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Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Recommended Revisions

Note: This draft document reflects discussions to-date among stakeholders regarding potential expenditure priorities for a regional Restoration Authority revenue measure. It is intended to serve as a focus for continuing discussions leading up to formulation of a ballot measure and expenditure plan by the Restoration Authority. Nothing in this draft document should be construed to signify language that may or may not appear on a ballot measure or supporting campaign materials.

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY SAFE, CLEAN WATER, POLLUTION PREVENTION,
HABITAT RESTORATION, FLOOD PROTECTION AND SHORELINE ACCESS
EXPENDITURE PLAN**

A. Summary

Over the last century, we have had a massive impact on the Bay with landfill, [diking of wetlands](#) and toxic pollution. It is not too late to reverse what we've done and restore the Bay for future generations. [To meet that objective, in 2008, the State of California enacted The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, permitting funding for restoration through a regional parcel tax approved by voters.](#) The San Francisco Bay Safe, Clean Water, Pollution Prevention, Habitat Restoration, Flood Protection and Shoreline Access parcel tax ("Measure") is estimated to generate approximately \$15,000,000 per year to support these goals.

The purpose of this measure is to help reverse the damage that has been done to the Bay by removing pollution, restoring wildlife habitat, enhancing creek outlets and wetlands, preserving clean water, protecting shoreline communities, and increasing trails and public access to San Francisco Bay. These efforts will help protect the Bay's wildlife and existing shoreline communities and infrastructure from the impacts of storms, high tides, and sea level rise.

Part B of this Expenditure Plan ("Plan") outlines four programs for cleaning up, enhancing and restoring the San Francisco Bay. Part C of the Plan contains provisions for community oversight, accountability and public involvement.

B. Program Descriptions

This Measure will fund Bay restoration across the nine-county Bay Area. The restoration work accomplished by this Measure will achieve the goals laid out in the program areas described below.

1. Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program

The purpose of this Program is to remove pollution, trash and harmful toxins from the Bay to provide clean water for fish, birds, wildlife, and people.

- a. Improve water quality by reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities, protecting public health and making fish and wildlife healthier.
- b. Reduce pollution levels through shoreline cleanup and trash removal from San Francisco Bay.
- c. Restore wetlands that provide natural filters and remove pollution from the Bay's water.
- d. Clean and enhance creek outlets where they flow into San Francisco Bay.

2. Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program

The purpose of this Program is to significantly improve wildlife habitat that will support and increase vital populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife in and around San Francisco Bay.

- a. Enhance the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge^s, shoreline parks and open space preserves, and other protected lands in and around the Bay, providing expanded and improved habitat for fish, birds and mammals.
- b. Protect and restore wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats to benefit wildlife, including shorebirds, waterfowl and fish.
- c. Provide for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay, to ensure their ongoing benefits to wildlife and people.

3. Natural Flood Protection Program

The purpose of this Program is to use natural habitats to help protect communities along the Bay's shoreline from the risks of severe coastal flooding caused by storms and high water levels in the Bay.

- a. Provide nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay's edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.
- b. Build and improve flood protection levees that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities, in order to protect existing shoreline communities and infrastructure.

4. Shoreline Public Access and Education Program

The purpose of this Program is to enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents, including those with disabilities, through safer and improved public access and educational opportunities, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around San Francisco Bay.

- a. Construct new, repair existing and/or replace deteriorating public access trails, signs, and related facilities along the shoreline and manage these public access facilities.
- b. Provide education materials for public access trails, such as kiosks and display boards, about the importance of restoration and the health of the Bay in order to protect natural resources and encourage community engagement.
- c. Ensure that new public access trails encouraging public enjoyment of the Bay are designed to also protect the needs of sensitive wildlife.

C. Administrative Provisions

1. Funds will be administered by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

The revenue raised by the Measure for the purposes described in this Plan will be administered by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (“Authority”) and an interest-bearing account shall be created to hold funds. The Authority is a regional entity created by the California legislature in 2008 to “raise and allocate resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitats in San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline” (Government Code Sections 66700 *et seq.*). The Authority can undertake projects along the shorelines of the nine counties touching the Bay (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties), including the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline. The Restoration Authority Governing Board is made up primarily of local elected officials from each region of the Bay Area.

2. Accountability and Public Oversight

The Authority shall make every effort to ensure accountability, transparency, and public involvement in its operations.

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- a. The Authority will commission an independent annual audit of its revenue and expenditures and will also prepare an annual report on past and upcoming activities and publish an annual financial statement.

- b. The Authority has appointed a community-based Advisory Committee to provide advice on all aspects of its activities, to ensure maximum benefit, value and transparency for safe, clean water, pollution reduction, habitat restoration, flood protection and public access in and around the Bay. Advisory Committee meetings will be announced in advance and will be open to the public. The responsibilities of this committee include:
 - Advising the Restoration Authority Governing Board.
 - Making recommendations regarding expenditure priorities.
 - Reviewing Plan expenditures on an annual basis to ensure they conform to the Plan.
 - Reviewing the annual audit and report prepared by the Governing Board, describing how funds were spent.

- c. All actions, including decisions about selecting projects for funding, will be made by the Authority in public meetings with proper advance notice and with meeting materials made available in advance to the public.

3. ~~Additional~~ Allocation Criteria and Community Benefits

The Authority shall ensure that the revenue generated by the Measure is spent in the most efficient and effective manner possible, consistent with serving the public interest and in accordance with existing law and this Plan.

The law establishing the Restoration Authority states that an eligible project shall do at least one of the following:

- Restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

- Build or enhance shoreline levees or other flood management features that are part of a project to restore, enhance or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or Bay shoreline natural habitats.

- Provide or improve public access or recreational amenities that are part of a project to restore, enhance or protect tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or Bay shoreline natural habitats.

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The law further states that in awarding grants, the Authority shall give priority to projects that, to the greatest extent possible, meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy.

- a. In addition to meeting the requirements above, the Authority shall give priority to projects that:
- i. Have the greatest positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.
 - ii. Provide for geographic distribution across the region.
 - iii. Increase impact value by leveraging state and federal resources as well as public/private partnerships.
 - iv. Serve economically disadvantaged communities.
 - v. Benefit the economy of the region, including local workforce development, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.
 - vi. Work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.
 - ~~vii. Meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy.~~
 - vii. Incorporate monitoring and maintenance to ensure the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration, and ongoing benefits to wildlife and people.
- b. The Restoration Authority Governing Board shall conduct one or more public meetings annually to gain public input on selection of project grants to expend revenues generated by the Measure.
- c. The Authority may accumulate revenue over multiple years so that sufficient funding is available for larger and long-term projects. All interest income shall be used for the purposes identified in this Plan.

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- d. No more than 5% of the revenue generated by this measure and provided to the Authority may be used by the Authority to administer the projects funded under this Plan.
- e. Examples of potential projects that could be eligible for funding may be found at www.sfbayrestore.org.