of the Bay Area will result in more complete inclusion of the wide range of considerations and actions for protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Estuary.



# Human Health and Wellbeing

Public health is closely linked to estuarine health. Ensuring that Estuary Blueprint Actions also contribute to the health and wellbeing of all Bay Area residents will help build public support for these activities.






# Example Recommendations



# Example: Recommendations By Cross-Cutting Theme

<b>Equity and Environmental Justice</b>	Consider how Actions for resilience imply continued investment in unjust infrastructures and systems, such as highways or refineries that disproportionately harm communities of color.
<b>Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation</b>	Elevate communities' definitions of resilience and goals for climate adaptation, and recognize how these may differ from government definitions of resilience and goals.
<b>Identity and Sense of Place</b>	Identify the places/landmarks/areas of the Estuary that are culturally significant and high priority for protection.
<b>Governance and Representation</b>	Focus on the institutional needs for improving governance and representation in decision-making around the different Actions.
<b>Human Health and Wellbeing</b>	Identify positive human health and wellbeing outcomes from ecosystem restoration and protection.
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# Example: Key Steps to Fill Social Information Gaps:

## Action 20 - Nutrients

- Include information on the links between climate change, nutrient loading, and public health.
- Identify the biggest human issues for nutrient loading in the Bay Area.
- Identify how the ecosystem changes due to excess nutrients would lead to decreased opportunities for humans in the local area to connect to what's important to them.
- Provide outreach materials in multiple languages.
- Evaluate the institutional barriers to more regional cooperation on nutrient management.



# Recommendations for Development of the Next Estuary Blueprint



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# 1. Make the Blueprint Planning Process More Inclusive

- Offer workshops that educate communities about regional issues.
- Make concerted efforts to include groups that were not previously invited to the table.
- Ensure compensation for participants' time.

## 2. Develop a Social Science Agenda for the Estuary

- Articulate a long-term vision for centering the social aspects of protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Estuary alongside the biophysical.
- Construct a social science research agenda for the San Francisco Estuary, which could inform the creation of new Blueprint actions and tasks.
- Figure out the networks of social science efforts happening around the Bay Area already and evaluate how to leverage them for the benefit of the Estuary.



### **3. Establish a Permanent Social Science Advisory Team.**

- Create permanent Social Science Advisory Team with external researchers or an environmental justice advisory committee (similar to BCDC).
- Create criteria for advisory team group makeup to intentionally make space for people who haven't been involved in the past iterations of Blueprint creation (i.e. geographic location, age, gender, profession).

## 4. Rework Cross-Cutting Themes with Community Input

- The Social Science Advisory Team took a first cut at establishing the five cross-cutting themes that should permeate the Blueprint.
- The Estuary Partnership could do a broader outreach effort to get more buy-in and perspectives about what those themes should be for inclusion in the Blueprint.
- Once themes are established with broader buy-in from interested groups, include people with expertise in each of these themes in Blueprint development.



# Thank You!



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## Have Questions?

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# Extra slides

