

Estuary Blueprint Update

August 19, 2027 | The Journey Begins



San Francisco
ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Overview

- Estuary Blueprint Background
- 2028 Update Introduction
 - Considerations
 - Staffing
 - Timeline & Process
 - IC Engagement and Approvals
- Integrating State of Our Estuary



Estuary Blueprint Background

- Goal: An Estuary with healthy and resilient ecosystems, abundant fish and wildlife, thriving communities
- Based on collaboration and partnership
- Requires consensus among partners on priority actions needed



Estuary Blueprint History

- 1993 – Foundation & Recovery
 - 63 Actions
- 2007 – Expansion
 - 200 Actions
- 2016 – Reorganization & Climate Change
 - 32 Actions
- 2022 – Alignment & Equity
 - 25 Actions



2022 Guiding Principles



I. Remain aspirational yet feasible: The actions are aspirational but consist of a set of tasks to be achieved within the five-year time frame of the plan.



II. Expand and deepen multi-sectoral engagement: As a collaborative, consensus-based document, the Estuary Blueprint should reflect the agreement of as broad a set of stakeholders as possible. Deeper engagement by a broader set of stakeholders will result in a more robust plan.



III. Integrate further across geographies and plans: Building on the integration of plans in the 2016 Estuary Blueprint, this update seeks to emphasize the connections and commonalities between the upper and lower Estuary and incorporate relevant priorities in new or recently updated regional plans.



IV. Focus on equity: The 2022 Estuary Blueprint seeks to address this critical missing component of past plans by integrating issues of equity into every action and by explicitly creating a new action and associated tasks dedicated to improving equitable outcomes.

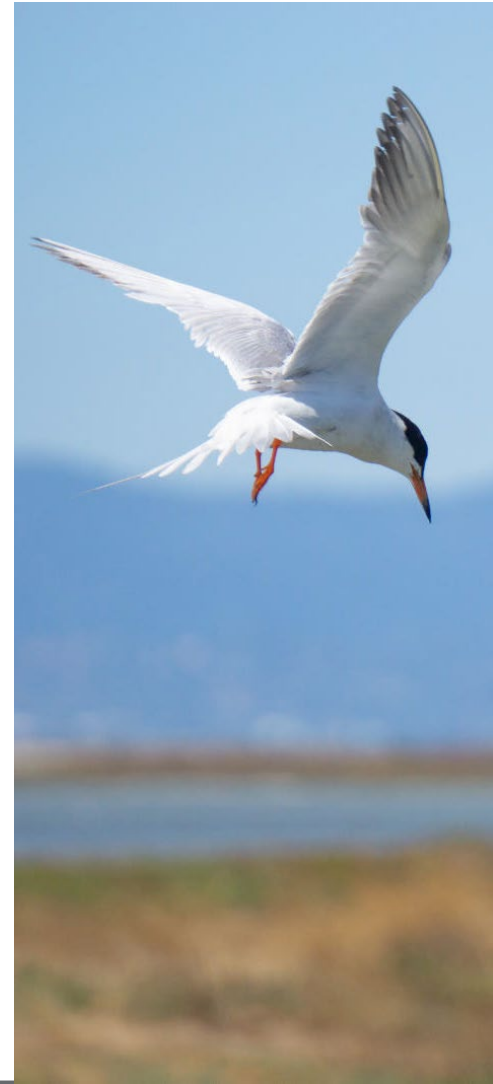


V. Improve clarity and responsibility: This update builds on the successful implementation of the 2016 Estuary Blueprint by strengthening the connections between actions, tasks, and associated milestones.



Estuary Blueprint Update Considerations

- CCMP guidance is currently being updated by EPA
- New CCMPs must be compliant with Federal Executive Orders
- SFEP and EPA working to define compliance requirements regarding format, content, and timelines
- Planning for full revision while preparing for interim compliance requirements
- SRF Funding
 - \$400,000 for staff
 - \$270,000 for consultant



Staffing and Support Framework

- Consultant
 - Track update progress across all actions, tasks, milestones and narrative content
 - Assist with engagement
 - Plan and facilitate action level working group meetings
 - Develop content for Action/Task/Milestone revisions
 - Support development of assessments, evaluations and other compliance materials required by EPA
- SFEP Staff
 - Attend and support action level working group meetings
 - Advise consultant
 - Direct engagement with individual WG members
 - Content review and approval

DRAFT Timeline and Process

	2026		2027				2028			
	Jul/Aug/Sep	Oct/Nov/Dec	Jan/Feb/Mar	Apr/May/Jun	Jul/Aug/Sep	Oct/Nov/Dec	Jan/Feb/Mar	Apr/May/Jun	Jul/Aug/Sep	Oct/Nov/Dec
Initial Planning										
Engagement										
Content Development and Production										
Executive Council Engagement										
EPA Submittal										

Initial Planning

- Estuary Blueprint Steering Committee kickoff meeting
- Define Update Strategy*

Engagement

- Early engagement survey
- Regional alignment workplan
- Action-level working groups
- Regional engagement and outreach

Executive Council

- Regional Administrator, US EPA Region 9
- Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Southwest Office
- Secretary of California EPA
- Secretary of California Resources Agency
- Executive Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments



Implementation Committee

- Will receive updates at quarterly IC meetings
- Members invited to join or delegate staff to Action-Level working groups
- IC be required to approve the document before submission to EPA



Estuary Blueprint Steering Committee

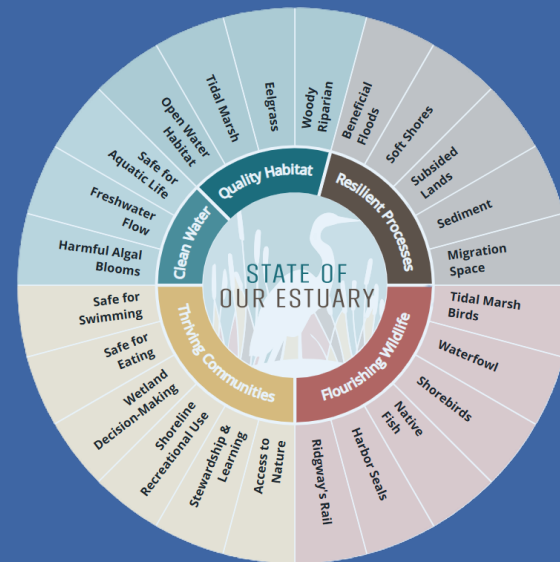
- Meets regularly to receive updates
- Provides guidance on process
- Reviews content and provides input
- Represents the IC between meetings
- Kickoff Meeting: August 6, 2026:
 - Objectives during Estuary Blueprint Update
 - Roster
 - Timeline and approach

Steering Committee Members

- **Keith Lichten** – IC Chair, RWQCB
- **Arthur Feinstein** – Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
- **Barbara Salzman** – Marin Audubon
- **Luisa Valiela** – EPA
- **Dan Hossfeld** - EPA
- **Pat Eklund** - ABAG
- **Adrian Covert** – Bay Area Council
- **Campbell Ingram** – Delta Conservancy
- **Casey Skinner** – National Audubon Society
- **Stuart Siegel** – SF NERR
- **Kelli McCune** – SF Bay Joint Venture
- **Rachel Wigginton** – Delta Stewardship Council
- **Beck Barger** – Friends of the Estuary

Integrating Our Estuary

Linking Data to the Blueprint



Goals



BLUEPRINT GOAL 1

Sustain and improve the Estuary's habitats and living resources

BLUEPRINT GOAL 2

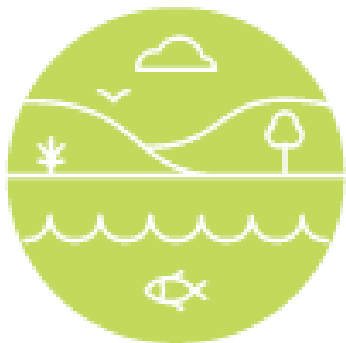
Bolster the resilience of Estuary ecosystems, shorelines, and communities to climate change

BLUEPRINT GOAL 3

Improve water quality and increase the quantity of fresh water available to the Estuary

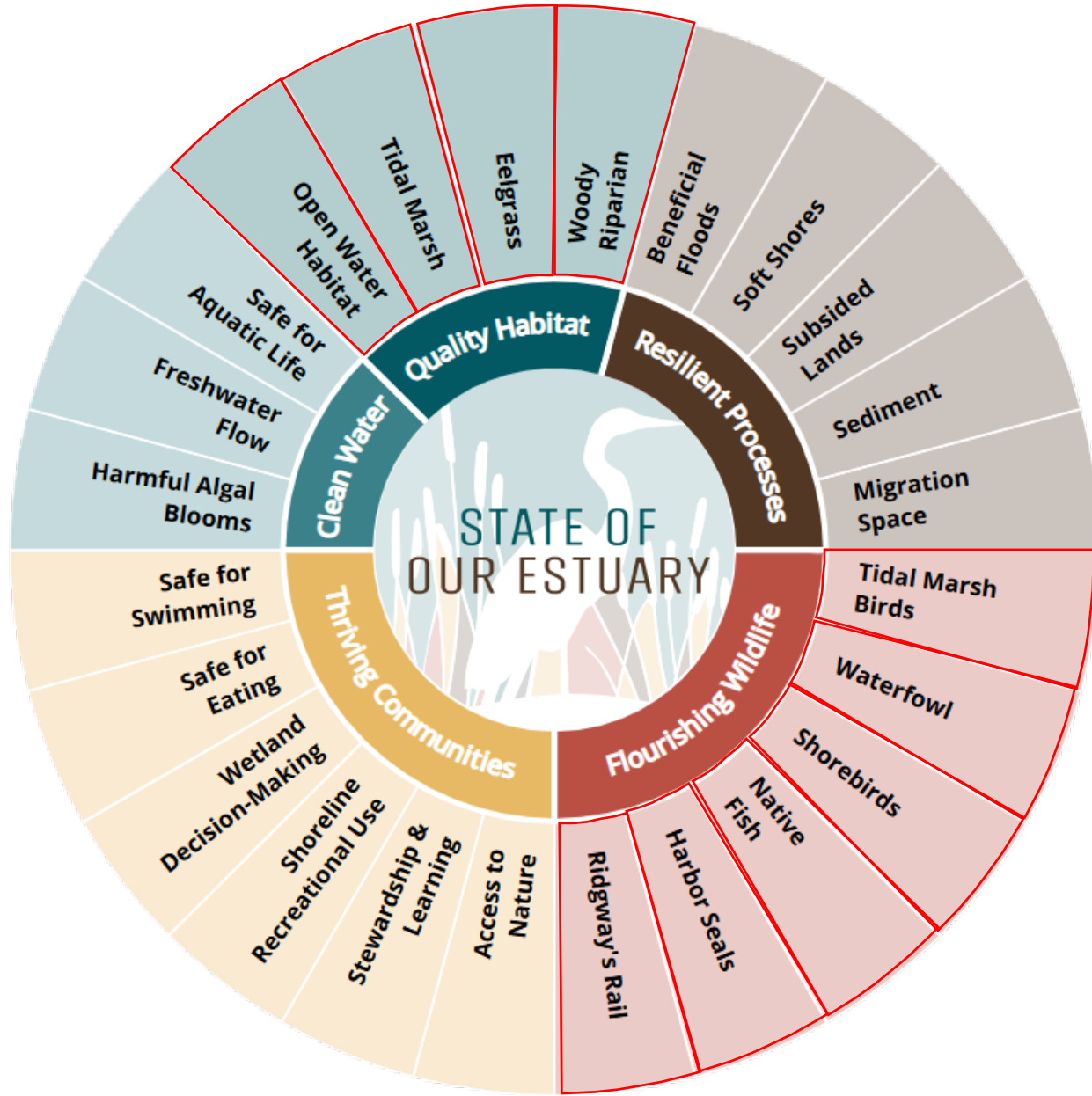
BLUEPRINT GOAL 4

Champion the Estuary



BLUEPRINT GOAL 1

Sustain and improve the Estuary's habitats and living resources



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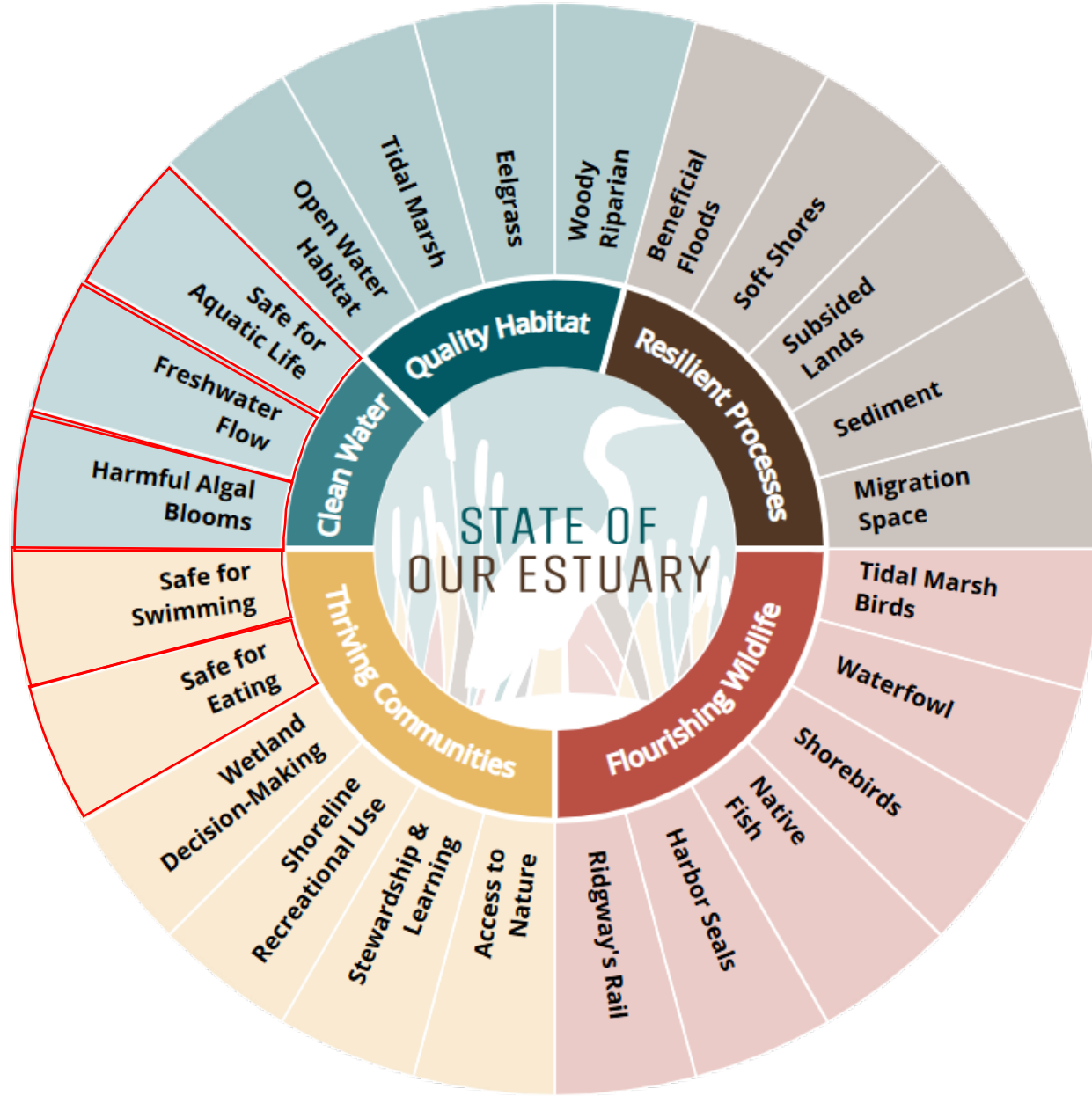
BLUEPRINT GOAL 4

Champion the Estuary

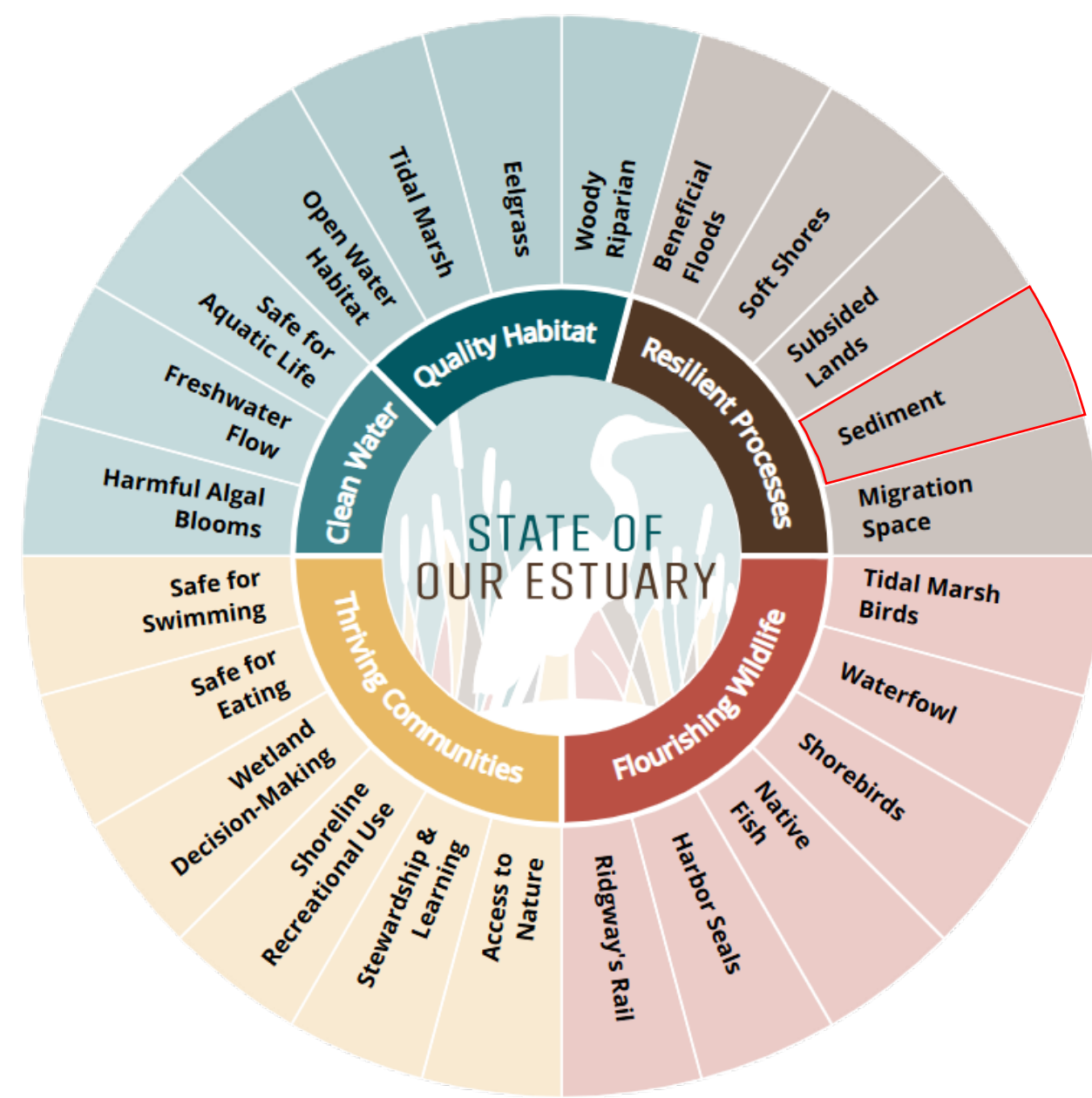


BLUEPRINT GOAL 3

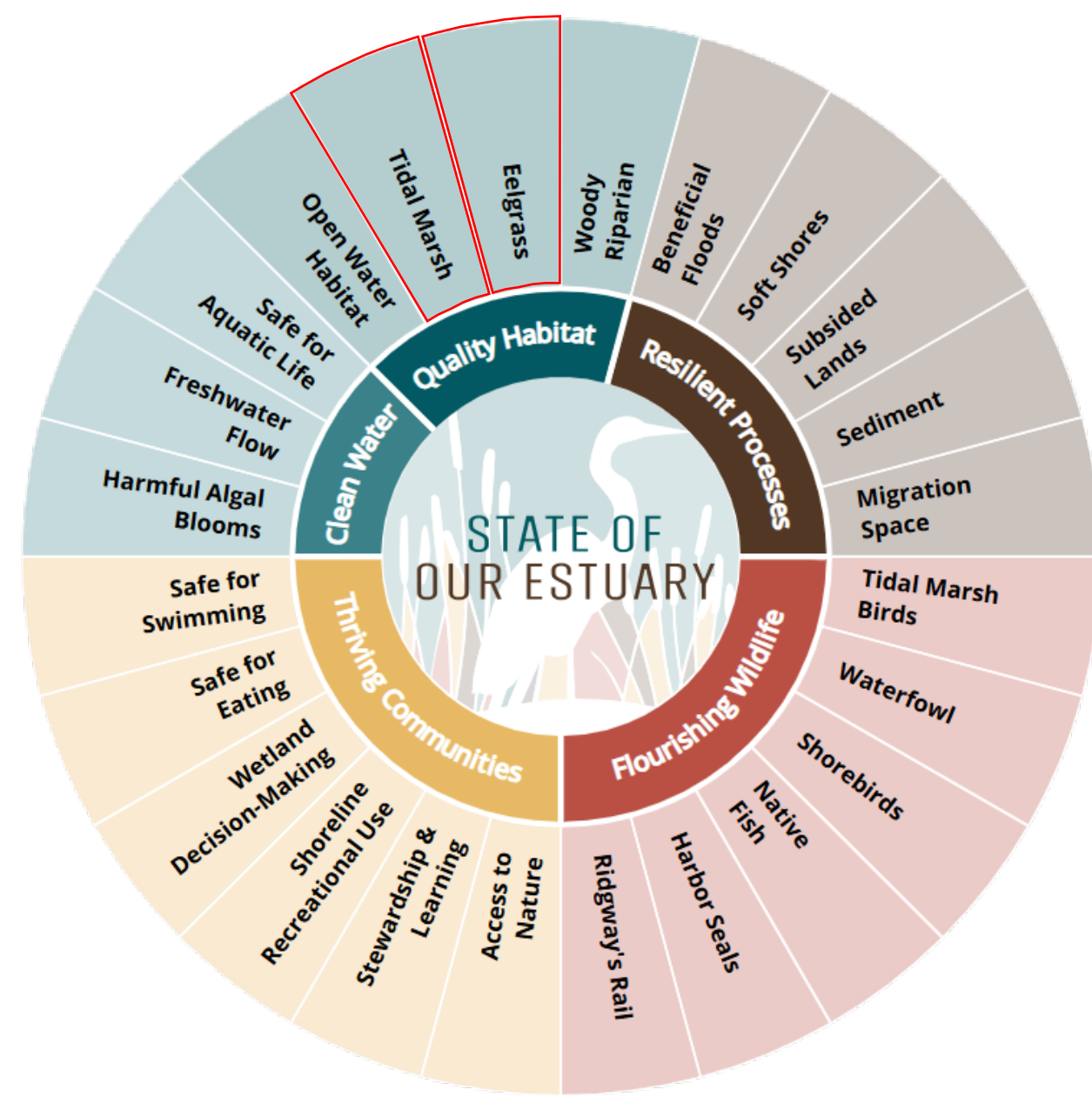
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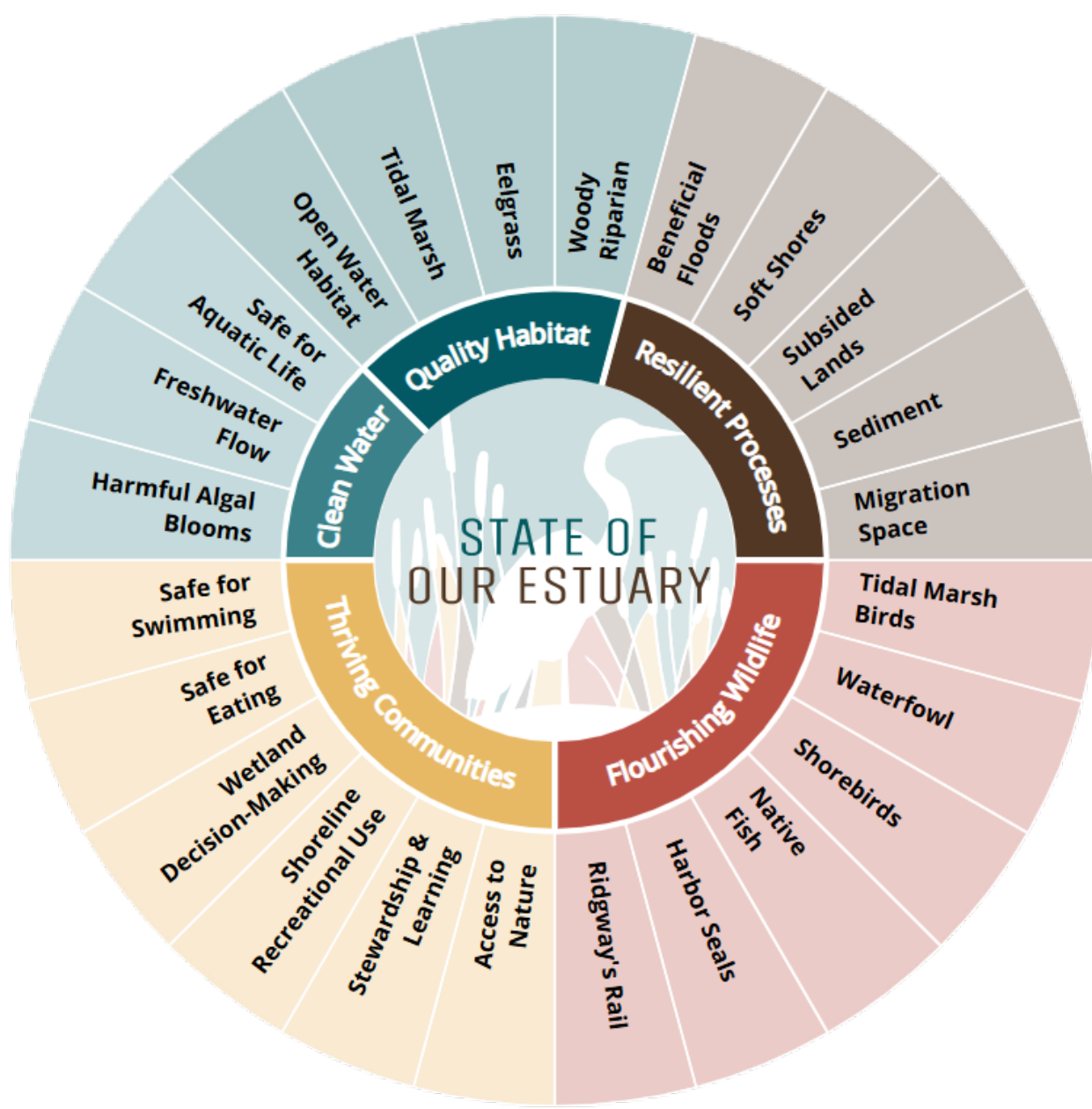
1	Climate Resilience
2	Equity
3	Adaptation Planning
4	Adaptation Implementation
5	Watershed Connections
6	Sediment
7	Carbon Management
8	Wetland Monitoring
9	Intertidal/Subtidal Habitats
10	Tidal Marsh



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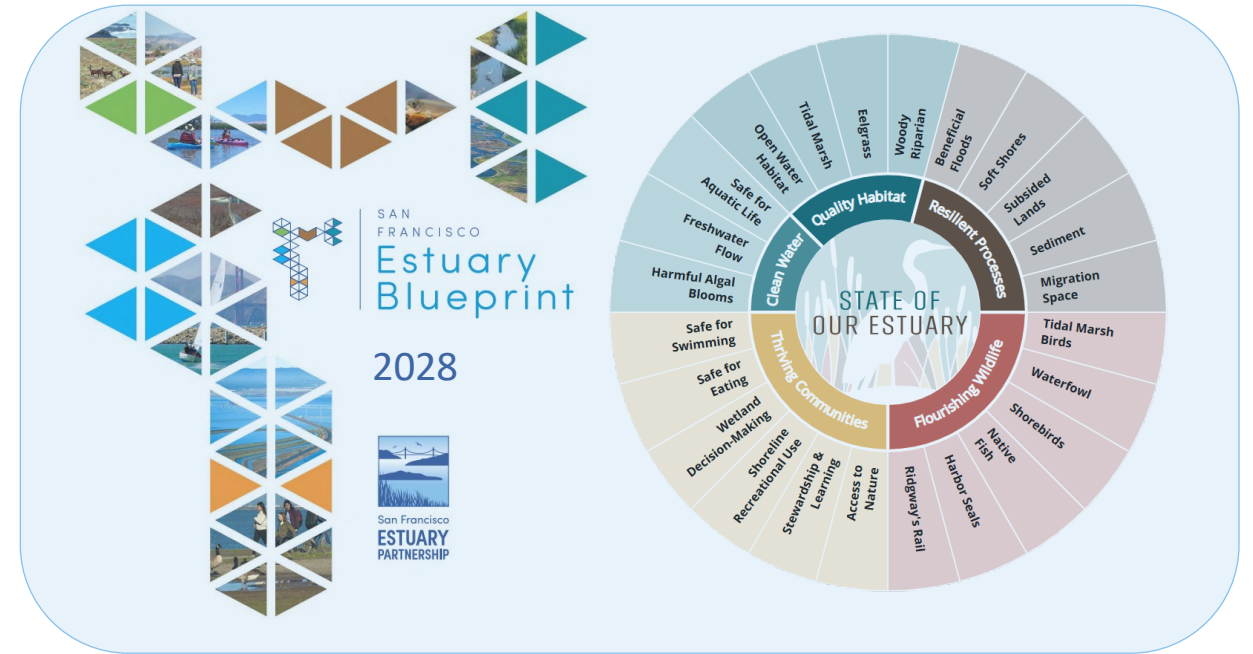


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Process

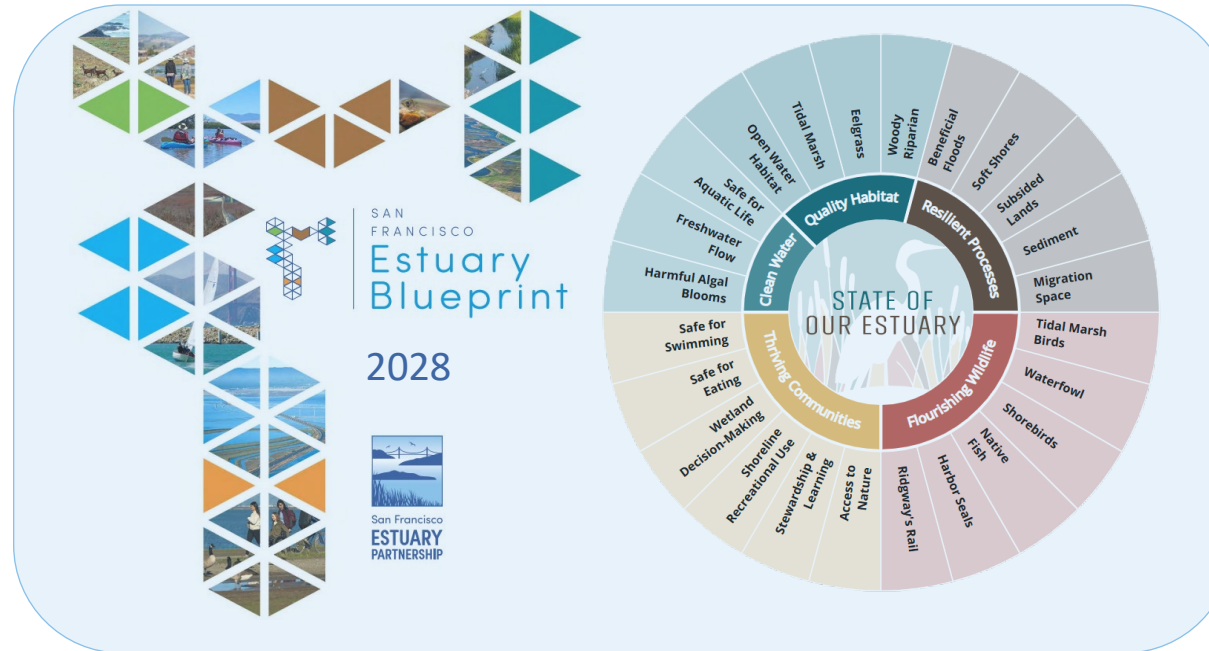
- Develop integration guidelines and framework with SFEI & EB Steering Committee
- Assess indicators for EB crosswalk
- Link relevant indicators in 2028 EB
 - Goals/Objectives/Actions
 - Narrative
 - Showcase Our Estuary in the Blueprint



2028 Estuary Blueprint Update

- Indicators can be used as a tool by working groups
- Identification of new EB Tasks
- Identification of possible future OE indicators
- Align EB implementation with environmental outcomes/trends

Potential Benefits

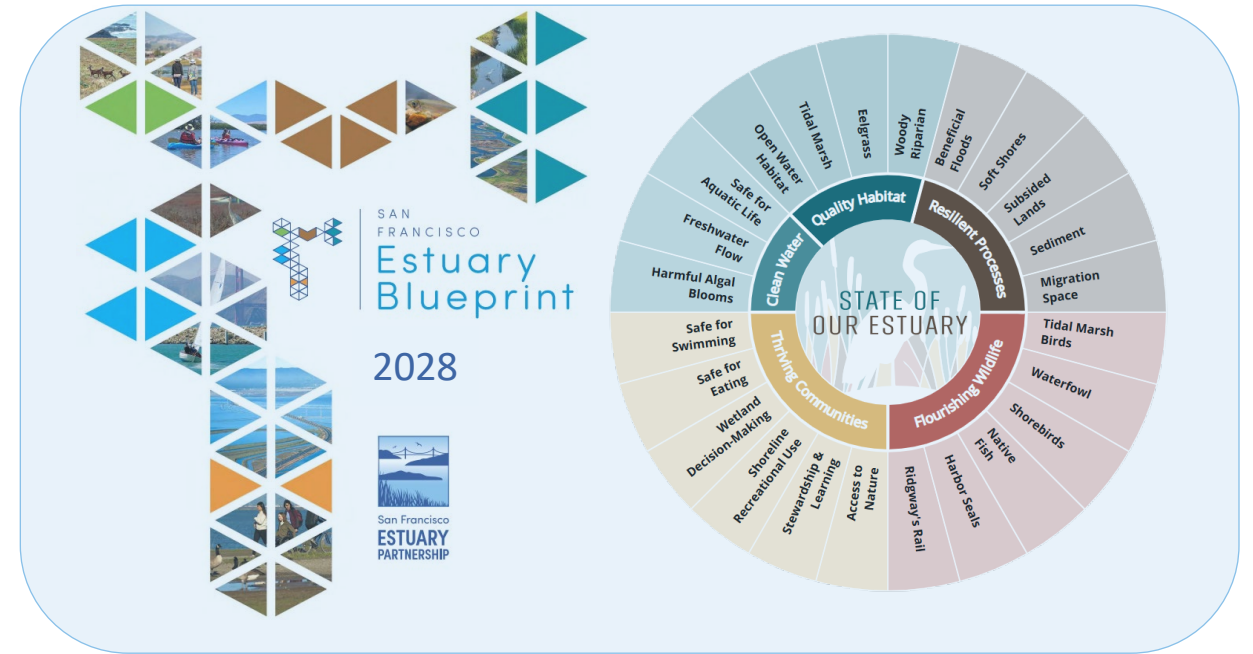


2028 Estuary Blueprint Implementation

- Track completion progress against trends in Our Estuary
- Assess shifts needed in action/tasks to improve trends in future blueprints
- Inform tracking & completion reports

Considerations

- Actions without indicators will not be deprioritized
- Integration of indicators should be considered additive, not a replacement for current Estuary Blueprint implementation and tracking
- Lag-time between EB implementation, OE updates, and change in environmental conditions
- This will be a process, and it won't be perfect



Questions and Discussion



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