

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee

Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economically Disadvantaged Communities

MEETING NOTES

Prepared by Chantal Alatorre, Planner, East Bay Regional Park District and
Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

February 15, 2019
1:00pm – 2:00pm

Meeting Location:
State Coastal Conservancy - Del Norte Conference Room
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor, Oakland CA

Attendees

Advisory Committee (AC) Members

- Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Advisory Committee Vice Chair, Lead for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economically Disadvantaged Communities,
- Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee Chair
- Zahra Kelly
- Mike Mielke

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Staff

- Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager
- Heidi Nutters, Project Manager
- Linda Tong, Intern

East Bay Regional Park District Staff (Supporting or Observing)

Chantal Alatorre, Planner

Alice Kinner, Training Manager

Kip Walsh, Chief Human Resources Officer

1. Welcome and Introductions (Informational)

Facilitator: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez

Each attendee introduced themselves and stated their individual role.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Formation (Information)

Facilitator: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez

Facilitator described the issues that were raised when the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economically Disadvantaged Communities (EDCs) was formed at the October 2018 AC meeting. She noted that AC members emphasized that, in the effort to prioritize projects that benefit economically disadvantaged communities, the Authority will need to avoid mission creep, and should be careful not overburden community-based organizations with government grants that have challenging cash flow requirements and strict accounting standards.

The overarching goal of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee EDC is to contribute to developing recommendations on what steps the Authority should take to achieve Measure AA's goal of prioritizing projects that benefit economically disadvantaged communities. The ad hoc subcommittee will bring ideas to the Advisory Committee for further discussion.

3. **Review of Activities Contributing Towards EDC Goal (Informational)**

Facilitator: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez

The facilitator provided a summary of past events and items listed below:

- [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Panel](#) (Jun. 29, 2018)
 - Three EJ experts, including members of community-based organizations, provided insights and suggestions regarding how the Measure AA grant program can better engage with and serve EDCs.
- [Proposal to Develop a Community Engagement Program for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority](#) (Sept. 20, 2018)
 - The memo was prepared by Authority staff, informed by EJ Panel.
- Recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Governing Board on Performance Measures and Annual Report Format (Sept. 21, 2018 Authority Board)
 - The recommendations include the performance metric “Percentage of projects providing benefits to economically disadvantaged communities”
- Formation of Community Engagement / EDC Ad Hoc Subcommittee
 - This occurred at the October 2018 AC meeting, as described above.

4. **Update on SFBRA Equity Consultant (Informational)**

Facilitator: Heidi Nutters

The Authority allocated \$25,000 to hire an Equity Consultant to establish both immediate recommendations for the next round of grant applications and long-term recommendations for the grant program. The consultant's work will consist of the following tasks:

- Identify recommendations, opportunities and challenges associated with the Authority's overall approach for integrating racial and environmental justice into its operations over the life of Measure AA;
- Identify gaps in the Measure AA grant program related to serving and engaging economically disadvantaged, or frontline communities; and
- Recommend approaches, strategies and actions for addressing those gaps

During the month of December, Nutters (serving as the project manager) solicited proposals from consulting firms. Authority staff are currently in the process of selecting the consultant. The goal is to have a consultant on board before the EDC ad hoc subcommittee has its second meeting.

5. **Opportunities to Contribute to Consultant's Scope of Work (Discussion)**

Facilitator: Heidi Nutters

The attendees had a discussion on where the appropriate opportunities may exist to enhance, confirm, and/or guide consultant's work such as early consultation with the subcommittee on initial recommendations as well as the approach to community input/outreach methodology. The

attendees decided that the EDC ad hoc subcommittee will serve as a place to screen the consultant's ideas prior to presenting them to the Advisory Committee.

The issue of engagement of tribal groups was raised. This could be done by opening lines of communication with tribal representatives and recruiting tribal members to serve on the AC. Feedback from AC members included the point that because the Authority's jurisdiction is not tribal lands, this is not a good use of time. Another concern was that, in the case of tribal burial sites, it is not always easy to determine the "most likely descendant", and there are sometimes conflicts between tribes on this question.

6. Recommendations on Near-Term Changes to Round 3 of the Grant Program (Action)

Facilitators: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez and Heidi Nutters

The equity consultant will develop near-term and long-term recommendations for the grant program. Near-term recommendations pertain to Round 3 of the grant program and will be proposed to the AC during their March meeting. This ad hoc subcommittee will serve as a place to generate ideas, recommendations and opportunities for Round 3. Once the equity consultant is on board, they will develop these further in conjunction with community-based organizations and equity leaders.

The subcommittee generated a list of ideas of potential recommendations:

- Letter of Inquiry prior to submitting grant application
 - The Authority will allow prospective applicants for grant funding the opportunity to submit a letter of inquiry to determine if the proposed project is ready for funding and would make a strong application. If a project is not determined to have the basis for a strong application, the Authority will have the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance on how the project could become a better candidate for funding.
- Building trust with community-based organizations and economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs).
 - Any grantee receiving funding from Measure AA should be responsible for trust and community building
 - Trust building should be prioritized over capacity building, which may be better accomplished by environmental organizations.
- Community outreach workshops for interested applicants
 - The Authority could offer community workshops for community-based organizations to inquire about applying for funds
 - Support fostering partnerships between community-based organizations and local government/implementing entities.
- Changing scoring criteria to show stronger nexus/relationships with communities
 - Add specific scoring criteria for applicants to demonstrate that proposed projects have local community support and/or to demonstrate engagement with EDCs.
 - Community workshops could be explicitly required in the grant application to demonstrate engagement with communities and support for proposed project
 - Going beyond applicants demonstrating their projects are adjacent to EDCs.

7. Scheduling Standing Meetings, Frequency and Preferred Location (Action)

Facilitator: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez

Facilitator will send a doodle poll to subcommittee members to determine next meeting.

Existing Upcoming Meetings:
Friday, March 8, 2019 – Advisory Committee
Friday, April 5, 2019 – Governing Board