

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting February 7, 2025, 10 am – 12 pm

Agenda and meeting materials are available at:
www.sfbayrestore.org

1. **Call to Order**

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair of the Advisory Committee (AC), called the meeting to order.

2. **Determination of Quorum**

Paul Johnson, Clerk of the Advisory Committee

AC Member Attendance: Alba Cárdenas, Sara Azat, Erika Castillo, Adrian Covert, Paul Detjens, Melissa Foley, Lee Huo, Dulce Jimenez, Maria Katticaran, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Kelli McCune, Marquita Price, Ana Maria Ruiz, Casey Skinner, Craig Weightman, Eileen White, Beckie Zisser

3. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

4. **Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2024
(ACTION)**

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair

Item 4: [Draft Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2024](#)

Paul Detjens moved to approve the meeting minutes and Dulce Jimenez seconded. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

5. **Chair's Report from December 13, 2024 Governing Board Meeting
(INFORMATION)**

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair, shared updates from the December Governing Board meeting. Four outgoing members were recognized for their service on the board: Supervisor David Pine, Supervisor Susan Gorin, Councilmember Sophie Hahn, and Supervisor Aaron Peskin. Two grants were authorized: \$2,990,000 to the Aquatic Science Center for continued funding for the Science Elements of the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) for San Francisco Bay and \$25,000,000 to the Trust for Public Land for the Newark Baylands Acquisition. The Board appointed two members to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee: Susan Ives and Garth Hall, and appointed Alba Cárdenas to the AC as a representative of Climate Resilient Communities. The Board also approved the Staff Response to Oversight Committee Letter, Audited Financial Statements and Reports for Fiscal Year 2023-24, and the Authority's Annual Report for FY2023-24. Finally, the board heard informational updates on progress toward achieving Measure AA campaign goals and the annual equity update.

6. **Announcement of Upcoming Advisory Committee Member Appointments and Upcoming Chair and Vice Chair Nominations (INFORMATION)**

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair

An ad hoc committee of the Governing Board met to assist in the selection of new AC members for four-year terms. The Governing Board will be appointing new AC members Feb 28, 2025.

As the current Chair and Vice-Chair's terms will be expiring after the next meeting, the AC can nominate and vote for Chair and Vice Chair at the next AC meeting in May 2025, who the Board can appoint in June 2025. Staff will send more info about the Chair and Vice Chair roles by email. Members may nominate themselves or be nominated by fellow members. If anyone is interested in the roles or in nominating someone else, reach out to Linda Tong, Deputy Program Manager, and Sara Haugen, Project Manager. The time commitment is a few hours before AC meetings, and the Chair attends Governing Board meetings remotely to provide a report on the previous AC meeting and stays on to bring updates back to the AC.

7. **Notification of Revised 2025 Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule (INFORMATION)**

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair

Item 7: [Revised 2025 Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

Chair Martini-Lamb announced the three meeting dates for the 2025 AC Meeting Schedule. The only revision was changing the June 20 meeting to May 16 to avoid summer holidays and vacations.

8. **Overview of the Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (INFORMATION)**

Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer

Karen McDowell, Program Manager

Item 8: [Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024](#)

Attachment 1: [Presentation on Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024](#)

Taylor Samuelson and Karen McDowell presented the Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 that was approved by the Governing Board at the December 13, 2024, Governing Board Meeting. New sections of the Annual Report include a map spotlight on projects benefiting Economically Disadvantaged Communities and a feature on the WRMP's Bay Habitat Map 2020.

Staff have moved up the schedule of drafting the Annual Report, so that the full process of Annual Report approval by the Board and review by the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (OC) does not extend too far into subsequent fiscal years. AC members who are interested in reviewing the 23/24 report and providing feedback for the 24/25 report can send comments to Taylor between now and July.

A member commented that a chart in the WRMP section showing progress toward restoring 100,000 acres minimizes the impact of SFBRA since it includes an existing

baseline of 35,000 acres. Staff will look into improving the visual representation of SFBRA contributions to restored acres of wetlands in next year's report and continue to make it relatable and digestible for the public.

9. **Discussion on Balancing Needs of Wildlife and Public Access in Projects (INFORMATION)**

Ana Ruiz, AC Member, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Casey Skinner, AC Member, Audubon California

Building on discussions that have come up in prior AC meetings, members discussed balancing the needs of wildlife and public access in projects. Ana Ruiz with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Casey Skinner with Audubon California framed the discussion by presenting a few project examples showcasing different ways to address the benefits and tradeoffs of protecting habitat and providing public access.

Audubon California worked on restoration of Aramburu Island in Marin County, and the restoration work of sensitive bird habitat provided an opportunity for over a decade of volunteer stewardship. Audubon California also worked on marsh enhancement at Sonoma Creek in Sonoma County – the restored site was inaccessible for public use because of its remote location, but Audubon worked with partners to improve public access at a nearby U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge area. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District led the Ravenswood Bay Trail extension project in San Mateo County, which included enhancement of adjacent wildlife habitat and techniques such as boardwalks to minimize habitat impacts. The improved public access has also provided more opportunities for community engagement and stewardship activities.

AC members discussed examples of meeting regulatory requirements placed on projects to offset the impacts of public access, such as altering trail elements to protect protected species or changing the construction phasing to build public access amenities after the restoration phase. Members would like to see standardized requirements where appropriate and efficient use of restoration funds so that protections for species do not escalate costs and hinder public access significantly, and vice versa.

There was consensus that while the requirements are often project specific, it would be useful to understand the overall science and rationale for permit requirements that project leads need to follow. Members were interested in a high-level presentation from a member of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team, such as from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, to better understand protections for endangered species and the resulting permitting requirements. This learning would not only be useful to the AC, but for those with less technical backgrounds to better implement community projects in different habitats across the bay.

10. **Highlight of Advisory Committee Accomplishments 2021-2024 (INFORMATION)**

Sara Haugen, Project Manager and Grant Program Coordinator
Linda Tong, Deputy Program Manager

Item 10: [Presentation on Advisory Committee Accomplishments 2021-2024](#)

Sara Haugen and Linda Tong presented a highlight of Advisory Committee Accomplishments from 2021-2024 (covering the work of the AC members that just completed 4-year terms).

A member asked if there is a dashboard of Authority accomplishments, which is available on the website. Staff shared the [EcoAtlas Authority Dashboard link](#) with members.

11. **Announcements (INFORMATION)**

Paul Detjens invited members to save May 3, 2025, for the grand opening of the Lower Walnut Creek public access elements, hosted by the John Muir Land Trust.

12. **Public Comment**

Sara Haugen asked AC members what level of detail they would prefer for meeting minutes. Members noted that committee decisions, discussion outcomes, pending questions, and action items are most important to capture.

13. **Adjourn**

Chair Martini-Lamb adjourned at 11:46 am.