

## San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Coordinator's Report

**TO:** SF Bay Joint Venture Management Board and Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Beth Huning, Coordinator

**DATE:** April 17, 2017

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*This report is an overview of activities of the Joint Venture and significant developments since the Management Board meeting on January 31, 2017.*

### A. News of Note from the Joint Venture

**1. Joint Venture Management Board Meeting, April 25, 2017 from 11 am -2 pm Bay MetroCenter, 375 Beale Street, Room 6102 Bay Area, San Francisco**

*Note the new starting and ending time being tested as a way to help our Management Board members avoid rush hour traffic, particularly those with longer commutes.*

Please join us on April 25th for our Management Board meeting at the Bay MetroCenter Room. This meeting will focus on the following:

- We will do a brief poll to elicit your feedback on Management Board procedures. We have made some recent changes to our meeting timing and have received suggestions about altering the way we provide our packet materials. We seek your input and feedback.
- The four SFBJV working committees will report on priority actions in the 2017 work plan and how they are approaching the new Implementation Plan.
- We will discuss and consider adoption of the Introduction Chapter of the Implementation Plan.

**2. Background for Discussion, April 25 Management Board Meeting**

The following information provides a summary for the items to be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

- **Working Committee Reports** – In addition to briefing you on committee progress toward actions in the [2017 work plan](#), (**Attachment C**) our working committee chairs will also be incorporating JV business pertinent to their committee in their reports, particularly the process for developing content for the Implementation Plan.
- **Implementation Plan Revision Update and [Introduction](#) (Attachment F)** - Our Implementation Plan writer, John Hart, has written the introductory chapter to the Implementation Plan. Prior to the meeting we encourage you to read the introduction and prepare any questions you might want to discuss. We do not plan to edit this by committee, as it has been reviewed by several of our IPT members, rather our goal is to get your response, particularly considering accuracy and any glaring omissions or comments. At the conclusion of the discussion, it is hoped that the Management Board will consider it for adoption, at least in concept, with the caveat that as work progresses on the plan, a summary section will need to be added as well as likely changes to the content and/or reorganization.

**3. SFBJV Implementation Plan Revision Update – [Attachments D, F]**

Progress this quarter has focused on confirming Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs for the content work teams. Staff have been working with these leaders to define the approach their team(s) will take on relevant topic areas, compile existing recommendations and plan the initial content. As noted above, some of the teams are actively engaged through the SFBJV in developing content or recommending decisions about the Plan that will be considered as we move forward.

We plan to hire an additional contractor to lead discrete technical discussions and create content specific to habitat goals and monitoring and evaluation. Work has been initiated to establish and/or [update habitat goals \(Attachment D\)](#) and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework. While there is no definitive conclusion or approach established, discussions are being conducted around the processes for establishing species population objectives. (See the Science Steering Committee report below for more detail.)

As noted above, the [introduction \(Attachment F\)](#) is completed and ready for consideration for conditional adoption. It has been circulating for a couple of weeks among the members of the Implementation Plan Team (IPT). Their comments to date have been considered or incorporated. The introduction will serve not only to introduce the plan but will be the basis for an executive summary and other documents used to promote the plan with a variety of audiences.

John Hart has also been contracted and has initiated his next phase of work which will focus on creating introductory sections for the policy, human dimensions, and science sections of the plan.

The revision of the SFBJV Implementation Plan will be discussed in more detail at the April 25 meeting.

#### **4. Measure AA Update and Timing**

The SFBJV staff has been receiving numerous inquiries with regard to “what’s next” with Measure AA. The Coordinator Report in the October 31, 2016 and January 31, 2017 Management Board packets provided an extensive overview of the process prior to the release of funding. The following summary reflects actions taken by the Restoration Authority (Authority) over the last quarter.

- **Advisory Committee** – The newly re-constituted Advisory Committee met for the first time on February 28 and will meet again on May 12. The size of the Advisory Committee was increased from 25 to 33 members to accommodate a variety of expertise and community interests. SFBJV interests will be well-represented with Coordinator Beth Huning having been appointed to this new Committee along with several Management Board members: John Coleman (Bay Planning Coalition), David Lewis (Save the Bay), Anne Morkill (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Diane Ross-Leech (PG&E), and Bruce Wolfe (Regional Water Quality Control Board). Additionally, many other SFBJV project management or science partners, as well as former Management Board members, have also been appointed.

The first task of the Advisory Committee was to provide guidance and comments on the draft of the new grant guidelines for Measure AA funds, described below. Information about the Advisory Committee, their procedural documents, and member biographies can be found by visiting their [website](#).

- **Grant Guidelines** - Advisory Committee members and other interested parties were invited to review the draft guidelines and Beth was on the team tasked to compile and evaluate revisions for consideration by the Authority at their meeting on April 14. Multiple draft guidelines can be found on their [here](#).
- **Restoration Authority Board meetings** - The Authority is currently meeting bi-monthly, as there is a number of decisions to be made and procedures to be put into place before the first RFP is released and

funds are collected and available for distribution. Meetings are now being held in various geographic locations around the Bay and include orientation presentations. Meeting dates, also posted on the SFBJV website, are: April 14 (in Palo Alto), June 9, September 8, November 3. All are invited to attend.

- **Next Steps to Funding Projects** - Once the guidelines are adopted by the Authority, the draft RFP will be developed and finalized. Board policies are also being drafted and adopted. More information will be forthcoming as instructions for input and comment are made available.

- **The project list** is under construction now and will be completed in time for consideration at the Authority's June 9 meeting. The SFBJV is working closely with the Coastal Conservancy to integrate our mutual projects into one list. We encourage all Management Board members to update your projects if you have not already done so. This can be done through the Project Tracker in the [EcoAtlas](#). Go to the "Project Tracker" then follow instructions or contact Sandra Scoggin with any questions at [sscoggin@sfbayjv.org](mailto:sscoggin@sfbayjv.org) or 415-699-3586. Beth will be presenting a webinar in May to share potential projects that Measure AA can fund, date to be determined.

## **5. Federal Budget and Near Term Prospects for Joint Venture Operating Funds**

The best way to describe the federal budget situation right now is a roller coaster. The JV staff and partners will continue to track the budget proposals and their implications for the Joint Venture, our federal partners, and habitat delivery funding sources. The SFBJV Government Affairs Committee will continue to advocate to protect funding, as they did while in Washington DC in late February and through the recent SFBJV sign-on of the Great Waters Coalition letters, described below.

- **FY17 budget**- The Continuing Resolution (CR) will expire on April 28. Congress plans to pass something by the deadline as a "stop gap" for the remainder of the year, possibly another CR or a mini-omnibus bill. However, as of this writing, Congress is on recess, so the window of time to get a budget in place is very tight. There is also a rumor that the Administration wants to start with some budget reductions in FY17 to fund the President's priorities.

- **The FY18 budget** is still in development. The President's "Skinny Budget" proposed last month lacks much detail and the verdict is still out as to whether Congress will support it or not. This administration is planning to build up defense by an additional \$52 billion. As reference, the entire US Fish and Wildlife Service budget is a bit over \$1 billion so no one knows where they will find the funding for that and what will be cut. One possibility is a 10% cut across-the-board. Appropriations Committees are talking about moving FY18 bills in late spring. In the meantime, work on the FY 19 budget will begin this summer.

- **EPA and other partner funding** - While other domestic programs will likely be reduced by 10% overall, EPA is the main target for environmental program and regulatory reductions and eliminations with proposed reductions of 31%. The Skinny Budget specifically calls for eliminating the EPA geographic programs, including the SF Bay Wetland and Water Quality funds. Other geographic programs proposed for elimination include the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Long Island Sound, South Florida, San Francisco Bay, Lake Champlain, Puget Sound, Gulf of Mexico, and other places. While Congress may salvage some of the other geographic programs, the status of the appropriated but unauthorized SF Bay funds is tenuous.

- **Coalition efforts to protect conservation funding** - Various coalitions are advocating to protect funding for conservation programs in the FY 18 budget. The Great Waters Coalition, of which the SFBJV

is a member, is sending multiple letters, as described below. Since their messages are core to the SFBJV we have signed on as “The Non-Federal Partners of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture”. All letters are available upon request.

- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Drug Administration to protect Farm Bill conservation programs,
- Senate Appropriations Committee to protect NOAA’s Community Based Restoration Program and Estuary Restoration Program;
- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water to protect the Army Corps Ecosystems Restoration programs;
- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy, the Environment, and Related Agencies to protect the EPA geographic programs (of which the SF Bay is one), the National Estuary Program (SFEP), the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Programs and National Fish Passage Program as well as Joint Ventures and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Clean Water Revolving Fund, and Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) group, chaired by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, released their comprehensive report requesting Congress and the Administration appropriate \$900 million in annual federal funding to support the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CARE coalition is comprised of 23 wildlife, sporting, scientific, and conservation organizations that span the political spectrum, representing 16 million Americans, who value outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation. CARE was created in 1995 to advocate for robust funding for the Refuge System—lands for Americans across the country to enjoy and where wildlife can thrive. The [2017 report](#) highlights the impact and importance of the Big 6 wildlife-dependent recreational activities on national wildlife refuges and can be found [here](#).

- **Federal government reorganization** - An executive order went out in early March to reorganize the government. All federal agencies will be doing a review of their programs and departments to determine which parts of their programs are no longer needed as a way to seek reductions. More information is sure to follow in the coming months.

## 6. Flood Control 2.0 Products Now Available

The SFBJV, along with our program partners SFEP, SFEI, BCDC, EPA, and 3 flood control districts, have completed the ambitious 4-year Flood Control 2.0 project. The team produced a number of new tools to provide scientific information and guidance to restoration practitioners, flood control agencies, local municipalities, and others who may consider addressing flood control issues through redesign that more closely mimics natural processes. A new Flood Control 2.0 [website](#) has been established. Tools include:

- historical ecology analysis of streams that currently or once entered the Bay;
- analysis of the regulatory process each project must undergo to receive permits;
- a regulatory guidance document for project managers to reference;
- our new [SediMatch](#) interactive database tool
- economic analyses of the Flood Control 2.0 approach compared to maintaining traditional flood control channels;
- [podcasts](#) about Flood Control 2.0 concepts, the 3 pilot projects (San Francisquito Creek, Novato Creek, Lower Walnut Creek), the values of sediment, SediMatch, the regulatory process, and the tools developed for project managers.

The Flood Control 2.0 team has been doing outreach presentations to flood control districts and regulators and SFBJV staff have been actively coordinating with SFEP to make the tools accessible to partners. Podcasts can be found on the Joint Venture [website](#) or on the [SFEI website](#) where you can also access the reports and other tools.

## **7. Project Tracker/EcoAtlas**

Work this quarter has focused on data entry and cleaning-up SFBJV approximately 200 active projects on the “Tiered Lists”. The goal is to update every active project and produce a current project map and list, expected to be completed in May in time for the June 9 SF Bay Restoration Authority meeting. With the assistance of our temporary contractor, Liz Duffy, a tremendous amount of progress has been made to update the project descriptions, counties, lat-long points, file links and other information. We have also been coordinating with Authority staff to cross-check and cross-populate our list with theirs. We are working collaboratively to develop a strategy to capture and create functions so that the Authority can also track and compile their project lists and data directly from the EcoAtlas/Tracker system. In addition, we’ve initiated a series of meetings with JV partners in April and May to familiarize and train them on use of the system while simultaneously updating their active and completed projects.

## **8. Upland Transition Zone Mapping Efforts**

At the February 16 Science Steering Committee meeting, Brian Fulfrost gave a [presentation](#) on the Estuarine-Terrestrial Transition Zone Decision Support System (DSS). The work was completed in conjunction with SFBBO’s Dave Thomson. The goal of this DSS is to map the distribution of the T-zone for ranking and prioritization, as well as develop a method to track future upland T-zone (UTZ). The report and data are available online at [Climate Commons](#) and Data Basin.

DSS includes a description of the T-zone focusing on indicators of T-zone health, distribution of the T-zone at current tides and at two different SLR scenarios (61 and 167 cm based on NRC projections), and rankings of the T-zone based on metrics of habitat function for the purpose of restoration and enhancement projects. The SFBJV Science Steering Committee (SSC) will be diving into the details and making decisions pertaining to the SSC specific interest in setting a baseline for UTZ habitat and how we intend to track changes over time. See the [Action Plan](#) for tracking change of UTZ habitat for more information.

JV staff have also been ensuring integration of these conversations with a parallel effort led by SFEP and SFEI who are also looking into mapping transition zones, as an action of the CCMP. The primary difference between the two efforts is that while the SSC effort focuses on setting baseline and tracking habitat change in the landscape based on the DSS work, the SFEP/SFEI effort also builds off of Brian’s DSS work, but focuses on aspirational planning - i.e., strives to identify opportunities for landscape planning, restoration projects, and coordination of adaptive management. The final meeting and report for the SFEP/SFEI effort is anticipated this spring.

## **9. Sixth International Sea Duck Conference (ISDC) - Feb 6-11, 2017**

The SFBJV helped to sponsor and host [the 6th ISDC](#) at Tiburon Lodge and Corinthian Yacht Club. Fritz Reid, Susan de la Cruz, and John Takekawa were the local organizers. The theme of the ISDC was “From Bay to Boreal: Challenges of Full Annual Cycle Management of Sea Ducks”. Caroline Warner,

assisted at the event and by organizing field trips and other special events and Beth Huning also lead a projects tour in San Pablo Bay for a few international guests.

The conference included plenary talks by leading experts on a wide range of topics including the effects of climate change, harvest management, migration ecology, population modeling, productivity, and wintering ground challenges.

Diving ducks (including sea ducks) are one of the target guilds for the SFBJV. A key take-home message for the SFBJV is that scoter populations have declined precipitously in the past 3 years. Research is still being conducted to determine the cause. What is known is that eelgrass beds have shrunk, the herring fishery has declined and oceans may be warming. We not only need to be alarmed, but we need to strategize and determine what actions can be taken here on the wintering grounds, where we may have the best chances of intervening to help stave off this decline and hopefully reverse it. This will certainly be considered as we develop new strategies for waterfowl as part of the Implementation Plan.

## **10. SFBJV Letters of Endorsement**

The SFBJV sent the following letters since the January 31, 2017 Management Board meeting. All are available to Management Board members upon request:

- February 23, 2017 - Letter to the NOAA Office of Coastal Management in support of Ducks Unlimited's proposal for funding for Chelsea Wetlands.
- March 10, 2017 - Letter to NOAA Restoration Center in support of Ducks Unlimited's proposal for funding for the South Bay Salt Pond Project Phase 2.
- April 5, 2017 - Letter to EPA in support of SFEI's proposal for expansion of the EcoAtlas and associated training.
- April 6, 2017 - Sign on as "non-federal partners of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture" to four Great Waters Coalition letters intended to protect funding for Farm Bill conservation programs, NOAA Estuary and Community Based Estuary programs, the Army Corps Ecosystem Restoration program, the National Estuary Program, Department of Interior programs such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program, Joint Ventures, NAWCA, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, among others.

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## **B. Joint Venture Working Committee Summaries**

The following summarizes activities of the SFBJV working committees since the January 31 Management Board meeting.

### **1. Conservation Delivery Committee-Marc Holmes, Chair**

The Conservation Delivery (CD) Committee did not meet this quarter. Committee members instead have taken roles within the Implementation Plan revision and have been meeting with JV staff to help flesh out guidance and production of content and concepts for the plan. A joint meeting of the CD and Science Steering Committee is in the planning stages. Dates will be polled for a time in May. The meeting will address Implementation Plan recommendations to date that are pertinent to both committees. The Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan Team has been meeting and has developed recommendations for members of both committees to consider adopting and incorporating into the new SFBJV Implementation Plan.

## **2. Science Steering Committee – Renee Spenst, Chair**

The Science Steering Committee (SSC) met twice this quarter, on Feb 16 at SFEI in Richmond and on April 7 at USGS in Vallejo.

**February 16, 2017 - In attendance:** Joy Albertson, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Susan de la Cruz, US Geological Survey; Colin Grant, USFWS Tidal Marsh Recovery; Cristina Grosso, San Francisco Estuary Institute; Nadav Nur, Point Blue Conservation Science; Tom Robinson, Bay Area Open Space Council; Renee Spenst, Chair, Ducks Unlimited; Sam Veloz, Point Blue Conservation Science; Isa Woo, US Geological Survey; **SFBJV Staff:** Beth Huning, Brenna Mahoney, Sandra Scoggin  
**Guests/Presenters:** Brian Fulfrost, Fulfrost and Associates; Micha Salomon, San Francisco Estuary Institute; Stuart Siegel, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

This was a brief meeting to bring committee members up to date on actions and proposals related to their priority action areas of Net Landscape Change and Species Response to JV actions, with a brief introduction to the role of the SSC in the Implementation Plan revision. Meeting notes are available [here](#).

**April 7, 2017 In attendance:** Joy Albertson, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Colin Grant, USFWS Tidal Marsh Recovery; Nadav Nur, Point Blue Conservation Science; Tom Robinson, Bay Area Open Space Council; Renee Spenst, Chair, Ducks Unlimited; John Takekawa, Audubon California; Mike Vasey, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Sam Veloz, Point Blue Conservation Science; Isa Woo, US Geological Survey; **SFBJV Staff:** Beth Huning, Brenna Mahoney, Sandra Scoggin;  
**Guests:** Julian Wood, Point Blue Conservation Science; Stuart Siegel, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Kristy Dybala, Point Blue Conservation Science (by phone, for PB presentation only)

The purpose of this meeting was to specify the role of the SCC in developing content for the revised Implementation plan. Specifically, the SSC reviewed the approach used to set the original SFBJV acreage goals for habitat categories and discussed which of these could be included in our new goals, the process for determining potential new habitat categories, as well as justification for any new goals. It was agreed that the approach should be refined and pursued.

The approach to developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Implementation Plan was also reviewed along with approaches to developing bird population objectives including a discussion on how to connect habitat restoration objectives to bird and other target species (fish, Threatened and Endangered species, etc). The SSC agreed that the concept should be explored further, and a smaller group will meet to do so. Full meeting notes are available [here](#).

## **3. Public Outreach – Melissa Pitkin (PRBO Conservation Science), Chair**

*Report Prepared by Caroline Warner, SFBJV Outreach Coordinator*

Highlights of SFBJV Public Outreach for the first quarter of the 2017 calendar year, in addition to ongoing outreach activities such as content management for our website to keep current on events, jobs, resources, news, funding and new project and partner features; newsletter production and distribution; and social media posts; include the following projects:

### **• Video Shorts, #WetlandRestoration Is Working**

On February 27 we posted a third video about the Redwood Creek restoration project at Muir Beach. You can view all three on our [website](#) if you haven't already, or alternatively on [Facebook](#), [Vimeo](#) and/or

[YouTube](#). As of April 17, trackable views of this third video include:

- 22,713 people reached, 11k views and 121 shares on Facebook,
- 336 views on YouTube, and
- just 9 on Vimeo.

While we can see increased “hits” on days when announcements and our newsletter goes out, we are currently unable to track actual video view counts generated by our website and will be moving our web hosting services over to one that supports more detailed tracking. This will take place with no interference to the site, happening behind the scenes.

Our 4th video on Eden Landing is being funded by and produced with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited and the Wildlife Conservation Board. It is due to be completed and released by the end of May.

In the next quarter Caroline will be convening a regional communications team with these goals: expand and improve upon the outreach strategy for the video shorts campaign,

- review and compare our [overall outreach strategy](#) with partner strategies to consider what the hallmarks are of these kinds of plans,
- further develop a more targeted promotional plan for the video shorts campaign
- consider what our current outreach goals are/should be. The SFBJV 5-year work plan goal: “70% of target audiences support JV goals” was established in 2012 for the purpose of securing passage of a regional funding measure (Measure AA), and is dated
- begin a dialog about incorporating outreach and human dimensions in the Implementation Plan revision.

• **New featured Projects and Partners in the SFBJV Bulletin and on our website**

- [Lawson’s Landing](#) - A story about the recent retirement of agricultural and development rights on this property as a result of the signing of the conservation easement with NRCS was featured in the March 22 Bulletin.
- [Flood Control 2.0](#) - In addition to featuring this major effort lead by SFBJV and SFEI in our April 13 Bulletin and on our website, we have also added 4 podcasts to the Flood Control 2.0 series now available on the [SFBJV site](#) as well as on [www.yourwetlands.org](http://www.yourwetlands.org).
- [Caitlin Sweeney](#) - Caitlin is our most recent featured partner on the [SFBJV website](#).
- [Alameda County RCD Wildlife Friendly Pond Restoration Program](#) - This program, designed to provide incentives for prioritizing voluntary wetland restoration within the coastal watersheds of San Francisco Bay on both public and private lands, was our [featured project](#) for the months of February and March with a spotlight on [Leslie Koenig](#), biologist for the Alameda County RCD.

• **2017 Fact Sheet**

Our [2017 fact sheet](#) was circulated by SFBJV partners in Washington DC this past February and is available online (and in print) for use throughout the year. We share the fact sheeting in packets given to guests on our decision maker tours and with key players at a variety of meetings and events. We invite you to do the same and will provide the materials to you upon request. This year’s fact sheet featured three new projects on the back. The centerfold included a map with active projects that have identified funding needs.

• **Events**

- **6th International Sea Duck Conference** (Feb 6-10, 2017) - See “News of Note” #9, above.
- **San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival** (Feb 10-12) - The SFBJV was represented at this year’s

Flyway Festival thanks to past intern, Marina Binsack, who staffed our table both days and made sure all who attended are aware of our video shorts campaign and the underlying message that our efforts to restore SF Bay and surrounding wetlands IS working.

#### **4. Government Affairs Committee – Arthur Feinstein, Chair**

**SFBJV visits to Washington DC** - This quarter the SFBJV and our partners descended upon Washington DC for congressional and agency visits in conjunction with other meetings. The visits culminated the week of February 27 when Joint Ventures, the coastal programs, and the National Estuarine Reserves all held their meetings. This meant that a number of SFBJV partners were there simultaneously and could either join in each others' meetings or reinforce messages through ongoing coordination during the week.

**Association of Joint Venture Management Boards meeting and “Fly-In”, February 28, Wash. DC**  
The Association coordinates the national Joint Venture fly-in. Attending for the SFBJV were Jeff McCreary and Fritz Reid of Ducks Unlimited and Beth Huning. Also participating in Joint Venture meetings were Mark Smith of the Conservation Strategy Group, and Mike Lynes of Audubon California. Geoff Geupel of Point Blue Conservation Science represented the Sonoran JV but attended several SFBJV appointments on our behalf, as did Mike Vasey (SF Bay NERR).

The Association is developing a year-long strategy since it was too early in the new administration to have an audience with incoming officials. The trip report was circulated to the Government Affairs Committee members, utilized for follow-up upon return to the Bay Area, and is available upon request.

Take-home messages from the week were that the administrative transition was in a state of flux, many key appointments had not been made and so our meetings with the Administration were too early. We should plan on returning to DC sometime late spring or in August when the Office of Management and Budget is starting to prepare the FY19 budget. Other lessons learned include the following:

- The SF Bay EPA Water Quality Improvement Program is targeted for elimination. EPA budgets are due to be slashed by 24% (the amount at that point in time), with some regions receiving deeper cuts. The SF Bay Region was targeted for 27%.
- Working through partnerships and on private lands with landowners may be a salvation for some programs such as Joint Ventures.
- There was no direct comment on how the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives will fare, but climate change programs are targeted for reduction or elimination.

Congressmen Mike Thompson and John Garamendi were circulating two separate letters relating to NAWCA and WRDA while we were in DC, for which JV partners actively sought sign-ons. Follow-up upon return confirmed that most delegation members have now signed showing support of renewing NAWCA funding and promoting SF Bay to the Army Corps of Engineers as one of the 10 pilot projects for beneficial re-use under WRDA 2016.

• **White paper on climate change planning and resources** - At the January 31 meeting, the Management Board voted to support the development of a white paper detailing the state of knowledge of sea level rise and climate change planning processes happening in the region or statewide plans that will impact regional actions. Some of the planning process include but are not limited to BCDC policies, Ocean Protection Council Sea Level Rise projections and recommendations that are currently under development, and CHARG. The white paper will enable SFBJV partners to better participate in these and other planning processes by analyzing recommendations and reports. It will recommend policy priorities

and offer the Government Affairs Committee/Policy Team recommendations to be considered for the Implementation Plan. A draft scope of work has been developed and is circulating among members of the Government Affairs Committee for their input prior to beginning the work.

### **C. Major Project Updates**

News articles about recent achievements have been posted on the JV website and circulated with the JV news reports. Please refer to prior Coordinator's Reports to review progress on major projects or log into the Project Tracker.

- **South Bay Salt Ponds Phase 2** by John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager - The next phases of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project are continuing to move forward. Four projects on the USFWS Wildlife Refuge property (including smaller projects in Ponds A19 and A8, and larger efforts in Mountain View and Menlo Park) have submitted regulatory permit applications and are moving further into the design process. We hope to begin construction on all of these projects in the 2018-2020 time frame. The next phase of Eden Landing is also moving ahead, with a public draft CEQA/NEPA document anticipated to be released in Summer 2017. This will include over 2,000 acres of restoration in the southern half of that pond complex. And finally, the Shoreline Study is moving into design and permitting in the hopes of beginning construction on the Pond A12 levee as the first phase. The Shoreline Study is planning for over 4 miles of levee and up to 2,900 acres of tidal restoration in the Alviso area. All of these projects involve multi-agency collaboration with a management team that includes the State Coastal Conservancy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

- **Bolinas Lagoon** by Victoria Pearson, County of Marin - The project goal of the Bolinas Lagoon Wetland Enhancement/Adaptation Plan is to develop and construct a wetland enhancement project for the north end of Bolinas Lagoon that allows for estuarine and riparian wetland enhancement and expansion, and protects access to the town of Bolinas as sea level rises. The objectives of the project are to: 1) improve habitat for shoreline birds, waterfowl, and fish, including special status species; 2) improve tidal flow access to uplands, and connect creeks to their floodplains; 3) allow for the migration of intertidal marshes and enhance transition zones; 4) improve geomorphic processes and hydrologic functions for Wilkins and Lewis Creek; and 5) remove non-native invasive species and enhance wetland and riparian vegetation; and to realign Olema-Bolinas Road, Bolinas-Fairfax Road, and Highway One to allow for sea level rise and to improve traffic management and circulation.

The specific tasks that would be undertaken are as follows: 1) develop and conduct baseline studies of hydrologic, geomorphic, and biologic conditions at the site; 2) evaluate existing cultural and archeological resources and the potential for their discovery within the vicinity; 3) develop an opportunities and constraints analysis with an evaluation of existing and potential site constraints (i.e. environmental, re-location of infrastructure, property ownership); 4) develop three conceptual restoration/SLR adaptation alternatives; 5) evaluate the potential environmental, traffic and circulation impacts associated with removal and replacement of portions of Olema-Bolinas Road, Bolinas-Fairfax Road, and Highway One; 6) conduct environmental review under CEQA/NEPA; and, 7) implement phased construction of the project.

The baseline studies have been done. The conceptual designs have been drafted and will be finalized by this summer. The next steps are securing funding to undertake CEQA and complete the associated studies, develop the construction designs, and implement construction of Phase 1.

- **Tomales Dunes Wetlands (formerly Lawson’s Landing)**, by Caroline Warner and Nathan Key - Located at the mouth of Tomales Bay, a US Ramsar site, Lawson's Landing is a well known fishing and boating resort and family-owned campground with a rich clamming history. For a number of years the SFBJV and others sought ways to protect the natural habitat and remediate water quality violations by the landowners. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked with the Lawson family to acquire a conservation easement on 457 acres of the property through the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program.

On January 3rd, 2017, the easement closed, resulting in the retirement of development and agricultural rights to the property with limited grazing allowed for weed control. Now, the dune slack wetlands, seasonal wetland, coastal grassland and a unique dune ecosystem have been permanently protected. Over the next several years, NRCS will be providing restoration funding for road removal in one wetland area on the property, fencing along the easement perimeter, and native grass plantings. The work within the conservation easement will complement the other restoration and remediation efforts being undertaken by the Lawson family on adjacent lands. The USFWS is also working with the landowners to protect Western Snowy Plovers on Dillon Beach.

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## **D. Announcements**

- 1. David Lewis receives Local Hero Award from Bay Nature Institute** – Congratulations to SFBJV Management Board member, David Lewis, who was presented with Bay Nature’s Local Hero award for his vision and untiring work to pass Measure AA. The award was presented at Bay Nature’s annual event on March 26.
- 2. State of the Estuary Conference October 10-11, 2017** – Mark your calendars now to attend the State of the Estuary Conference that will be held at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland. More information will be forthcoming as conference plans are publicized.
- 3. Bruener Marsh to be re-named as the Dotson Family Marsh**– The East Bay Regional Parks District will officially change the name of Bruener Marsh to the Dotson Family Marsh at a ceremony on April 22. The marsh is being renamed to honor the efforts of Whitney Dotson who was such a strong activist for its protection over the years and has since joined the board of East Bay Regional Parks District.
- 4. David Loeb to retire as Executive Director of Bay Nature** – At the annual *Bay Nature* event on March 26, David announced his retirement, effective as of June 30. David has been actively engaged with the SFBJV by promoting our programs in the magazine and on their website and helping to provide guidance to SFBJV outreach. We will miss David’s experience and savvy, want to thank him for all he has done for the SFBJV over the many years of his involvement, and wish him well in retirement.

### **Attachments:**

- A. Coordinator’s Report
- B. Meeting notes from Management Board meeting January 31, 2017
- C. 2017 SFBJV Work Plan
- D. Habitat Goals Setting Guidelines

- E. SFBJV Wetland Restoration Sea Level Rise and Climate Changes Messaging
- F. SFBJV Implementation Plan Introduction Chapter