



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY



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RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MEASURE AA
2020 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
July 22, 2020
~~2019 PROPOSAL SOLICITATION~~

**Grants Funded by the San Francisco Bay Clean Water,
Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure**

**Applications Due October 23, 2020~~due December 13,~~
~~2019~~**

~~September 18, 2019~~

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I. Introduction

~~—The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and the Restoration Act~~

~~The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (“Authority”) is a regional government agency whose with a Governing Board made up of local elected officials appointed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Its purpose is to raise and allocate funds resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetland and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along the San Francisco Bay’s shoreline. Funds are raised through The Authority was created by the California legislature in 2008 with the enactment of AB 2954 (Lieber), the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act (“Restoration Act”).~~

~~—Measure AA, which was put: The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure~~

~~After the Authority’s Governing Board placed Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (“Measure AA”) on the June 7, 2016 ballot by the Authority and passed by residents of the nine-county Bay Area in 2016. Measure AA voted with a 70% majority to pass it. This measure is a \$12 parcel tax, which will raise approximately \$25 million annually or \$500 million over twenty years, to fund shoreline projects that will protect and restore San Francisco Bay through removing :~~

~~Measure AA proceeds will fund shoreline projects that protect and restore San Francisco Bay by: reducing trash, pollution, trash, and harmful toxins to improve; improving water quality; restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife; protecting communities from floods; and increasing shoreline public access and recreational areas. Proceeds will be disbursed via competitive grants, as outlined in this RFP.~~

~~Funds will be disbursed through Grant Rounds or through the Community Grants Program. If a project is eligible for the Grant Round, applicants can submit a full grant application. If a community-based project is directed to the Community Grants Program, Authority staff will work with the applicant to develop a full project proposal.~~

II. Eligibility and Required Criteria

~~To be eligible for Measure AA funds, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria below for grantees, project locations, and projects. Eligibility and required criteria are based on the Restoration Act and Measure AA as described in the SFBRA Grant Program Guidelines (June 2017) and reviewed below.~~

~~e.a. Eligible Grantees~~

~~Eligible grantees are federal, state, and local agencies; tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; and owners or operators of shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay Area, excluding the Delta primary zone.~~

d.b. Eligible Project Locations

~~Projects To be eligible, projects~~ must be located within the nine Bay Area counties: ~~(Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, or City and County of San Francisco.~~

~~Projects must also be;~~ along the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline ~~(to the edge of, but not including;~~ the Delta Primary Zone ~~– see Appendix C);~~ that are in areas consistent with guidance provided in the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update* (2015) and *Subtidal Habitat Goals Report* (2010), including:

- In subtidal areas (lying below mean low tide), within a reasonable distance of the shoreline;
- In baylands, i.e., 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; or
- On 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.

~~For a map of the Delta Primary Zone, see Appendix C.~~

e.c. Eligible Project Phases

Eligible project phases include acquisition¹, planning ~~and;~~ design, environmental studies ~~to prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation,~~ permitting, construction, monitoring and evaluation, operation ~~and maintenance, and;~~ scientific studies as part of the project to guide adaptive management, ~~and maintenance.~~

f.d. Eligible Project Types and Activities

¹ If your project is an acquisition, please include details of the restoration benefits in the project description section of the application. ~~See Appendix D (3. Eligible Project Phases) for details on acquisitions. The Authority will consider funding acquisitions (fee and/or less than fee (e.g. easement) interests in land where demonstrably significant opportunity exists to either protect existing natural baylands resources from loss, degradation or development or to meaningfully enhance or restore baylands resources and/or provide habitat related public access and flood benefits. Eligible~~ In general, the Authority will seek to fund the least costly, most efficient and effective method of securing the long-term benefits of site tenure; acquisitions will therefore be judged on the tangibility, significance and likelihood of success of the eventual restoration or enhancement opportunity. ~~In addition to the eligibility and prioritization criteria for any other Measure AA funded project, eligible acquisitions must:~~

- ~~• Be transacted with willing sellers;~~
- ~~• Be for no more than fair market value as determined in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards;~~
- ~~• Have legal access to the property and be acceptably free and clear of defects of title;~~
- ~~• Be free of contamination that could impact the projected use and benefits of the property, as demonstrated through a Phase I environmental assessment or higher level site analysis;~~
- ~~• Be secured in perpetuity for the Measure AA purposes. For any acquisition by a private entity, a third-party public entity must partner to secure the public's interest in the acquisition.~~
- ~~• If an easement, include terms sufficient to achieve the protection, restoration, or public access purposes of the project.~~

To be eligible for Measure AA funds, ~~prospective~~ projects must qualify as one or more of the three Restoration Act project types listed below:

1. Habitat Project

A habitat project will restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay area, excluding the Delta Primary Zone.² “Natural habitats” are considered those habitats that are consistent with existing guidance on baylands, riparian, and subtidal habitats, including those that have been modified by human activity, but still provide tangible wildlife support and/or ecological value.³

2. Flood Management, as part of a Habitat Project

A flood management project will build or enhance shoreline levees or other flood management features that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified under Habitat Project (as defined in #1 above). Flood management projects will be considered part of a habitat project if the habitat project is in the planning stages, underway, or partially complete. Generally, flood management projects will be considered part of habitat projects if they are included in the plan, environmental documents, and/or permits for the particular habitat restoration project with which they are associated.

3. Public Access, as part of a Habitat Project

A public access project will provide or improve public access or recreational amenities that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats identified in Habitat Project (as defined in #1 above). Public access projects will be considered part of a habitat project if the habitat project is in the planning stages, underway, or partially complete. Generally, public access projects will be considered part of habitat projects if they are included in the plan, environmental documents, and/or permits for the particular habitat restoration project with which they are associated.

Projects that qualify under the Restoration Act (see above) Eligible projects may receive funding for the following activities described in Measure AA:

The *Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program*’s purpose is to remove pollution, trash and harmful toxins from the Bay in order to provide clean water for fish, birds, wildlife and people. Eligible activities are:

- a. Improving water quality by reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities, protecting public health and making fish and wildlife healthier.
- b. Reducing pollution levels through shoreline cleanup and trash removal from the Bay.
- c. Restoring wetlands that provide natural filters and remove pollution from the Bay’s water.

² A Delta Primary Zone map can be found in Appendix C.

³ A list of relevant local or regional plans regarding habitat types can be found in Appendix B.

- d. Cleaning and enhancing creek outlets where they flow into the Bay.

The *Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program*'s purpose is to significantly improve wildlife habitat that will support and increase vital populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife in and around the Bay. Eligible activities are:

- a. Enhancing the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, shoreline parks and open space preserves, and other protected lands in and around the Bay, providing expanded and improved habitat for fish, birds and mammals.
- b. Protecting and restoring wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats to benefit wildlife, including shorebirds, waterfowl and fish.
- c. Providing for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay, to ensure their ongoing benefits to wildlife and people.

The *Integrated Flood Protection Program*'s purpose is to use natural habitats to protect communities along the Bay's shoreline from the risks of severe coastal flooding caused by storms and high water levels. Eligible activities are:

- a. Providing nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay's edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.
- b. Building and/or improving flood protection levees that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities, to protect existing shoreline communities, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The *Shoreline Public Access Program*'s purpose is to enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents, including those with disabilities, through safer and improved public access, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay. Eligible activities are:

- a. Constructing new, repairing existing and/or replacing deteriorating public access trails, signs, and related facilities along the shoreline and managing these public access facilities.
- b. Providing 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.

Additional Eligibility Considerations

Mitigation projects are generally not eligible for Measure AA funds. Mitigation projects are generally not eligible for Measure AA funds.⁴ Environmental mitigation is the action or

⁴ The Restoration Authority will primarily fund voluntary habitat restoration projects. The Authority will not fund project impacts that are not compensated on site as part of the restoration project (e.g. through private mitigation banks or other off site mitigation actions). However, the Authority may fund the on-site compensatory requirements of a project that is eligible for Measure AA funds and that demonstrates net positive benefits. The Authority may contribute to a project that is making use of mitigation funds, but the Authority's share of the funds must pay for an incremental improvement beyond compensation for damages that may have occurred elsewhere as part of the

activity required by a regulatory agency to remedy, reduce, or offset known negative impacts to the environment.

~~Mitigation projects are generally not eligible for Measure AA funds. Additionally, t~~Additionally, t~~The Authority's grant funding is also not intended to go towards the cost of dredging navigation channels, ports, or marinas, but the Authority may provide grant funds to support the incremental cost of delivery of dredged material to a restoration project that requires sediment in order to achieve habitat restoration goals. The Authority may also consider funding projects that incorporate dredging into the design of a restoration or enhancement effort, where the dredge design approach is based on sustainable geomorphic processes using best available science. Please refer to the Grant Program Guidelines for eligibility requirements for mitigation projects and habitat restoration projects using dredged material.~~

III. Solicitation Priorities

~~The Authority will give priority to eligible projects that achieve as many as possible of the following priorities:~~
Eligible projects will be evaluated on the depth and breadth with which they

- a. Have the greatest positive impact⁵ on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.
- b. Have the greatest long-term impact⁶ on the Bay, to benefit future generations.

~~mitigation requirements. See Appendix D (5A. Voluntary vs Mitigation Projects) for more details on mitigation projects (5A. Voluntary vs Mitigation Projects) and projects that involve dredging dredging projects beneficial use of dredged sediment (5B. Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediment) beneficial.~~

⁵ *Greatest positive impact* refers to projects that demonstrate, through the use of established best available scientific knowledge, adopted regional and local plans, and relevant studies, the greatest potential benefits to the Bay ecosystem. In addition, they include restoration projects that provide co-benefits, including, but not limited to, improved flood protection, public access and recreational amenities, beneficial reuse of dredged material and carbon sequestration.

⁶ *Greatest long-term impact* refers to projects that best demonstrate an ability to provide benefits over long timeframes despite the potential for changing circumstances such as changes in freshwater supply, sediment delivery, species composition, and rising sea levels. Projects should use the best available science to incorporate future climate variability, ideally providing resilience across multiple climate change scenarios.

- c. Provide for geographic distribution⁷ across the region and ensure that there are projects funded in each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area over the life of Measure AA.⁸
- d. Increase impact value by leveraging state and federal resources and public/private partnerships.
- e. Benefit economically disadvantaged communities⁹.
- f. Benefit the region's economy, including local workforce development¹⁰, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.
- g. Work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.
- h. Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship to develop the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.
- i. Meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy.¹¹

~~⁷-Geographic distribution refers to projects that contribute to Measure AA's funding distribution requirement. Over the life of Measure AA, 20 years, 50% of funds will be allocated based on geographic distribution to each of the four Bay Area regions, which are defined as follows:~~

- ~~● North Bay (Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Solano Counties): 9% minimum allocation;~~
- ~~● East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties): 18% minimum allocation;~~
- ~~● West Bay (City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County): 11% minimum allocation; and~~
- ~~● South Bay (Santa Clara County): 12% minimum allocation.~~

~~⁸-Geographic distribution will be assessed by the location of projects proposed and assessed over multiple grant cycles.~~

~~⁹ "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 the 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." A ~~proposed~~ project's ability to provide benefits to these communities will be judged based 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. For examples of ~~proven~~ strategies, see the State Coastal Conservancy's *Tips for Meaningful Community Engagement*, <http://scc.ca.gov/files/2019/04/Tips-for-Meaningful-Community-Engagement.pdf>.~~

~~¹⁰ The Authority requires grantees to negotiate, enter into and execute a project labor agreement with the local building trades council or councils, subject to certain conditions and exceptions outlined in its Resolution 22, adopted November 30, 2016.~~

~~¹¹ See Appendix A for the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program, and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy ~~and project list link. This criteria is captured via three separate questions in the grant application.~~~~

VII. IV. Grant Application Process and Timeline

a. Project Solicitation Period

~~Annual~~ Requests for Proposals ~~funded with funds generated by Measure AA~~ will be posted on the Authority’s website and sent out to the Authority’s mailing lists.

~~The Authority anticipates a 9-month grant award schedule, as outlined below, for this current grant round.~~ The evaluation and grant recommendation periods below are subject to change.

Request for Proposals <u>Solicitation</u> Released	July 22, 2020 <u>September 18, 2019</u>
<u>Pre-Application Period</u>	July 22, 2020 to September <u>October 2, 2020</u>
<u>Informational Webinar</u> (optional)	August 20, 2020 <u>October 9, 2019</u>
Full Applications <u>Proposals</u> Due	October 23, 2020 <u>December 13, 2019</u>
Evaluation	Fall 2020 to Winter 2019 to Spring 2020/2021
Grant Funding Recommendations and Board Meeting	Spring 2021 <u>Early Summer 2020</u>

The link to sign up for the webinar will be posted on the Authority’s website and sent out to the Authority’s mailing list.

All Authority grants will be awarded at a San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board meeting. The specific meeting when a grant will be considered will depend on project readiness and staff capacity.

b. Optional Pre-Application~~Proposal Consultation~~

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a pre-application, so ~~consult with~~ Authority staff can determine if a project is eligible for the Grant Round or the Community Grants Program. Authority staff will follow up with a phone~~prior to submitting their applications. Pre-proposal consultation. If a project is eligible for the Grant Round, applicants can submit a full grant application. If a community-based project is directed to the Community Grants Program, Authority staff will work with the~~ will be available to any potential applicant to develop a full project proposal, but will not be required.

c. Grant Application

Applicants must submit a ~~complete grant~~ application to grants@sfbayrestore.org, cover page, and a grant application form. All of these materials are posted on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority’s Grants webpage (<http://www.sfbayrestore.org/restoration-authority-grants>).

Applicants can demonstrate community support for their projects by including support letters from community representatives.

~~The cover page includes a section for performance measures. The Authority uses performance measures to track the expected outcomes of activities funded by of the Measure AA grant program. Applicants need only provide expected outcome data for those performance measures that are relevant to their projects. During application review, expected outcome performance measure data will be considered in the context of the project purpose and will not directly influence scoring. See the Grant Program Guidelines for additional information about performance measures.~~

IX.V. Application Review and Evaluation

~~—~~ Completeness

~~Grant applications will be initially screened by Authority staff for completeness. Incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Applicants may choose to complete their application and resubmit it within five business days, or in a future solicitation period.~~

a. Application Screening

The Authority staff will screen ~~complete~~ grant applications to ensure that:

- The project and potential grantee meets the Authority’s eligibility requirements as outlined in the Authority’s enabling legislation;
- Proposed activities are eligible for funding as set forth in Measure AA; and
- The project will be ready to use Authority funds within 12 months of the application due date. The Authority will only authorize funding for construction projects that have completed CEQA analysis~~Construction projects can use Authority funds only after CEQA is complete.~~
- ~~If an application does~~Projects will have environmental documents completed in time to be presented to the Governing Board by September 2020.

~~Applications that do not pass the screening process, will not proceed to the review process. Authority staff will notify the applicant. Upon The applicant may request, feedback from Authority staff will provide feedback on whether and how the proposal could be modified to meet the screening criteria, and the applicant may resubmit it in a future grant roundsolicitation period.~~

b. Review

Complete applications that have passed the screening process will be reviewed and evaluated by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise in the Authority’s program areas (as described in the enabling legislation and Measure AA). Reviewers may include, but are not limited to, public agency staff, consultants, academics, Authority staff and Advisory Committee members. ~~All reviewers who are not subject to the Authority’s Conflict of Interest Code will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. All reviewers will evaluate each proposal in accordance with the scoring criteria as described below.~~

c. Scoring Criteria: Quantitative and Qualitative

Reviewers will score projects quantitatively within the categories below, as well as evaluate projects qualitatively against one another.

Criteria	Points	Where to Find the Corresponding Content in the Grant Application
<p>I. The extent to which the project implements the programs and activities of Measure AA (Section II).</p>	<p>20 <u>Total</u></p>	<p>I. Grant Application – Project Description: #1. Project Eligibility; #3. #2 <u>Goals and Objectives</u>; #5. Project <u>and Site</u> Description; #7. #3 <u>Specific Tasks</u> #12. Public Access</p>
<p>II. The extent to which the project achieves the priorities of Measure AA, as defined by the prioritization criteria under Section III.</p>	<p>40 Total</p> <p>Projects judged on both the breadth and depth with which they meet criteria.</p>	<p>III. <u>Grant Application – Prioritization Criteria</u> Solicitation <u>Priorities: #1 - #10</u></p>
<p><u>III.</u> The project’s likelihood of success, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant’s -the applicant’s demonstration of capacity and resources to complete and maintain the project • <u>Project’s level of community involvement in an effective and timely way, the likelihood the project will be maintained over time, and benefits the likelihood of success in addressing the project’s barriers</u> 	<p>40 Total</p> <p><u>20 = Applicant’s capacity and resources to complete</u> 20 = Project’s likelihood of success 10 = Project’s likelihood of maintenance over time, (or completion of the project effectively, and to maintain, if the project over time proposed is planning)</p> <p><u>20 = Project’s level of meaningful community involvement and benefits and/or innovative partnerships</u> 10 = Grantee’s likelihood of success</p>	<p><u>Applicant’s capacity and resources to complete and maintain the project:</u></p> <p><u>Project’s likelihood of success (20):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Grant Application – Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #7 <u>Need for the project,</u> ○ #5 <u>Project Description,</u> ○ #6 <u>Site Description,</u> ○ #9 <u>Measuring Success,</u> ○ #8 <u>Applicant History</u> ○ #9 #10 <u>Barriers and Risks,</u> ○ #11 <u>Environmental Review,</u> ○ #13. <u>Community Support, Involvement, and Benefits.</u> • II. Grant Application – Preliminary Budget and Schedule, specifically

<p><u>and/or innovative partnerships¹² risks.</u></p>		<p>Contingency Costs and Uncertainties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III. Grant Application – Prioritization Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #3 Leveraging Resources and Partnerships. ○ <u>#7 Monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship</u> <p><u>Project’s levellikelihood of community involvement and benefits and/or innovative partnerships: maintenance overtime (10):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Grant Application – Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>#5 Project Partners</u> ○ #6 Site Description, ○ #9 Measuring Success, ○ #13. Community Support, Involvement, and Benefits. • II. Grant Application – Preliminary Budget and Schedule. • III. Grant Application – Prioritization Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>#4 Economically disadvantaged communities</u> ○ #5#2 Greatest Long-term impact, ○ #7 Monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship.
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¹² ~~For examples of community engagement, Community involvement: ... For the purposes of this grant program, an innovative partnerships is defined as two or more stakeholder groups working together creatively to develop and implement in a creative a multi-benefit project. Examples of Innovative partnerships would be collaboration between community-based non-profit organizations; environmental non-profit organizations; federal, state, local, and tribal governments; health care providers; faith-based organizations; philanthropies; civic organizations; educational institutions; arts organizations, local businesses, or others.~~

		<p><u>Grantee's likelihood of success (10):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Grant Application—Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #4 Applicant and Project History ○ #13. Community Support, Involvement, and Benefits to economy- ○ #6 Engage youth and young adults • II. Grant Application Checklist items – Support Letters– Preliminary Budget and Schedule.
	100	

Quantitative Scoring

~~Each of the three above point categories will be assigned a numerical rating using the following scoring tiers as a guide when evaluating how well the proposal addresses that category, as explained below.~~

To achieve the maximum amount of points, the proposal must provide clear, substantive, and coherent evidence that the proposed work will adequately address all relevant aspects of that category.

~~Proposals that describe in sufficient detail how the proposed work will effectively address multiple, or excel in a particular, aspect/s of a category can achieve up to 75% of a category's points. For example, projects can receive high scores for Section II by addressing most of the priorities adequately, or by addressing several of the priorities very well.~~

Proposals that address multiple or single aspects of a category without clearly describing how these aspects would result in measurable benefits will not receive more than half a category's points.

~~Proposals that need significant work may mention, but not adequately describe, how the proposal would meet some or one relevant aspect/s of that category, or not mention or adequately describe those aspects at all and shall not receive more than 25% of a category's points.~~

~~Additional Detail on Three Categories of Criteria Above~~

~~I. Programs and Activities of Measure AA~~

a. ~~The four programs, and related activities, of Measure AA are listed in Section II.d above: II. Eligibility and Required Criteria, d. Eligible Project Activities. Eligible projects must implement at least one program, and related activity, of Measure AA. A proposal can receive high scores by either implementing many activities to an adequate degree or implementing a particular or few activities very well. In other words, a proposal will not rank higher just because it implements more activities than other proposals, and the extent to which a project implements an activity will be considered in ranking proposals.~~

I. ~~Measure AA Priorities~~

a. ~~Measure AA Priorities are listed in Section III above: Solicitation Priorities. To excel in this category, a project proposal would meet all or most of the priority criteria outlined above, as interpreted by the Authority and explained in the footnotes of the above section. Projects will be judged both on the depth and breadth with which they meet criteria.~~

I. ~~Likelihood of Success~~

a. ~~This category captures the likelihood of success of the project, the project's likelihood of maintenance overtime (or the likelihood the eventual project will get implemented, if the project proposed is a planning project), as well as the likelihood of success of the proposed grantee and project team. Overall, this category considers whether the proposal: is written consistently and according to instructions; includes a complete, reasonable and well thought-out scope of work, budget and schedule; identifies in its work plan how the project will be implemented (including obtaining permits, etc. if applicable); addresses the barriers and risks identified; and clearly demonstrates the applicant has the ability to successfully complete the project within the schedule and budget proposed. Applicants that excel across these elements will score highly in this category.~~

Qualitative ~~Review~~Scoring

In addition to quantitative points as described above, each proposal will have an additional qualitative ~~review~~scoring section. ~~This~~The qualitative scoring section will include a space for reviewers to record the proposal's top three strengths, as well as the proposal's top three weaknesses, when considering Measure AA's four programs and related activities ~~(quantitative Section I above)~~, Measure AA's priority criteria ~~(quantitative section II above)~~, and the applicant and project's likelihood of success ~~(quantitative section III above)~~.

d. Grant Award

Based on proposal review and scoring, ~~Authority~~authority staff will ~~decided~~determine which ~~qualified~~ applications to recommend to the Governing Board for funding, and the amount of funding ~~to recommend~~. Authority staff will ~~take~~,taking into account the project's merit and urgency relative to other eligible projects, the total amount of funding available for projects, ~~and~~ the readiness of the projects to proceed, ~~and whether the Governing Board will be able to make any necessary findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Authority staff expects that it will finalize their list~~take an average of ~~funding recommendations three to~~

~~four~~six months ~~after from application submittal to Governing Board approval and at least one additional month for execution of the grant~~ applications are due, and then will notify applicants agreement.

e. Board Meetings

~~The Governing Board will consider and make grant approvals at public meetings. The meeting schedule and materials will be made available to the public in advance, through the Authority's website.~~

~~The Governing Board will consider recommended grants and make any and all grant approvals at public meetings that are noticed in advance, with meeting materials made available in advance to the public. The Authority typically holds four public meetings per calendar year, though this number is subject to change as board meetings are held on an as-needed basis. The meeting schedule is published on the Authority's website. The agenda for each public meeting will be published on the Authority's website at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Staff will prepare a report for each proposed grant presented to the Governing Board at a public meeting. The staff report will describe the project, will explain how the project is consistent with and advances the purposes of the Authority's enabling legislation and Measure AA, and will be made available to the public in advance of the meeting.~~

f. Grant Agreement

Once the Governing Board has approved a grant ~~at a public meeting~~, Authority staff will prepare a grant agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant. The grantee must sign the grant agreement and comply with its conditions in order to receive funds. Typical grant agreement provisions will include:

- ~~• Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the Authority.~~
- Grantees must submit a detailed project work program and budget and the names of any contractors.
- Grantees must provide proof that all necessary permits have been obtained.
- Grantees must provide proof of liability insurance and name the Authority as an additional insured.
- Where appropriate, grantees will be required to provide signage informing the public that the project received Authority grant funding.
- Grant funds will ~~typically only~~ be paid ~~in arrears~~ on a reimbursement basis, although advanced payments to small nonprofit organizations are allowable in some cases.
- Grantees must submit invoices and progress reports regularly, and at least quarterly.
- Grantees must meet project completion requirements (typically grants will include a 10% withholding that is not paid until the project is completed), including a final report as outlined in section VI.e Project Monitoring and Reporting, below.
- Grantee must agree to monitor and maintain the project for an agreed-upon time, typically for a period of 20 years, and if the grantee is not the landowner, the grantee must secure the landowner's written permission to monitor and maintain the project for that period.
- Grantees may be required to reimburse the Authority for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not satisfactorily completed.

- ~~• In executing the project for which the grant has been given, grantees will comply with all terms set forth in the grant agreement and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.~~
- The Authority requires grantees to negotiate, enter into and execute a project labor agreement with the local building trades council or councils, subject to certain conditions and exceptions outlined in its Resolution 22, adopted November 30, 2016.
- Grantees must agree to maintain records and may be subject to audits.
- Construction projects will need to be bonded.

X.VI. Additional Information

a. Available Funding

The Authority expects to generate approximately \$25 million each year for twenty years for a total of \$500 million, which will be disbursed through grant rounds. ~~Grantees have a as outlined in the Grant Guidelines, with no more than 5% going to cover the administration of the Restoration Authority. This 5% does not refer to or apply to prospective grantees, who will have a percentage~~ limit of 15% for direct project management costs in their projects.

b. Project Timeframe

The Authority may request that proponents of projects with schedules longer than ~~five~~3-5 years break their projects into phases and return to the Authority for the funding and authorization of each phase of the project.

c. Funding Range

There is not a set funding range for proposals ~~– past project budgets have ranged from, however the Authority encourages projects of at least~~ several hundreds of thousands of dollars ~~to, as well as~~ multimillion-dollar projects. The Authority currently anticipates funding approximately 5-10 projects per grant round.

d. Environmental Documents

The Authority is required to comply with CEQA and all other applicable environmental laws. Grant applicants ~~must~~should consider whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies. ~~How CEQA applies and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the grant application.~~ Grant applicants that are not potential CEQA lead agencies, e.g., nongovernmental organizations, should work with a lead agency, e.g., the planning department of the city or county in which the project is located, to determine the CEQA requirements. ~~to determine whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies.~~ Additionally, grant applicants should consider all other applicable environmental laws and address compliance in the grant application.

e. Project Monitoring and Reporting

All grant applications must include a ~~plan for monitoring and reporting component that explains~~ how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. Monitoring ~~The monitoring~~

and reporting ~~component~~ will vary depending on the nature of the project and may include regional monitoring approaches as appropriate. ~~Authority staff may~~ ~~The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program.~~ ~~In addition, Authority staff will~~ work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures.

All projects must complete a final report, including a lessons-learned summary report ~~fully and clearly~~ describing lessons learned under all phases of the project including design, construction and monitoring. Lessons learned should focus on project trouble areas and issues to be addressed as a guide to helping future projects to avoid these issues to the extent possible. The Authority's monitoring requirements will seek to assess the ongoing effectiveness of the project. ~~The Authority does not currently intend to require monitoring activities that exceed monitoring needed to measure and report project effectiveness.~~

f. Pilot Projects

Pilot and demonstration projects are eligible under this grant program and serve to enhance our technical understanding of ~~methods and approaches that improve our ability to design and construct~~ “nature based” approaches to wetlands enhancement and flood protection around the Bay.

XI.VII. Grant Application

Please check the Authority's [website](#) to access the Grant Application, linked under the [Restoration Authority Grants](#) tab.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Selection Criteria of the ~~the Coastal Conservancy's~~ SCC's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, the ~~the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission~~ BCDC's Coastal Management Program, and the ~~the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture~~ SFBJV's Implementation Strategy and Project List [Link Relevant Sections of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act](#)

Appendix B: Full Citations for Regional Plans Most Relevant to the Grant Program

Appendix C: Delta Primary Zone Map

Appendix D: Definitions and Clarifications of Eligibility Criteria

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Appendix A: Selection Criteria of the ~~Coastal Conservancy's~~SCC San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, the ~~San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's~~BCDC Coastal Management Program, and the ~~San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's~~SFBJV Implementation Strategy and Project List Link

Please see below for additional detail regarding bullet point i above under section III. Solicitation Priorities.

I. State Coastal Conservancy's (SCC) San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

1. "Are supported by adopted local or regional plans¹³;
2. Are multijurisdictional or serve a regional constituency;
3. Can be implemented in a timely way;
4. Provide opportunities for benefits that could be lost if the project is not quickly implemented;
5. Include matching funds from other sources of funding or assistance."

II. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Coastal Management Program

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program is based on the provisions and policies of the McAteer-Petris Act, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, the San Francisco Bay Plan, the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, and the Commission's administrative regulations. The McAteer-Petris Act and the Bay Plan apply to the entire Bay, while the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act and Suisun Marsh Protection Plan apply only to Suisun Marsh.

~~The Bay Plan elements most relevant to this grant program (see Appendix B) include policies related to habitat goals, climate change resilience, setting goals and success criteria, monitoring and adaptive management, public access, and mosquito abatement, fill for habitat restoration, and environmental justice and social equity.~~ Consistency with these policies is required in order to obtain a permit for project construction from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. View the full Bay Plan here: http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/plans/sfbay_plan.html.

III. San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's (SFBJV) Implementation Strategy

Applicants may describe how their project is consistent with the Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy, indicate~~must either demonstrate~~ that their project is on the Joint Venture's project list, and/-or indicate that they consulted~~consult with~~ the Joint Venture prior to applying for funding~~to assess whether and characterize~~ their project would be eligible for~~consistency with the Joint Venture project selection criteria of the~~ list.

¹³ See Appendix B for a list of relevant local and regional plans.

Appendix B: Full Citations for Regional Plans Most Relevant to the Grant Program

The Restoration Act states that the Authority will “give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of and are consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy program (in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 31163 of the Public Resources Code).” One of these criteria is, “Are supported by adopted local or regional plans.” Full citations for the regional plans the Authority considers most relevant to the grant program are provided below.

Restoring the Estuary: An Implementation Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. (2001.) San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.

<https://www.sonic.net/~sfbayjv.org/estuarybook.php>

The Baylands and Climate Change: What We Can Do. Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update 2015. (2015.) California State Coastal Conservancy.

<http://baylandsgoals.org/science-update-2016/>

Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems for Northern and Central California. (2013.) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/ES/Recovery-Planning/Tidal-Marsh/Documents/TMRP_VolumeI_RP.pdf

San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report: Conservation Planning for the Submerged Areas of the Bay. (2010.) California State Coastal Conservancy, Ocean Protection Council, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and Restoration Center, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Estuary Partnership.

<http://www.sfbaysubtidal.org/report.html>

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary. (2016.) San Francisco Estuary Partnership. <http://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CCMPFinalOct2016.pdf>

Surviving the Storm. (2015.) Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

<http://documents.bayareacouncil.org/survivingthestorm.pdf>

San Francisco Bay Trail Plan: A Recreational Ring Around San Francisco Bay. (1989.) Association of Bay Area Governments. http://baytrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/San-Francisco-Bay-Trail_-Bay-Trail-Plan-Summary.pdf

San Francisco Bay Trail Design Guidelines & Toolkit (2016.) San Francisco Bay Trail.

http://baytrail.org/pdfs/BayTrailDGTK_082616_Web.pdf

Enhanced San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan. (2011.) California State Coastal Conservancy.

http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/sccbb/2011/1103/20110317Board08_SF_Bay_Area_Water_Trail_Ex3.pdf

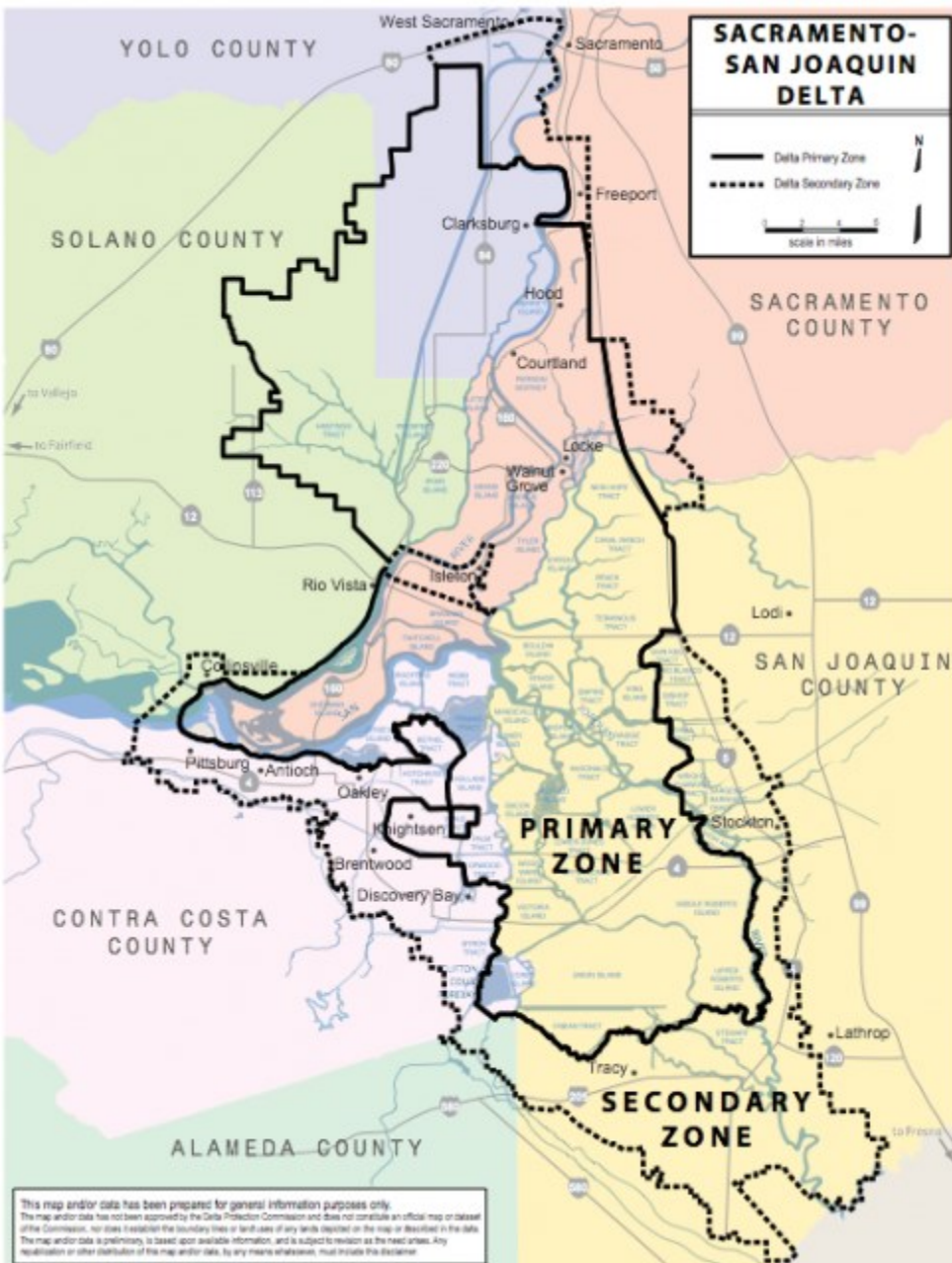
Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). (2017.) San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/basin_planning.shtml#basinplan

Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region, Management Plan (2001.) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/Dredging/LMTS/entire%20LMTF.pdf>

Appendix C: Delta Primary Zone Map¹⁴



¹⁴ Source: Water Education Foundation: <http://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/sacramento-san-joaquin-delta-land-use-and-boundaries>

Appendix D: Definitions and Clarifications of Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is based on a combination of requirements of the Restoration Act and Measure AA.

1. Eligible Project Locations

According to Measure AA, to be eligible for funding, projects must be located “along the Bay shorelines” within one of the nine Bay Area counties. In addition, Measure AA states, “The shorelines include the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of the Delta Primary Zone.”

A. Definition of “Along the Bay Shorelines”

The question is how far from the shoreline a project may be located. “Baylands” is the technical term adopted by the science community within *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* (1999) to refer to the areas adjacent to the Bay that are of primary ecological importance to it; it defines these as “the lands 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.” Additionally, the 2015 Science Update to the goals report (*The Baylands and Climate Change: What We Can Do*) recognizes the importance of transition zones moving inland above the extent of high tide, as well as the need to plan ahead for the effects of sea level rise. Therefore, the Authority defines “along the Bay shorelines” to include these important lands adjacent to the Bay.

B. Definition of “Creek Outlets”

Measure AA states that eligible projects may: “Clean and enhance creek outlets where they flow into the Bay” or “Provide nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay’s edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.” However, these descriptions of eligible project activities still fall under more general requirements for projects to be located “along Bay shorelines.” Therefore, the Authority interprets the language of Measure AA regarding creek outlets to mean that projects located in rivers or creeks also must be located along the Bay, i.e. adjacent to the part of the river or creek subject to tidal action. This area is also referred to as being below the head of tide. Similar consideration of the value of transitional habitats and the effects of future sea level rise should be made when considering the extent of creek outlets.

C. Conclusion

To be eligible, projects must be located within the nine Bay Area counties along the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of, but not including, the Delta Primary Zone, that are in areas consistent with guidance provided in the

Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update (2015) and Subtidal Habitat Goals Report (2010), including:

- In subtidal areas (lying below mean low tide), within a reasonable distance of the shoreline;
- In baylands, i.e., 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; or
- On 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.

2. Eligible Project Activities

The Authority will fund activities described under the four program areas in Measure AA. In addition, the Authority interprets eligible project activities according to the Restoration Act, as described below.

A. Habitat Projects

The Restoration Act calls for funding projects that “restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats” (Section 66704(b)). The Authority defines "natural habitats" as those consistent with existing guidance on baylands, riparian and subtidal habitats (see relevant local or regional plans, Appendix E); these can include habitats that have been modified by human activity but still provide tangible wildlife support and/or ecological value. Projects should restore, protect or enhance habitat for native species, including native plants.

B. Flood Management and Public Access Projects

The Restoration Act states that eligible projects include those that provide or improve flood management features or public access or recreational amenities “that are part of a project to restore, enhance, or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats” (Section 66704.5(b)). The Authority interprets this to mean that such projects will be considered eligible for funding if they are part of a restoration project that is in the planning stages, underway, or partially complete. In general, such elements will be considered part of a restoration project if they are included in the plan, environmental documents and/or permits for the particular habitat restoration project with which they are associated. Therefore, closing a trail gap or extending a project levee are eligible activities if the elements are or were part of a habitat restoration project as described above.

3. Eligible Project Phases

According to the Restoration Act, grant funds may be used to support “all phases of planning, construction, monitoring, operation, and maintenance of [eligible projects].” The Authority interprets “all phases of planning [and] construction” of a project” to include acquisition, planning, design, environmental studies, permitting, construction, monitoring and evaluation, operation, scientific studies as part of the project to guide adaptive management, and maintenance. In addition, an acquisition may be considered an eligible project.

The Authority will consider funding acquisitions (fee and/or less-than-fee (e.g. easement) interests in land where demonstrably significant opportunity exists to either protect existing natural baylands resources from loss, degradation or development or to meaningfully enhance or restore baylands resources and/or provide habitat-related public access and flood benefits¹⁵. In general, the Authority will seek to fund the least costly, most efficient and effective method of securing the long-term benefits of site tenure; acquisitions will therefore be judged on the tangibility, significance and likelihood of success of the eventual restoration or enhancement opportunity. In addition to the eligibility and prioritization criteria for any other Measure AA-funded project, eligible acquisitions must:

- Be transacted with willing sellers;
- Be for no more than fair market value as determined in an approved appraisal pursued at or above USPAP standards;
- Have legal access to the property and be acceptably free and clear of defects of title;
- Be free of contamination that could impact the projected use and benefits of the property, as demonstrated through a Phase I environmental assessment or higher-level site analysis;
- Be secured in perpetuity for the Measure AA-purposes. For any acquisition by a private entity, a third-party public entity must partner to secure the public’s interest in the acquisition.
- If an easement, include terms sufficient to achieve the protection, restoration, or public access purposes of the easement.

4. Eligible Grantees

According to the Restoration Act (Section 66704.5(a)), the Authority may award grants to “public and private entities, which include but are not limited to owners and operators of shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay Area.” The Authority interprets this to mean that eligible grantees also include federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations.

5. Additional Eligibility Considerations

A. Voluntary vs. Mitigation Projects

¹⁵ Please include details of the restoration benefits of the project in the project description section of the application.

The Restoration Authority will primarily fund voluntary habitat restoration projects. The Authority will not fund project impacts that are not compensated on-site as part of the restoration project (e.g. through private mitigation banks or other off-site mitigation actions). However, the Authority may fund the on-site compensatory requirements of a project that is eligible for Measure AA funds and that demonstrates net positive benefits. The Authority may contribute to a project that is making use of mitigation funds, but the Authority's share of the funds must pay for an incremental improvement beyond compensation for damages that may have occurred elsewhere as part of the mitigation requirements.

B. Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediment

The Authority may provide grant funds to support the delivery of dredged material to a restoration project that requires sediment in order to achieve habitat restoration goals. Sediment may be needed to raise elevations of subsided lands, provide for ecotones or transitional habitat along levees, provide for berms or islands within a restoration plain, or for other purposes. Restoration projects that include beneficial use of dredged sediment are eligible to apply for Authority funds and should describe the ecological purpose of the dredged sediment and the estimated costs for delivery and placement of dredged sediment.

Much of the dredging in the Bay Area is conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with other dredging conducted by ports, local agencies, or private entities, such as refineries. The Corps must dispose of the sediment in the least cost, environmentally acceptable manner (the Federal Standard). The Federal Standard is often the Deep Ocean Disposal Site or In-Bay Disposal sites. The Authority's grant funding is not intended to go towards the cost of dredging navigation channels, ports, or marinas. However, the Authority's grant funding may support the incremental cost, above the Federal Standard, to deliver dredged material to a restoration site, and the placement, management, and sculpting of material on-site. For more information about beneficial use of dredged sediment, please refer to the *Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region, Management Plan* (2001).

The Authority may also consider funding the dredging costs of restoration projects that incorporate dredging into the design of a restoration or enhancement effort, and where the design approach creates sustainable geomorphic processes. For example, the Authority could consider funding for restoration projects that require dredging of sloughs or creek channels, or to lower elevations as part of the overall design, and then beneficially use that sediment to raise elevations in other parts of the project site.