

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) Project Adoption

Project Adoption has been a long-standing component of the SFBJV Conservation Program. As the SFBJV continues to grow, we are updating our Project Adoption Criteria to reflect our commitment to be more inclusive of the broader conservation and restoration community in the SF Bay Area. We recognize that humans and nature are intricately intertwined and our updated criteria aim to reflect that ethos.

What is Project Adoption? Project Adoption is an endorsement by the SFBJV designating that the project contributes to the Bay Area's habitat and climate resilience goals as outlined in the SFBJV Implementation Strategy. The process includes an evaluation from the SFBJV Conservation Committee of your project as it relates to the project adoption criteria (below) with the intention to strengthen the project and its likelihood for funding and implementation.

Why Become a SFBJV Adopted Project? There are several perks associated with becoming an adopted project, including:

- **Strengthen Funding Competitiveness** - when applying to granting programs like the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, EPA: Water Quality Improvement Fund, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- **Improve Project Design** - receive input from Conservation Committee members to improve design features that can strengthen the benefits achieved by your project.
- **Receive Letters of Support from SFBJV** - for project funding proposals and other opportunities.
- **Highlight in D.C. Policy Visit**- We include adopted projects and their funding needs in our D.C. advocacy & educational materials during our annual policy trip and discuss regional priorities with our Congressional Representatives and staff.
- **Inclusion in Decision-Maker Tours** - SFBJV-adopted projects can be selected as a site for decision-maker tours with state and federal policymakers and staff.
- **Communications Feature** - Amplify your projects in a SFBJV quarterly newsletter or bi-monthly e-blasts that reach 1400+ subscribers across the region.

Who Can Submit a Project for SFBJV Adoption? Any organization, groups of people, or individuals working in the environmental restoration and conservation space can request project adoption. Your project must be relevant to one of our habitat goals (see **Table 1** in the Resources section). Entities encouraged to apply include, but are not limited to:

- Community groups (Community-based organizations, kayaking/birding groups, citizen coalitions, etc.)
- Tribes and Tribal organizations (regardless of federal or nonfederal recognition status)
- Government Agencies
- Non-profit Organizations
- Private Sector
- Landowning and Land Managing Entities

What are the Project Adoption Criteria? These criteria are used to determine if the SFBJV Management Board will adopt your project. **All projects must meet criteria #1, and at least two other criteria** listed below.

- 1) The project helps meet the habitat and climate resilience goals outlined in the SFBJV Implementation Strategy and will **protect, restore, and/or enhance # of acres of habitat type(s)** (See the [Resources](#) section below for SFBJV habitat types in Table 1, and definitions of terms: Protect, Restore, and Enhance).
- 2) The project is working to achieve **multiple benefits**; please list which benefits. For example (but not limited to) the project benefits economically disadvantaged communities, provides cultural site(s), improves public access, improves water quality, improves flood control, involves education, outreach, and/or workforce development.
- 3) There is **community support**, as demonstrated by community involvement in the project.
- 4) The project will be implemented **in partnership** with others, such as entities under the 'Who Can Submit a Project for SFBJV Adoption' section, individuals, and/or volunteers.

How Do I Apply? Apply by selecting your project phase: **Planning OR Implementation** - see Resources section for definitions. Then email the following information to SFBJV Conservation Coordinator, [Jemma Williams](#):

1. A summary, such as an outline or brief paragraph, for each criterion your project meets;
2. The Project Information Form, **OR** a pre-application for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority or any grant.

If your project is identified as a good candidate for project adoption, the Conservation Coordinator will provide guidance for you to talk about or present your project for 10 minutes during a quarterly Conservation Committee meeting. SFBJV staff will reach out with content guidance and a template for your talk or presentation. Once you present to the Conservation Committee, Committee members will spend about 10 minutes asking questions and then immediately vote on whether or not to recommend your project to the SFBJV Management Board for adoption.

When Will I Know if my Project is Adopted? The SFBJV Management Board meets quarterly and votes to adopt projects recommended by the Conservation Committee. SFBJV staff will notify project applicants of their project adoption status after the Management Board meeting.

My Project was Approved for Adoption, Now What? The SFBJV's Conservation Coordinator is available to help you if needed to upload your project into the SFBJV's Project Tracking tool, [Project Tracker](#) to be displayed on [EcoAtlas](#) **within two weeks of adoption approval**. To do this you will need to create a [Project Tracker account](#), and once approved (usually 3-5 days) you will need your project information and 30-45 minutes to enter it into the tracker. Project managers will also be expected to annually update their project information in Project Tracker.

Once you have successfully uploaded your project into Project Tracker please let the Conservation Coordinator know and provide your Project Tracker ID#, and if there are no further questions or edits needed, you will then receive your **Project Adoption Letter** and be added to the Adopted Project List.

Resources listed on next page

Resources

Helpful Links:

- [Perks](#) of being a SFBJV adopted project
- [SFBJV Implementation Strategy](#), *Restoring the Estuary*
- [Checklist](#) for what to include when entering project into Project Tracker
- Project Summary Template (to prepare for the Conservation Committee meeting)
- [Adopted Project List](#)
- [SFBJV Conservation Committee](#)
- [SFBJV Management Board](#)
- [Resources Page](#) on SFBJV website

Definitions:

- **Protection** (acquisition or conservation easement)
- **Restoration** (restoring habitat that was once present but is no longer present); and
- **Enhancement** (increasing the ecological function or value of a habitat).

SFBJV Project Phases:

1. **Planning:** These projects include community-based visioning, conceptual design, and feasibility studies. The goals of these projects align with SFBJV priorities, but their specific elements are still being developed, including restoration projects at 30% design. This phase also includes people seeking SFBJV input for design improvements.
2. **Implementation:** These are projects at final or near final (60%) design, permitted projects moving into on-the-ground action, such as construction, non-construction projects (e.g., invasive removal, native plantings, acquisition), and fully designed projects seeking implementation funding.

Table 1: Habitat types in the SFBJV Implementation Strategy

<i>Table 1. Habitats for which the SFBJV updated (numeric acreage and/or functional) conservation goals.</i>	
SF Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-tidal Wetlands and Waters (Baylands)• Tidal Marsh (Baylands)• Tidal Flat• Beach• Submerged Aquatic Vegetation• Shellfish Beds• Open Water• Estuarine-Upland Transition Zone• Adjacent Uplands
Watersheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lakes and Ponds• Seasonal Wetland and Vernal Pool Complexes• Stream Valleys (Alluvial Creek and Riparian zones)• Headwater Creeks and Source Areas
Outer Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaches and Dunes• Cliffs• Rocky Intertidal• Coastal Estuaries (Embayment Bay, Lagoonal Estuary - large and small)• Coastal Stream Valleys (Riparian)