



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

Resolution No. 70

**Accepting Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Recommendations for
Implementing Measure AA in a Manner that
Benefits Economically Disadvantaged Communities**

Whereas, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (“Authority”) was established by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, California Government Code Section 66700 et seq. (“Act”) as a regional entity to generate and allocate resources for the protection and enhancement of tidal wetlands and wildlife habitat in San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline; and

Whereas, the Act requires the Authority to convene a San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) to advise the Authority Governing Board in carrying out its functions; and

Whereas, Measure AA, Section 3.B.1.e requires the Authority to prioritize projects that benefit economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs); and

Whereas, on June 9, 2017, the Governing Board amended the Grant Program Guidelines to define an EDC as a census tract with a median household income less than 80% of the area median income, and within this set of low-income communities, to further define high priority EDCs as groups that are historically underrepresented in environmental policymaking and/or projects; most economically and environmentally impacted by heavy industrial activity and development; most vulnerable to climate change impacts, due to lack of resources required for community resilience; and severely burdened by housing costs, increasing the risk of displacement; and

Whereas, failure to engage low-income communities in planning for habitat restoration and public access improvements along the shoreline could lead to the unintended consequence of Authority projects contributing to gentrification; and

Whereas, in October 2018, the Advisory Committee formed an ad hoc subcommittee to explore how best to engage with and provide benefits to EDCs; and

Whereas, the Authority and the Advisory Committee recognized the need for input from community leaders and experts in community engagement to guide the Authority’s work in this area; and

Whereas, the Authority hired a consultant who conducted focus group meetings with community leaders and prepared recommendations based on their input, and the ad hoc

subcommittee vetted the consultant’s recommendations and obtained input from other reports and experts; and

Whereas, the ad hoc subcommittee completed their recommendations, which are categorized as “Near-Term – 6-12 Months”, “Short-Term – 1-2 Years”, and “Long-Term – 3-5 Years”; and

Whereas, the Advisory Committee adopted the ad hoc subcommittee’s Near-Term Recommendations in October 2019 and adopted the Short-Term and Long-Term Recommendations in June 2020 (Exhibit A).

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority commits to integrating equity into its work by continuing to listen, welcome new voices and partnerships, and work with community leaders to develop projects that empower and benefit communities that historically have been excluded from habitat restoration and the design of parks and trails. The Governing Board hereby acknowledges and appreciates the input of community leaders and the hard work of the Advisory Committee’s ad hoc subcommittee; accepts the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for implementing AA in a manner that benefits economically disadvantaged communities as shown in Exhibit A, as amended with Recommendation 3.2 moved to the list of Short-Term Recommendations; and directs staff to report back annually on progress in implementing these recommendations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at its meeting on July 17, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Governing Board Members John Gioia, Vinnie Bacon, Aaron Peskin, Karen Holman, Susan Gorin, Kate Sears, Dave Pine

NOES: Governing Board Members None

ABSENT: Governing Board Members None

ABSTAIN: Governing Board Members None

DocuSigned by:
Dave Pine 7/17/2020
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Dave Pine, Chair

I, Maggie Jenkins, Clerk of the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at its meeting of July 17, 2020, which Resolution is on file in the office of this regional governmental entity.

DocuSigned by:
Maggie Jenkins 7/17/2020
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Maggie Jenkins, Clerk

Exhibit A

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

The Advisory Committee recommends that the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority take the actions listed below to benefit economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs). 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.

Near-Term (Six to Twelve Months)

1.1 Adopt Guiding Principles of Building Trust and Fostering Partnerships (SI01):

- Build trust with community-based organizations and economically disadvantaged communities.
 - 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 project applicants.
- Foster partnerships between community-based organizations and local government and/or project implementing entities.

1.2 Request a 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. (SI02)

1.3 Conduct community outreach workshops for prospective applicants. Offer community workshops for community-based organizations to inquire about application process and implementation expectations (intended outcomes). (SI01)

1.4 Amend scoring criteria to show stronger nexus/relationships with EDCs. (SI03)

- Incorporate social and racial justice principles into required criteria.
- Add specific scoring criteria for applicants to demonstrate that proposed projects have local community support and/or to demonstrate engagement with EDCs.
- Community workshops to be explicitly required in the grant application to demonstrate engagement with communities and support for proposed project.
- Go beyond applicants demonstrating their projects are adjacent to EDCs.

1.5 Visit economically disadvantaged communities residing along the bay shoreline with the Governing Board, Advisory Committee, and Authority staff to better understand issues and potential opportunities. (SI02)

1.6 Examine the feasibility to extend compensation to community members and leaders for their participation and contribution. (SI02)

1.7 Create a document with a basic template of what's expected of applicants with examples of what a competitive proposal looks like and how to implement the scoring criteria in order to help clarify eligibility requirements. (SI01)

1.8 Create an application checklist for the applicants with a roadmap/blueprint of what they need to have ready in order to fulfill the grant criteria written in plain and accessible language. (SI01)

1.9 Simplify language and phrasing in Measure AA communications materials. Phrasing and language of Measure AA can discourage smaller agencies and organizations from applying. The language needs to be concise and more inclusive. (SI03)

1.10 Enter all funded and potential EDC projects into EcoAtlas as a project hub. Once these projects can be visualized, it will be easier to see if and how these projects can be consolidated or integrated with other bigger projects to achieve a higher level of benefits on a watershed scale. (SI03)

Short-Term – 1-2 Years

2.1 Seek more diverse and accurate representation on the Authority's Advisory Committee, Citizen Oversight Committee and on the Governing Board. (SI01)

2.2 More directly involve community participants in the grant process including guidance, development, implementation and scoring. (SI02)

2.3 Develop a second, separate application track for small community groups. Community groups should not have to compete against much more established organizations and larger agencies with the capacity and resources required to apply under the current process. (SI01)

2.4 Prioritize building capacity of partners and applicants from historically underrepresented groups by offering technical assistance to support first-time applicants with navigating the process and eliminating barriers. (SI03)

2.5 Leverage capacity by identifying community-based groups with the administrative capabilities to partner with smaller and/or grass roots organizations to apply for and manage a government restoration grants. (SI03)

2.6 Provide project planning assistance to help local groups identify appropriate projects and habitat restoration goals. (SI03)

2.7 Require or encourage project applicants to engage communities with a focus on

disadvantaged communities during or prior to the design process. (SI02)

2.8 Recognize community-based expertise and confidence in genuinely community-led processes. (SI02)

2.9 Reevaluate budgets to allow the true cost of community engagement. (SI03)

2.10 Identify and work with community leaders who have already created a trusting relationship with the people in the community. (SI02)

Long-Term – 3-5 Years

3.1 Establish a communications strategy that fosters relevance through better understanding needs and priorities of underrepresented community groups. (SI03)

3.2 Seek ways for the Authority funds to support work the community is already doing or interested in doing. Meet with communities to identify how Measure AA funding can go to support their current and planned work. (SI01)