



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2026
TO: Governing Board
FROM: Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer
SUBJECT: Tours of Restoration Authority Funded Projects

Background

In recent years, the staff of the Restoration Authority have organized several public tours of projects funded by Measure AA. These tours have been designed to serve both our internal audiences of the Governing Board, Advisory Committee, Oversight Committee, and staff, and external partners and members of the public.

The tours have included:

- 6/1/21 - Governing Board Tour of Projects in the North Bay: [Montezuma Tidal and Seasonal Wetlands Restoration Project](#) and [Suisun Marsh Fish Screen Rehabilitation Project](#)
- 6/2/23 - Governing Board Tour of Projects in the East Bay: [Oakland Shoreline Leadership Academy](#), [South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project](#), and [Invasive Spartina Removal and Tidal Marsh Restoration Project](#)
- 10/6/23 - Governing Board Tour of Projects and Networking Session in the West Bay: [SAFER Bay Planning Project](#), [Baylands Habitat Restoration and Community Engagement in East Palo Alto](#)
- 7/30/24 - Advisory Committee Tour of Projects in the South Bay: [South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project](#) and [South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project](#)
- 5/23/25 - Governing Board Tour of Projects in the East and North Bays: [North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project](#), [Terminal Four Wharf Removal Project](#), [Greenwood Gravel Beach Design Project](#)

Each of the tours attracted an audience composed primarily of project partners, potential partners, Advisory Committee members and alumni, and staff, as well as members of the Governing Board. The tours give invaluable understanding of the projects funded by the Authority and foster connections among the Bay restoration community.

The tours are planned by the Authority's Public Information Officer with support from staff, leadership, and the partners who host us at their projects. They are open to the public and promoted on the Authority's social media channels, website, and through our mailing list.

Discussion and Recommendations

The roughly annual schedule of tours developed due to a combination of staff bandwidth, Governing Board and Advisory Committee availability, and overall interest.

As we enter the second half of Measure AA's twenty-year term and consider ways to demonstrate Measure AA's impact, tours provide an excellent opportunity to showcase Measure AA-funded restoration projects in the Bay to key stakeholders and the public. As such, the Governing Board has asked staff to consider ramping up the frequency of project tours.

Staff consulted partner organizations that host similar tours and propose the following:

- Two Authority hosted tours per year, focused on different regions of the Bay, different restoration approaches, or different benefits to people and wildlife. We suggest that these tours come in different shapes and sizes. Some tours may visit several projects with a large group; some may take a close look at one project with a smaller handful of targeted stakeholders. It is our hope that mixing up the format of the tours will prevent tour-fatigue.
- Maximizing partnerships: Many of our grantee partners and restoration partners host tours. We suggest that staff work with these partners (e.g. Save the Bay, Together Bay Area, Valley Water, East Bay Regional Park District, Sonoma Land Trust, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, San Francisco Estuary Partnership) to incorporate Authority-funded projects and speakers on their tour agendas and augment their guest list with our own. Combining forces in this way can make for more effective tours for all parties.
- Increase outreach: As mentioned above, the Authority has used its own channels to invite partners and promote the tours publicly, but there is more we can do to cast a wider net, including:
 - Sending personalized invitations to local and state elected officials in the location of the tour.
 - Use the ABAG/MTC lists of elected officials and public servants to send invitations to individuals within the Authority's jurisdiction.
 - Schedule the tours several months out to get on folks' calendars.
 - Ask the Governing Board and Advisory Committee members to distribute the tour invitations to their networks and through their mailing lists (being mindful of any capacity constraints).

Next Steps

Pending Governing Board approval, staff propose starting to partner on tours hosted by others immediately. We also propose the following dates and locations for Authority hosted tours this year:

- **May 29, 2026** – Governing Board Tour of Projects in the East Bay: [Coyote Hills](#), [Hayward Marsh](#), and [Newark Baylands](#) (To Be Confirmed).
- **October 9, 2026** – A Deep Dive with Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ). LEJ is managing two of the Authority’s Community Grants on the Southeast San Francisco shoreline ([Southeast San Francisco Shoreline Stewards Project](#) and [Candlestick Point Stewardship Project, Phase 1 and 2](#)). This tour would be pitched at a smaller audience to spend a few hours with LEJ to learn about their work and the impact of our Community Grants program.