

**San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2026**

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

IC Members: Alyssa Whitaker (DWR), Arthur Feinstein (CCCR), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon), Campbell Ingram (Delta Conservancy), Carl Wilcox (Friends of the Estuary), Casey Skinner (Audubon CA), Dan Hossfeld (US EPA), Emily Corwin (SFEI), Jackie Zipkin (BACWA/EBDA), Jane Lavelle (SFPUC), Jessica Davenport (SCC), Jessica Fain (BCDC), Jessica Martini-Lamb (SCWA), Josh Bradt (Friends of the Estuary), Keith Lichten (State Water Board), Kelli McCune (SFBJV), Lindsay Correa (DWR), Lorien Fono (BACWA), Pat Eklund (ABAG), Sree Gopal (OPC), Stuart Siegel (SF Bay NERR), Tess Byler (BAFPAA)

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Alex Thomsen, Alexis Gabriel, Athena Honore, Ben Botkin, Graham Prentice, James Muller, Karen McDowell, Kiersten Thigpen, Leslie Perry, Liz Juvera, Michelle Dan, Natalie Rossi, Natasha Daniels, Sarina Seaton, Susan Glendening

Guests: Morgan Chow (DSC), Annika Ragsdale (DSC), Audrey Cho (DSC)

1. Welcome/Intros

Keith Lichten welcomed everyone and invited participants to introduce themselves.

2. Approve 11/05/2025 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

- Motion to approve the 11/05/25 Meeting Summary by Tess Byler, seconded by Pat Eklund. Motion carried. Correction Lindsay Correa was not in attendance and will be removed from the meeting summary.

3. Director's Report

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

- Ongoing construction on Palo Alto Levee. To be completed this Summer.
- Hayward Shoreline Resilience Program.
- Priority Conservation Area Grant Program Update as well as SFBRA Grant rounds.
- Wetland and Flood reduction Story Map
- New funding IJJA Year 4 and 5 funds from US EPA

- Partnering with the Coastal Conservancy and Nature Conservancy on the Olympia Oyster Initiative
- \$1 Million received from the State Water Resources Control Board to survey abandoned vessels in the Bay and adaptation planning technical assistance.
- \$660k received for the WRMP from the US EPA.
- Next week James and Caitlin will be in Washington DC to attend EPA/NEP workshop and visit Congress.
- Welcome to new IC member representatives, for Friends of the Estuary, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the Delta Stewardship Council.
- Caitlin Sweeney announces retirement date of June 5.

4. Estuary Blueprint: Progress Report

- Alexis Gabriel, SFEP, presented an overview of the Estuary Blueprint progress to date.
- Morgan Chow and Annika Ragsdale, DSC, presented on Action 1, Task 1-2. Delta Adapts.

5. EPA Program Evaluation Follow Up – SFEP/MTC MOU

- Dan Hosfeld, US EPA, and Caitlin Sweeney, SFEP, discussed the EPA program evaluation and SFEP/MTC MOU. Opportunity to formalize role of SFEP as an NEP.

6. Draft FY 27 Workplan and Budget

- Caitlin Sweeney, SFEP, presented on the Draft FY 27 Workplan and Budget.

7. Chair and Vice Chair Election (ACTION)

- Keith Lichten was nominated for second term as Chair. Jessica Fain was nominated for Vice Chair. Motion to approve Keith Lichten as Chair and Jessica Fain as Vice Chair put forth by Pat Eklund, second by Tess Byer. Motion carried.

8. IC Member Announcements

- **Josh Bradt (Friends of the SF Estuary):** Knee Deep Times is a monthly online magazine. Funded by BARC, SFEP & BCDC but can always use more funding.
- **Dan Hossfeld (US EPA):** Update on the San Francisco Bay Program notice of funding.
- **Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon):** Reported on receiving a \$2 million grant to purchase properties next to the Petaluma River. Will restore to tidal marsh.
- **Stuart Siegel (SF Bay NERR):** Restoration work at Rush Ranch. Goat Marsh getting funding for wetland restoration and improving public access. Update on Ocean Science Center.

- **Jessica Fain (BCDC):** SF Climate week is in April. Hosting a number of events. Restore America's Estuaries summit will be in SF in September. Next Friday is the deadline to submit proposals for the summit. The Rising Together Summit will take place at the Exploratorium on November 9th. Lastly, Professor Lubell did a survey on sea level rise governance in the Bay Area and he will be repeating that survey for those interested in participating.
- **Jessica Davenport (SCC):** Did get Prop 4 money fix in legislature. Just for this FY but hoping for future fixes.
- **Keith Lichten (State Water Board):** Laura Tam of the Bay Planning Coalition wanted to share that they are working with Buffy Wicks to sponsor a bill about coastal permitting.

9. 2026 IC Meetings Road Map

- The next IC meeting is on May 6th.

10. Adjourn to Next Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.