San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

IC Members: Alyssa Whitaker (DWR), Arthur Feinstein (CCCR), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon), Beck Barger (Friends of the Estuary) Carl Wilcox (Friends of the Estuary), Casey Skinner (Audubon CA)), Emily Corwin (SFEI), Jackie Zipkin (BACWA/EBDA), Jane Lavelle (SFPUC), Jessica Davenport (SCC), Jessica Fain (BCDC), Jessica Martini-Lamb (SCWA), Kelli McCune (SFBJV), Laura Tam (BPC), Luisa Valiela (US EPA), Matt Ferner (SF NERR), Matt Graul (EBRPD), Matt Maloney (MTC), Pat Eklund (ABAG), Rachel Wiggington (DSC), Reid Bogert (C/CAG), Sarah Van Der Shalie (NOAA), Stuart Siegel (SF Bay NERR)

SFEP Staff: James Muller, Alex Thomsen, Alexis Gabriel, Athena Honore, Ben Botkin, Diana Fu, Graham Prentice, Heidi Nutters, Jazmin Martinez, Karen McDowell, Katy Vigil-McClanahan, Lidia Daneshvar, Liz Juvera, Mei Collins, Michelle Dan, Natalie Rossi, Natasha Daniels, Ronnie Rodriguez, Sarina Seaton, Susan Glendening

Guests: Cas Esteve (BayCAN), Erik Buehmann (BCDC), Michael McCormick (BayCAN), Summer Bundy (One Shoreline), Josh Bradt (Friends of the Estuary), Gemma Waaland (NOAA)

1. **Welcome/Intros**
   Jessica Fain welcomed everyone and invited participants to introduce themselves. Update from Luisa Valiela on MOU between SFEP & ABAG. Matt Maloney gave an update on this and the search for the new SFEP Director.

2. **Approve 5/05/2026 Meeting Summary (ACTION)**
   Motion to approve the 5/05/26 Meeting Summary by Matt Maloney seconded by Pat Eklund. Motion carried.

3. **Director's Report**
   James Muller highlighted several items in the Director's Report:

   - Wildcat Creek project underway.
   - Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program – Lidar Survey.
   - Priority Conservation Area Grant Program – MTC approved 16 million in funds for round four, to be spent on projects across the nine Bay Area counties.

- Estuary Youth Council Year Three Kickoff.
- Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Nearing Completion.
- Update on Artist in Residence Pilot Program.
- **Completed Projects** - Novato Creek Baylands Strategy.
- **New Funding** - East Bay Crescent Subregional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning - $2,240,000 (Ocean Protection Council).
- **Program Management -** SFEP Director Recruitment Update.
- FY 27 Appropriations Update.
- NEP Reauthorization.
- **Staff Changes**
- Welcome to SFEP, Data Analytics and Outreach Coordinator - Mei Collins and temporary Environmental Planner – Natalie Rossi, former Sea Grant Fellow.
- Interns and Mentees - MTC Summer Mentees: Jazmin Martinez, Katy Vigil-McClanahan, Ronnie Rodriguez, Lidia Daneshvar.
- California State University COAST Summer Interns – Ezra Conley-Proia and Gabi Mendez.

4. **Estuary Blueprint: Progress Report**
    - Alexis Gabriel and Lidia Daneshvar, SFEP, presented an overview of all 25 Actions. Major milestones and highlights from project managers.
    - Alex Thomsen, SFEP, presented on Task 12-2: Bird habitat enhancement measures by the South Bay Salt Pont Restoration Project.
    - Heidi Nutters, SFEP and Cas Esteve, BayCAN, presented on Task 3-2: Regional Climate Adaptation “Help Desk” Network,
    - Alex Thomsen, SFEP, presented on Task 8 – 4: Standard Operating Procedures to Monitor Connections Between People and Wetlands.

5. **Estuary Blueprint Update**
    - James Muller, SFEP, discussed action plan for update.

6. **Proposed Bay Plan Amendment: Beneficial Reuse of Sediment**
    - Erik Buehmann, BCDC presented on the proposed Bay Plan amendment.

7. **IC Member Announcements**
    - **Luisa Valiela (US EPA):** San Francisco Bay Geographic program on EPA which is $54 million a year requires a program plan by the end of 2027. Will coordinate with SFEP & local stakeholders.
    - **Alyssa Whitaker (DWR):** The California Water Plan update for 2028 is currently underway. Tribal advisory committee and technical work groups have held meetings. Can view livestreamed advisory committee meeting on DWR’s Youtube channel. The plan is available on the California Water Plan website at californiawaterplans.com.

- **Rachel Wiggington (DSC):** The 2026 Bay Delta Science conference is upcoming. Theme is Opportunity of Change. Sept. 28th-30th. Next meeting of Delta Plan Interagency implementation committee is on September 29th. There will be a report out from traditional knowledge interweaving round table series and the Delta Adapts adaptation plan.
- **Jessica Davenport (SCC):** Hopefully will present at a future SFEP Implementation committee meeting on the recently advancing Living Shorelands project. Plan to permit them as a group of ten projects.
- **Jessica Fain (BCDC):** NOAA is currently conducting an off cycle program evaluation of the California Coastal Zone Management Program. Focused on spaceports, offshore oil pipelines, desalination and undersea cables. Comment letters are due on Friday. The Bay Adapt Summit will be held on November 9th at the Exploratorium. Tickets are free and go quickly.
- **James Muller (SFEP):** The last meeting of the year is on November 5th. We will have another update on the Estuary Blueprint. We will be also talking about the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Planning update to BCDC as well as hearing from Dave Vautin and his team regarding Plan Bay Area 2060.

8. 2026 IC Meetings Road Map

- The next IC meeting is on November 5th.

9. Adjourn to Next Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.