

**Recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Governing Board on
Implementing Measure AA in a Manner that Benefits
Economically Disadvantaged Communities**

The Advisory Committee (AC) has reached consensus on a set of recommendations (Exhibit A of Resolution 69) to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Governing Board regarding how to implement Measure AA in a manner that benefits Economically Disadvantaged Communities (EDCs). These recommendations were initially developed by an ad hoc subcommittee and presented to the AC at its meeting of October 11, 2019. Through discussion at the meeting, the revised list of near-term recommendations below was developed and agreed upon; agreement on longer-term recommendations occurred at the AC meeting on June 5, 2020.

The recommendations fall into three strategic intentions (SI) of (SI01) create a guiding pathway to shepherd community-based organizations, EDCs and others into the Measure AA Grant process; (SI02) foster healthy relationships based on trust, meaningful engagement and authentic partnerships; (SI03) remove barriers through a revised grant process including amending scoring criteria to incorporate social and racial justice principles into required criteria. Also, while the recommendations are categorized by specific timelines, the timing of implementation is dependent on the Governing Board's priorities and/or Authority staff capacity. However, there is a shared sense of urgency by the ad hoc subcommittee to deliver on Measure AA public commitment of prioritizing projects that benefit EDCs; and a shared strong commitment by the Governing Board and the AC to also advance environmental justice in the Bay Area.

The Advisory Committee commends the Governing Board for its insight and leadership in commissioning a community-based assessment to integrate racial and environmental justice into the Authority's operation over the life of Measure AA. The community-based assessment brought to the Authority's attention the voices of marginalized community members and environmental justice leaders.

Background

Measure AA states, "The Authority shall give priority to projects that...[b]enefit economically disadvantaged communities," or EDCs, which are defined by the Grant Guidelines as:

"An economically disadvantaged community (EDC) is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80% of the area median income (AMI). Within this set of low-income communities, communities of particular concern include those that: are historically underrepresented in environmental policymaking and/or projects, bear a disproportionate environmental and health burden, are most vulnerable to climate change impacts due to lack of resources required for community resilience, or are severely burdened by housing costs, increasing the risk of displacement."

While the current Grant Guidelines also provide a description of benefits to EDCs and a performance metric to track percentage of projects providing benefits to EDCs was adopted

by the Governing Board on September 21, 2018, the AC formed a Community Engagement / EDC Ad Hoc Subcommittee on October 5, 2018 to:

- Define actions in the form of recommendations that will meet Measure AA goal of prioritizing projects that benefit EDCs;
- Serve in an advisory capacity to the equity consultant commissioned to conduct a community-based assessment report to screen ideas as well as review findings and recommendations in advance of the Advisory Committee;
- Screen all body work for “mission creep”, to avoid overburdening community-based organizations and to avoid recreating the mistakes from the past.

Scope & Methods of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on EDCs

The Advisory Committee defined the scope of work for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economically Disadvantaged Communities (Subcommittee) as prioritizing projects that benefit EDCs. The recommendations were developed through the review of several documents and practices including an Authority-commissioned equity-focused community-based assessment (CBA Report) entitled *Establishing an Equity and Community Engagement Program that Benefits Economically Disadvantaged Communities*. The CBA Report was distributed to AC members in digital format in advance of the October 11, 2019 AC meeting.

The Subcommittee took on the following tasks from October 2018 to October 1, 2019 based on the scope of work identified by the AC:

- Reviewed the feedback and recommended actions presented by the Environmental Justice Panel and follow-up document prepared by Authority staff with input from AC members.
- Met to develop near-term recommendations on most pressing needs (i.e., for the upcoming third grant round) and define the Subcommittee’s role of screening the consultant’s ideas prior to presenting them to the AC.
- Reviewed and provided feedback to a draft of the CBA Report.
- Met to review best practices from others, including the Greenlining Institute, Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), and Portland Metro Parks; hear a presentation by the equity consultant on the CBA Report and discuss the findings; and rank the CBA recommendations based on feasibility and impact through a mapping exercise.
- Met for a working session to screen recommendations for consistency with the Authority’s mission, identify gaps, and solicit priorities.
- Conducted an online survey to better understand priorities, identify gaps, and categorize recommendations with respect to timing (near-term, short-term and long-term).
- Reviewed, coalesced, and prioritized ideas to develop recommendations.

For more information see, [Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Recommendations to Benefit Economically Disadvantaged Communities](#).

Request

The AC request the Authority adopt Resolution 69, accepting the AC recommendations and directing staff to report back annually on progress in implementing these recommendations.