

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT  
MEETING DATE: April 8, 2015

ITEM 7

SUBJECT: **The San Francisco Estuary Institute: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Headed?** – Update by Warner Chabot, Executive Director of the Institute

DISCUSSION: The San Francisco Estuary Institute is a not-for-profit organization that started out as the Aquatic Habitat Institute in the mid-1980s with the goal to provide sound, objective scientific information about pollutants and their effects on the San Francisco Bay Estuary. As such, it has been the appropriate organization to implement the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay, initiated by the Board in 1993. The Institute, now with a staff of over 50, has seen grown to broadly apply its science-based approach to a vast collection of initiatives and projects in the areas of water quality (which includes providing the science for the Board’s Nutrient Management Strategy), environmental informatics (which includes managing the Board-mandated Eco-Atlas program), and resilient landscapes (which includes providing the historical ecology support for the Baylands Habitat Goals Report). The Institute also administers the Aquatic Science Center, a joint powers authority between the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies and the State Water Board. Both State and Regional Water Board senior management serve on the Institute’s board of directors. More details on the Institute are available at: <http://www2.sfei.org/>

Warner Chabot was appointed the Institute’s Executive Director this past fall and has started applying his extensive environmental planning and policy background to the Institute. He’ll update the Board on the major initiatives the Institute is working on now and where he sees the Institute’s work further expanding in the coming years.

RECOMMENDATION: No action needed – information item.