



**San Francisco Bay
Restoration Authority**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 2014

TO: San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board

FROM: Amy Hutzell
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
State Coastal Conservancy

SUBJECT: Revisions to Draft Expenditure Plan, examples of projects and map

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment #1: Revised Draft Expenditure Plan reflecting comments from the Bay Area Council and the Sierra Club
- Attachment #2: Revised Draft Expenditure Plan edited by the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
- Attachment #3: Letter from Mr. Bob Berman
- Attachment #4: Revised list of examples of potential projects that may be eligible for funding
(Example Project Map to be distributed at March 19 Governing Board meeting)

Background

In the latter half of 2013, the Governing Board first discussed the need for an expenditure plan that outlines potential uses of parcel tax revenue, would be used in outreach, and would appear in voter pamphlets, solicited input from its Advisory Committee, and then, at its November 20 meeting, approved a Draft Expenditure Plan (DEP) with the expectation of finalizing it when the Governing Board considers the entire ballot measure and resolution in late Spring 2014. Over the ensuing months, staff received suggestions from stakeholders for improvements to the DEP and is now recommending revision of the DEP to incorporate many of these suggestions.

Staff Recommendations for Improvements to the DEP

Attachment #1 to this memo is a red-lined version of the DEP reflecting recommendations to address comments from the Bay Area Council (BAC) and the Sierra Club. The revisions in this version include using the term “integrated” in the heading for the program that provides for use of revenue for flood management related to Bay restoration projects, add limiting provisions to the component of the public access and education program addressing education about the Bay, adding a priority for projects that have a plan for ongoing stewardship and monitoring, and prohibiting the use of revenue for political advocacy.

Attachment #2 is a different red-lined version of the DEP provided to the Restoration Authority by the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (the Citizens Committee) just as this memo was being drafted. On March 10, the Clerk of the Board forwarded this version and the Citizens Committee’s cover letter to the Governing Board and staff. The revisions proposed by the Citizens Committee include language intended to clarify the purpose of the revenue measure and the criteria to be used for disbursing funds, to highlight the importance of funding ongoing project monitoring and maintenance, and to ensure that new public trails are designed to also protect sensitive wildlife.

Attachment #3 consists of a letter sent by Mr. Bob Berman of Solano County to Sup. Caldwell and recently provided to the rest of the Governing Board and staff. Mr. Berman suggests that a percentage of receipts from each county be spent in that county and that the expenditure plan identify the specific projects that may be funded.

Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve the revisions to the DEP shown in Attachments #1 and #2, with the following exceptions:

- a. Change the proposed sentence in Attachment #2, A. Summary to “To meet that objective, in 2008, the State of California established the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, whose purpose is to raise and allocate resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitats in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline.” This proposed revision is taken from the enabling legislation.
- b. In Section B.4.b. regarding public access and education, preserve flexibility by approving changes to this section as proposed in Attachment #1, but not those proposed in Attachment #2.
- c. In Section C.3.a. regarding allocation criteria and community benefits, approve language that synthesizes the intent of subsection vii as proposed in both Attachment #1 and Attachment #2 as follows: “C.3.a.vii Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship to ensure the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.”
- d. Incorporate the proposed additions in Attachment #2, Section 3, but instead of a list of three bulleted items, write as one sentence to save space.

Staff recommends that the Governing Board discuss Mr. Berman's suggestions at its March 19 meeting and provide guidance about how to proceed.

Staff also recommends that the Governing Board approve use of the attached list of "Examples of Projects Potentially Eligible for Restoration Authority Funding" (Attachment #4). This list has been significantly expanded to incorporate projects identified during an intensive outreach effort in January and February 2014. A map corresponding to the list will be provided at the March 19 Governing Board meeting.

Next Steps

Upon approval by the Governing Board, an integrated revised version of the DEP, example project list and map will be distributed to the Governing Board, Advisory Committee and others for further use in outreach and will be posted on the Restoration Authority website. The recently engaged ballot advisors will analyze the DEP as part of the ballot measure and their recommendations will be provided to the Governing Board. The final expenditure plan will be subject to Governing Board approval at the time that it adopts a ballot measure resolution.