

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Conservation Delivery Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 2011
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor**

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Marc Holmes, Chair (The Bay Institute), Julie Andersen (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District), Chris Barton (East Bay Regional Parks District), Kathi Borgmann (Audubon California), Tom Gandesbery (State Coastal Conservancy), Brenda Goeden (Bay Conservation and Development Commission), Mike Perlmutter (Bay Area Early Detection Network), Melissa Pitkin (PRBO Conservation Science), Orien Richmond (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited), Cheryl Strong (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Caitlin Sweeney (SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board), Kate Symonds (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Patty Tenboam Byrnes (Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society), Rebecca Tuden (City of Oakland), Laura Valoppi (USGS), Pete VanHoorn (Alameda County RCD), Bruce Wolfe (SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board), Julian Wood (PRBO Conservation Science)

SFBJV Staff: Beth Huning (Coordinator), Christina Sloop (Science Coordinator), Caroline Warner (Outreach Coordinator), Sandra Scoggin (Assistant Coordinator)

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Announcements

Renee Spenst – The Sears Point administrative EIS/EIR was sent out. Cullinan Ranch started construction in October with the current activities to be wrapped up in December and starting up again next year. Eden Landing is nearing completion. Middle Bair Island is starting this week. The siphon was installed at New Chicago Marsh.

Kathi Borgmann – Phase 1 of Aramburu was completed. The next phase will begin next year.

Caitlin Sweeney – Caitlin was recently hired by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership to develop a new watershed program. She is interested in building partnerships and for SFEP to add value from a regional perspective.

Bruce Wolfe – The SFB RWQCB and State Board started a clean up of nurdles (small plastic pieces from which Styrofoam is made). Clean up focused on high tide events when they get trapped in the pickleweed. San Leandro is the kick off location. If you know sites where clean up is needed, let him know. The companies who spilled the nurdles are paying for the clean up.

Kate Symonds – Partners for Fish and Wildlife can provide cost share funding for on the ground restoration projects of up to \$25,000 per project. Applies to non-federal and non-state lands. The Coastal Program managed by John Klochak can provide funding on any lands including city and county owned.

Chris Barton – Bruener Marsh is finishing up their EIR/EIS. Albany Beach put out an RFP for the project.

Pete VanHoorn – Many projects have been completed this year. Arroyo de la Laguna was completed with a goal of steelhead restoration. Also completed a 5 pond restoration to benefit red-legged frogs.

Cheryl Strong – The South Bay Salt Pond project is hiring a new consultant to study feasibility of Phase 2 projects. A16 and 17 will be going to construction soon. E12 and E13 is the last phase one project for Eden Landing and is expecting 100% design by spring and then will take two years to complete.

Mike Perlmutter – BAEDN has been working on Invasive Algerian Sea Lavender with volunteers, and partners. Many sites have been initially controlled and they are hoping to get funding for larger sites. Another species to watch is seaside alkali grass, which is currently restricted to south of the bay bridge. Watch their website and the SFBJV website for volunteer weed pulling opportunities. Mike acknowledged the JV for our funding contribution to the program to assist small NGO's with the eradication.

Orien Richmond – Orien is working on the revised secretive marsh bird plan with Julian Wood, they are looking for support for years two and three. They are also looking for volunteers for the midwinter waterfowl survey – aerial duck surveys. They are looking for a long term commitment. Contact Orien for more information.

Beth Huning – The next meeting on plans for Highway 37 is taking place next week on December 5 at the Sonoma Community Center. The stakeholder group will focus on actions that can be suggested to CalTrans for consideration in their study. The Invasive Spartina Project (ISP) is partnering with the JV to host a meeting next week to discuss the evolution of the ISP, the status of Clapper Rails, and how the ISP might transition into Clapper Rail restoration.

Rebecca Tuden – The City of Oakland has been working on the restoration of Sausal Creek and of Shepherds Canyon.

3. SFBJV Five Year Strategic Plan - Beth Huning, SFBJV Coordinator, provided an overview of the draft five-year strategic plan, tasks, priorities and plan for the day. At the October SFBJV Management Board retreat, board members laid out priorities and a draft strategic plan to address these priorities over the next five years. We reviewed those priorities to set the stage for the day's discussions and goal of gathering specific input on these priorities and actions to achieve them.

4. Key Issues and Recommendations - This overview was followed by presentations on key issues and recommendations that have been outlined in the *State of the Birds-San Francisco Bay* (as presented by Melissa Pitkin of PRBO Conservation Science), the SFBJV Monitoring and Evaluation (as presented by Christina Sloop, SFBJV Science Coordinator), and sediment management, presented by Brenda Goeden of BCDC. Also distributed with the meeting packet were key recommendations from the Subtidal Goals Report team. Members were encouraged to review the reports, notes from the recent program-specific meetings (dredge, M&E plan development, etc.) meeting notes, request the updated draft strategic plan or contact JV staff for more details on recommendations and identified next steps that have come out of these efforts.

5. Project Map and List Review – The most recent version of the SFBJV Habitat Project Map (September 2011) was distributed. Partners were encouraged to review their project information, location, and to log in to the database to make any needed changes or updates.

6. Project Adoption and NAWCA Ranking

Julie Andersen of the Mid Peninsula Open Space District presented a project for consideration. The project, called Ponds DR07 and DR08 Repair, plans to restore two stock ponds, as part of a broader ongoing stock pond restoration effort by the district. These pond are located in the 5,759-acre La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve near the small community of La Honda in San Mateo County, California. The project is expected to provide year round aquatic habitat for use by birds and other wildlife within an area

surrounded by either riparian willow, mixed oak woodland, or annual grassland. Julie outlined the potential biological benefits of the project. The committee agreed to adopt the project and rank it one of one as the only NAWCA small grant submitted from the SFBJV region this round. For more information on the project visit the SFBJV Habitat Project Tracking system.

This also led to a discussion about stock pond restoration and management and the need of the JV to adopt some guidelines on how we will adopt and support stock ponds as habitat. The Alameda County RCD has drafted guidelines that have been adopted by USFWS and NRCS. They are still considered DRAFT, but Pete VanHoorn offered to provide them to the committee as a starting point for developing SFBJV project adoption guidelines for these types of projects.

Action: Pete will provide us the guidelines which the committee can then review and determine whether to adopt as per the above mentioned partners.

7. Five Year Strategic Plan Tasks and Priorities

The remainder of the meeting was spent in break out discussions to flesh out priorities and tasks specific to the five year strategic plan and what will be addressed by members or the committee as a whole. Please see the 2012 SFBJV Five Year Strategy document for the details. Priorities and tasks were outlined under the broader topics of Sea Level Rise, The America's Cup, Project Funding strategies, Streamlining of Permitting Processes, Sediment Management Issues.

8. The Conservation Delivery Committee meeting of December 1, 2011 was adjourned.