

SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT PHASE 2:
EDEN LANDING IMPLEMENTATION

cost \$1,635,000, with the Authority granting \$1,155,000 and the Coastal Conservancy contributing \$480,000.

Additional funding for the Phase 2 project at Eden Landing is anticipated to come from the California State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and potentially future allocations from the Authority. DU is currently in the process of applying for implementation funding from WCB. Costs for the Phase 2, Stage B project at Eden Landing have not yet been estimated.

CONSISTENCY WITH AUTHORITY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION, THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY ACT:

Consistent with Section 66704.5, SFBBO is a private nonprofit organization working on an eligible project in Alameda County. The project is eligible for an Authority grant because it will enhance native habitat along levees on the shoreline of San Francisco Bay.

Consistent with Section 66704.5(e), this award would be used to support implementation, maintenance and monitoring for an eligible project.

CONSISTENCY WITH MEASURE AA PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

The levee enhancement to be funded through this authorization is consistent with Measure AA’s *Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program* because it will significantly improve habitat along levees that supports vital populations of birds, mammals, and other wildlife in and around the Bay, including the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. The enhancement work also includes monitoring and maintenance to ensure ongoing benefits to wildlife.

Furthermore, this authorization is consistent with Measure AA’s Shoreline Public Access Program because it will support outreach to local community members about the habitat enhancement effort at Eden Landing and it will support community involvement in the enhancement work.

CONSISTENCY WITH MEASURE AA PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA:

1. **Greatest positive impact.** The enhancement work to be completed by SFBBO will help conserve existing populations of snowy plover and Ridgway’s rail at Eden Landing by increasing high tide refuge and reducing predation pressure. Future restoration of 1,300 acres of tidal marsh at Eden Landing as part of the larger Phase 2 project will help expand the Eden Landing population of Ridgway’s rail and other marsh species by increasing the amount of available habitat.
2. **Greatest long-term benefits to San Francisco Bay** includes helping to recover populations of threatened and endangered species. The Phase 2 project incorporates features that will improve long-term resiliency such as gently sloping transition zones and engineered levees, which will provide flood risk management for infrastructure and communities that are vulnerable to being flooded out during higher tides and storm surges. The 15-acre levee enhancement work will help implement the goals and objectives of the Tidal Marsh Species Recovery Plan as well as the San Francisco Baylands Habitat Goals Report and its 2015 Baylands Goals Update.

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3. **Leveraging resources and partnerships.** To date, over \$20 million has been raised for construction of Phase 2 at Eden Landing, which includes over \$10 million in funding from federal agencies. Support letters from CDFW and a variety of nonprofit environmental organizations are attached (Exhibit 5).
4. **Economically disadvantaged communities.** Eden Landing is within 2 miles of a disadvantaged community in Union City. SFBBO will connect local community members to Eden Landing and the SBSPR Project by inviting them to participate in volunteer habitat enhancement events where they can learn about the natural history of San Francisco Bay and its importance to the health of humans and wildlife. Volunteer activities also provide excellent opportunities for local residents to explore habitats that they may not know are within miles of their homes. The Phase 2 project includes development of a section of San Francisco Bay Trail that will provide recreational access opportunities to members of these communities as well as improvements to bay water quality and resilience to sea level rise.
5. **Engage youth and young adults.** Volunteers will contribute thousands of hours to support SFBBO staff in removing trash, clearing weeds, and transplanting native seedlings at nursery facilities and the levee enhancement site. SFBBO has engaged the Ohlone College Environmental Club and Biology faculty at Skyline College who have already volunteered their time and indicated a desire to participate in future levee enhancement work.
6. **Monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship.** Funding will support monitoring to affirm habitat development trajectories and provide input to future planning efforts.
7. **Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.** The levee enhancement work proposed for funding is consistent with the Bay Area Conservancy Program because it will enhance habitat by removing weeds and replanting with native species. The levee enhancement work will also increase the resilience of threatened and endangered wildlife populations at Eden Landing by providing refugia during periods of extreme high tide that will happen more frequently as sea levels continue to rise due to climate change.
8. **San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy.** This authorization helps meet the SFBJV Implementation Strategy's acreage goal for enhancement of upland transition zone. Implementation of the full Phase 2 restoration project helps meet the SFBJV acreage goals for restoration of tidal marsh and nontidal wetlands.

CONSISTENCY WITH AUTHORITY'S INTERIM TRIBAL CONSULTATION

POLICY: Per the Authority's Interim Tribal Consultation Policy, Resolution 108, twelve letters were sent to tribes of Alameda County on April 15, 2024 regarding the Phase 2 project, including the SFBBO levee enhancement work. No responses were received. DU and other project partners have initiated outreach to tribes and indigenous communities around Eden Landing. This effort began in order to determine if there is interest by East Bay Ohlone people to participate in developing Eden Landing Phase 2 interpretive signage content that will discuss the history of indigenous salt-making in the area. The project team has identified a potential tribal partner who can share stories and perspectives about site history and present-day tribal communities. The

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project team is also working to build these partnerships and explore potential opportunities for tribal stewardship and involvement in restoration and enhancement activities, like revegetation.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

Actions described in this proposed authorization that will potentially be implemented under future authorization were evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Report, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Eden Landing Phase 2 (Final Eden Landing Phase 2 EIR) which was certified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in May 2019 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). The Authority made findings on the Final Eden Landing Phase 2 EIR at its June 7, 2019 meeting as part of an authorization of funding for design and permitting of the Phase 2 SBSP Restoration Project at Eden Landing. The enhancement actions proposed to be funded pursuant to this authorization are not explicitly within the scope of the Phase 2 SBSP Restoration Project at Eden Landing as described in the Final Eden Landing Phase 2 EIR. However, these actions constitute a minor change to the Phase 2 SBSP Restoration Project at Eden Landing that do not result in new significant environmental effects or increase in severity of previously identified effects.

Further, the Final Eden Landing Phase 2 EIR is a project-level environmental impact assessment that tiers off of the 2007 South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (2007 EIS/R). The 2007 EIS/R is a program-level evaluation of the long-term alternative restoration plans for the entire 15,100-acre SBSRP Project area and includes project-level analysis of the first phase of restoration. The periodic type of revegetation effort proposed by SFBBO is within the scope of the vegetation control activities evaluated in the 2007 EIS/R. No significant impacts were identified with this type of activity and no mitigation measures were identified for vegetation control.

Staff will file a notice of determination upon Authority approval of the proposed project.