

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2025

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

IC Members: Adrian Covert (BAC), Amanda Bohl (DSC), Arthur Feinstein (CCCR), Campbell Ingram (Delta Conservancy), Casey Skinner (Audubon CA), Dan Hossfeld (US EPA), Hannah Fertel (USACE), Jane Lavelle (SFPUC), Jessica Davenport (SCC), Jessica Fain (BCDC), Jessica Martini-Lamb (SCWA), Keith Lichten (SFBRWQCB), Kelli McCune (SFBJV), Laura Tam (BPC), Lindsay Correa (DWR), Matt Ferner (SFNERR), Pat Eklund (ABAG), Reid Bogert (C/CAG), Sara Azat (NOAA), Sree Gopal (OPC), Tess Byler (BAFPAA), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon)

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Alex Thomsen, Athena Honore, Ben Botkin, Heidi Nutters, James Muller, Karen McDowell, Miranda Melen, Natasha Daniels, Natalie Rossi, Sarina Seaton, Sasha Harris-Lovett

Guests: Sascha Heath (SFEI), Katie McNight (SFEI), Julie Beagle (USACE), Sara Schwartz (EPA)

1. Welcome/Intros

- Amanda Bohl called the meeting to order, introduced the attendees, welcomed new participants, and reviewed the agenda.

2. Approve 03/19/2025 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

- Correction: Alyssa Whitaker was not in attendance on 3/19/25
- Motion to approve corrected 3/19/2025 meeting summary by Tess Byler, seconded by Pat Eklund. Motion carried unanimously

3. Director's Report

- Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items in the Director's Report:
- State of the Estuary Conference – October 28-29, 2025 Call for abstracts for all oral and poster presentations open.

- Clean Vessel Act – Thanks to the Delta Conservancy for taking that on.
- Communications Section: Open Road TV show episode on First Mile Levee Section aired already will air in June and August and available online at nbcbayarea.com. Thanks to staff members Alexis, Graham & Diana who worked with our partners to get this up and running
- In the middle of EPA Program Evaluation. Next meeting in Aug. will have EPA Team here. EPA staff from Headquarters, Region 9 and Ex Officio director from NY/NJ. We will give a presentation on initial findings and have fieldtrips. IC members welcome to join. Visit will be to the Palo Alto horizontal levee project. Mark your calendars. Lunch included & carpools.
- IC Changes – Matt Ferner newly appointed to the IC as primary representative for the SF NERR. Stuart Siegal alternate.
- Becky Smyth has retired from NOAA after 29 years and will no longer be part of the IC. Thanks to her for all of her hard work.

4. Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Action 25, Task 25-3, State of Our Estuary Platform

- Natasha Daniels, SFEP, presented the item. Introduced interactive new website meant to replace previous static paper reports. Update on indicators, walk through website features and a two- minute survey of IC Members.
- Sacha Heath and Katie McNight, SFEI, presented on the 24 indicators that will be used. Walked through all elements of the website.
- Alex Thomsen, SFEP, engaged the IC Members in a survey to discover how they have historically used the State of the Estuary report and how they hope to use this website in the future.

5. Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Action 6, Task 6-2, SF Bay Shallow Water Strategic Placement Pilot Project

- Jule Beagle, USACE, presented on pilot program of strategic shallow water placement of sediment.

6. Approve Final FY 26 Workplan and Budget (ACTION)

- Caitlin Sweeney presented the Final FY Workplan and Budget for approval with minor edits to previous draft.
- Motion to Approve 3/19/2025 the Final FY Workplan and Budget by Tess Byer seconded by Arthur Feinstein. Motion carried.

7. IC Member Announcements

- Dan Hossfeld – New EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator Josh Cook started in April. He has been in Tijuana working on sewage abatement.

8. IC Meetings Roadmap

- The next meeting will take place on August 13, 2025. Hybrid/Yerba Buena Conference Room
- Agenda items for August 13th meeting will likely include an update on the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program and we will have our evaluation team from EPA with their initial results. In order to prep for the afternoon's site visit there will be a presentation on the Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Project.
- The last meeting of the year will be on November 5th.

9. Adjourn to Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.