

**San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

IC Members: Adrian Covert (BAC), Alyssa Whitaker (DWR), Amanda Bohl (DSC), Andrew Fremier (MTC/ABAG), Arthur Feinstein (CCCR), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon), Campbell Ingram (Delta Conservancy), Casey Skinner (Audubon CA), Dan Hossfeld (US EPA), Hannah Fertel (USACE), Jackie Zipkin (BACWA/EBDA), Jane Lavelle (SFPUC), Jessica Davenport (SCC), Jessica Fain (BCDC), Jessica Martini-Lamb (SCWA), Kelli McCune (SFBJV), Laura Tam (BPC), Lindsay Correa (DWR), Lorien Fono, Luisa Valiela (US EPA), Matt Ferner (SFNERR), Pat Eklund (ABAG), Sree Gopal (OPC), Tess Byler (BAFPAA), Warner Chabot (SFEI)

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Adriana Perez, Alex Thomsen, Alexis Gabriel, Athena Honore, Ben Botkin, Diana Fu, Heidi Nutters, James Muller, Karen McDowell, Liz Juvera, Natasha Daniels, Sarina Seaton, Sofia Bibbo

Guests: Shawn Waldron (US EPA), Sara Schwartz (US EPA), Erica Yelensky (US EPA), Vivian Lopez (US EPA), Rob Pirani (NY/NJ Harbor & Estuary Program), Aviva Rossi (SFEI)

1. Welcome/Intros

Amanda Bohl welcomed everyone and invited participants to introduce themselves.

2. Approve 5/21/2025 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

- Motion to approve the 5/21/25 Meeting Summary by Tess Byler, seconded by Barbara Salsman.
Motion carried.

3. Director's Report

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

- Call for Award Nominations – 2025 State of the Estuary Conference.
- Friends of the Estuary – The retiring Board is introducing 9 new Board members this Fall.
- *Open Road* has a new episode on the Pacheco Marsh and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail.
- Estuary Youth Council – A second cohort was launched this Summer.

- **IC Changes**
John Andrew has retired from the Department of Water Resources. Lindsay Correa will be the primary, with Alyssa Whitaker as the DWR alternate.
- We honor the passing of an important Estuary advocate Trish Mulvey, the first recipient of the Jean Auer Environmental Award. We will miss her engagement, pragmatism and commitment to the region.

4. Estuary Blueprint: Progress Report

- Alexis Gabriel, SFEP, presented an overview of the Estuary Blueprint progress to date.
- James Muller, SFEP, presented on the completion of Task 5-2.
- Alexis presented on the completion of Tasks, 6-2, 8-1, 20-4
- Karen McDowell, SFEP, presented an update on Task 15-3, including ongoing work and new tools to provide a rapid response to invasive aquatic species.

5. Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program

- Sasha Harris-Lovett (SFEP) and Aviva Rossi (SFEI) gave a presentation on updates to the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program, covering key highlights from 2025 including mapping efforts, data collection overview, and prioritization of regional monitoring sites. IC discussion followed the presentation.

6. Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Project

- Heidi Nutters and Diana Fu (SFEP) gave a presentation on the Palo Alto Horizontal Levee including an overview of the multiple benefits of horizontal levees, pilot project goals, partnerships, and community engagement. IC discussion followed the presentation. A field trip to the site will follow this afternoon.

7. US EPA Program Evaluation Team

- Sara Schwartz (US EPA Headquarters), Dan Hossfeld (US EPA Region 9) and Rob Pirani (NY/New Jersey Harbor NEP) gave a report on the US EPA Program Evaluation. The report covered progress on previous program evaluation areas for improvement, areas of strengths and challenges, and the resulting recommendation of a proficient rating.

8. IC Member Announcements

- **Kelli McCune (SFBJV):** San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is launching the State of the Birds Report at the State of the Estuary Conference, which will be a dynamic website updated every 3-5 years.
- **Lorien Fono (BACWA):** As part of the Regional Water Board watershed permit approval in 2024, BACWA recently approved a contract to do regional training and a regional study tracking costs, benefits.

- **Jessica Fain (BCDC):** Bay Adapt Rising Together Summit will be at the Exploratorium on September 15.
- **Lindsay Correa (DWR):** DWR will host their Water Resources Science Symposium on September 23, designed to share knowledge and foster collaboration across the water resources community.
- **Luisa Valiela (US EPA):** Regional Monitoring Program's annual meeting is October 15 at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.
- **Laura Tam (BPC):** Bay Planning Coalition's annual Dredging and Beneficial Reuse Workshop will be October 9. More info at bayplanningcoalition.org.
- **Amanda Bohl (DSC):** Delta Adaptive Management Forum will be held October 14 and 15 in person and via Zoom.
- **Andrew Fremier (MTC):** Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment was recently published and is a useful resource. The Marine Exchange is putting on a workshop on August 14th.

9. Adjourn to Next Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.