

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Coordinator's Report



TO: San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Sandra Scoggin, Coordinator

DATE: May 17, 2022

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This report is an overview of Joint Venture activities and significant developments since the February 2022 Coordinator's report and is compiled by SFBJV staff with contributions from JV partners.

A. News of Note from the Joint Venture

1. SFBJV Management Board Meeting - Tuesday, May 24, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. via [ZOOM](#)

We look forward to virtually gathering with you on May 24 to address JV business and other topics.

Requested actions include the approval of meeting notes [Attachment A], approval of two new SFBJV staff positions [Attachment C, News of Note #3], and the proposed addition of Tom Gardali as a management board member representative of Audubon Canyon Ranch [Attachment D]. Note that we approved Tom Gardali as an *individual* member at our February meeting. Tom's interest is to represent his organization and thus is re-applying and will be present to answer questions about Audubon Canyon Ranch.

In addition to these actions: Sandra will provide an update on the SFBJV Operational Plan and seek your input on the initiatives proposed for 2022-2024 [News of Note #6]; Ariana Rickard, Sonoma Land Trust, will present an update on Highway 37 planning and next steps [News of Note #12]; Jessica Davenport will brief you on the State Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Plan update process and seek input and project ideas [News of Note #8]; Caroline will take us on a tour of our soon-to-be-released website; and you will be asked to share announcements from your agency or organization.

2. News about JV people

As announced at our last meeting, it is with tremendous gratitude and well wishes that we send **Caroline Warner** off into a life after SFBJV. She will be leaving the SFBJV staff as of July 7, 2022, after 20 years as our Communications and Outreach Coordinator. We hope you are able to join us at the Lyford house on July 13 from 4:30-dark to celebrate and thank Caroline and wish her well on her new adventures.

3. New SFBJV Staff Positions [Attachment C]

We seek your approval of the two new staff positions described in Attachment C. The job announcements result from discussion by the SFBJV leadership team that is working to develop our 2022-2024 Operational Plan [News of Note #6], review by the SFBJV Executive Committee, and input from Point Blue Human Resources. We seek an individual to focus on coordinating our policy and

communications work and a second to focus on administration, conservation, and science.

4. SFBJV Funding News

The FY22 USFWS budget allocation for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (1234) was just released. This provides funds for the SFBJV 2023 annual work plan. The Service received \$15,562,000 for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)/Joint Ventures, an increase of \$440,000 from FY 2021. After accounting for Service wide assessments and AD Deferred, there is \$14,946,197 available for distribution to National Program Management, NAWMP, and the Joint Ventures. Note the off-the-top assessments increased over last year by just over \$118,000. Consistent with the JVC allocation discussion had by the JVCs in December 2020, the Service elected to allocate the FY 2022 increase to those JVs funded below Target Minimum Funding level of \$500,000. The other JVs, NAWMP, and National Program remain level funded at FY2021 amounts. The SFBJV was just under that threshold last year, so this means that our allocation will go from FY21 \$482,340 to FY22 \$500,191, an increase of \$17,851.

Early this month, we received good news that the Administration's FY23 Greenbook budget includes a USFWS request of \$18.09 million for MJBVs. If approved, this would be a large annual increase from our current \$15.6 million allocation. The Association of Joint Venture Management Boards sent a thank you letter to Director Martha Williams for her support of the MJBV program.

5. SFBJV Implementation Plan Revision Update

The revised implementation plan is now with the copy editor! We received more than 300 comments during the recent management board review of the full plan. The comments were thoughtful and astute and helped strengthen the document. Sandra coordinated with nine of the plan's authors to get all comments addressed over two weeks and submitted the updated draft to the copy editor on May 12. We expect to receive the first round of copy editing by the end of May. At that point, we will redistribute it to all management board members and request approval and signature. Be prepared to do one more full read through. We will ask only for critical comments that would prevent your organization from signing on. The plan will continue through final rounds of copy editing, then will go to the design team. We expect to have the final plan in early August and will celebrate the release of *Restoring the Estuary 2022* at our August management board meeting!

6. Operational Planning

The Potrero Group, working with a leadership team comprising all current and immediate past committee chairs, board chair, IPT chair, plus our fiscal sponsor and staff, is developing a two year operational plan. This ensures that by the time our new *Restoring the Estuary* plan is released, we will also have a focused set of initiatives and actions that the partnership will implement under the new plan. At our meeting, we will present the initiatives and seek your input.

7. Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful

On April 11, the Biden-Harris Administration launched a \$1 billion [America the Beautiful Challenge](#) that will leverage Federal conservation and restoration investments with private and philanthropic contributions to accelerate land, water, and wildlife conservation efforts across the country.

The America the Beautiful Challenge is anchored by an initial commitment of \$440 million of Federal resources over the next five years to a new public-private grant program, [administered](#) by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), that will support locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the [America the Beautiful Initiative](#). The historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a major source of the initial Federal investments for the America the Beautiful Challenge. See the sfbayjv [website funding page](#) or follow the links here for more information.

As a reminder, the Migratory Bird Joint Venture (MBJV) program was one of few national programs specifically mentioned in [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful](#) (p. 19) as a vehicle for implementing the vision of “30 by 30” through an expanded leadership role. This recognition reflects a growing appreciation for the value and effectiveness of the MBJV program due in part to the strength and longevity of our partnerships, our impressive track record of success, combined with the fact that the program is poised to grow.

8. 2023-2027 State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan Development Process

The Conservancy has initiated a process to update their Strategic Plan for 2023-2027. This process creates an opportunity for the Conservancy to hear from partners – nonprofit organizations, tribes, local governments, community groups, state and federal agencies, private landowners, conservation organizations, other conservation funders, and the public – about their vision and priorities for their work. Their kick off webinar, hosted on March 28 [can be found here](#).

They want to hear your thoughts about your experience working with them; your priorities around coastal resilience and public access; how they can work to make their programs and resources more accessible to a wider audience; and ideas on the types of projects they should fund. You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts at our May 24 management board meeting and can provide input by **May 31, 2022** in a [this brief survey](#) and/or add your project idea to their [map of project ideas](#).

9. Biosolids White Paper

The SFBJV sponsored *Biosolids in the Baylands - Exploring compatibility of biosolids use with wetland restoration in the San Francisco Baylands* was finalized on March 14 and is available on the Sonoma Land Trust [website](#). This document brought together existing knowledge of baylands and biosolids management to highlight key gaps in our understanding and to make recommendations for future work. The document is intended to initiate and inform discussions and increase interaction between regulators, restoration community, landowners and farmers, and the wastewater sector. We thank Sonoma Land Trust for their leadership and all the authors and reviewers for their collaboration and dedicated work to produce this useful document.

10. Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP)

Updates on program activities most relevant to SFBJV partners will be provided bi-annually as part of this board report. The SFBJV is a funded partner for phase 2 work with a focus on outreach and user

input and testing of the data management system. Sandra currently serves as Steering Committee Chair and SFBJV Management Board member Erika Castillo serves as Vice Chair. More information about the WRMP development process is available on their [website](#) where you can also subscribe to their newsletter at the bottom of the page.

11. **SF Bay Restoration Authority** *(from Jessica Davenport, State Coastal Conservancy)*

The Measure AA 2021 Grant Round and Community Grants Program: The Restoration Authority's [preliminary list of six recommended projects](#) was announced at the February 25 board meeting. The Restoration Authority's Community Grants Program, which funds projects led by community-based organizations in economically disadvantaged communities, is accepting applications on a rolling basis. See the links below for more information:

- [Grant Round Page](#)
- [Community Grants Page](#)

SFBRA Projects: The [South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project](#) held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 14. The Restoration Authority awarded a Community Grant for approximately \$100,000 to Planting Justice for the [Bay Restoration: Youth Engagement and Service Learning in East Oakland](#) in February. The board authorized funding \$991,499 to the SPHERE Institute (SPHERE) to augment the grant of \$500,000 previously authorized by the Authority for the [Shoreline Park –Burlingame Project](#) in April. Also in April, the board authorized \$3,082,000 to Marin Audubon Society for the next phase of the [Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project](#), involving developing final designs and beginning construction.

SFBRA Other Updates: The Restoration Authority passed a [resolution expressing support for Bay Adapt Joint Platform](#) in February. The board approved a letter of support for the [Newark Baylands Acquisition Project](#) and staff presented a [Community Grants Program Update](#) in April.

More information about the Restoration Authority can be found [on their website](#).

12. **State Route (SR) 37 Baylands Group** *(from Jessica Davenport, State Coastal Conservancy)*

The SR 37-Baylands Group is made up of North Bay wetland land managers, ecological restoration practitioners, and other stakeholders with a long-term interest in the conservation and restoration of the San Pablo Baylands, including SFBJV staff and several partners. The group formed in 2017 with the goals of creating and promoting adoption of guiding principles, developing an ecological landscape vision, and exploring funding and policy options. Activity over the last three months included the following:

SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting:

- The Policy Committee met on March 3. The agenda and materials are [here](#).
- The packet includes updates on
 - SB 1050, the State Route 37 Toll Bridge Act, introduced by Senator Dodd
 - SR 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project (Interim Project/Congestion Relief)

- SR 37 101 to 121 Flood Reduction Project

SR 37 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study:

- The Baylands Group sent a comment letter on the PEL Study to Caltrans on May 13 with two main purposes:
 - We put on record our position in support of a pile-supported causeway along the current alignment.
 - We registered our concern that the PEL is not vetting both short-term and long-term solutions, as originally intended, and that the interim projects currently proposed by Caltrans are inconsistent with the broader long-term vision of the SR 37 that prioritizes climate resilience and ecological connectivity.

For more information, visit Caltrans' [website for SR 37 projects](#), and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority's public engagement [website for Resilient SR 37 planning](#).

13. SFBJV Letters of Support and Comment

The SFBJV sent the following letters which are available upon request.

- Support for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's (SFBBO) and U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) proposal entitled "Landscape Scenario Planning to Guide Tidal Marsh Restoration and Management of Bird Populations in San Francisco Bay." Letter dated March 3, 2022.
- Letter of comment to the California Natural Resources Agency on the *Pathways to 30 X 30* Draft Report. The letter requested that the categorization be corrected to represent the San Francisco Bay as "coastal waters" and that the description of the San Francisco Bay Area should emphasize the ecological importance of the region.
- SFBJV signed onto a letter from the Baylands Group to CalTrans regarding the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for the State Route 37 Corridor. Letter dated May 13, 2022.

B. Joint Venture Working Committee Summaries

1. Conservation Committee (CC) – Julian Wood, Chair

2. Science Committee (SC) – Renee Spent, Chair

Neither the Conservation nor the Science Committee met this quarter. Work by chairs and members focused on completing the Implementation Plan.

3. Outreach & Communications

In addition to Bulletin production, web maintenance, IP editing and design, other highlights include:

Website overhaul

Earlier this month, [CryBaby Design](#) completed the first draft of the new SFBJV website. It is currently under review by Caroline, after which it will go back to the designers for comment integration by the end of the month. The website will then be shared with a review team of a half a dozen partners who volunteered to assist. The goal is to launch the new site before Caroline's departure on July 7. Caroline will provide the management board with a preview of the new look at our May 24 meeting.

SediMatch website update

We are working with SFEI to update the [SediMatch page](#) which was last updated in 2017. The new home will be modeled after their [Adaptation Atlas](#) and include information about the SediMatch program and webtool, link to all related reports, and include contacts. It will include an overview that expresses the value of sediment to wetlands, habitat, and our built environment. The Healthy Watersheds program will provide funding for our involvement and our new website will link to this resource.

Regional Communications Team

The Regional Communications Team met on March 31 to consider whether to work proactively to promote shared goals, projects, and/or messages for the benefit of team members and their respective organizations. Caroline shared the Stakeholder Analysis tool that can be used for audience assessment (among other applications) and Darcie discussed the Estuary Blueprint update. The team will be meeting on May 26 to consider the future of the group in light of Caroline's departure.

In attendance: Caroline (SFBJV), Darcie Luce (SFEP), Sierra Garcia (Estuary News/KneeDeep Times), Tony Hale (SFEI), Mark Prado (Bay Area Metro), Aimee Good (SFSU/NERR)

4. Policy Committee – Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Chair

The Policy Committee held their annual “fly in” to DC (virtual) during the week of February 28-March 4. In collaboration with consultants for the Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV), SFBJV partners and staff participated in seven legislative meetings with congressional representatives and their staff from the Bay Area caucus: Reps. DeSaulnier, Eshoo, Huffman, Thompson, McNerney, Pelosi, and Senator Padilla. With Reps. Thompson and Huffman, we had the pleasure of meeting with the member themselves, while the rest of the meetings were with staff. We were not able to get meetings with the offices of Reps. Speier, Swalwell, Lee, or Khanna due to either scheduling conflicts or lack of response from the office. These meetings were attended by eight SFBJV partners, two SFBJV staff, and several partners from the CVJV.

Major outcomes:

- Strengthened relationships between SFBJV partners and Bay Area congressional offices
- Educated congressional staffers about the Migratory Bird Joint Venture Program
- As a direct result of these meetings, two members of Congress (Thompson and McNerney) signed on as co-sponsors of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)
- Identified office-specific processes for formally submitting FY2023 appropriations requests

5. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee - Casey Arndt, Chair

The EDI committee planned to meet on May 6, 2022, but canceled the meeting due to scheduling conflicts. As a reminder, this is a new committee as of November 2021 and is guided by [this charter](#).

C. Packet Attachments

- A. Meeting notes from the February 22, 2022 Management Board meeting
- B. Coordinator's Report
- C. Proposed SFBJV Position Descriptions
- D. Tom Gardali/ACR Letter of request to join the SFBJV Management Board and Resume