



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY**

**RESTORATION AUTHORITY**

## Community Grants Program Summary

# What is the SF Bay Restoration Authority?

- Regional agency created to fund shoreline projects that will protect, restore, and enhance San Francisco Bay
- Measure AA (June 2016) generates funds to accomplish SFBRA mission
- Jurisdiction: shoreline of the nine counties in San Francisco Bay Area (excluding Delta primary zone)





# SF Bay Restoration Authority Act: Funding Requirement

The Restoration Authority can fund:

- **Habitat projects** that will restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats along the shoreline.
- **Flood management features** that are part of a habitat project.
- **Public access or recreational amenities** that are part of a habitat project.



Photo: National Geographic

# Eligible Grantees and Locations

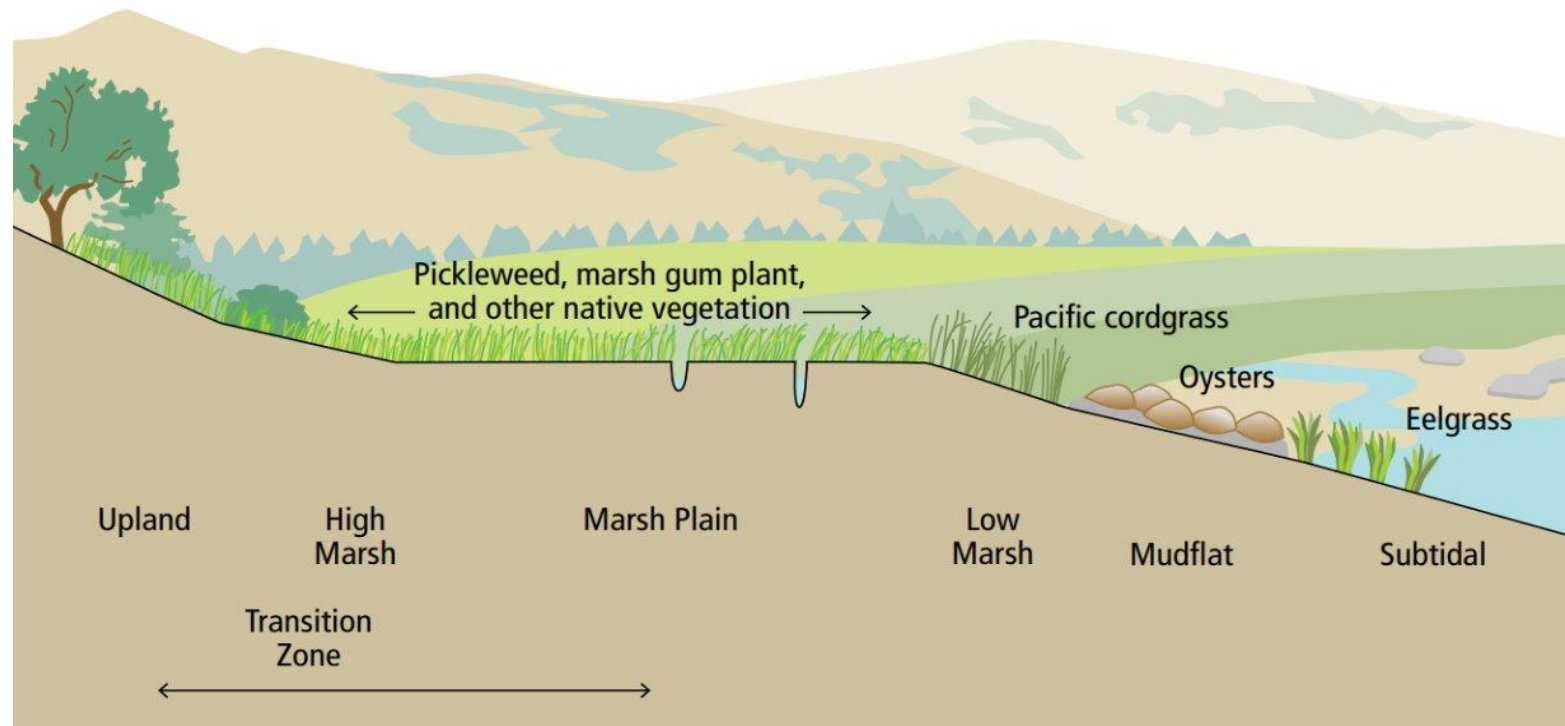
- **Eligible Grantees:**
  - federal, state, and local agencies
  - tribal governments
  - nonprofit organizations
  - owners or operators of shoreline parcels
- **Eligible Locations:**
  - Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties
    - along shorelines of SF Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline (not including Delta Primary Zone)





# Where is “along the Shoreline”?

- **Subtidal Habitats.** Area lying below mean low tide, within a reasonable distance of the shoreline.
- **Baylands.** Areas that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides over multiyear cycles, including those areas that would be covered by the tides in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures, including the portion of creeks or rivers located below the head of tide.
- **Transitions Zones.** Uplands adjacent to potential or actual tidal wetlands that can provide transitional habitat and/or marsh migration space, as well as areas that are needed to enhance the project’s resilience to projected sea level rise.



# Eligible Project Phases

## Project Phases:

- Acquisition
- Planning
- Design
- Permitting
- Construction/Implementation
- Operation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Maintenance



Think about [how to engage communities](#) early on, at any project phase.  
Partnerships are key!



# Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention



- Improve water quality by **reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities**
- Reduce pollution levels through **shoreline cleanup and trash removal**
- **Restore wetlands** that provide natural filters and remove pollution
- **Restore creeks** where they flow into the Bay

# Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat

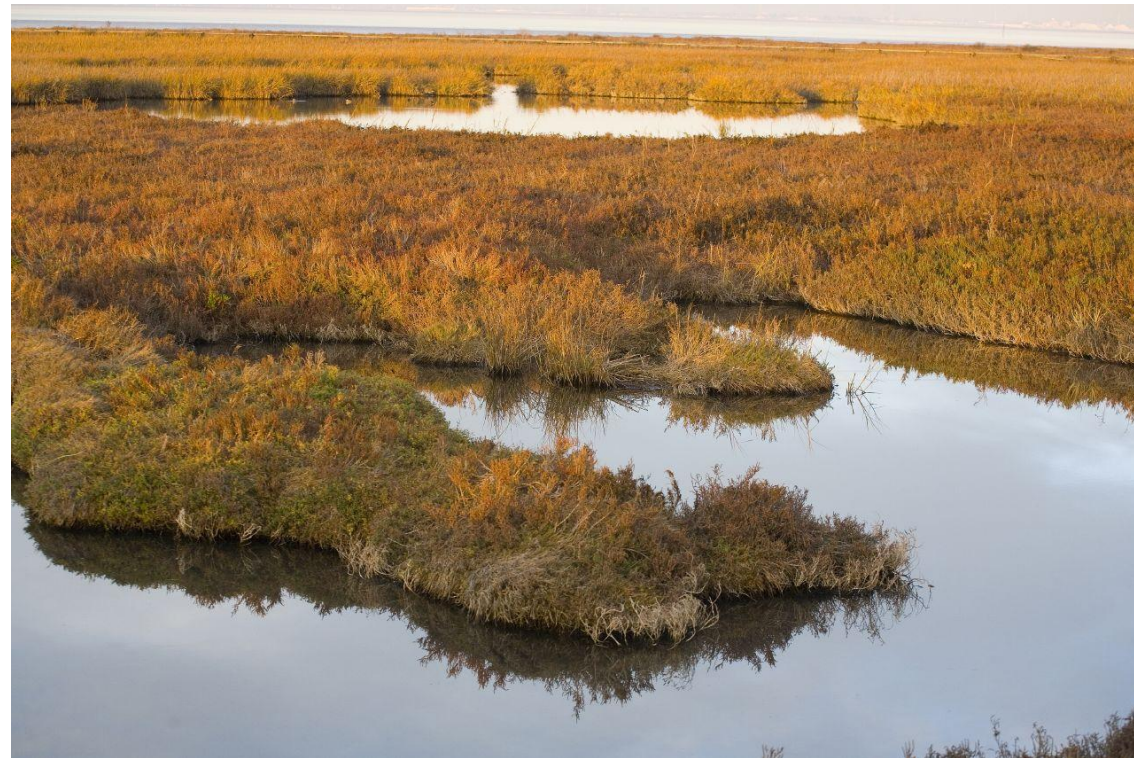
- **Enhance** the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, shoreline parks and open space preserves and other **public lands for expanded and improved habitat** for fish, birds, and mammals
- **Protect and restore wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats** to benefit wildlife including shorebirds, waterfowl, fish
- **Provide for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring** of habitat restoration projects to ensure ongoing benefits to wildlife and people





# Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Natural Flood Protection

- Provide nature-based flood protection through **wetland and habitat restoration**
- **Build and improve levees** that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities



# Measure AA Eligibility Criteria: Shoreline Public Access

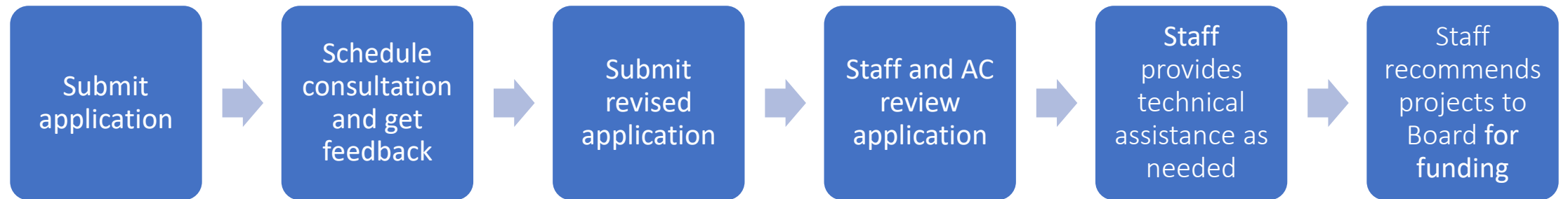
To provide safer and improved **public access**, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay:

- Construct new, repair existing, and/or replace deteriorating public trails, signs and related facilities along the shoreline and manage these facilities
- Provide interpretive materials and special **outreach events** about pollution prevention, wildlife habitat, public access, and flood protection, to protect the Bay's health and **encourage community engagement**





# Community Grants Program Application Process



# Community Grants Program (Rolling)

- **Application:** Currently available on website
  - Initial and revised applications accepted on rolling basis
  - Email [grants@sfbayrestore.org](mailto:grants@sfbayrestore.org)
- **Award Dates:** rolling basis
- **Applicant:** Community-based organization
- **Funding Available:** up to \$300k per project
- **More Information:**  
<https://www.sfbayrestore.org/community-grants>





# Eligible Projects for Community Grants

- **Community visioning** led by community-based organizations in economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs)
- **Training** for EDC leaders to develop, apply for, and implement small shoreline habitat projects
- Supporting community-based organizations in EDCs in **gaining knowledge** of shoreline issues and **building relationships** with government agencies and nonprofits
- **Implementing** shoreline habitat projects with strong community benefits



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# Measure AA Prioritization Criteria

- Greatest positive impact
- Greatest long-term impact
- Geographic distribution
- Leverage state and federal dollars, public/private partnerships
- **Benefit economically disadvantaged communities**
- Benefit region's economy
- **Engage youth and young adults**
- Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship
- Meet selection criteria of Conservancy, SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission and SF Bay Joint Venture





# Community Grants Program Prioritization Criteria

- Achieve specific community benefits in the foreseeable future (1 – 5 years)
- Include a well-defined community engagement process
- Urgency (pressing need or fleeting opportunity)



# Measure AA “Likelihood of Success” Criteria

Project’s Likelihood of Success, based on:

- Applicant’s capacity and resources to complete and maintain the project
  - Applicant history
  - Budget; Schedule
  - Leveraging resources and partnerships
  - Monitoring, maintenance, stewardship
- Project’s level of community involvement and benefits and/or innovative partnerships
  - Project partners; Support letters
  - Community support, involvement, and benefits
  - Benefits economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs)
  - Coordination with local jurisdictions

(Refer to **Request for Proposals** for details: <http://sfbayrestore.org/restoration-authority-grants>)



# What are "innovative partnerships" and "community benefits"?

## Innovative partnerships – collaboration between:

- community-based nonprofits; environmental nonprofits; federal/state/local/tribal governments; health care providers; faith-based organizations; philanthropies; civic organizations; educational institutions; arts organizations, local businesses, or others.

## Benefits to communities, especially economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs):

- direct involvement and support of local community groups; track record working within communities; increase relevance of messaging and outreach
- alleviate multiple stressors within communities, e.g. need for recreational amenities, resilience to climate change, reductions in pollution burden, civic engagement, leadership development opportunities.
- For examples of strategies, see Coastal Conservancy's [\*Tips for Meaningful Community Engagement\*](#)





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# Community Grant Application Tips

- Applications will be evaluated based on the following:
  - **Measure AA ELIGIBILITY Criteria**
  - **Community Grants Program PRIORITIZATION Criteria**
  - **Project's Likelihood of Success**
- **Submit Initial Application, and Revised Application** (submit to [grants@sfbayrestore.org](mailto:grants@sfbayrestore.org))
  - Word application questions, schedule, budget
  - Project maps and photos
  - Optional: Support letters
- Refer to website for more info (<https://www.sfbayrestore.org/community-grants>)



# Example of Funded Community Project

## Candlestick Point Stewardship Project

- \$100,000 to Literacy for Environmental Justice
- Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, Bayview Hunters Point Neighborhood
- Accomplishments:
  - Planted 6,500 native plants
  - Cleaned up trash
  - Provided paid job training to 12 transitional-aged youth through their Eco-Apprentice program
  - Engaged more than 300 community members in stewardship



View <https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects> for list of all funded projects



# Advance Payment

- Option for grantees if reimbursement model will be challenging for cash flow
- Evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- If approved, this will be the payment method for the entirety of the grant
- Request via grant manager with:
  - Organization Name
  - Project Name
  - Restoration Authority grant agreement number
  - Brief explanation as to why advanced payment is necessary
  - Example of staff timesheet records showing time tracked to different projects or activities (only required if the grantee will be billing for staff time)



# Lessons Learned Summary

- [Lessons Learned Memo](#) from February 2026 available online
- Summarizes lessons learned from past grantees (25 grants in total)
- Categorized by common themes in restoration projects and provides specific project examples
- Will be updated occasionally to include new reports as they come in





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Thank you!

Contact: [grants@sfbayrestore.org](mailto:grants@sfbayrestore.org)

[www.sfbayrestore.org](http://www.sfbayrestore.org)