



# **SAN FRANCISCO BAY**

## **RESTORATION AUTHORITY**

# The Restoration Authority & Measure AA: A New Chapter in the History of the Bay

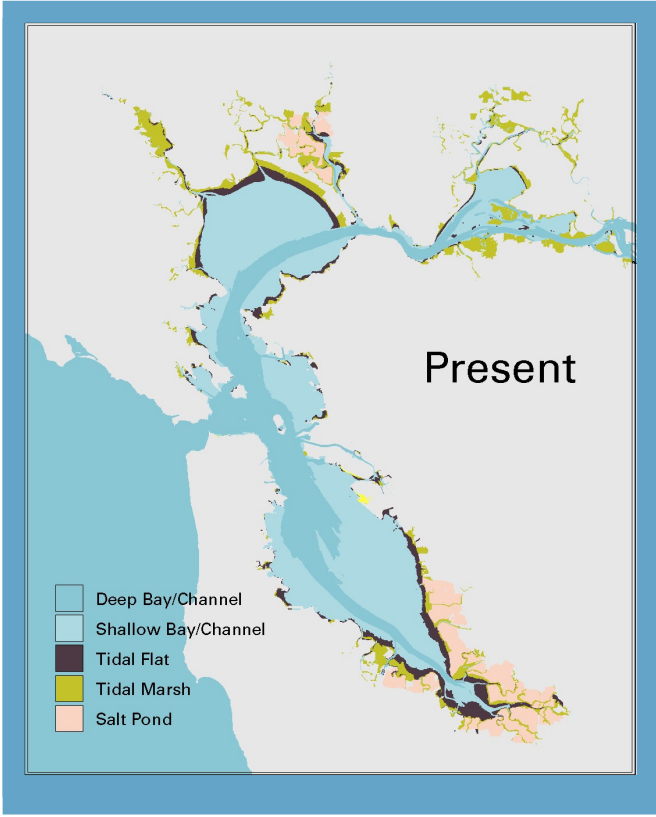
Dave Pine, San Mateo County Supervisor and SFBRA Chair  
May 20, 2021

# Benefits of Bay Restoration

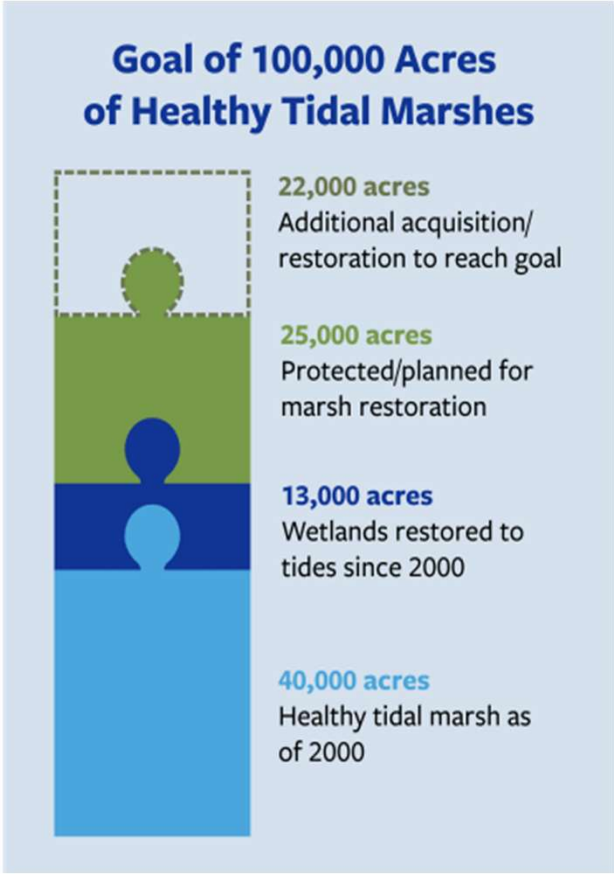
- Provide habitat for fish and wildlife
- Provide natural filters and remove pollution / carbon sequestration
- Open space and recreation opportunities
- Enhance quality of life and economy
- Flood prevention and sea level rise mitigation



# Benefits of Bay Restoration



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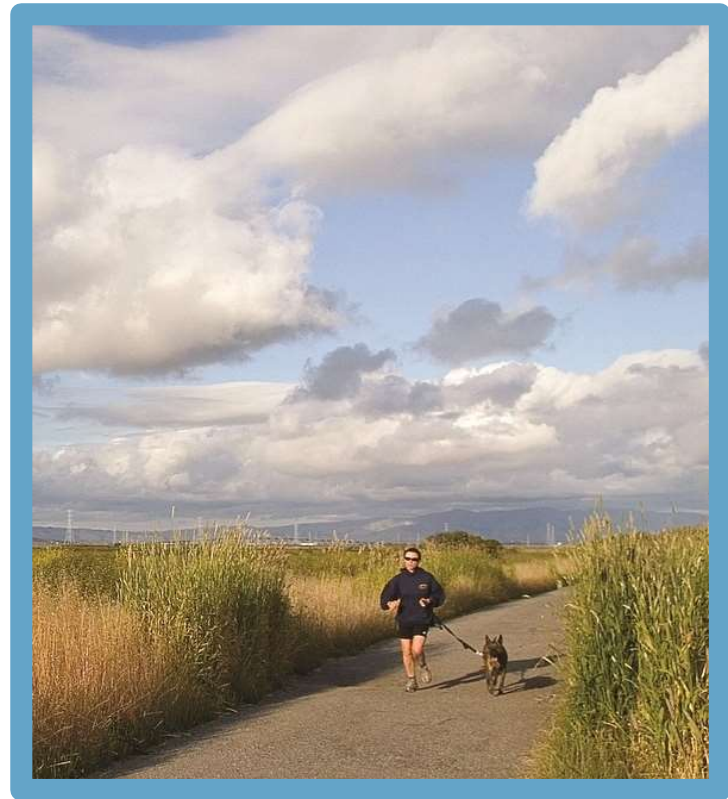


# What is the SF Bay Restoration Authority?

- The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority was created by the legislature in 2008 due to the urgent need to restore the Bay.
- It has a Governing Board made up of seven local elected officials across the region.
- A community-based Advisory Committee helps guide the Authority.
- An Independent Oversight Committee provides an unbiased annual review of the Authority's work.
- Measure AA, which the Authority placed on the ballot in June 2016, generates funds to accomplish its mission.



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# Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Program

- \$12/year parcel tax generates \$500 million over 20 years for restoration around SF Bay.
- Passed with over 70% support in the 9-county Bay Area in June 2016.
- Complete restoration is estimated to cost over \$2 billion. Measure AA funds will leverage state and federal funds.

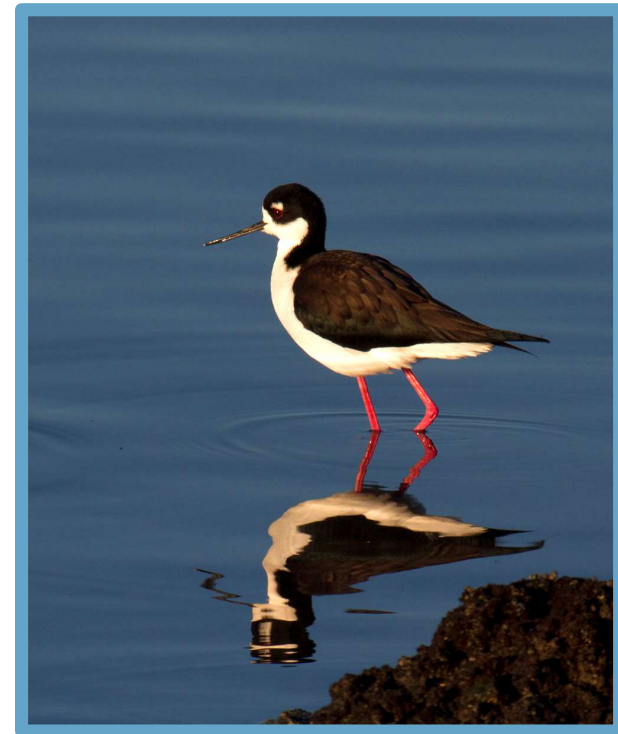


Photo: Rick Lewis



# SF Bay Restoration Authority Act Eligibility

- The Restoration Authority can fund:
- Habitat projects that will restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats along the shoreline.
- Flood management features that are part of a habitat project.
- Public access or recreational amenities that are part of a habitat project.

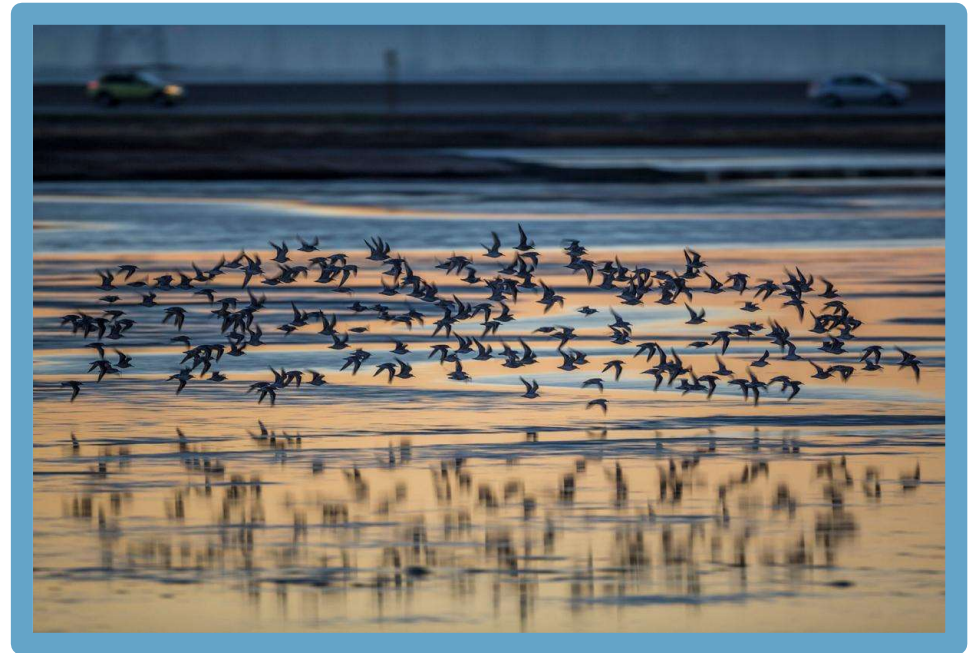


Photo: National Geographic



# Measure AA Eligibility



- Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention
- Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat
- Integrated Flood Protection
- Shoreline Public Access



# Where is “along the Shoreline”?

- **Subtidal Habitats.** Area lying below mean low tide, within a reasonable distance of the shoreline.
- **Baylands.** Areas that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides, including those areas that would be covered by the tides in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures
- **Creeks/Rivers:** Portion of creeks or rivers located below the head of tide.
- **Transitions Zones.** Uplands adjacent to potential or actual tidal wetlands that can provide transitional habitat and/or marsh migration space, as well as areas that are needed to enhance the project’s resilience to projected sea level rise.





# Geographic Distribution of Funds

Region	Counties	Percentage
North Bay	Sonoma, Marin, Napa & Solano	9%
East Bay	Contra Costa & Alameda	18%
West Bay	San Francisco & San Mateo	11%
South Bay	Santa Clara	12%
Baywide	All 9 Counties	50%



# Measure AA Goals

- Restore 15,000 acres of wetlands and tidal marsh (32%)
- Maintain and enhance over 1,500 acres of managed ponds, seasonal wetlands and sandy beach habitat (60%)
- Restore 150 acres of eelgrass habitat and 500 acres of shellfish habitat (0%)
- Construct 20 miles of levees (36%)
- Construct 25 miles of the Bay Trail (13%)
- Construct at least 15 trails, staging areas or public access facilities (33%)



# Projects Funded to Date

- 23 Projects Funded to Date
- Projects in Each Region
  - North: 9
  - East: 8
  - West: 2
  - South: 2
  - All Regions: 2
- Total amount authorized to date: \$106M



# Examples of Projects the Authority Has Funded

- South Bay Shoreline Project
- 900 Innes Remediation Project
- Encinal Dunes Restoration Project
- Long Beach Restoration Design Project
- Invasive Spartina Removal Project





# Permitting Restoration Projects in the Bay

- Frequently time consuming, costly, and complex, which impacts project schedules and budgets.
- Sea level rise creates need to restore tidal wetlands at an accelerated pace and scale.



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# Creating the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

- Purpose is "to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and associated flood management and public access infrastructure.."



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# Funding the BRRIT - \$1.25 million/year



# How the BRRIT Operates

- Dedicated regulatory and resource agency staff
- Pre-application meetings with project sponsors
- Coordinated questions and comments from all the agencies on project design and suggestions for permitting pathways
- Site visits as a team
- Meet together regularly
- Performance measures





# Qualifying for BRRIT Review

- SFBRA staff asks for project submissions approximately two times per year.
- Projects must qualify for funding under the SFBRA's definition of multi-benefit wetland restoration projects
- A project does not have to be receiving SFBRA funding.



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# Policy and Management Team

- Review permitting issues raised by the BRRIT that require policy shifts or upper management involvement
- Identify and resolve long-standing “sand in the gears” policy issues faced by multi-benefit wetland restoration projects
  - Type conversion
  - Public access
  - Endangered species



# Equity and Environmental Justice

- The SFBRA is committed to equity, environmental justice and community engagement.
- Identified gaps in the Measure AA grant program related to serving economically disadvantaged communities
- Community-based organizations in economically disadvantaged communities are eligible to apply for Community Grants:
  - Maximum amount of \$100,000
  - Grant applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis







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**Thank you!**

[www.sfbayrestore.org](http://www.sfbayrestore.org)