



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2023

TO: Advisory Committee
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager
Sara Haugen, Project Manager

SUBJECT: Proposal to Create an AC Partnership Program

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board, Advisory Committee (AC), and staff have been aiming for several years to continually achieve broader representation regionally, demographically, and across disciplines on the AC. As seasoned and newer members cycle through terms, there is an opportunity for members to exchange organizational knowledge and new ideas, and to develop new ways to build relationships with each other, which can be challenging in the pandemic era. To support both onboarding of new members and foster greater cohesion on the AC, staff propose that the AC create a partnership program through an amendment to the AC Charter.

Background

The Governing Board’s ad hoc committee to appoint AC members will be recommending only 11 appointments at the March 2023 board meeting. If the board makes those appointments, the AC will have 25 members, out of a maximum of 34 allowed by the AC Procedural Document. The ad hoc committee will be requesting another round of AC member recruitment to achieve greater diversity, with the opportunity to appoint up to nine additional members.

Per the AC Procedural Document, last updated and approved by the Governing Board on October 14, 2022: “The Restoration Authority will strive to balance representation among public agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, business interests, and individuals, and will strive to ensure continued representation of each of the statutorily-listed entities under Section 66703.7, and *will encourage racial, ethnic, income, and gender diversity.*” (Italics added for emphasis.)

As the Authority seeks greater diversity, it may be beneficial to offer a partnership program to new AC 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 and a member with experience in designing habitat restoration projects could be partnered. 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 AC could also support new members in learning about the Authority’s legal mandate, project eligibility and prioritization criteria, and the duties of AC members.

The AC Charter currently reads: “Membership: The Advisory Committee Procedural Document allows for a maximum of 34 AC members. Members are appointed by the Governing Board and together are intended to represent a broad array of interests from the nine Bay Area counties.”

The Advisory Committee can consider adding an amendment to the Charter that reads: “The Restoration Authority encourages racial, ethnic, income, age, and gender diversity on the Advisory Committee. To promote an inclusive and supportive environment, the Advisory Committee offers a partnership program that matches members from different backgrounds to learn from each other. The partnership program also matches members with more experience serving on the Advisory Committee with newer members to support them in learning about the Authority’s legal mandate, project eligibility and prioritization criteria, and their duties as an AC member. Partners are encouraged to meet outside of AC meetings to share perspectives and fill in information gaps” (See Attachment 1: AC Charter Redline).

Members are also encouraged to support additional AC member recruitment with an eye to encouraging underrepresented individuals to apply for 2023 AC appointment of up to 9 new members. Those interested in the partnership program can do this by being available for meetings with potential applicants to share about their experience on the AC, as well as by offering to be partner to the invitee, should they be appointed to the AC by the Governing Board.