SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

Measure AA Grant Round Summary Slides

What is the SF Bay Restoration Authority?

- Regional agency created to fund shoreline projects that will protect, restore, and enhance San Francisco Bay
- Measure AA (June 2016) generates funds to accomplish SFBRA mission
- Jurisdiction: shoreline of the nine counties in San Francisco Bay Area (excluding Delta primary zone)

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SF Bay Restoration Authority Act: Funding Requirement

The Restoration Authority can fund:

- **Habitat projects** that will restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats along the shoreline.
- **Flood management features** that are part of a habitat project.
- **Public access or recreational amenities** that are part of a habitat project.

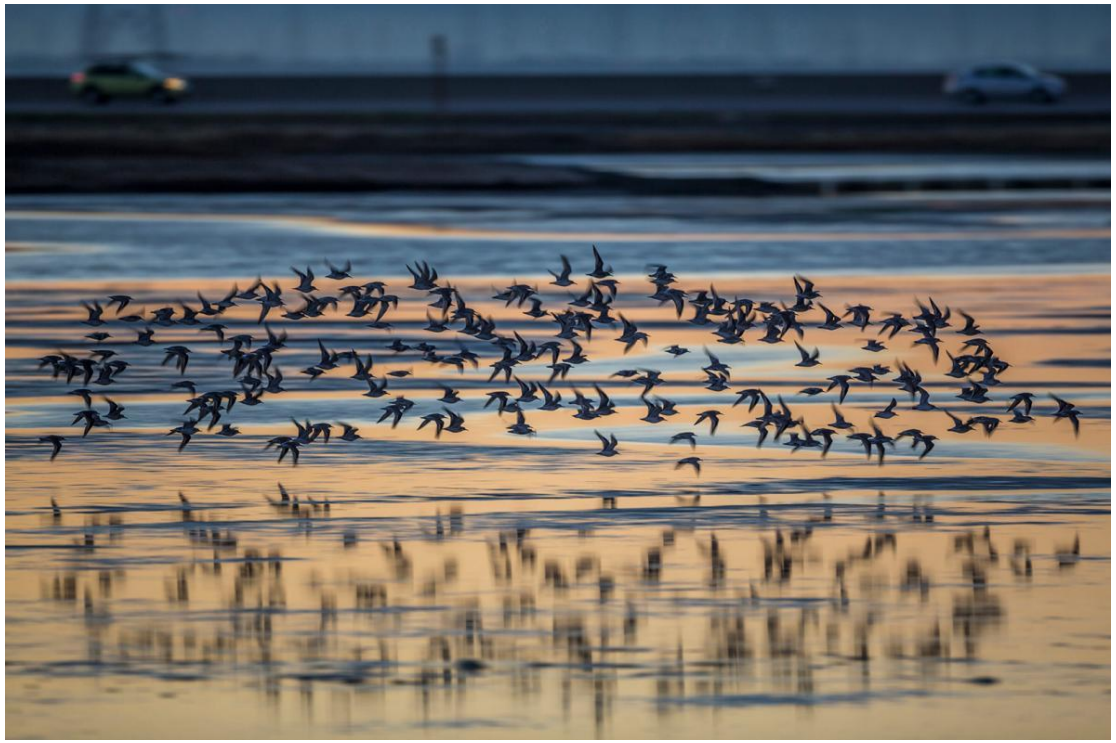

Photo: National Geographic

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Eligible Grantees and Locations

- **Eligible Grantees:**
  - federal, state, and local agencies
  - tribal governments
  - nonprofit organizations
  - owners or operators of shoreline parcels
- **Eligible Locations:**
  - Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties
    - along shorelines of SF Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline (not including Delta Primary Zone)

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Where is “along the Shoreline”?

- **Subtidal Habitats.** Area lying below mean low tide, within a reasonable distance of the shoreline.
- **Baylands.** Areas that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides over multiyear cycles, including those areas that would be covered by the tides in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures, including the portion of creeks or rivers located below the head of tide.
- **Transitions Zones.** Uplands adjacent to potential or actual tidal wetlands that can provide transitional habitat and/or marsh migration space, as well as areas that are needed to enhance the project’s resilience to projected sea level rise.

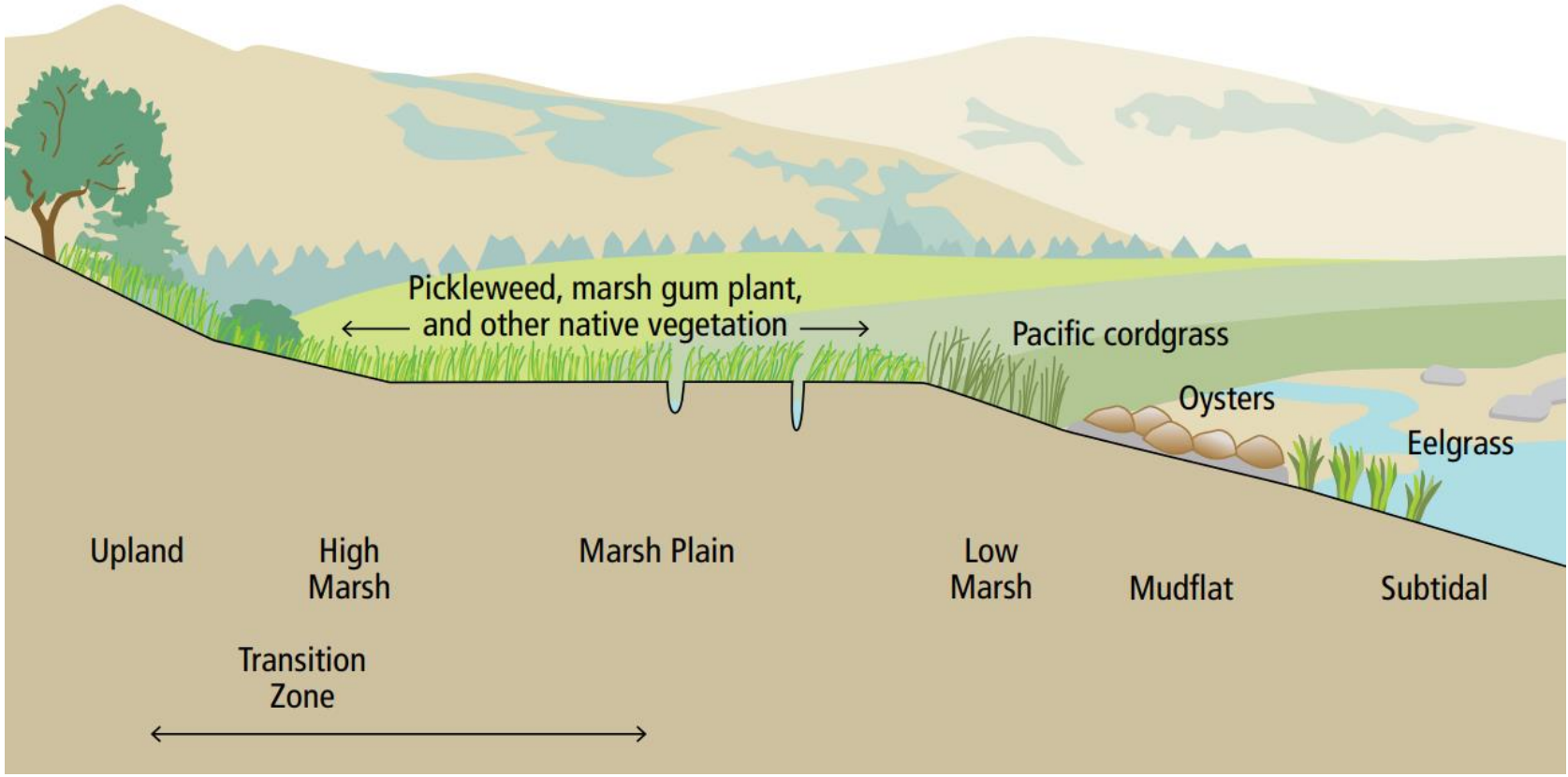

Image: Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update 2015, p. 28

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Eligible Project Phases

Project Phases:

- Acquisition
- Planning
- Design
- Permitting
- Construction/Implementation
- Operation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Maintenance

Think about how to engage communities early on, at any project phase. Partnerships are key!

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Measure AA Eligibility Criteria:
Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention

- Improve water quality by **reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities**
- Reduce pollution levels through **shoreline cleanup and trash removal**
- **Restore wetlands** that provide natural filters and remove pollution
- **Restore creeks where they flow into the Bay**

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Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat

- **Enhance** the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, shoreline parks and open space preserves and other **public lands for expanded and improved habitat for fish, birds, and mammals**
- **Protect and restore wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats** to benefit wildlife including shorebirds, waterfowl, fish
- **Provide for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring** of habitat restoration projects to ensure ongoing benefits to wildlife and people

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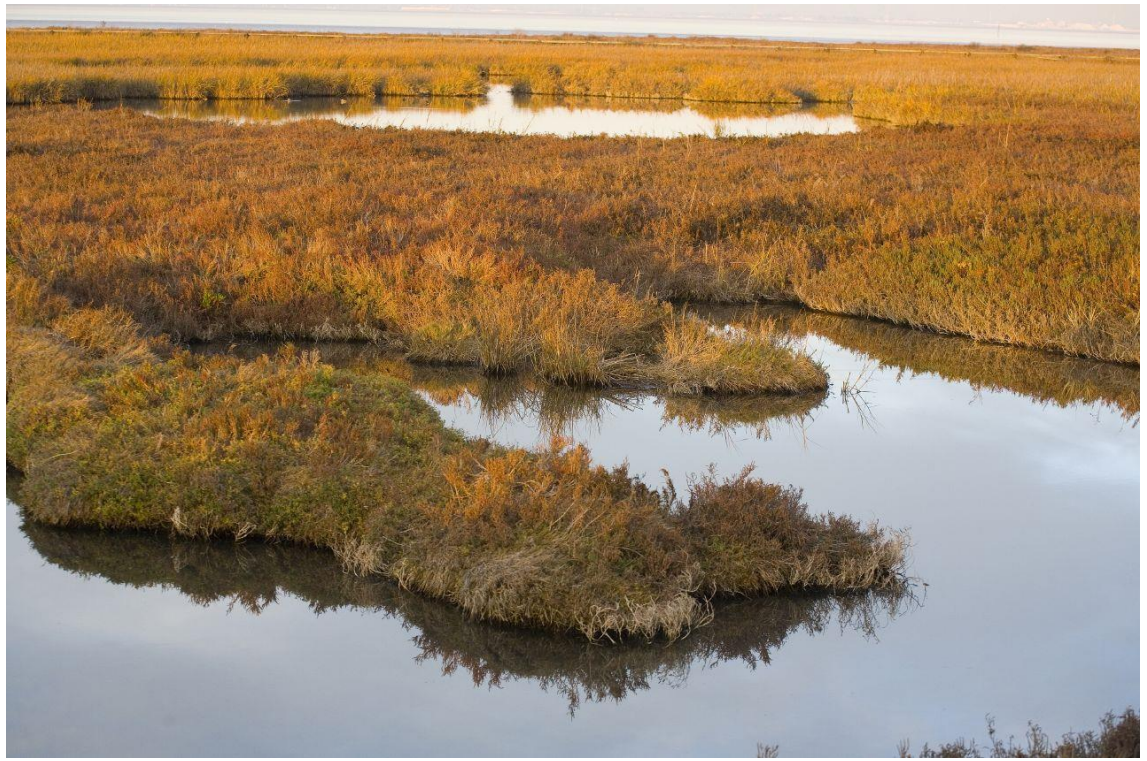
Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Natural Flood Protection

- Provide nature-based flood protection through **wetland and habitat restoration**

- **Build and improve levees** that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities



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Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Shoreline Public Access

To provide safer and improved public access, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay:

- **Construct new, repair existing, and/or replace deteriorating public trails, signs and related facilities** along the shoreline and manage these facilities
- **Provide interpretive materials and special outreach events** about pollution prevention, wildlife habitat, public access, and flood protection, to protect the Bay's health and **encourage community engagement**

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Grant Application Review: Measure AA Prioritization Criteria

- Greatest positive impact
- Greatest long-term impact*
- Geographic distribution
- Leverage state and federal dollars, public/private partnerships
- Benefit economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs)
- Benefit region's economy
- Engage youth and young adults
- Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship
- Contributions to landscape-scale ecological characteristics
- Demonstrate serious effort to engage California Indian Tribes in your project.
- Meet selection criteria of Conservancy, SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission and SF Bay Joint Venture

Measure AA "Likelihood of Success" Criteria

Project's Likelihood of Success, based on:

- **Applicant's capacity and resources to complete and maintain the project**
  - Applicant history
  - Budget; Schedule
  - Leveraging resources and partnerships
  - Monitoring, maintenance, stewardship
- **Project's level of community involvement and benefits and/or innovative partnerships**
  - Project partners; Support letters
  - Community support, involvement, and benefits
  - Benefits economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs)
  - Coordination with local jurisdictions

(Refer to **Request for Proposals** for details: http://sfbayrestore.org/restoration-authority-grants)

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What are "innovative partnerships" and "community benefits"?

Innovative partnerships – collaboration between:

- community-based nonprofits; environmental nonprofits; federal/state/local/tribal governments; health care providers; faith-based organizations; philanthropies; civic organizations; educational institutions; arts organizations, local businesses, or others.

Benefits to communities, especially economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs):

- direct involvement and support of local community groups; track record working within communities; increase relevance of messaging and outreach
- alleviate multiple stressors within communities, e.g. need for recreational amenities, resilience to climate change, reductions in pollution burden, civic engagement, leadership development opportunities.
- For examples of strategies, see Coastal Conservancy's *Tips for Meaningful Community Engagement*

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Regular Grant Round Application Process

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Grant Round Timeline

- **Application Period:** July-October
  - Pre-application and consultation strongly encouraged; deadline for scheduling is late September
  - Email grants@sfbayrestore.org
- **Award Dates:** Starting in Spring of following year
- **More Information:** https://www.sfbayrestore.org/restoration-authority-grants

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Grant Application Review and Evaluation

- The Authority screens applications for eligibility and whether project will be ready to use funds within 12 months
- At least three professionals review each eligible application, including Authority staff and Advisory Committee members
- Scoring Criteria is both quantitative and qualitative based on the Eligibility Criteria, Prioritization Criteria, and Likelihood of Success

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Examples of Projects Funded through Grant Round

Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, Phases 1 and 2

$1,093,100 to the Port of San Francisco for implementation and monitoring

https://www.lejyouth.org/index.php/eco-apprentices/

Hired and trained local young adults in bay ecology and hands-on conservation, such as native plant propagation, revegetation, and invasive plant control

Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project

$7,929,855 to Contra Costa County for implementation

https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects/lower-walnut-creek-restoration-project

Restored creekside wetland habitat by breaching levees to reintroduce the tides to diked former baylands

https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects

Grant Application Tips

- Applications will be evaluated based on the following:
  - **Measure AA ELIGIBILITY Criteria**
  - **Measure AA PRIORITIZATION Criteria**
  - **Project's Likelihood of Success**
- **Pre-applications encouraged** (submit to grants@sfbayrestore.org)
- **Application packet** (submit to grants@sfbayrestore.org)
  - PDF cover pages, Word application questions, Excel budget
  - Project maps and designs
  - Project photos
  - Include a letter from **landowner** (if you are not owner) and from any **tribal partner(s)** with your packet.
  - Optional: Other support letters
- Refer to Grants webpage for Request for Proposals, Application, Additional Resources

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For any questions, contact: grants@sfbayrestore.org

www.sfbayrestore.org