

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Coordinator's Report

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

FROM: Beth Huning, Coordinator

DATE: January 19, 2018

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

A. News of Note from the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

1. San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board Meeting, January 30, 2018, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the San Francisco Estuary Institute in Richmond.

Our first meeting of 2018 will be an opportunity to collaborate on projects and programs that lie ahead of us this year. The meeting will focus on the following:

- The four San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) working committees will report on progress this past quarter and share additional action items for the work plan that have been recommended since our October 31, 2017 meeting. We have allowed plenty of time for their reports, as the Government Affairs and other committees will be seeking your input as they strategize for upcoming activities.
- The Government Affairs Committee has nearly completed the SFBJV climate change policy white paper. They will be sharing the draft and will be discussing strategies and outcomes that will translate into shared messaging. Please review *Attachment E* and the recommendations prior to the meeting so that you are prepared to provide input so that the paper can be finalized.
- We will provide an update on the status of the Implementation Plan revision.
- The Executive Committee will recommend the FY18 operating budget for discussion and adoption.
- Deb Schlafmann of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) will explain changes to the LCC and request SFBJV support.
- Diane Ross-Leech, recently retired from PG&E, will be with us for this one last meeting, and we are planning to recognize her for her longtime support of the SFBJV.
- Since we have not taken a photograph of the Management Board since our 20th anniversary celebration, we plan to take a photo to update our website. We may even take some individual pictures if you want yours placed near your logo on our website.

2. 2017 SFBJV Accomplishments

The SFBJV tracks the status of project implementation, including funding sources and amounts for each project. We annually report to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Congress what has been accomplished with our USFWS funds to operate the SFBJV and our partner contributions to program and projects. Management Board members and other SFBJV partners routinely want to know project accomplishments, expenditures, and funding sources.

Attachment C is a tabulation of projects completed this past year, their total cost, federal and non-federal contributions. As you can see, several large and important projects were delivered in 2017. Congratulations to all the project managers, and thank you to all the funders and to our partners for reporting your accomplishments.

3. FY18 Work Plan and Operating Budget [Attachment G]

As recommended at the October 31, 2017 Management Board meeting, the [FY18 work plan](#) has been posted and adopted via email. Much of the proposed work for FY18 will be a continuation of FY17. Each of the SFBJV working committees has met this past quarter. Some have developed additional recommendations or more detailed actions that the chairs will highlight in the working committee reports at the January 30, 2018 Management Board meeting.

The Executive Committee convened on January 12, 2018 to discuss the attached budget proposal. It will be presented for your consideration at the January 30, 2018 Management Board meeting in hopes of adopting an operating budget for the fiscal year in which we currently operate. The majority of funds are for non-discretionary operating expenses, so we will focus the discussion on the discretionary categories. Those categories will be explained. Please review the proposal in advance of the meeting.

4. SFBJV Implementation Plan Revision Update [Attachment F]

Since the last Management Board meeting several activities have contributed to developing the Implementation Plan. As described at the October 2017 Management Board meeting, we are planning to use the Open Standards Process to help organize and implement the next phase of decision-making and content development. Several of the content teams have been active as summarized in the [attachment](#).

5. SFBJV Climate Change Policy White Paper [Attachment E]

The team working on behalf of the Government Affairs Committee is pleased to share the findings and recommendations of the climate change white paper that has been under development for the past several months. For this white paper, Brenna Mahoney researched and analyzed current Bay Area climate change planning processes and identified ways for the SFBJV to provide input and influence policy decisions that will address climate change and further SFBJV goals. After reviewing the findings, the Management Board will discuss recommended outcomes and messaging to help refine priorities and desired outcomes for SFBJV implementation.

The following key priorities for the SFBJV were identified. *We seek any additional information you can provide on these, particularly RAMP and timelines for the Regional Board.*

- BCDC's proposed Bay Plan amendments;
- Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) [Note that the Management Board discussed a process for engaging partners at the October 31, 2017 meeting];
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board review of policies and regulations;
- Plan Bay Area OBAG2 (One Bay Area Grant Cycle 2) funding priorities;
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Regional Area Mitigation Program (RAMP);
- State Route 37 realignment;
- Resilient By Design; and
- Implementation of other climate adaptation plans as noted in the white paper.

While the SFBJV is already participating in some of these processes, the white paper provides specific recommendations for SFBJV engagement that will address the priorities listed above. It also provides a compilation of other local and regional planning processes in which SFBJV partners may choose to engage.

It is recommended that this white paper live online so that it can be updated as new plans or activities are brought to the attention of the SFBJV and recommendations can be revisited if necessary. Please review the draft in advance of the meeting, focusing on the outcomes and messages, and be prepared to discuss priorities and efficient ways that the SFBJV can influence these planning processes.

6. California Landscape Conservation Cooperative to Morph into California Conservation Cooperative

[Attachment H]

The Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) program has been a Department of Interior (DOI) program for the past eight years. Under the current administration, DOI program funding priorities have shifted away from programs that address climate change and science. Although still in the congressional budget, some LCC's are being defunded by DOI with their LCC coordinators being assigned to other positions within the USFWS. Some USFWS regions are determining ways to keep their regional LCC's operational or to have them evolve into a program managed by partners. Such is the case with the California LCC.

The California LCC steering committee met on January 11, 2018 to discuss the future of the LCC and its next-phase replacement, the California Conservation Cooperative (CCP). Partner agencies on the LCC steering committee are trying to maintain the partnership through shared administration and a new structure. The LCC 5-year strategic plan has come to an end; so the CCP will be developing a new plan, purpose, and structure.

Some questions and concerns that were raised at the LCC meeting on January 11 include the following:

- Does "shared administration" mean shared funding responsibilities? The answer was "hopefully."
- If the SFBJV signs the MOU, will we be given a vote on the steering committee? While we were later invited onto the LCC steering committee, all California Joint Ventures (JVs) have only one combined vote. The answer to this question has yet to be determined.
- How will the roles and functions of the CCP be developed and structured?
- Will there be redundancy with other partnerships such as JVs or will the CCP retain the science focus of the LCC?
- What will be the structure, governance, and strategic plan? These have yet to be developed over the next few months.
- What are the benefits to being part of the new CCP?

The SFBJV has been asked to become a signatory to the attached MOU and invited to become part of the new CCP. Deb Schaffman, LCC Coordinator, will be attending our Management Board meeting via phone and will present information about the new CCP and request for SFBJV partnership. Her presentation will be followed by a discussion to determine how the SFBJV should proceed with deciding on our engagement. Please review *Attachment H* carefully and come prepared with your questions and recommendations.

7. SF Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) and Measure AA Update

The first round of Measure AA grant applications closed on November 15, 2017. Twenty-two applications were submitted for a total of a little more than \$40 million. The annual \$12 parcel assessment will generate about \$25 million annually for wetland restoration and related flood control and public access.

SFBRA staff from the Coastal Conservancy and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership reviewed the proposals for qualification and completeness. Several non-conflicted members of the SFBRA Advisory Committee are scoring and ranking the proposals.

The authorizing legislation and ballot language promote projects that address the SFBJV goals and Implementation Plan. Extra credit will given for proposals that are SFBJV supported projects, and applicants were encouraged to check with the SFBJV as part of the application process. SFBJV staff consulted with a number of applicants. Some projects met SFBJV goals while others did not. SFBJV staff were able to provide limited input into the value of projects toward our goals from those applicants that contacted the SFBJV in advance of the deadline. We are relying on SFBJV partners that are on the selection committee (Caitlin Sweeney and Coastal Conservancy staff) to represent SFBJV perspectives during the selection process. The SFBJV staff helped generate the project list, which will be updated annually, and SFBJV staff have been coordinating with SFBRA staff as they consider integrating project lists with the Project Tracker.

To avoid conflicts of interest, SFBJV review and comments on proposals were limited due to the fact that the SFBJV submitted a proposal with partners at San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), Point Blue, and the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The SFBJV Science Steering Committee has identified the tracking of net landscape change as a priority. The SFBJV proposal, if funded, will develop baseline maps to track and evaluate the impacts of Measure AA funding through measuring net landscape change. We look forward to moving many important projects forward through Measure AA.

8. State Route (SR) 37

Planning for the redesign of SR 37 is moving rapidly. Following is a report on the status and SFBJV partner activity in the process this past quarter.

- **Design Status, Segment B (Sears Point to Mare Island)** – The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) AECOM team are developing design alternatives for “Segment B.” They are considering 3 alternatives along the present alignment. Our members are trying to help engineers understand the design issues that could impact tidal restoration, the tidal prism to incorporate flows into design options, and ecological connections along the present alignment. The Baylands Group, comprised mostly of SFBJV partners, has not yet endorsed those alignments, keeping open the possibility to consider alternative alignments.

Solano Transportation Authority includes elected officials from cities within the county. They have formed an environmental task force chaired by former Marin County Supervisor and former Coastal Commission Chair, Steve Kinsey. This is a group of elected officials wanting to learn more about issues associated with the road. Solano County is seeking funding for unidentified near term improvements. They volunteered to be lead agency under CEQA, but Sonoma County sent them a letter requesting that MTC be the lead agency.

- **Segment A (Novato to Sears Point)** – Planners are separating “Segment A” into 2 areas with Black Point as the divider. The main concern in Segment A is flooding, as much of the area west of Black Point to HWY 101 is below sea level and flooded last winter. The Transport Agency of Marin is looking at 3 alternatives in a separate process from MTC but wants their alternatives considered by MTC in the design alternatives. Marin’s 1st alternative is to raise everything on piles because they think embankments will erode. Their 2nd alternative is to design a hybrid project, and their 3rd alternative is just to fix the low-lying area. Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) is interested in following up as they haven’t considered anything to address future sea level rise, and their rail lines are outboard of SR 37.
- **Funding** - A regional measure (Measure 3) will be on the ballot in June 2018 to raise tolls on all bridges. If approved, \$100M will be allotted for SR 37.
- **Resilient By Design (RBD)** - The general San Pablo Bay Commons region is one of the project areas selected as a RBD site. The Common Ground team was selected to develop RBD concepts for the region. SFBJV partners are coordinating with Common Ground to provide expertise. More information on the RBD process will be revealed in coming weeks. More information about the RBD project in San Pablo Bay can be found [here](#).
- **Baylands Group work to date** – The group has initiated a process to create a vision for the SR 37 corridor, taking into account SFBJV habitat goals. The process will educate and engage design experts, modeled after Flood Control 2.0. The SFBJV provided funding to SFEI for the baseline maps for the process. The maps are complete and available upon request. The Sonoma Land Trust developed a white paper explaining the situation and values of the Baylands, an excellent reference document being used by SFBJV partners for multiple purposes. As per the process established at the October 31, 2017 Management Board meeting, the SFBJV signed onto the paper. Another major project was a comment letter on the draft corridor improvement plan for Segment B. MTC is developing their Draft Alternatives Analysis Purpose and Needs a statement. Several members of the Baylands Group have provided comments, being compiled and submitted by Jessica Davenport of the Coastal Conservancy.

Land managers met with MTC staff and took them on a field trip to show them the restoration along SR 37 and what land managers envision for future restoration. Design concepts that benefit wildlife were discussed, as was the importance of the impact of the highway on restoration and wetlands beyond the corridor. The Baylands Group will try to carry a consistent message with what land managers discussed for their meeting. They reinforced the need for MTC to reach out to other landowners in the area.

Immediate next steps for the Baylands Group:

- Continue to design our maps and vision, having not yet given up on alternate alignments;
- Promote planning for the entire corridor through MTC rather than plan segment by segment;
- Participate in Transportation of Marin planning for Segment A;
- Participate in the Solano County policy work group;
- Participate in the Resilient 37 workshop series in late January (date to be determined).
- Provide expertise for the Resilient By Design San Pablo Bay Commons.

9. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Review

The GAO is an independent, nonpartisan agency that advises Congress and executive agencies about ways to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government. GAO is currently reviewing efforts to conduct water quality improvement and ecosystem restoration activities in the San Francisco Bay Delta watershed. This work is expected to result in a 2018 report to Congress that will also be available to the public on GAO's website. As of yet, there is no timeframe for completion of the report.

After several months of research and interviews, the GAO determined the review area to be the entire SF Bay watershed, from the headwaters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers out the Golden Gate. The report will assess federal investments and impacts on conservation, resiliency, mitigation, monitoring, and enhancement.

Prior to the holidays, a number of SFBJV partners were asked to respond to a survey. The turnaround time was fairly tight. Beth Huning offered members of the SFBJV Conservation Delivery Committee who had not received the survey the opportunity to contribute to responses that she would submit on her survey. Several partners took advantage of the opportunity. They consistently rated limited federal funding, need to address climate change, and complications with securing federal permits as the major issues that need continual attention and support from the federal government. Securing sediment and beneficial reuse was also a high priority. Beth compiled and cross-referenced the partner responses to the survey and submitted her response before the December 20, 2017 deadline.

10. Project Tracker

On December 19, 2017, representatives from the SFBJV and SFBRA met in continuing discussions on how best to capture and create functions to enable the Restoration Authority to track and compile their project lists and data directly from the EcoAtlas/Project Tracker system. Work on this merge is expected to be completed in late winter/early spring, 2018.

11. Regional Monitoring

There are two parallel, yet integrated, efforts in progress working towards establishing concepts and a program plan for monitoring restoration success at a regional scale.

The [Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program \(WRMP\)](#), recently funded by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) R9 Wetland Program Development Grant, is engaging stakeholders from a broad range of restoration-related backgrounds and expertise to inform a regional monitoring program plan for tidal wetlands in the San Francisco Bay Area. This program plan will initiate implementation of Action 2 in the [Estuary Blueprint](#), and will help local, regional, state, and federal agencies evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to sustain healthy aquatic habitats and resources. The SFBJV is an owner on Action 2 and engaged in this effort (this information is primarily from the linked website). See notes from the last Conservation Delivery Committee meeting for a presentation summary on the WRMP.

The SFBJV has also been working on a Monitoring and Evaluation "Framework." This effort focuses on the needs of the "land manager" sector – entities that are acquiring, restoring and managing lands - which includes the SFBJV partner members. A scope is being developed by Stuart Siegel to provide this *framework* for a comprehensive SFBJV-based monitoring program that ideally becomes part of the larger

regional wetland monitoring effort. This framework will likely incorporate some or all of the following elements:

- Articulation of the driving management questions which all monitoring efforts are geared towards addressing around *net landscape change*, *species response*, and *resilience to climate change*.
- Identification of the basic elements of what would be monitored at and in association with SFBJV partner restoration projects, to address those management questions.
- A “menu” of monitoring elements that can function as a “decision tree” for establishing project-specific monitoring activities, along with a narrative to explain the rationale.
- Articulation of distinctions between “basic” monitoring activities critical to meeting regulatory compliance, focused answers of management questions, and “extra” monitoring activities that delve deeper into answering the management questions.
- Articulation of recommendations around circumstances when limited monitoring of a specific restoration project is appropriate, in the context of focusing scarce monitoring dollars onto the highest value information return.
- Data management and data interpretation strategies including public availability of both.
- Ideas for how to carry forward into the future with a broader regional monitoring program.

The above potential framework elements are in DRAFT as part of the scope of work that is under development and is currently being vetted by the Science Steering Committee and Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan Revision Team.

The two efforts have some shared goals and the intention is for the SFBJV framework to inform the WRMP. We will be bringing more information to the Management Board as these two efforts take shape.

12. NFWF-Point Blue Coastal Resiliency Workshops and Outcomes

Point Blue is working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on a [national project](#) to identify priority fish and wildlife habitat data to be used in a NFWF analysis identifying opportunity areas that can increase both the resilience of human communities and fish and wildlife habitat from the effects of sea level rise and coastal and inland storms. Workshops were held December 13-14, 2017, in Oakland and San Francisco. The workshops pulled together local experts interested in learning how this effort relates to other regional climate and conservation efforts and in contributing information to the analysis. Sandra Scoggin participated along with several SFBJV partners. A workshop summary is available [here](#).

13. National Joint Venture Meeting, December 5-7, 2017

The annual meeting of all Joint Venture (JV) Coordinators was held in Tucson, AZ, hosted by the Sonoran JV. This year communications and outreach staff were invited to participate, as the agenda focused on messaging to Congress and the administration, as were science coordinators to discuss integrating national science teams with the various federal bird conservation plans. The overall meeting objectives were to:

- Strengthen and support the JV community to facilitate effective and efficient conservation of birds and their habitats at individual JV, multi-JV, continental, and larger scales through coordinated science and communication;
- Refine and finalize a strategic communications plan to “Tell the JV Story” to DOI/USFWS leadership, Congress, and other funders and supporters of JVs and to improve JV community communications;

- Support JV staff, including providing clarity about their role in the larger JV community and larger-than-individual-JV science, planning, and communication efforts.

Major discussion topics included the following:

- Introductions to each JV – Each JV produced a brief slide presentation to introduce their geography, goals, Management Board, and accomplishments. We learned a lot about commonalities and differences among JVs.
- JV Matrix – We reviewed the history and content of the matrix which is used to guide JVs in their program development, assessment, and to make a case for funding with the USFWS. After much discussion, it was determined that there was no need to revise the matrix at this point in time, although a few edits were suggested.
- Communications – JVs want to advance development of a communications plan to tell the JV story to priority audiences. The goal is to develop focused messages and appropriate communications tools, with examples from across the country connected to priorities for the current administration, Congress, and other important funders. The national JV Communications and Outreach Team met separately on days 2 and 3 to apply the input into a communications plan for the administration. The draft plan targeting the USFWS leadership is currently in the hands of 6 JV Coordinators who volunteered to review and edit.
- Science and Planning – Discussions were structured to improve understanding of how JVs support each other through collaborative science and planning, identify ways to more effectively and efficiently achieve conservation across the JV community, and identify multi-JV priority issues and opportunities to improve collaboration. JV science coordinators met separately to develop recommendations around these challenges. Discussions focused on the Unified Science Team and whether and how this team supports JV work to deliver the federal bird conservation plans or whether it brings JV representation to other groups, such as Partners in Flight, to implement the plans.
- The future of JVs, “Is Status Quo OK?” – The consensus was that we need to grow and gain support for JV funding, both through the Association of JV Management Boards and in any way possible. This could entail repackaging messaging to address the goals and priorities of funders, including the USFWS or engaging new and different partners.

The meeting notes have yet to be received. The SFBJV will consider the outcomes of these discussions as we move forward with planning our communications for our partner visits to Washington DC as well as how (and whether) we engage with other JV science programs at the national level.

B. Joint Venture Working Committee Summaries

The following summarizes activities of the SFBJV working committees since the October 31, 2017 Management Board meeting.

1. Conservation Delivery Committee - Caitlin Sweeney, Chair

The Conservation Delivery (CD) Committee met on December 12, 2017 at SFEI in Richmond. Full meeting notes are available [here](#).

In attendance: *Caitlin Sweeney (Chair, SF Estuary Partnership), Sally Barros (City of San Leandro), Chris Barton (East Bay Regional Parks District), Erika Castillo (Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District), Mike Connor (East Bay Dischargers Authority), Arthur Feinstein (Citizens Committee to*

Complete the Refuge), Aimee Good (SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Colin Grant (USFWS), Letitia Grenier (SF Estuary Institute), Cristina Grosso (SF Estuary Institute), Andrea Jones (Audubon CA), Julia Kelly (Audubon CA), Delaney King (City of San Leandro), Jessica Davenport (State Coastal Conservancy), Julian Meisler (Sonoma Land Trust), Heidi Nutters (SF Estuary Partnership), Isaac Pearlman (Bay Conservation and Development Commission), Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg (Audubon CA, Coastal Policy Solutions), Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited), John Takekawa (representing Audubon CA, now Suisun RCD), Yiwei Wang (SF Bay Bird Observatory), Natalie Washburn (Ducks Unlimited), Noreen Weeden (Golden Gate Audubon, via phone), Dean Wilson (City of San Leandro), Bruce Wolfe (Water Board), Ian Wren (Baykeeper), Katy Zaremba (Save the Bay)
SFBJV Staff: Beth Huning, Sandra Scoggin, Liz Duffy

This was a lengthy CD Committee meeting covering several significant topics. There were brief updates on the Bay Plan Amendments, Measure AA and Project Labor Agreement Requirements, Adapting to Rising Tides, the GAO review of SF Bay (see “News of Note” #9), the active habitat project list, Project Adoption and Prioritization Criteria, and project and program updates from all participants. Additional significant updates/presentations included:

- Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program - *Heidi Nutters* (see “News of Note” #11)
- Sediment Savvy: Developing a Sediment Strategy for Bayland Resilience - *Letitia Grenier* (as part of the *Healthy Watersheds, Resilient Baylands* grant that the SFBJV is a partner on)
- Threats and opportunities assessment of linked eelgrass, herring, and waterbird resources - *John Takekawa, Audubon California*
- Eelgrass and blue carbon sequestration in Richardson Bay - *John Takekawa, Audubon California*

In addition, the committee work plan for 2017-2018 was reviewed, revisions were incorporated, approved for recommendation to the Management Board, and circulated with the full work plan that went out to all Management Board members for approval.

Finally, a project adoption request was put forth by the City of San Leandro Multi-Benefit Treatment Wetland Project. The request was discussed and approved for recommendation to the Management Board. This will be discussed by Caitlin Sweeney during her Conservation Delivery Committee report (see *Attachment D*)

2. Science Steering Committee – Renee Spenst, Chair

The Science Steering Committee (SSC) met on November 16, 2017 at the US Geological Survey (USGS) SF Bay Field Station meeting room on Mare Island. Meeting notes are available [here](#).

In attendance: *Joy Albertson, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Susan de la Cruz, US Geological Survey; Colin Grant, USFWS Tidal Marsh Recovery; Cristina Grosso, SFEI (by phone); Renee Spenst, Chair, Ducks Unlimited; Rachel Tertes, USFWS; Christina Toms, SF Bay RWQCB; Sam Veloz, Point Blue Conservation Science; Isa Woo, US Geological Survey. Guests: Brian Fulfrost, Fulfrost and Associates*
SFBJV Staff: Beth Huning, Brenna Mahoney, Sandra Scoggin

The committee first focused on several items of business, including approval of meeting notes, setting meeting dates through May 2018 and reviewing, updating, and approving the committee work plan for recommendation to the Management Board.

Members then turned their attention to a requested review of a draft introduction to the Science Chapter for the Implementation Plan revision, written by John Hart and circulated in advance of the meeting.

Comments from the SSC included the following:

- The introduction is a fine starting point but doesn't quite achieve the purpose of providing a clear picture of the role of the SFBJV in science and needs to be more inspirational.
- Some incorrect facts need to be resolved.
- Committee members agreed that until we have more of the chapter written, it is difficult to know what the introduction should include.

Action: It was agreed that factual errors will be corrected, but work on the science introduction will be paused to wait for other pieces to be completed.

Cristina Grosso then provided a brief update on a proposal that was submitted to the SFBRA by the SFBJV in partnership with SFEI, Point Blue and the NERR. See the meeting notes for more detail.

Brian Fulfrost provided an update and gathered additional input and guidance as we get close to wrapping up what will be both the SSC and San Francisco Estuary Program (SFEP) baseline and inventory maps of existing Upland Transition Zone (UTZ). At prior SSC meetings, Brian presented the existing data, methodology, and mapping of "actual/existing" and potential UTZ around the SF Bay and gathered feedback from the SSC on whether and how this GIS dataset can be used to set a baseline and map and track UTZ habitat. The committee also discussed how to approach setting acreage and other goals for UTZ for the Implementation Plan Revision and a subgroup was formed to work on this.

The EPA funded Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program was briefly introduced by Christina Toms and will be discussed at more length at future meetings.

3. Public Outreach – Melissa Pitkin (Point Blue Conservation Science), Chair *Report Prepared by Caroline Warner, SFBJV Outreach Coordinator*

Ongoing outreach activities include content management of our website related to events, jobs, resources, news, funding, and project and partner features, along with production and distribution of our newsletter, "The Bulletin," social media posts, and attendance at staff, committee, and partner meetings. Between a week of JV meetings in Tucson and the holidays, there was less time for extra outreach efforts in the final quarter of the 2017 calendar year; however additional activities included the following major projects:

- **Video Shorts, #Wetland Restoration Is Working Campaign UPDATE**
Work is wrapping up on the 5th video short about past and anticipated restoration efforts at [Bay Point Regional Shoreline](#). The video should be completed and uploaded to the SFBJV website and other viewing channels and ready for sharing in the near future. When completed, it will be spotlighted in the SFBJV Bulletin, along with a featured project write-up to join the others on our [projects page](#) of the SFBJV website.

Our 6th and final video short in this series covers the vast Laguna de Santa Rosa. Production has been slow due to the North Bay fires and their impacts to staff at our partner organization, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. Lack of rain and holiday schedules added to the delay. The Laguna team (Wendy Trowbridge - Laguna de Rosa Foundation, Denise Cadman - Santa Rosa Water, and Hattie Brown - Sonoma County Regional Parks) will be working on the rough cut of the video the week of January 15, 2018. The final video should be ready to share in February 2018. We will likely space the release of the final two shorts to give the Bay Point video time in the spotlight and then build on that momentum when we share this last one.

Promotion of the video series will be ongoing through 2018. Our first four videos can be found on our [website](#), [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#). These will be the main attraction at the Flyway Festival (February 9-11, 2018) where our table will be staffed by former intern, Marina Binsack.

- **Regional Communications Meeting, December 13**

Interested communications and outreach staff from partner organizations met by phone in December 2017 to review the summary [table](#) of activities and issues being addressed by the participating organizations and generated as an outcome of the August 2017 meeting. This table may inform some outreach priorities for the developing work plan along with whatever else gets determined by meeting with our other SFBJV working committees as described in the next bullet. The group consensus was to meet 1-3 times per year, based on need, and also to come together more informally on occasion to discuss ideas and get to know each other in a more casual setting. Taylor Samuelson, with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), offered to organize the first one in 2018.

In attendance: *Melissa Pitkin, Chair, and Lishka Arata (Point Blue Conservation Science), Darcie Luce (San Francisco Estuary Partnership), Tony Hale (San Francisco Estuary Institute), Taylor Samuelson (State Coastal Conservancy), Kate Powers (Marin Conservation League), and Melisa Amato (USFWS).*
SFBJV Staff: *Caroline Warner and Beth Huning (for part of the call).*

- **Work Plan Development and Implementation Plan Revision**

Since our five year work plan goal was established in 2012, the time has come to develop a new vision for SFBJV strategic communications. At the last Board meeting, it was agreed that Caroline and Melissa Pitkin should confer with our other working committees to better integrate communication objectives with emerging priority conservation issues. Consequently, they are on the agenda for the February 16, 2018 Conservation Delivery Committee meeting where they will introduce the basic concepts of Human Dimensions (HD) and walk through a strategic communications exercise related to SediMatch. The plan is then to determine which other SFBJV work plan priorities may be benefitted by outreach and communications and, with the regional team, ultimately devise a new work plan over the next several months.

Caroline will also be moving forward with an idea presented at the HD conference in September 2017 which involves conducting a stakeholder analysis of intended audiences for the Implementation Plan. This exercise will help rank and prioritize audiences and ultimately help inform both the content and design of the Plan and any promotional materials. The plan is to do this analysis with the IP team in the spring, and possibly other teams as they begin to write.

4. Government Affairs Committee – Arthur Feinstein, Chair

The Government Affairs Committee met via conference call on January 10, 2018, to finalize recommendations for the 2018 work plan and to discuss strategies on major issues. Following is a summary of those discussions as well as key activities this quarter.

In attendance: *Arthur Feinstein (chair), Tom Kendall (Army Corps of Engineers), Mike Lynes and Rebecca Schwartz-Leisberg (Audubon California). SFBJV Staff: Beth Huning, Caroline Warner, Brenna Mahoney.*

- **2018 Work Plan** – The work plan was circulated for approval by the Management Board. This will be discussed during committee reports at the January 30, 2018 Management Board meeting.
- **Climate Change Policy Planning White Paper** – See “News of Note” #5 above.
- **SFBJV Implementation Plan** – Following the Policy work group meeting on October 18, 2017, some editing of the introduction and content has been summarized for the Policy chapter. It is expected that a draft will be circulated to the Policy work group/Government Affairs Committee in late January 2018 and then the Implementation Plan Team in the coming weeks. Stay tuned, as it will then be shared with you for final comments and approval.
- **SB5, DeLeon, California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (State park and water bond)** - As a result of years of active work by park districts, NGOs, legislators, and others, Governor Brown signed SB 5 on October 15, 2017, placing a statewide bond on the June 5, 2018 ballot for voters’ consideration. The measure, if approved by voters, would provide \$5.38 billion for natural infrastructure, including parks, open space, water resources, and flood protection needs with \$2.83 billion specifically for parks and natural resources. Different chapters of the bill name specific amounts and locations for projects within the SFBJV, including the Guadalupe and Russian Rivers. \$20 million is allocated to the Coastal Conservancy for SF Bay restoration (Chapter 8, section 80110), and \$137 million to the Wildlife Conservation Board for various programs to protect and restore habitat for wildlife (Chapter 8, section 80111). Here is the link to the [bill text](#).

The Government Affairs Committee unofficially recommended Management Board support for the Parks bond and will be discussing the water bond as more information is available.

C. Major Project Updates

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

1. San Geronimo Golf Course Acquisition - On January 4, 2018, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) closed escrow on the purchase of the golf course, in spite of opposition from the real estate and golfing communities. TPL and the County of Marin need to raise the funds for the purchase in order to transfer it to the county. The golf course is the floodplain at the headwaters of Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries, identified as one of the important creeks for endangered coho salmon. The golf course will become public open space with the intention of restoring the floodplain and riparian areas back to habitat after transfer to

the county. The SFBJV has supported its acquisition since it was for sale in 2008 and submitted a letter in support of this purchase and future restoration.

2. South Bay Salt Pond Project EIR/S (John Bourgeois, Project Manager) - Phase 2 restoration on the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (Island Ponds, A8, Mtn View, Ravenswood) is in permitting and design. It is hoped that all permits will be in place by May 2018, with construction starting as soon as this summer. The Eden Landing EIS/R is expected to be released sometime this spring. Public comment meetings will be widely advertised once we have a release date.

D. Announcements

1. Diane Ross-Leach retired from PG&E 11/30/17 – We congratulate Diane Ross-Leech on her sudden retirement. Diane was SFBJV Management Board Chair from 2011-2013 and an active member of the Government Affairs Committee, representing the SFBJV on the Association of JV Management Boards and participating in SFBJV visits to Capitol Hill. With her support, PG&E provided annual funding to the SFBJV for operating and program expenses for which government funding could not be used, such as funding our 20th anniversary celebration. We thank Diane for her service and generosity and for bringing utility and industry perspectives to JVs nationally. Diane, we wish you the best in your retirement.

Attachments:

- A. Coordinator’s Report
- B. Meeting notes from Management Board meeting October 31, 2017
- C. 2017 SFBJV Accomplishment Report
- D. Project Adoption Information - City of San Leandro Multi-Benefit Treatment Wetland Project
- E. SFBJV Climate Change Policy White Paper
- F. Implementation Plan Progress Report
- G. Proposed FY18 SFBJV Operating Budget
- H. California Conservation Cooperative MOU