



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 3, 2023

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Ad Hoc Committee for the Advisory Committee
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation on Advisory Committee Appointments

We, the ad hoc committee for Advisory Committee (AC) Appointments, consisting of Supervisor John Gioia and Councilmember Sophie Hahn, recommend that the Authority adopt Resolution 106 appointing the listed individuals to the Authority's AC for four-year terms.

Background

The AC Procedural Document, adopted by the Governing Board, is based on the Restoration Authority's enabling legislation and The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure ("Measure AA"). It provides guidance for the selection of Advisory Committee members who represent both the interests of the community, as well as the interests of agencies within the Restoration Authority's jurisdiction. The Procedural Document provides that the Authority will strive to include the following:

- Representatives of agencies named in the Authority's enabling legislation;
- Representatives of open space or park districts that own or operate shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay Area;
- Representatives of nongovernmental organizations working to restore, protect, and enhance San Francisco Bay wetlands and wildlife habitat;
- Members of the public from bayside cities and counties in the San Francisco Bay Area;
- Balanced representation of public agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, business interests, and individuals;
- Racial, ethnic, income, and gender diversity;
- Geographic representation, including at least one representative from each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area; and
- Representation of 16 different areas of expertise listed in the document.

The Procedural Document states that the AC may have up to 34 members. Thirteen members had terms that expired on February 22, 2023.

Staff released a call for applications to the AC and worked with partner organizations and current AC members to ensure that it was distributed widely. The call for applications placed priority on adding leaders of community-based organizations located in economically disadvantaged communities to the AC, as well as maintaining representation of agencies and types of organizations named in the Authority's enabling legislation.

AC members with expiring terms were invited to reapply. Staff received 16 applications by the November 17, 2022 deadline, including four from members applying to be reappointed and twelve new applications.

An ad hoc committee of the Governing Board met on January 18, 2023, to review the applications. The applicants' statements of interest and areas of expertise relevant to the Advisory Committee were considered, as well as the need to fill gaps left by members whose terms were expiring. At the meeting, staff presented analysis that assisted the ad hoc committee in determining how well groups of applicants met the representation goals described above.

The ad hoc committee selected a highly qualified and broadly representative group of 11 applicants to recommend to the Governing Board. Seven are new appointments and four are reappointments of members with expired terms. The recommended group includes two representatives of nongovernment organizations working to restore, protect, and enhance San Francisco Bay wetlands and wildlife habitat, bringing the total to four. In addition to the characteristics summarized below, the recommended AC candidates include four members who contribute to racial and ethnic diversity, bringing the total to nine, and eight women, bringing the total to 17.

The ad hoc committee concluded that there is a need for more diverse perspectives on the Advisory Committee and therefore recommends leaving several seats open while another round of recruitment is undertaken. The ad hoc committee asked staff to work with Advisory Committee members on more targeted outreach to community groups, youth activism organizations, and individuals currently serving in environmental justice positions on other boards and steering committees to fill the remaining seats.

As part of this next phase of outreach approach, the Advisory Committee intends to offer a exchange program to new members to enable members with different backgrounds to learn from each other. For example, a member with experience in community organizing to address environmental justice issues could be paired with a member with experience in designing habitat restoration projects. They could meet as often as desired, but they would initially be encouraged to meet before and after each meeting to share perspectives and fill in information gaps. Members with more experience on the Advisory Committee could also support new members in learning about the Authority's legal mandate, project eligibility and prioritization criteria, and the duties of Advisory Committee members.

Geographic Representation

	Recommended	Total (Recommended + Current)
Baywide	3	11
Alameda	2	6
Contra Costa	1	2
Marin	1	1
Napa	0	1
Santa Clara	2	3
San Francisco	1	1
San Mateo	0	1
Solano	2	3
Sonoma	0	2

Type of Organization

	Recommended	Total (Recommended + Current)
Public Agency	4	15
Nonprofit Organization	2	4
Community Group	3	4
Business Interests Representative	1	1
Individual	1	1

Recommendation

The ad hoc committee has followed the guidance in the Advisory Committee Procedural Document in recommending appointment of a group of Advisory Committee members who can ably represent both the communities and agencies involved in restoration of wetland areas in San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. Accordingly, we recommend that the Authority adopt Resolution 106.

Attachments

Resolution 106

Biographies of Recommended Advisory Committee Members