

ITEM: 10

Estuary Blueprint - the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary – Presentation on the 2022 Estuary Blueprint Update by Caitlin Sweeney, Director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership

DISCUSSION:

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership has updated the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the San Francisco Estuary, now commonly called the Estuary Blueprint. Caitlin Sweeney will provide an overview of the updated Estuary Blueprint.

The Estuary Blueprint is a collaborative, consensus-driven five-year roadmap for protecting and restoring the Estuary's chemical, physical, and biological health. The original CCMP, developed in 1993, was the first plan to recognize that the Bay and the Delta should be managed as one Estuary, and remains the only plan of such scope to date. The Estuary Blueprint takes a systems approach to protecting habitats and living resources, building resiliency, improving water quality and quantity, and championing the Estuary and provides a "next step" for many significant regional planning efforts. The 2022 Estuary Blueprint addresses our most pressing estuarine health issues, embracing and reducing hurdles to innovations in climate resilience planning, and bridging the upper and lower Estuary (the Bay and the Delta) to support key natural processes. Detailed information on the updated Estuary Blueprint is located at www.sfestuary.org/estuary-blueprint/.

Specifically, the 2022 Blueprint will drive regional actions to:

- accelerate wetland restoration, sea level rise adaptation, and other multi-benefit nature-based projects along the shoreline;
- cut through "green tape" and remove hurdles to implementing nature-based solutions;
- elevate the role of frontline and underserved communities and Tribes in planning for and benefiting from a healthy, resilient Estuary;
- decrease carbon emissions and increase carbon sequestration;
- reconnect and restore creeks to provide habitat and reduce flooding;
- increase use of dredged sediment and soils for flood management and restoration; and
- control trash, nutrients, and contaminants of emerging concern.

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is one of 28 National Estuary Programs. It is managed and housed at the Association of Bay Area Governments / Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The Partnership is a collaboration of federal, State, and local agencies and non-profit organizations working to protect and restore water quality and the natural resources of the Estuary.

Assistant Executive Officer, Thomas Mumley, is Chair of the Partnership's Implementation Committee and participated along with Assistant Executive Officer, Lisa Horowitz-McCann on the Blueprint Update Steering Committee and workgroups that developed the Blueprint Actions and Tasks. Division Chefs Xavier Fernandez and Keith Lichten were also workgroup participants, and the Water Board is the lead or a collaborative partner for nearly all the 2022 Estuary Blueprint actions.