

MEETING MINUTES
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting
February 2, 2024, 10 am – 12 pm

Agenda and meeting materials are available at:
www.sfbayrestore.org

1. Call to Order

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair of the Advisory Committee (AC), called the meeting to order.

2. Determination of Quorum

AC member attendance: Sara Azat, Erika Castillo, Adrian Covert, Paul Detjens, Melissa Foley, Lee Huo, Dulce Jimenez, David Lewis, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Kelli McCune, Marquita Price, Casey Skinner, Luisa Valiela, Craig Weightman, Beckie Zisser

Staff attendance: Jessica Davenport, Karen McDowell, Sara Haugen

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Brief Reminder of Ground Rules and Voting Procedures (INFORMATION)

Chair Martini-Lamb reviewed the ground rules and voting procedures. She summarized Rosenberg's Rules of Order regarding motions, which state there can be at most three motions being considered at the same time, with the first vote to be held on the latest motion, which may nullify the prior motions if approved. There were no questions.

5. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2023 (ACTION)

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair

Item 5: [Draft Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2023](#)

Sara Azat moved approval of the minutes and Dulce Jimenez seconded. Beckie Zisser abstained. There were no objections. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

6. Chair's Report from December 15, 2023 Governing Board Meeting (INFORMATION)

Chair Martini-Lamb welcomed two new Advisory Committee members who were appointed at the December Board meeting, and they introduced themselves: Kelli McCune of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and Craig Weightman of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Chair Martini-Lamb reported back on the December Board Meeting. The Board accepted the audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY22/23) and received the FY23/24 Annual Levy Report for the Measure AA special parcel tax. An augment to the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for the Lower

Walnut Creek Restoration Project for up to \$3 million was approved. Two members were appointed to second terms on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee). The Board also heard informational items on proposed Equity Guidelines, the North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee project, the development of Tribal Engagement Recommendations, the draft staff response to the Oversight Committee letter for FY 21/22, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco Bay geographic program priority list.

7. **Recommendation on Proposed Equity Guidelines (ACTION)**

Sara Haugen, Project Manager

Item 7: [Proposed Equity Guidelines \(Redline/BlueLine Version\)](#)

Attachment 1: [Presentation on Updates to Proposed Equity Guidelines](#)

Attachment 2: [Memo on Authority-Funded Projects with Community-Based Organization Partners and that Benefit Economically Disadvantaged Communities](#)

Sara Haugen presented edits made to the proposed Equity Guidelines in response to input from AC members, including those serving on the AC's Ad Hoc Committee on Equity. As covered at the November meeting, the redline comments reflected input from the three community outreach sessions held in Canal District of San Rafael, East Oakland, the Bayview Hunters Point area of San Francisco over the summer. The blueline comments reflected input from the AC at its November meeting and via email through mid-January, and input from the AC's Equity Subcommittee at its January meeting. Staff shared their plan to ask the Board to consider adopting the Guidelines at their next meeting, following the AC's vote on whether to recommend the Guidelines at this meeting. The Equity Guidelines, if adopted, will be used to develop five-year equity work plans. In response to a suggestion from AC members at the previous meeting, staff presented a memo listing projects benefiting economically disadvantaged communities and/or that include subcontracts with community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide information that might serve as the basis for a future equity indicator. There were no questions or comments.

Marquita Price moved to recommend the Equity Guidelines, and Sara Azat seconded. There were no abstentions or recusals.

Ayes: Sara Azat, Erika Castillo, Adrian Covert, Paul Detjens, Melissa Foley, Lee Huo, Dulce Jimenez, David Lewis, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Kelli McCune, Marquita Price, Casey Skinner, Luisa Valiela, Craig Weightman, Beckie Zisser

8. **Recommend Support for Tribal Engagement Recommendations (INFORMATION)**

Sara Haugen, Project Manager

Item 8: [Tribal Engagement Recommendations \(Redline Version, Draft\)](#)

Attachment 1: [Presentation on Tribal Engagement Recommendations](#)

Sara Haugen shared information about the proposed Tribal Engagement Recommendations. Staff drafted these recommendations last spring based on

consultations done by other agencies. They did outreach to tribes during the summer of 2023 and the redline in the document reflects their input. Staff requested review of the redline version by tribes at the same time as the AC's review, and the recommendations were presented to the Board in December. The AC is welcome to provide feedback via email to Sara with a deadline of March 15. Staff will bring the recommendations back for a vote at the April AC meeting.

A member asked about which tribes were contacted and the responses. Staff used the Native America Heritage Commission list to contact Bay Area tribes multiple times through letters, emails, and phone calls, and ultimately five tribes met with staff.

9. Project Presentation: Community Participation in the North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project (INFORMATION)

Naama Yaz-Raseef, Ph.D., Senior Manager for Community Engagement and Climate Resiliency, The Watershed Project

Item 9: [Presentation on Community Engagement in the North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project](#)

Naama Yaz-Raseef presented the community engagement component of the North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project. The project was derived from years of environmental justice work in the region. The North Richmond Levee Working Group had guiding principles of wide stakeholder involvement, nature-based solution, and a multi-benefit approach. The Watershed Project (TWP) and their partners carried out the planning phase, which was funded in part by the Authority. They will use a flexible band approach for the living levees, adapting to topography and habitats of the shorelines and what needs to be protected at different points of the shoreline.

The community engagement approach was especially important for North Richmond because it is a historically marginalized area. The traditional approach is 1) outreach, 2) education, and 3) gathering community voices, with the engagement ending when input is provided to the designers and other stakeholders. TWP's approach was instead community decision-making with 1) recruitment, 2) workgroups, and 3) community-led research and design so that communities were part of the entire design process. They started with flyers in English and Spanish and a showcase with their presentation to ten community meetings in the area in which they educated participants about the risk of sea level rise and invited them to join the project. They worked with over 20 community leaders, held paid regular meetings, hosted a learning academy with site visits and collaborative learning, and formed three workgroups to allow for all members to feel included and actively participate in the process. The workgroups were:

1. Envisioning design approaches – Members worked directly with the designers and engineers to understand complexity and why certain suggestions weren't feasible.
2. Sustainability and growth – Members looked beyond construction to community stabilization and wealth-building and identifying mutual benefits and development opportunities, such as employment, housing, and education.
3. Community survey – Members learned the theory of Monitoring and Evaluation, came up with questions, decided on the focus and methodology of focus group discussions, and facilitated the groups with staff. They also identified access

barriers and asked the community to identify which ones were most important to them.

TWP worked with Confederated Villages of Lisjan to learn about their priorities for the shoreline and created a tribal stories project which became short videos posted online. They also worked with a local artist, Obi Kauffmann, to develop interpretive signs that will be installed next to the West County Wastewater facility near Wildcat Creek.

Phase 1 will focus on protecting the infrastructure of the West County Wastewater facilities while Phase 2 will cover the shoreline from Point Pinole to Castro Creek. TWP and their partners are seeking funding for Phase 2.

Several topics were covered in the discussion following the presentation:

- An AC member asked about the community-led decision-making model: What challenges did The Watershed Project encounter with the project? Any successes and advice? They used the term participatory design to bring community to decision making table. Key fundamentals to implement for success are to hire local CBOs to lead the community outreach process, not agencies, since they have specific skillsets for this. TWP's staff have ecological and community expertise which allowed them to build a bridge for the process. Trust is a major component, and with so many agencies coming through the community members can get confused with too many points of contact. Having one trusted point of contact was important. Lastly, it is important to respect the community's time and input with compensation, translation services, food, and childcare. Long-term relationships are important as well to keep them engaged through a CBO.
- A member asked if TWP has seen fatigue from the community in this process, and if so, how they moved past it. Because they were able to work directly with the designers and learn how large-scale design processes work and how long they can take, the community felt more engaged and understood the process better.
- There was a brief discussion about compensating community members for their time and the participation of Chevron in the project, a major landowner in the area.
- There was discussion about how this project is a good example of landscape-scale restoration and visioning with the community that led to this point.
- A member asked if the work group on sustainability and growth had any proposals for community development that Naama could share. That workgroup was more theoretical for proposals farther in the future, but one takeaway was that they want to see workforce development and employment in their community, not just for youth and young adults, but also for adults who need work. Another item was improved transportation, as many live close to the shoreline but do not have cars to access it, and so would like more public transportation, especially on weekends.

- A member commented on TWP’s impressive improvement in community engagement processes, since efforts the member had been involved in were more single-purpose and less engaging in nature.
- Members shared their appreciation for the thoughtful process and the presentation. Staff will share Naama’s email with the AC so that members can reach out to her with any further questions.

10. Discussion of Future Meeting Topics (INFORMATION)

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair

Item 10: [Draft Response to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee Letter covering Fiscal Year 2021/2022](#)

Chair Martini-Lamb introduced the opportunity to discuss potential meeting topics and provided staff’s Draft Response to the Oversight Committee Letter as a starting point.

Deputy Program Manager Karen McDowell gave an overview of the Oversight Committee letter and the staff response to the recommendations. The Oversight Committee made findings and recommendations with a request for a written response to their letter (details in the attachment). Deputy Program Manager Jessica Davenport shared ideas based on the letter, such as the landscape-scale regional strategies that lead to fundable restoration projects and the developing idea for an East Bay special project with Board members and East Bay Regional Parks District.

- Kelli McCune suggested that the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture 2022 Implementation Strategy be presented at a future meeting, covering the subregional bay habitat goals.
- There was discussion about the Oversight Committee recommendation to prioritize projects with “landscape scale characteristics” and a suggestion that staff continue to target specific areas based on experience identifying key restoration opportunities.
- A member noted they appreciate the list of potential presentations and would like to minimize staff time needed to prepare presentations for the AC by prioritizing presentations that are ready to go.
- Chair Martini-Lamb noted that the April AC meeting will be held at San Francisco Estuary Institute in Richmond instead of the MTC location.

11. Announcements (INFORMATION)

NOAA Fisheries had an artist in residence as part of an ongoing program. The artist completed a community-based art project called “Neighbors Along the Riverbed” and there is a podcast and web story about preserving fish populations. Sara Azat will share [the link](#) with members.

Staff of the San Francisco Bay Program Office of U.S. EPA have been vetting their draft annual priority list, as directed by Congress. The list was presented to the Authority Board, as the Authority was a named partner in shaping the list. Members are welcome to provide feedback on the list by contacting Luisa Valiela. The goal is to finalize the list by April.

Marquita Price mentioned she will be presenting on a panel with the Estuary Youth Council at the State of the Estuary Conference entitled “Water Infrastructure, Flooding and Inequities in Frontline Communities: A Cross-Generational Panel.”

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjourn

Chair Martini-Lamb adjourned at 11:43 a.m.