

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

IC Members: Alyssa Whitaker (DWR), Amanda Bohl (DSC), Arthur Feinstein (CCCR), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon), Becky Smyth (NOAA), Campbell Ingram (Delta Conservancy), Casey Skinner (Audubon CA), Dan Hosfeldt (US EPA), Erica Yelensky (US EPA), Erin Chappell (CDFW), Jackie Zipkin (BACWAA), Jane Lavelle (SFPUC), Jessica Davenport (SCC), Jessica Fain (BCDC), Jessica Martini-Lamb (SCWA), Karen Buhr (Delta Conservancy), Keith Lichten (SFBRWQCB), Kelli McCune (SFBJV), Laura Tam (BPC), Lindsay Correa (DWR), Lorien Fono (BACWAA), Luis Cruz (NRCS), Luisa Valiela (US EPA), Matt Maloney (ABAG/MTC), Pat Eklund (ABAG), Reid Bogert, Sara Azat, Sree Gopal, Tess Byler, Warner Chabot

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Alex Thomsen, Alexis Gabriel, Athena Honore, Ben Botkin, Graham Prentiss, Heidi Nutters, James Muller, Karen McDowell, Liz Juvera, Miranda Melen, Natasha Daniels, Nicole Rossi, Sarina Seaton, Sasha Harris-Lovett

Guests: Allison Brooks (BARC), Sara Pierce (SFEI), Dana Brechwald (BCDC), Jaclyn Perrin-Martinez (BCDC), Luke Ginger (SMBRC)

1. Welcome/Intros

Keith Lichten called the meeting to order, introduced the attendees, welcomed new participants, and reviewed the agenda.

2. Approve 11/6/2024 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

- Motion to Approve 11/06/2024 meeting summary by Pat Eklund, seconded by Tess Byer. Motion carried.

3. Director's Report

Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items in the Director's Report:

- State of the Estuary Conference – October 28-29, 2025
- Friends of the Estuary Call for Board Member Applications, founding members stepping down seeking a new board-members
- Priority Conservation Area Nominations now being accepted. Arthur suggested working with local governments to nominate shoreline projects.
- Aquatic Invasive Species - Golden mussels update. Keith also mentioned invasive shothole borer and work being done to protect riparian forest by City of San Jose and Valley Water.

- New Funding
 - Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Pilot Project – State Coastal Conservancy (\$2 million).
 - Regional Conservation and Resilience – Bay Area Toll Authority (\$1.6 million).
- Currently undergoing five-year program evaluation under US EPA. Will have site visit in May or August.
- IC Changes
 - Welcome to Laura Tam, the new primary representative for the Bay Planning Coalition
 - Luis Cruz-Rivera will replace Alyson Aquino as primary representative for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
 - Jessica Davenport is now the primary representative for the State Coastal Conservancy. Linda Tong is serving as alternate.
- Introduced New Sea Grant Fellows, Miranda Melen and Natalie Rossi

4. **Estuary Blueprint: Progress Report**

- Alexis Gabriel, SFEP, presented the item. Recent task completion rate is at 42%. Have made progress on 17 tasks with 14 awaiting activation. Working on operationalizing these. Completed a record setting seven tasks for this reporting period.
- BCDC released the RSAP (Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan) in December.
- Sarah Pierce, SFEI, gave update on Action 5-3. Discussed Petaluma operational landscape unit (OLU) a sediment beneficial reuse strategy that will meet the demands of the OLU.
- Liz Juvera, SFEP, gave update on Action 20-1. Nutrient management strategy is being reviewed to inform the five-year science plan.
- Alexis Gabriel, SFEP, gave update on Action 20-3 highlighting an EPA grant to collect fish for a tissue sampling and to conduct fish consumption surveys in Rodeo and Vallejo. All Positives Possible worked with SFEI and fisherfolk to collect fish considered edible and APP tested fish for various contaminants. Results expected next year for project that began in 2023.

5. **Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Action 1, Task 1-1**

- Dana Brechwald and Jaclyn Perrin-Martinez of BCDC presented on the release of BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Guidelines as per SB272.

6. **Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Action 3, Task 3-2**

- Heidi Nutters, SFEP and Allison Brooks, BARC, presented on regional Climate Adaptation Technical Assistance efforts.

7. **Draft FY 26 Workplan and Budget**

- Caitlin Sweeney presented the draft FY 26 workplan and budget required by USEPA.

8. IC Member Announcements

- Kelli McCune – The Harvey Milk Photo Center’s current exhibit, “Salt of the Earth” by Barbara Boyce Vane covers 2010-2020 chronological ecological change with photos. Highly recommended.
- Jessica Davenport – 2024 Climate bond funding webinar for pot of money for State Coastal Conservancy. Inquiries can be sent to her. SCC is receiving pre-applications.
- Keith Lichten – State Water Board has \$110 million in grants under Prop 4. Announcement will be made this Fall.
- Campbell Ingram – Delta Conservancy received \$29 million under Prop 4 which will be split up between nature-based solutions and community grants. Hope to open application in early Fall.
- Amanda Bohl – Delta Plan Interagency Committee (comprised of 18 agencies) highlight Prop 4. New state park recently opened called Delta Meadows.
- Keith Lichten – About to finish signing ducks unlimited in lieu fee for wetland mitigation. Provides coordinated funding for larger projects.
- James Muller – DWR has \$100 million for IRWM under Prop 4, expect between \$15-20 million for Bay. RFP to come out in the next few months.
- Jessica Fain – The week of April 18th is SF Climate Week. Here on Earth Day April 22nd. Series of events highlighting regional efforts. Go to SF Climate week to sign up for each of the events.

9. IC Meetings Roadmap

- The next meeting will take place on August 13, 2025. Hybrid/Yerba Buena Conference Room

10. Adjourn to Next Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.