MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2021

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SUBJECT: **Staff's Recommendation on Projects to be Considered for Funding in Grant Round 4**

In response to its fourth grant solicitation, which closed on October 23, 2020, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) received 18 applications requesting a total of approximately $25 million. Although the Authority has close to $23 million available annually, only about $11.6 million of the total $23 million is available for Round 4 projects because of the Authority's 2019 authorization to fund the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project at a rate of approximately $11.4 million per year for five years.

Staff and members of the Advisory Committee reviewed and scored the applications and obtained additional information from applicants, as needed. Based on this process, staff developed the following list of eight projects to be recommended for funding in Grant Round 4, listed in descending order of dollar amount:

- Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access (partial funding)
- Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek - Marsh Connection Project (partial funding)
- Terminal Four Wharf Removal Project (partial funding)
- Baylands Habitat Restoration and Community Engagement in East Palo Alto
- McInnis Marsh Restoration and Gallinas Creek Geomorphic Dredging Project
- Colma Creek Restoration and Adaptation Project
- Burlingame Shoreline Park (partial funding)
- Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh

These include five planning projects and three construction projects. (See Attachment 1 for additional project details.)

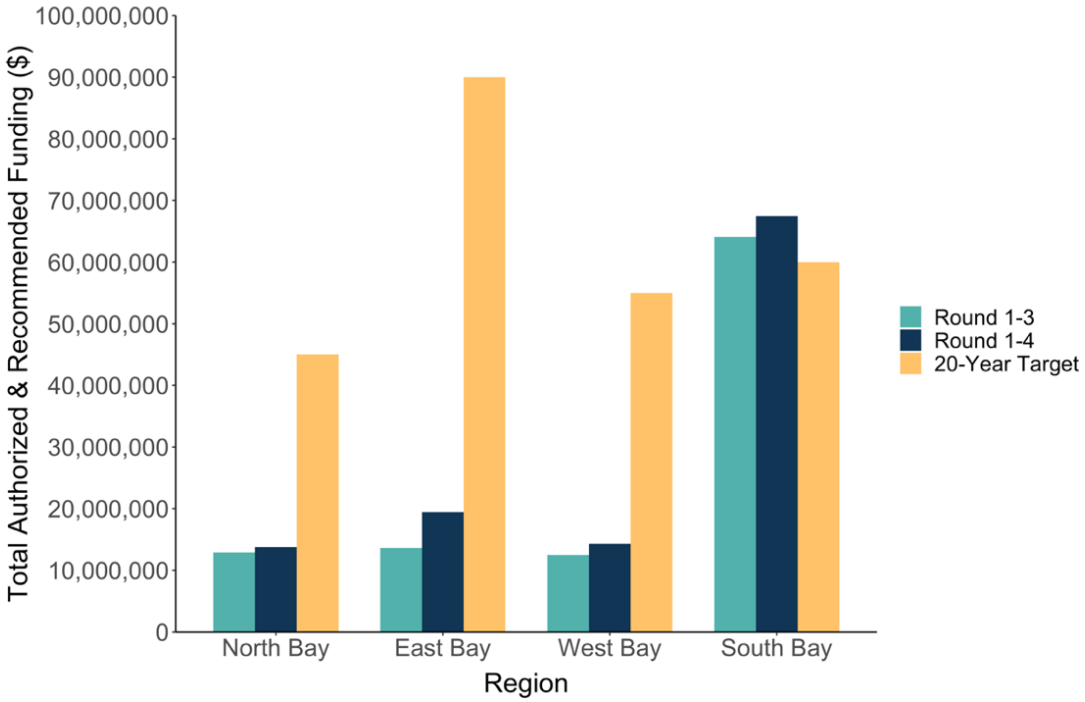
Cumulative Distribution by Region: Measure AA requires that revenue be allocated to projects throughout the region, with 50% of funds allocated to the four Bay Area regions in proportion to each region's share of the Bay Area's population, as determined in the 2010 census, and 50% allocated without regard to region. The minimum percentages that will be allocated to each of the four Bay Area regions are listed below:

- 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.

Twenty-year targets for minimum allocations were calculated assuming that Measure AA generates roughly $500 million over 20 years. The table and chart below show progress toward these targets. Funding for the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team Project is not included in the regional totals because it is a special project focused on permitting. The grant of $4,000,000 for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Removal and Tidal Marsh Restoration Project is divided among the four regions as follows: North 15%, East 25%, West 25%, South 35%.

Cumulative Authorized and Recommended Funding by Region

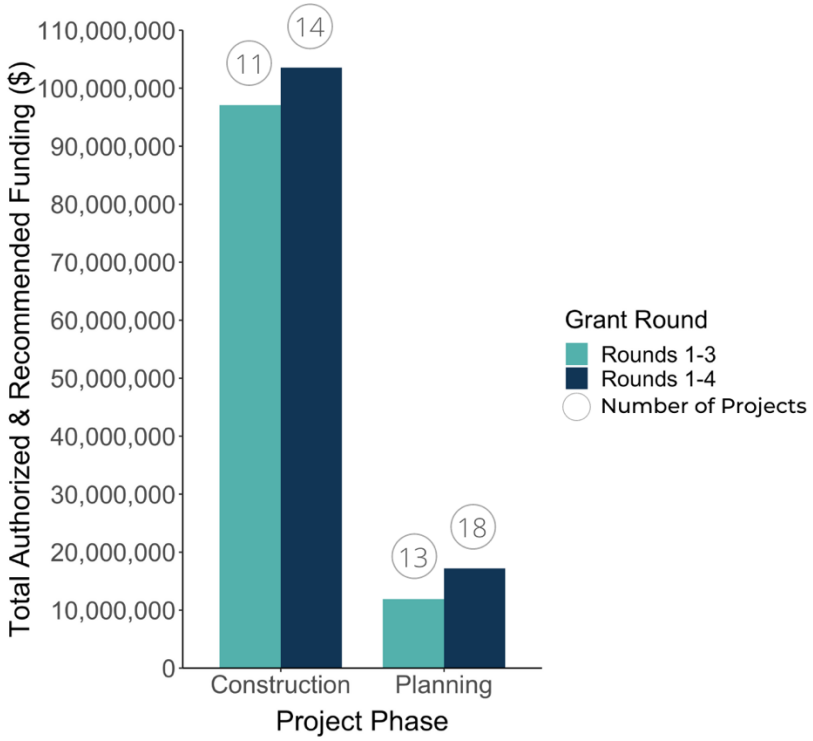


	North Bay	East Bay	West Bay	South Bay
Rounds 1 - 3 Projects, Cumulative	$12,927,304	$13,621,450	$12,493,558	$64,079,465

Rounds 1 - 4 Projects, Cumulative	$13,792,304	$19,421,450	$14,276,574	$67,449,465
20-Year Target	$45,000,000	$90,000,000	$55,000,000	$60,000,000

Cumulative Distribution by Project Type: The Governing Board previously expressed interest in tracking the number of construction projects as compared to planning projects. The Measure AA grant program criteria place emphasis on prioritizing projects that can be implemented in a timely way, which leads to prioritizing construction projects. The Governing Board has also directed staff to ensure that an adequate number of planning projects are funded, so that more constructions projects can be funded in future years. The breakdown between planning (used here to mean all phases prior to construction, including design and permitting) and construction projects is provided below. The BRRIT is included as a planning project.

Construction vs. Planning Projects:
Authorized and Recommended Number of Projects and Funding



Please see Attachment 1 for the full list of projects, including brief project descriptions, and funding amounts requested and recommended. Staff has sent letters to proponents indicating these recommendations and will bring projects to the Governing Board as they are ready for approval.

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
Grant Round 4 Summary
Note: Projects recommended for funding are shaded in green and listed in descending order by funding amount.

Organization	Project Name	Project Summary	Region	County	Project Phase	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
East Bay Regional Park District	Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access	The Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access Project will restore rare high value habitat along the Bay margin including wet meadow, seasonal wetland, coastal prairie, willow thicket and mixed riparian forest habitat and provide public access on 306 acres expanding the eastern park boundary. This funding request is for Phase 2 of Construction.	E	Alameda	Construction/Implementation	$4,472,210	**$3,500,000**
Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)	Calabazas-San Tomas Aquino-A8 Ponds Reconnection and Restoration Project	Valley Water is seeking to apply for $3.87 million in Measure AA grant funding to assist with planning, data collection and analysis, CEQA/NEPA documentation, design, and permitting for this first creek-bay reconnection project in the South Bay. The project will restore close to 1500 acre of habitat , provide resilient flood protection against sea level rise, reduce maintenance and improve public access by adding new trail.	S	Santa Clara	Planning/Design; Permitting	$3,870,000	**$3,370,000**
Port of Richmond/City of Richmond	Terminal Four Wharf Removal Project	This Project would remove large amounts of artificial fill, debris, and sources of contamination from the San Francisco Bay by Point San Pablo Terminal Four, which consists of the remains of a wharf, warehouse, and associated pilings and structures. After removal of the artificial fill, the Project will also enhance a degraded area of shoreline and the associated intertidal and subtidal habitats and enable the expansion of existing eelgrass beds.	S	Contra Costa	Construction/Implementation; Monitoring	$3,000,000	**$2,300,000**
Grassroots Ecology	Baylands Habitat Restoration and Community Engagement in East Palo Alto	The project will restore and enhance marsh-upland transition zone habitat along the Bay Trail in Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and at Cooley Landing, work closely with East Palo Alto-based community groups to provide restoration training and organize stewardship events, and hire local young adults for restoration internships.	W	San Mateo	Construction/Implementation	$688,016	**$688,016**
County of Marin	McInnis Marsh Restoration and Gallinas Creek Geomorphic Dredging Project	The proposed grant application is for the completion of designs, CEQA, and permitting for the McInnis Marsh Restoration and Gallinas Creek Geomorphic Dredging Project. The restoration component would restore approximately 180 acres of tidal habitat in diked historic tidelands. The dredging component would implement a geomorphic dredge plan for the south fork of Gallinas Creek with beneficial reuse of dredged material as part of the marsh restoration component.	N	Marin	Planning/Design; Permitting	$610,000	**$610,000**
City of South San Francisco	Colma Creek Restoration & Adaptation Project	The project aims to reshape the banks of tidal reaches of Colma Creek and the Bay shoreline to restore, and expand tidal marshes and critical habitat for the Ridgway's rail and other wildlife. The restoration project will also have significant benefits for flood mitigation and will be designed to provide for expanded public access to nature and a vital new connection for the disadvantaged community to access the Bay and Bay Trail.	W	San Mateo	Planning/Design	$595,000	**$595,000**
The SPHERE Institute	Shoreline Park - Burlingame	Shoreline Park - Burlingame is a collaboration between The SPHERE Institute and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District to transform a 9.4-acre vacant parcel of State-owned bayfront land into a public nature and recreation park. The project will restore the natural tidal marsh ecology of the Bay shoreline, serve as a natural oasis for visitors and residents, and become a destination where people can form a deep connection with the bay.	W	San Mateo	Planning/Design; Permitting	$1,979,500	**$500,000**

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Organization	Project Name	Project Summary	Region	County	Project Phase	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy	Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh	This project will protect, restore, and enhance the 106-acre Bothin Marsh Open Space Preserve and re-align a one-mile segment of the Bay Trail out of it's existing flood prone alignment. Funding requested from SFBRA would support developing a conceptual design into schematic designs (35%) and continue community engagement on the project.	N	Marin	Planning/Design	$255,000	**$255,000**
Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and U.S. Geological Survey	Eden Landing Shoreline Resilience: Integrating Bird Habitat and Nature-Based Adaptation	We are seeking initial implementation funds for Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project at Eden Landing. Initial actions include shoreline resilience elements (gravel beach, root wads, erosion repair) along 1.2 miles of bayfront levee, plus social attraction for declining waterbird species and project monitoring to inform full implementation of Phase 2 at Eden Landing and future Bay-wide shoreline resilience projects.	E	Alameda	Construction/Implementation; Monitoring	$2,789,671	
Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Lower COM Corte Madera Creek Restoration Project	Lower or remove concrete walls of flood control channel to restore tidal wetland, transition zone, and upland habitats designed to be resilient to sea-level rise. Enhance vest-pocket park along heavily used multi-use path adjacent to the Project..	N	Marin	Planning/Design; Construction/Implementation; Monitoring	$1,720,000	
City of Alameda	De-Pave Park Planning	De-Pave Park is an ecological open space that converts a large concrete area into a tidal ecosystem. This park, located within an Economically Disadvantaged Community, restores tidal marshland, wetlands, upland and aquatic habitats with tidal connections to the San Francisco Bay and existing and future wetlands on adjacent property. This planning project funding request is to complete the Master Plan through 30% construction design and secure regional permits.	E	Alameda	Planning/Design; Permitting	$1,165,350	
Montezuma Water, LLC	Evaluation of Management Techniques to Enhance Habitat, Carbon Sequestration and Landowner Incentives to Sustain and Increase Wetland Values in the SF Bay Estuary	The proposed project will explore design and operational parameters around how native wetland aquatic species can be managed to provide improved forage for waterfowl, while simultaneously greatly increasing the normal per-acre carbon uptake rates. Information from this pilot study will be used to develop land management protocols to advance wetland values on thousands of acres of subsided parcels within the SF Bay Area.	N	Solano	Scientific studies	$975,000	
City of Berkeley	Berkeley Aquatic Park Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Resilience, and Public Access Plan	Conduct feasibility studies and prepare an Estuarine Habitat Restoration & Resilience Plan. The Habitat Plan will summarize opportunities for projects that will protect, restore, and enhance aquatic and upland habitat at Aquatic Park. The feasibility studies will address strategies for: managing stormwater inflow; enhancing connectivity between Bay and estuarine refugia and potential impacts of sea level rise; opportunities for community engagement and public access.	E	Alameda	Planning/Design	$897,000	
US Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center	Living Pilings: Evaluating a Novel Approach to Subtidal Habitat Restoration	We propose an innovative approach to subtidal habitat restoration by repurposing existing infrastructure, like derelict piers and pilings, using commercially-available piling encapsulation techniques. We are requesting funding for permitting and installation of traditional piling encapsulation techniques. Concurrently we are requesting funding to begin site-planning and permitting at additional sites in the Bay that are adjacent to segments of the SF Bay and Water Trail.	N	Marin	Planning/Design; Permitting; Construction/Implementation; Monitoring	$827,410	

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Organization	Project Name	Project Summary	Region	County	Project Phase	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Rodeo Living Shoreline	Our three-phase planning project for the Rodeo Shoreline will ultimately result in the implementation of nature-based projects, with highlighted attention given to the Rodeo Living Levee due to it being the most time-critical, important, and achievable project in the area.	E	Contra Costa	Planning/Design	$634,648	
East Bay Regional Park District	McLaughlin Eastshore State Park - Berkeley North Basin	The project will create, enhance, and restore subtidal, tidal, and upland habitats; construct a resilient shoreline and approximately 5,400 ft length of Bay Trail, and compatible public access.Grant funding will support the project planning phase including community engagement, scientific and engineering studies, preliminary design, and CEQA.	E	Alameda	Planning/Design	$615,000	
Literacy for Environmental Justice	From Seed to Stewardship: Community-Based Restoration and Stewardship of California's First Urban State Park	The proposed project will complete and protect the restoration of the baylands in the Candlestick Park State Recreation Area (CPSRA), train disadvantaged community members as habit restoration specialists, and engage community members to steward the park over a three year period starting the fall of 2021. The project will focus on targeted sites in the CPSRA tidal marsh and transition zones.	W	San Francisco	Construction/Implementation; Monitoring	$248,068	
Golden Gate Audubon Society	Youth Eco-Education Program/Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Restoration	The Youth Eco Education Program at MLK Jr. Shoreline has two main goals: One, to continue to restore and maintain the tidal flow at the 71 acres shoreline preserve; and two, to educate and empower underserved youth to learn about their community, the environment, and to provide them with the skills to become successful members of their community.	E	Alameda	Planning/Design; Monitoring	$92,000	
Total						**$25,433,873.00**	**$11,818,016.00**