



# Advisory Committee

## MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Yerba Buena Room, First Floor  
San Francisco CA 94105

### 1. Call to Order

Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee (AC) Chair, called the meeting to order.

AC Member Attendance: Dr. Ana Alvarez, Sara Azat, Carolyn Bloede Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Adrian Covert, Arthur Deicke, Gregg Erickson, Christopher Gurney, Beth Huning, Judy Kelly, Zahra Kelly, Shin-Roei Lee, Roger Leventhal, Sally Lieber, Chris Lim, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Mike Mielke, Anne Morkill, Erika Powell, Marina Psaros, Ana Maria Ruiz, Laura Tam, Laura Thompson, Luisa Valiela, Diane Williams, Bruce Wolfe, Beckie Zisser

Staff Attendance: Amy Hutzel, Matt Gerhart, Jessica Davenport, Karen McDowell, Heidi Nutters, Linda Tong

### 2. Determination of Quorum

Deputy Program Manager Jessica Davenport determined that there was a quorum.

### 3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2018

**Decision:** There was consensus to approve the minutes.

### 5. Chair's Report from February 22, 2019 Governing Board Meeting

Chair Valiela welcomed the newly appointed AC members and congratulated the reappointed AC members. All members were invited to introduce themselves.

Chair Valiela reported that the Governing Board approved the Authority's annual report and authorized funding for the 900 Innes Remediation Project. She noted that she asked the Governing Board to give the AC feedback on how they can be most helpful to the Board. Staff reported to the Governing Board that the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team is fully funded for regulatory staff participation. A representative of the Policy and Management Team, made up of managers from the seven regulatory agencies, presented their

Permit and Policy Improvement List, and got feedback from the Governing Board that they should try to address more than one item per year.

Chair Valiela also reported that she attended the first meeting of the Authority's Oversight Committee (OC) on February 21, 2019, and the OC requested copies of the Authority's Communications Strategy and the AC's performance measures memo and recommendations. She noted that the OC will write a report evaluating the work of the Authority. The OC operates independently of the AC, but Chair Valiela will continue to attend their meeting to make sure that the AC does not duplicate their efforts. The next OC meeting will take place on April 12, 2019. The OC will present their report to the Governing Board at the board's September meeting.

## **6. Next Steps for EDCs**

AC Vice Chair Ana Alvarez, Chair of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Next Steps for Economically Disadvantaged Communities (EDCs), provided a brief update. She noted that AC has done quite a bit of work to date related to the Measure AA goal of prioritizing projects that benefit EDCs. The subcommittee met in February and [meeting notes](#) are available in the AC meeting materials packet. Dr. Alvarez noted that the subcommittee expects to complete its work in three to four months, and other AC members are welcome to join. The subcommittee will be a forum where more in-depth conversations on this topic take place. The Authority has hired an equity expert to support the subcommittee, the AC and staff in developing recommendations.

Heidi Nutters, Project Manager for the consulting contract, introduced herself and described the work of the AC related to EDCs to date, including developing a definition for EDCs that was adopted by the Governing Board and convening an environmental justice panel to provide guidance. Staff presented a recommendation at the October AC meeting and received feedback that we should take a step back and consult with communities first. Based on this feedback, staff let a contract for \$25,000 to identify gaps in the Measure AA grant program related to serving and engaging disadvantaged communities; recommend approaches, strategies and actions for addressing those gaps; and identify challenges and opportunities to integrate racial and environmental justice into the Authority's operations. Staff received several proposals from consultants and selected Nahal Ghoghaie, who is recommended by community leaders and is experienced in working with government agencies.

Ms. Ghoghaie then asked the group to focus on developing recommendations that could be incorporated into the Authority's third grant round. She noted that longer term recommendation would be discussed at future meetings, such as the June AC meeting.

One AC member noted that the purpose of the Authority is benefit wildlife. She asked whether the focus on EDCs would give lower priority to projects in some natural communities, e.g., in the North Bay, that don't have EDCs nearby. Staff responded by stating that it is possible to benefit EDCs in the North Bay through efforts such as the Measure AA-

funded STRAW project, which involves students and teachers from underserved schools in restoration projects. In addition, even if there is a strong emphasis on the grant program providing benefits to EDCs, not every project must benefit an EDC.

Another AC member stated that conservation organizations need more partnerships with groups focused on equity and environmental justice. She suggested that grant applicants be asked whether they have a diversity, equity and inclusion policy and whether they have a method for doing outreach to EDCs. This could be part of the scoring criteria for grant applications. She said that the Authority needs to clarify whether it is asking for a participatory process to determine what the community wants from the project.

Another AC member noted that Measure AA prioritized economically disadvantaged communities and asked how this intersects those populations subject to sea level rise impacts in the near future. She asked if there was a map of the way they overlap. (After the meeting, a link was provided to this mapping tool: <https://resilienceatlas.sfei.org/>.) It was noted that grant applicants can describe projected sea level rise impacts for their community, regardless of whether they reference a map. Another resource cited was Sea Change San Mateo County (<https://seachangesmc.org/>).

Another AC member stated that it is important for projects to be integrated into the community, not just adjacent. Grant applications could ask for a plan to measure community use after the project is built.

Another AC member expressed interest in the suggestion to request letters of inquiry before inviting full applications. She suggested that it would be important to invite unsuccessful applicants to resubmit and get help to make their project more competitive. She noted that two types of effective community outreach are including community members in the actual work, e.g., planting, and field tours before and after the project is constructed.

Another AC member who recently reviewed grant applications noted that there are ways of assessing how deep the connection with an EDC is. Adjacency is not enough. A description of collaboration with a community-based organization (CBO) is better and letter of support from a CBO is even better.

Another AC member asked how to consider homeless encampments, which are often close to water bodies and can harm water quality. It takes a lot of outreach and work to address the needs of the homeless. Another member noted that this can be addressed by creating partnerships with social justice organizations and social service agencies to help the unsheltered.

Another AC member stated that is important to consider the use of an area by the community, e.g., in some places children are using a shoreline trail to get to school.

Another AC member asked how the Authority defines “benefits” to EDCs. Staff noted that this was done in the Grant Program Guidelines<sup>1</sup>, but could be expanded based on community input gathered by the consultant. There could be a near term recommendation to clarify the need to use this definition in scoring grant applications.

Another AC member stated that there are a lot of collaboratives, e.g., in East Oakland, and one could do outreach fairly quickly by working with them.

Another AC member said that there seem to be two branches for outreach: 1) CBOs in EDCs who have ideas for restoration and want to complete an application; and 2) non-CBOs who want to do a project in an EDC to benefit an EDC. We may need two tracks for recommendations to address each of these.

Ms. Ghoghaie created lists of recommendations in various categories and asked AC members to place sticky dots to vote for the ones they supported.

**Next Steps:**

Additional AC members can join the ad hoc subcommittee by getting in touch with Dr. Alvarez.

Ms. Ghoghaie will be conducting phone interviews with community leaders as part of the next phase of developing recommendations.

**7. Formation of Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review and Comment on Annual Report**

Chair Valiela noted that the AC has the opportunity to review and comment on the annual report. One AC member stated that the annual report is well done. It presents a lot of complex information in a succinct way. Another stated that it would be good for the AC to have input on audiences for the report. A two-pager would be helpful for city councils and boards of supervisors. Another stated he would like to see more work on metrics in the future to help the public assess progress. Another noted that outreach is very important for a document like this.

**Decision:** There was consensus to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Annual Report. (Following the meeting, the following members confirmed their interest in serving on this subcommittee: Erika Castillo, Arthur Deicke, Chris Gurney, Zahra Kelly, David Lewis, Mike Mielke, and Bruce Wolfe.)

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<sup>1</sup> The Grant Program Guidelines state, “A proposed project’s ability to provide benefits to these communities will be judged on the basis of the direct involvement and support of local community groups; a demonstrated track record working within communities; the use of proven strategies to increase relevance of messaging and outreach; and the ability to alleviate multiple stressors within communities, including, but not limited to, addressing the need for additional recreational amenities, resilience to climate change, reductions in pollution burden, greater civic engagement, and enhanced leadership development opportunities.”

## **8. Recommendation on AC Chair and Vice Chair for 2019-2021**

The current AC Chair and Vice Chair expressed interest in continuing their positions. No other AC members expressed interest.

**Decision:** There was consensus to recommend that the Governing Board reappoint Luisa Valiela as Chair and Dr. Ana Alvarez as Vice Chair of the AC.

## **9. Project Tracker Update**

Beth Huning, the recently retired Coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, described the history of Project Tracker in [EcoAtlas](#), and its use by the Joint Venture and other agencies. Christina Grosso of the San Francisco Estuary Institute gave a [presentation](#) on EcoAtlas, including an update on the Project Tracker's newly created function of identifying projects as "SFBRA (Funded)" or "SFBRA (Eligible)". She demonstrated the current Joint Venture dashboards that summarize projects within a region by status, habitat type, and funding agency contribution. Such dashboards could be created in the future for Authority projects.

## **10. Restoration Authority Grant Review Process**

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager, stated that the second round of grant proposals were due on Nov. 26, 2018. Fifteen proposals were received, totaling \$81 million in funding requests, including a \$55 million request for the Shoreline Project. AC members and staff recently completed reviewing and scoring proposals, and the staff will be asking follow-up questions and developing funding recommendations over the next few weeks. Staff recommendations will be presented for potential funding authorizations beginning at the June Governing Board meeting.

## **11. Meeting Process Check-In: What's Working, What's Not**

Chair Valiela summarized some of the key points from the discussion at the October AC meeting.

- To accommodate AC member preferences, the AC will continue to rotate meetings between San Francisco and Oakland.
- To strengthen the connection between AC and the Governing Board, the Chair has invited board members to attend AC meetings when possible.
- To expose AC members to on-the-ground projects, the Chair and staff will work with the Joint Venture to plan a tour for the AC in 2019. AC members are also encouraged to attend board tours, such as the tour of the 900 Innes Remediation Project scheduled for September 6, 2019.
- To improve AC understanding of how its work has influenced board decisions or staff work, staff has provided a memo describing the impact of AC work products over the last two years.

## **12. Schedule for AC Meetings in 2019**

Chair Valiela directed AC member to review the [2019 Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule](#). Meeting dates, time, and locations are also posted on the [website](#).

### **13. Announcements**

Chair Valiela announced that the EPA is coordinating its grant program with the Authority's grant program this year. She also noted that Congresswoman Jackie Speier reintroduced a bill, H.R. 1132, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act, to provide funding for a San Francisco Bay Program at EPA.<sup>2</sup>

AC Member Erika Powell announced that California State Assemblymember Kevin Mullin will carry a bill for San Mateo County and its 20 cities to modify the scope of the existing San Mateo County Flood Control District to include addressing sea level rise. The bill would rename the district the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District. The bill would require commencing January 1, 2020, and the district would be governed by a newly formed board of directors. The Cities are being asked to endorse, via resolution, this new repurposed agency that will provide all 20 cities, the county, and numerous stakeholders a platform to collaborate on and implement near-term and long-term regional stormwater, flood protection and adaptation investments.

AC Member Laura Thompson announced that 2019 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bay Trail.

AC Member Erika Castillo announced that upcoming technical workshops, including ones of mosquito abatement and wildlife, would be hosted by the group leading the developing of a Wetland Regional Monitoring Program for the Bay Area.

AC Member Diane Williams announced that she is asking for a moratorium on the use of the herbicide Roundup (glyphosate) because she is concerned about its public health impacts. She also noted drastic declines in monarch butterfly populations. She invited all AC members to visit her nursery in Oakland where she works with reentry populations, i.e., those reentering the community after incarceration.

### **14. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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<sup>2</sup> According to Rep. Speier's press release, "The bill authorizes \$25 million each year for five years to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award grants to conservation and restoration projects, consistent with the federal Clean Water Act's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for San Francisco Bay. These funds will match the \$25 million that the local Measure AA is expected to raise annually."