

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

November 19, 2012

M E M O

Dear Interested West Bay Elected Official:

The West Bay Seat on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) is open. The SFBRA is a regional government agency charged with raising and allocating resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. The SFBRA was created in 2008 by the California Legislature with the enactment of AB 2954 (Lieber). The West Bay consists of the City and County of San Francisco and the portion of San Mateo County that is north of the northern boundary of Redwood City. The elected official's jurisdiction must touch the Bay.

ABAG President Mark Luce will be nominating a replacement for the current holder of this seat (San Francisco Tax Assessor/Recorder Phil Ting) who was recently elected to the California State Assembly at the January 17, 2013, ABAG Executive Board Meeting. If you or a colleague is interested in this seat, please fill out the attached Statement of Interest and return it to ABAG no later than January 2, 2013.

Sincerely,

Ezra Rapport, Executive Director





FACT SHEET

Overview

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) is a new regional government agency charged with rebuilding San Francisco Bay through the raising and granting of funds to restore the Bay's critical tidal wetlands.

The Bay is a natural treasure that defines our region, provides recreation and beauty, moderates our climate and generates millions of dollars in economic benefits.

- Today, only five percent of the Bay's original wetlands remain, and the Bay is threatened every day by pollution and sprawl.
- Scientists advise that a healthy, sustainable Bay requires at least 100,000 acres of tidal wetlands. In 1999, there were only about 40,000 acres of tidal wetlands remaining around the Bay. Today, over 36,000 acres of restorable Bay shoreline is in public ownership and proposed for restoration to tidal wetlands. The ambitious 100,000 acre goal is in sight.
- Restoring these 36,000 acres is estimated to cost up to \$1.43 billion over 50 years. By making this investment—equivalent to \$4 annually for each Bay Area resident—we can establish thousands of acres of thriving wetlands on the shoreline and reverse more than a century of degradation that reduced the size of our Bay by one-third.

There is significant—but incomplete—Federal and State funding available for these projects. The Authority's mission will be to formulate a strategy for raising local revenues to fill the funding gap. The primary source of currently available dedicated State funds is the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) headquartered in Oakland. Projects meeting the Conservancy's selection criteria for its San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program will be given priority. In addition, projects need to be consistent with the Bay Conservation and



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Development Commission's (BCDC) management program and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy. Finally, the creation of Authority implements the primary recommendation of the report, *Greening the Bay: Financing Wetland Restoration in San Francisco Bay, 2007 (Greening the Bay)* by Save the Bay, the sponsor of AB 2954, the legislation that created the Authority.

Governing Board

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) appoints all seven Authority Governing Board members. The current members are:

- Chair – Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, California State Coastal Conservancy
- North Bay – Keith Caldwell, Supervisor, County of Napa
- West Bay – Vacant
- East Bay – John Gioia, Supervisor, County of Contra Costa
- South Bay – Rosanne Foust, Councilmember, City of Redwood City
- Bay-side City/County – Dave Cortese, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara
- Regional Park/Open Space District – John Sutter, Director, East Bay Parks District

The Governing Board is charged with exploring, promoting and coordinating local and regional public revenue mechanisms to help fund the restoration of wetlands on more than 36,000 shoreline acres already in public ownership. The Authority may also apply for grants, fees, and allocations from public and private entities, issue revenue bonds, and receive donations. The Governing Board will develop priorities and sequencing for allocating any funds received to wildlife habitat restoration, related public access, recreation, and flood management projects.



FACT SHEET

Governing Board members will be reviewing and selecting appropriate revenue mechanisms that may require voter approval. Governing Board members should be prepared to actively support these measures.

All Governing Board members serve at the pleasure of ABAG. However, the term of any member who ceases to hold the elected office that qualified the member for inclusion on the Governing Board will automatically and immediately terminate. ABAG has established a term of four (4) years for each Board member with the understanding that ABAG retains the discretion to replace a Board member prior to the expiration of the term and that there are no formal term limits. Staff's preliminary expectation is that meetings of the Governing will be convened quarterly.

Financial Provisions and Revenue Mechanisms

Restoring these 36,000 acres is estimated to cost up to \$1.43 billion over 50 years (*Greening the Bay*). Some \$370 million is already invested in acquiring property and planning these restoration projects. This funding has come from state bonds and occasional federal appropriations. The Authority sponsored revenue mechanisms will provide regional funding for important regional priority. These locally-generated public revenues can serve as leverage to qualify restoration projects for matching dollars from state and federal sources.

The Authority is empowered to levy a benefit assessment, special tax, or property related fee consistent with Articles XIII C and D of the California Constitution, pursuant to any of the following:

- the Improvement Act of 1911;
- the Improvement Bond Act of 1915;



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- the Municipal Improvement Act of 1913;
- the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment Act of 1972;
- any other statutory authorization.

Revenue bonds may be issued for any of the Authority’s statutorily authorized purposes, and the Authority may incur bond indebtedness. The Authority may not purchase or own real property.

The Authority may also apply for and receive grants from federal and state agencies, solicit and accept gifts, fees, grants, and allocations from public and private entities, and use interim or temporary staff provided by appropriate state agencies or ABAG. The Authority is set to “sunset” as of December 31, 2028.

The Importance of Wetlands

Wetlands are the lungs of the Bay, giving life to hundreds of fish and wildlife species that depend on them for survival and billions of small organisms that thrive in Bay mud to form the base of the food chain. In addition to providing vital habitat for fish and wildlife, wetlands provide major benefits to the community:

- Clean water
- Economic benefits
- Helps curb global warming
- Flood and erosion control

Wetlands play a central role in the battle against global warming, and scientists from the United Nations to the White House have identified wetland restoration as a priority strategy in fighting



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global warming. Scientists have found that tidal salt marshes capture carbon from greenhouse gases in the air efficiently and effectively, helping to counter global warming. Healthy tidal marshes act as natural flood control by absorbing excess water and may adjust to rising sea levels—building itself higher with sediment inflow as the water level rises and absorbing water that would otherwise require expensive levees or sea walls.

Wetland restoration has also provided an important benefit to Bay-related industry and the regional economy, with “beneficial reuse” of dredged sediment from critical Bay ports playing a role in restoration projects around the Bay.

Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee has been convened to assist and advise the Governing Board in carrying out its functions.

Process and Timing

Interested persons should complete and return a Statement of Interest form by January 2, 2013.



FACT SHEET

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority—Jurisdictions by Subregion

South Bay

- Alameda County
- East Palo Alto
- Fremont
- Menlo Park
- Mountain View
- Palo Alto
- Redwood City
- San Jose
- San Mateo County
- Santa Clara County
- Sunnyvale

East Bay

- Alameda
- Alameda County
- Albany
- Berkeley
- Contra Costa County
- Emeryville
- Hayward
- Hercules
- Martinez
- Oakland
- Pinole
- Richmond
- San Leandro

West Bay

- Brisbane
- Burlingame
- Foster City
- Millbrae
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- San Mateo County
- South San Francisco

North Bay

- Belvedere
- Benicia
- Corte Madera
- Larkspur
- Marin County
- Mill Valley
- Napa County
- Novato
- San Rafael
- Sausalito
- Solano County
- Sonoma County
- Tiburon
- Vallejo

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

GOVERNING BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY (AUTHORITY)

Name:		Telephone No:	
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Elective Office:		Term Expires:	
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Please briefly describe your experience with the subject matter of the Authority and why you are interested in serving on the Board.

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Please briefly describe your experience working at the regional level or other related collaborative efforts.

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Return to: Patricia Jones	Address: ABAG, 101 8 th Street, Oakland, CA 94607
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or	Email: Patj@abag.ca.gov
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Due Date: January 2, 2013

Add additional pages as necessary