

DRAFT
EPA REGION 9 SAN FRANCISCO BAY PROGRAM OFFICE
FY24 ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST

- In December of 2022, the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law and authorized the establishment of a San Francisco Bay Program Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), specifically with this language:

(1) Establishment

The Administrator shall establish in the Environmental Protection Agency a San Francisco Bay Program Office. The Office shall be located at the headquarters of Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

- The authorizing language in the NDAA set out certain expectations for the Program Office including an annual priority list to direct funding towards:

The annual priority list shall include the following:

- (A) Projects, activities, and studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan, for-*
 - (i) water quality improvement, including the reduction of marine litter;*
 - (ii) wetland, riverine, and estuary restoration and protection;*
 - (iii) nearshore and endangered species recovery; and*
 - (iv) adaptation to climate change.*

And consult with and consider the recommendations of-

- (A) the Estuary Partnership;*
- (B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed;*
- (C) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; and*
- (D) other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary.*

- EPA has developed this list to reflect mutual priorities identified in the San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the San Francisco Estuary, the Regional Water Board’s San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority’s stated objectives, and the Implementation Plan of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.

Priority Projects, Activities and Studies Needed to Restore San Francisco Bay and Build Its Climate Resilience

Project/Activity/Study	Link to CCMP
Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program	Action 8: Implementing a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program Action 10: Protect, restore, and enhance tidal marsh habitat
Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material Support	Action 6: Manage sediment and soil on a regional scale and advance beneficial use.
Nutrient Management Strategy	Action 20: Advance nutrient management in the Estuary.
Subtidal eelgrass and oyster reef restoration	Action 4: Implement climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies. Action 9: Protect, restore, and enhance intertidal and subtidal habitats.

Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team	Action 3: Overcome challenges to accelerate implementation of climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies. Action 9: Protect, restore, and enhance intertidal and subtidal habitats.
Large scale tidal wetlands restoration	Action 4: Implement climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies. Action 7: Decrease carbon emissions and subsidence in the Delta and increase carbon sequestration on natural and agricultural lands. Action 12: Maximize habitat benefits of managed ponds and other non-tidal wetlands and waters.
In-Bay Monitoring of Pollutants, including Trash and Algal Species, under the Regional Monitoring Program	Action 20: Advance nutrient management in the Estuary. Action 21: Address emerging contaminants in the Estuary's waters.
Large scale shoreline resilience, multi-benefit projects	Action 1: Plan for increased climate resilience that incorporates natural resource protection. Action 4: Implement climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies.
Large scale implementation of urban green stormwater infrastructure	Action 19: Manage stormwater with low impact development and green stormwater infrastructure. Action 23: Reduce trash and marine debris in the Estuary
Special studies/projects for addressing PFAS in SF Bay	Action 21: Address emerging contaminants in the Estuary's waters. Action 22: Reduce human health risks due to legacy contaminants and contaminants in fish.
Special studies/projects for addressing PCBs under TMDL implementation plan	Action 22: Reduce human health risks due to legacy contaminants and contaminants in fish.