



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2026

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Amy Hutzal, Executive Officer
Linda Tong, Deputy Program Manager
Sara Haugen, Grant Program Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SUBJECT: Staff's Anticipated Recommendations on Projects to be Considered for Funding in Grant Round 9

This memo provides staff's anticipated recommendations on projects to be considered for funding in Grant Round 9, a summary of the project selection process, and the reviewers' rationales for selection of specific projects in this grant round.

Grant Round 9 Overview

In response to its eighth grant solicitation, which closed on October 6, 2025, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) received 18 eligible applications, requesting a total of approximately \$80 million.

Although the Authority has close to \$24 million available annually for regular grant round projects, community grants, and contingency, about \$12.5 million is available for Grant Round 9 projects. The amount available for Grant Round 9 is dependent on other funding obligations during the fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY25/26), the Authority allocated \$10.5 million towards the Newark Baylands Acquisition (the funding for the project will total \$25 million over several FY), and allocated \$600,000 for the Community Grants Program. Staff are recommending leaving contingency available for unexpected project expenses, as well as anticipated augmentations of grants from previous years.

Staff and members of the Advisory Committee reviewed and scored the Grant Round 9 applications and obtained additional information from applicants, as needed. Based on the process described in detail below, staff developed the following list of five projects we anticipate recommending for funding in Grant Round 9 listed in descending order of dollar amount:

- Bay Rise Park Project (The SPHERE Institute): \$7,000,000

- Hayward Marsh Improvements Project (East Bay Regional Park District): \$2,000,000
- Accelerating Ecosystem-Scale Habitat Stewardship in Richardson Bay Project (Richardson Bay Regional Agency): \$1,900,000
- Brisbane Living Shoreline Project (OneShoreline): \$962,500
- Napa River Estuary Enhancement and Public Access Project (Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District): \$600,000

These include 2 planning projects, and 3 primarily implementation projects.

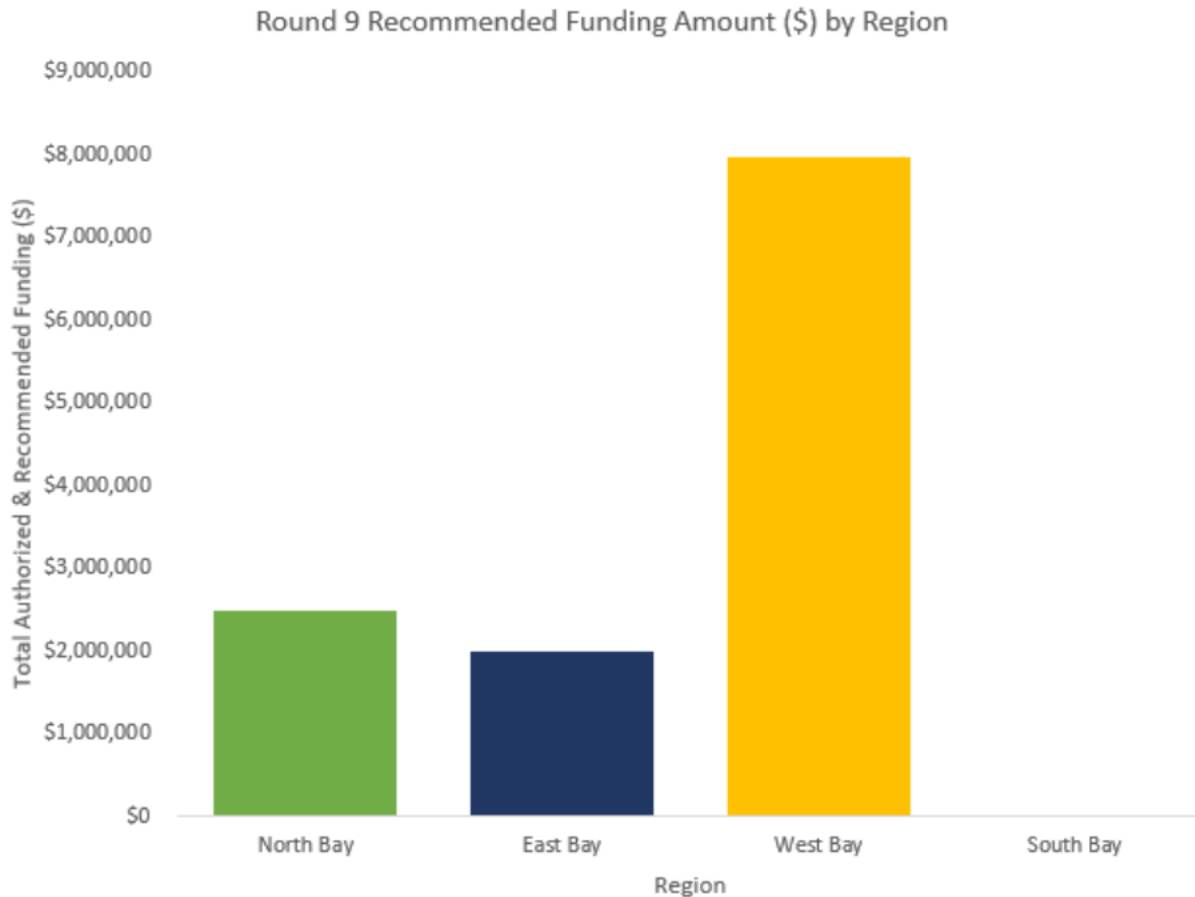
Round 9 Project Selection Process

In the evaluation process, staff and Advisory Committee (AC) members reviewed proposals and associated updates based on the Request for Proposal’s eligibility criteria, prioritization criteria, and the project’s likelihood of success. Evaluation criteria included the extent to which the project would implement multiple goals of Measure AA; whether the project would benefit economically disadvantaged communities; whether the landowner had expressed strong support for the project, if the project proponent is not the landowner; the strength of relationships with community-based organizations or other partners; urgency of the project; and other criteria. Reviewers scored proposals; ranked them as high, medium, or low priority projects; and gave qualitative feedback on strengths and weaknesses of the proposals.

To determine the list of recommended projects that would be presented to the Governing Board, staff began with the quantitative scoring but took many qualitative factors into consideration. Staff had robust discussions with AC reviewers to parse through the strengths and weaknesses of proposals relative to one another. Staff also paid attention to reviewers’ priority rankings (high, medium, or low), the geographic distribution of project sites, and the amount of funds available in the current grant round, among other factors.

Regarding geographic distribution of funds, staff are aware of the need to ensure adequate funding for each of the four regions of the Bay. In the North Bay, staff anticipates recommending funding for two projects, totaling \$2.5 million. In the East Bay, staff anticipates recommending funding for one project for \$2 million. In the West Bay, staff anticipates recommending funding for two projects totaling \$7,962,500. There were no requests for funding from the South Bay in this grant round.

Reviewers’ evaluation comments are provided to applicants upon request, and staff may suggest other, appropriate funding sources for projects that do not receive Authority funds. Some unsuccessful applicants return in a later grant round and submit improved proposals based on Authority feedback.



Rationale for Round 9 Project Selection and Funding Amounts

The applications received in Round 9 and anticipated recommendations for funding amounts are listed in Attachment 1. The rationales for selection of projects and funding recommendations are provided below.

North Bay

- Accelerating Ecosystem-Scale Habitat Stewardship in Richardson Bay Project.** Richardson Bay Regional Agency aims to restore at least 20 acres of eelgrass, remove more than 3,000 pounds of marine debris from the seabed, and create opportunities for residents and students to participate in restoration and monitoring in Richardson Bay in Marin County. Partial funding for this project would help the Authority make concrete progress towards the Measure AA Campaign Goal of restoring Submerged Aquatic Vegetation habitat. (Funding recommendation: \$1,900,000)
- Napa River Estuary Enhancement and Public Access Project.** Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District plans to design 30% plans and prepare permit applications to restore tidal wetlands at the of Napa River Wetlands by breaching the existing levee to allow for the return of tidal influence and wetland habitat, and to construct a raised pedestrian trail in the Napa River Estuary in Napa County. Full funding for this grant request would move forward the planning process for restoration of a

property that the Coastal Conservancy helped acquire through their funding. (Funding recommendation: \$600,000)

East Bay

- **Hayward Marsh Improvements Project.** East Bay Regional Park District proposes to implement the first of a two-phase construction project to restore tidal marsh and seasonal wetland habitats, upgrade levees, and improve Bay Trail public access at Hayward Marsh in Alameda County. Partial funding of the grant request would support construction of a project that has completed planning, permitting, and environmental review, which the Authority helped fund in prior grant rounds. (Funding recommendation: \$2,000,000)

West Bay

- **Bay Rise Park (formerly Shoreline Park - Burlingame) Project.** The SPHERE Institute aims to transform a 9.4-acre vacant parcel of State-owned bayfront land into a nature and recreation park and restore tidal marsh and transition zone habitats along the City of Burlingame’s shoreline in San Mateo County. Partial funding of the grant request would support planning, permitting, and construction of a project that addresses the Authority’s four Measure AA Programs; with clear goals, strong partnerships, and a plan for raising remaining needed funds. (Funding recommendation: \$7,000,000)
- **Brisbane Living Shoreline Project.** San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (OneShoreline) plans to collect data, design a 30% plan, and prepare permit applications to restore 50 acres of oyster habitat and 100 acres of eelgrass habitat along the Brisbane shoreline of San Mateo County. Full funding of this grant request would help the Authority make progress towards the Measure AA Campaign Goal of restoring Submerged Aquatic Vegetation habitat and shellfish habitat. (Funding recommendation: \$962,500)

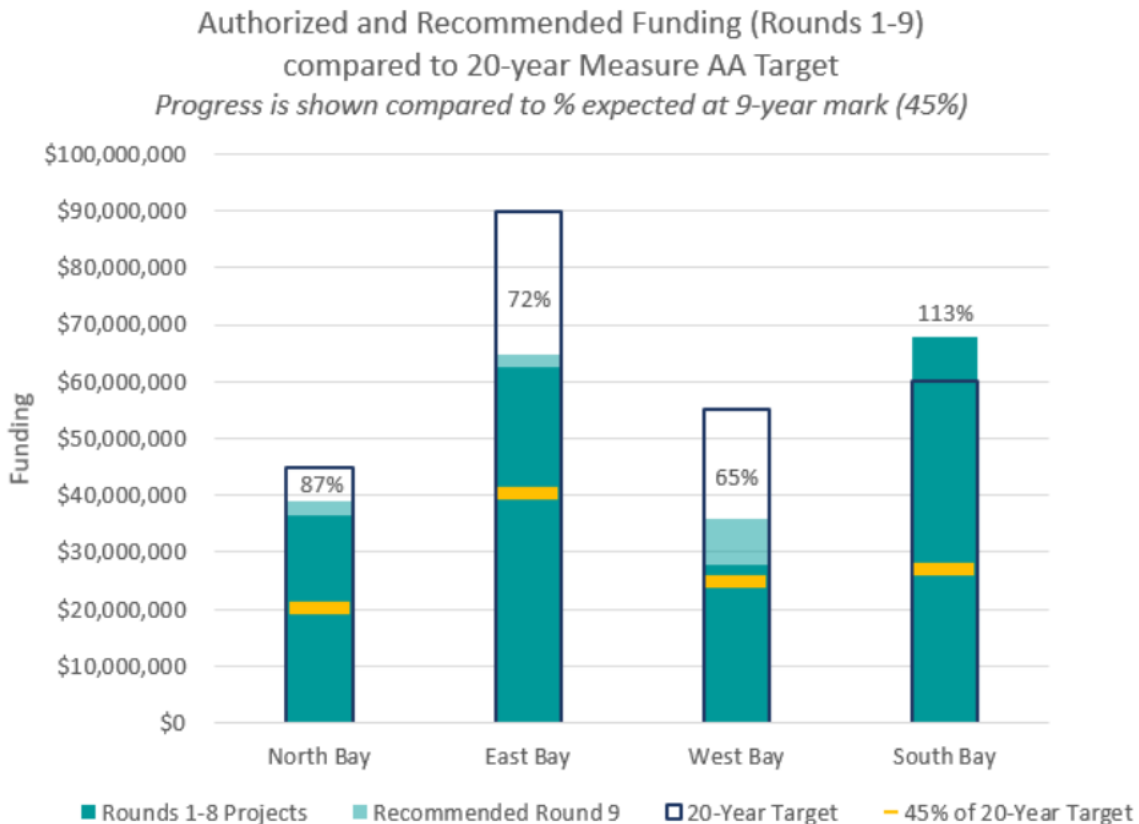
The following sections describe the expected cumulative distribution of funding by region and project phase if the recommended projects are authorized.

Cumulative Distribution by Region

Measure AA requires that revenue be allocated to projects throughout the region, with 50% of funds allocated to the four Bay Area regions in proportion to each region’s share of the Bay Area’s population, as determined in the 2010 census, and 50% allocated without regard to region. Per this requirement, the minimum percentages that must be allocated to each of the four Bay Area regions are listed below:

- North Bay (Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Solano Counties) = 9% minimum allocation;
- East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) = 18% minimum allocation;
- West Bay (City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County) = 11% minimum allocation; and
- South Bay (Santa Clara County) = 12% minimum allocation.

Twenty-year targets for minimum allocations were calculated assuming that Measure AA generates roughly \$500 million over 20 years. The table and chart below show progress toward these targets. Funding for the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team Project has not been included in the regional totals because it is a special project focused on permitting across all regions. Grant funding for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Removal and Tidal Marsh Restoration Project is divided among the four regions as follows, based on the estimated level of effort in each region: North 15%, East 26%, West 29%, South 30%.



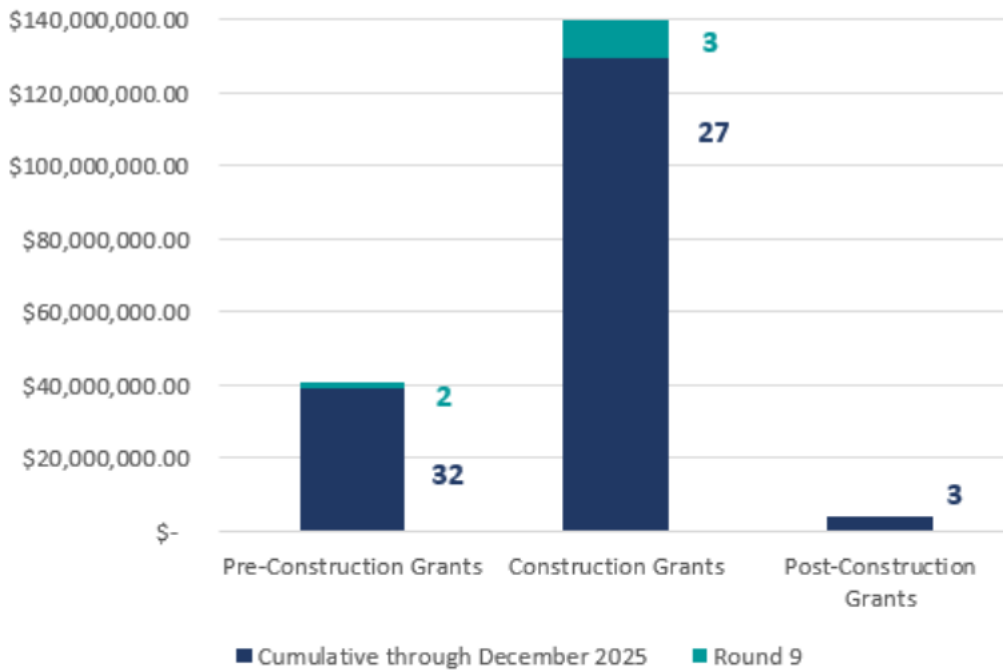
Targets	North Bay	East Bay	West Bay	South Bay
Rounds 1-9 Projects	\$38,999,318	\$64,680,710	\$35,744,893	\$67,966,809
20-Year Target	\$45,000,000	\$90,000,000	\$55,000,000	\$60,000,000
% of 20-Year Target	87%	72%	65%	113%
At 45% of target? Year 9 out of 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

As noted in the table, we would expect each region to be at least 45% of the way toward its target after nine out of twenty years of the Measure AA parcel tax period, and the table shows that all regions are on track.

Cumulative Distribution by Phase

The Governing Board has expressed interest in tracking the number of construction grants as compared to pre-construction only grants. (A small number of grants support post-construction only, i.e., monitoring and adaptive management.) Making progress toward the Measure AA Campaign Goals requires prioritizing construction grants. The Governing Board has also directed staff to ensure that pre-construction phases are also funded, so that more construction grants can be made in future years. The breakdown between pre-construction only grants (including acquisition, planning, design, environmental documentation, and permitting) and construction projects (used here to mean all forms of on-the-ground implementation), as well as post-construction only grants, is provided in the chart. The BRRIT is included as a pre-construction project.

Authorized and Recommended Number of Grants and Funding Amount by Phase



Please see Attachment 1 for the full list of projects, including brief project descriptions, and funding amounts requested and recommended. Staff have sent letters to proponents indicating these anticipated recommendations and will bring projects to the Governing Board as they are ready for consideration and possible approval of funding.