



**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board Meeting  
August 30, 2022 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Attendees (members and alternates):** Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg (Independent), Caitlin Sweeney (SFEP), Chris Barr (USFWS), Tom Gardali (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Annie Burke (TOGETHER Bay Area), Sam Veloz (Point Blue), John Coleman (Bay Planning Coalition), Scott McFarlin (Wildlife Conservation Board), Dean Kwasny (NRCS), Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited), Lisa Horowitz McCann (SF Bay Regional Water Board), Greg Martinelli (CDFW), Jennifer Norris (California Natural Resources Agency), Erika Castillo (County Mosquito Abatement), Dan Blake (USFWS), Jessie Olsen (Save the Bay), Casey Arndt (Audubon California), Jeff McCreary (Ducks Unlimited), Barbara Salzman (Independent), Sara Azat (NOAA), Jessica Davenport (SCC), Carin High (Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge), Tom Kendall (USACE), Steve Goldbeck (BCDC), Luisa Valiela (EPA), Tom Kimball (USGS)

**Guests:** Dan Blake (USFWS), Justyn Foth (USFWS), David Gordon (USFWS)  
SFBJV Staff: Sandra Scoggin (SFBJV)

## **Summary Notes**

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

Sandra welcomed everyone and participants introduced themselves.

### 2. USFWS Migratory Bird Joint Venture (MBJV) National Office Update

David and Justyn provided a brief update about the national USFWS Migratory Bird Joint Venture office. David is the Branch Chief and Justyn is the National Joint Venture Coordinator. David and Justyn try to visit each of the JV management board meetings once per year. They both facilitate across all JVs and represent the MJBV program at the national office.

The Joint Venture Coordinators and staff from the national office will be meeting in person for the first time since the pandemic began during the first week of December, 2022.

### 3. USFWS Pacific Southwest Regional Office - Updates

Dan Blake (USFWS) shared that funding is coming from various parts of the federal government and will be available for a variety of programs. There will be funding coming from BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Act) and the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). There are no specifics yet, but he

recommends keeping our eyes peeled and he will continue to share these notices as they come in.

The Pacific Flyway Council met last week. This group looks at hunting regulations and monitoring of game and non-game birds, makes recommendations for future efforts, and tries to get states on the same page for hunting regulations. Their purview includes the SFBJV region. Flyway Councils are also part of the USFWS Migratory Bird Program. Dan noted that there are opportunities for collaboration across the Flyway, and that Flyway Council isn't focused on habitat, but works on harvest regulation.

4. Chair's Report, Caitlin Sweeney

[Attachment A](#)

The May 24 meeting notes were approved without corrections. Caitlin welcomed new board members Tom Gardali, Jennifer Norris, and Luisa Valiela. With these new additions, we now have a full board with 25 members and no vacant seats.

Caitlin announced that SFEP's Estuary Blueprint was officially released last month and has received full US EPA approval. They have a new website and story map, and detailed progress tracker at [www.sfestuary.org](http://www.sfestuary.org). The Blueprint is a five year plan that also aligns with SFBJV Implementation Plan goals.

5. Coordinator's Report, Sandra Scoggin

[Attachment B](#)

After being part of the SFBJV team for 20 years, Caroline Warner has officially moved on. We had a wonderful farewell event at the Lyford House at Richardson Bay Audubon. You can find pictures in our last bulletin and in the Coordinator's report.

**In other news:**

- We recently hired two new staff members: Dr. Nicolette (Nikki) Roach (Policy and Communications Coordinator) and Jemma Williams (Conservation Coordinator).
- The Implementation Strategy is complete and approved by the Management Board
- We expect to complete the final design by Sept 30th and follow with an in person celebration in October. Please fill out the doodle if you have not yet done so.

6. Operations Plan Process and Overview

*Gina Morris and Andy Leider, Potrero Group*

[Attachment C](#)

*Action*

Sandra introduced Gina and Andy, our contractors for the Operational Plan (OP) process. Today, we will review and seek approval.

The purpose of the OP is to identify and articulate the key focus areas and activities where JV will concentrate effort over the next approximately two years. It is an internal document that bridges between the Implementation Strategy and shorter term work plans.

Basics of process:

- Timeline was February-August 2022
- Several meetings with leadership team (interspersed with JV staff check ins)

- Focus areas received Management Board input on 5/24/22
- Drivers: Habitat goals, climate impacts, equity advancement
- Goal - operationalize JV goals

Four Operational Focus Areas built on top of general operations/administration:

1. Adaptation and Resilience Planning
2. Green Tape
3. Sediment
4. Funding

Each focus area has a list of activities and desired outcomes. Some describe work that is already going on, others are aspirational.

The board discussed and approved the Operational Plan with one change (p.16) under the Green Tape focus area to clarify that we are working at the regional scale (changed from "local and community" scale).

Board members expressed many "Thanks Yous!" for all the hard work by JV staff, leadership team, and Potrero Group.

#### 5. Highway 37 Update

[Attachment D](#)

Ariana Rickard of Sonoma Land Trust provided an update that covered a recent Baylands Group position paper, a tour for Congressman Jared Huffman, and recent media and meetings.

Background:

- Hwy 37 crosses baylands, formerly mosaic of bayland habitat but is now diked and drained. What happens on Hwy 37 impacts Sonoma Land Trust's ability to implement the Sonoma Baylands Strategy.
- Hwy 37 is a traffic chokepoint in the Bay Area, and it floods. Low lying highway with subsided lands around it.
- Caltrans is considering an "Ultimate" project and "Interim" projects
  - Interim project: "Segment B" expand from two to four lands. Lots of impacts to habitat and wildlife, especially around Tolay Creek (bridge needs to be lengthened).

Baylands Group Position paper summary:

- Support for elevated causeway on the current alignment.
- Start ultimate project now.
- Integrate, don't mitigate
- Interim projects should be low cost, low impact

Funding:

- Ultimate project: \$6-8 billion
- Interim B: \$430 million
- Senator Dodd tolling legislation (bill died)

- State budget surplus
- Federal funding: BIL

6. Expansion of the San Pablo Bay NWR Acquisition Boundaries

[Attachment E](#)

Ariana Rickard of Sonoma Land Trust and Chris Barr from the USFWS San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex provided background information and summary of a process to expand the NWR boundaries in the North Bay.

7. Announcements - All

*Information*

Jennifer Norris: 30 x30 event on Sep 28, 2022 at the CNRA building, launch party for partners. Will include networking, resources, etc. Hybrid presentation in the morning and in person mingling in the afternoon. There will be cookies! Information and RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/30x30-partnership-kick-off-tickets-404320652957>

John Coleman: BPC will host an Energy/Water Nexus Summit - Drought & Floods: DWR and other agencies on September 9th. Their Fall Summit will take place September 30th.

Dean Kwasny: Inflation Reduction Act - NRCS Easement program funding doubling in CA (up to \$40 million). Camp Five in San Pablo Bay: signed easement purchase agreement with landowner (same as Camp Four).

Jessie Olson: Save the Bay's annual Bay Day celebration - Sept 1-Sept 30th. Bay Challenge to hike/bike/kayak 30 miles on the Bay Trail. <https://bayday.org/>

Annie Burke: TOGETHER Bay Area will host member showcases this fall, each with themes. September - Urban Biodiversity, October - Workforce Development/Green Job, November - 30x30. <https://togetherbayarea.org/together-tuesdays-2022/>

Scott McFarlin - WCB will be issuing a lot of funding, looking to go big. Reach out to him. Continuously open application process. Pre application then recommendation for full application. (Pre app → cutting green tape)

Tom Gardali He is part of a science team working on national "State of the Birds" report, shooting for a release date of Sept 27, 2022.

Chris Barr - October 8 Don Edwards Refuge will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of establishment of SF Bay refuge.

Steve Goldbeck - BCDC is doing a new strategic plan. Just starting the process. Please weigh in. Public meeting some time this fall. Get in touch with Steve if interested.

SFEI has developed a form to document fish kill resulting from the harmful algal bloom: <https://www.sfei.org/content/harmful-algal-bloom-fish-mortality>

CDFW is also collecting information on the fish kill at:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/Mortality-Report>

Tom Kendall: In October the Corps is funded to resume our partnership with SCC in implementing the Bel Marin Keys project (wetland restoration - regional sediment management)

Information on the Fish Kill:

- Late July/early August ID'd habitat in Alameda
- Red tide spp ID'd. Toxic to fish. Unknown mechanism (asphyxiation due to excess gill mucus, issues with hemoglobin, etc.)
- Samples are key. Collect fish and put them on ice.
- Blooms from South Bay all the way into San Pablo Bay
- Big fish kill at Lake Merritt, but also Coyote Point, all the way south to Dumbarton, and north into San Pablo
- Gobies, sturgeon, mussels, birds, white pelicans
- This is the largest bloom from this species of algae
- Going to get worse before it gets better because of high temps and no rain in the forecast
- Not a toxic algae to people or animals
- DO may be leading to the fish kills
- Avian influenza across the state, also likely to be a rough fall because of lack of water, botulism, etc
- Steve: some folks thought that reduced suspended sediment loads in the bay would increase HABs, with the thinking that sediment inhibits algae growth

Lisa Horowitz McCann: The Regional Water Board has a new Executive Officer, [Eileen White](#), who served most recently as director of East Bay Municipal Utility District's Wastewater Department.

Greg Martinelli: Avian influenza *can* transfer to humans and cats, so wear your PPE!

8. The August 30 SFBJV Management Board meeting was adjourned