



# Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team

Working with the BRRIT

# 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.



Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

# Creating the BRRIT

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





2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

# Funding the BRRIT ~ \$1.2m/year



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY**  
RESTORATION AUTHORITY



# Meet the BRRIT

- **Tami Schane**  
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- **Frances Malamud-Roam**  
**Dina Bowlin**  
US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Anniken Lydon**  
BCDC
- **Valary Bloom**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Agnes Farres**  
Water Board
- **Alison Weber-Stover**  
NOAA Fisheries
- **Jen Siu**  
Environmental Protection Agency



Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

# What has the BRRIT done so far?

- BRRIT has 18 priority projects, has permitted 4 projects, is close to permitting 1 other project, and has 10 projects in the active pre-application consultation phase.
  - Projects that were already at a permitting phase in 2019 did not have benefit of pre-application discussions with the BRRIT and had permitting challenges.
  - Permitting challenges to date have provided for learning lessons that will benefit future projects.
- Tools and guidance developed by BRRIT available on the website. [sfbayrestore.org/san-francisco-bay-restoration-regulatory-integration-team-brrit](https://sfbayrestore.org/san-francisco-bay-restoration-regulatory-integration-team-brrit)
  - USFWS has a new Consultation Package Builder - "Build a biological assessment" at [ecos.fws.gov/ipac](https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac)
  - BRRIT has a site available to upload documents associated with permit applications.



Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

# What We've Learned So Far

- BRRIT encountered challenges to rapidly permitting a complex project without the benefit of a pre-application phase. Moving forward, the BRRIT expects to be most useful when it can engage with applicants during the pre-application phase.
- Recognition of ongoing challenges for the restoration community. BRRIT is open to receiving feedback from applicants after pre-application meetings
- BRRIT members now provide a unified, coordinated comment letter to project applicants after the pre-application meetings.





# The Policy & Management Committee (PMC)

- Developed the Permit and Policy Improvement List - issues identified as limiting the flexibility of design and/or permitting of multi-benefit restoration projects - and are working to resolve the identified issues.
- Review substantive issues raised by the BRRIT or others in project specific cases and propose resolutions at a management or policy level where appropriate.
- Manage the financial agreements needed to support BRRIT staff.



# How to get on the BRRIT Project List?

- Sign up for the SFBRA email list! SFBRA staff asks for project submissions approximately two times per year via email.
- Projects must **qualify** for funding under the SFBRA's definition of multi-benefit wetland restoration projects and their associated flood management and public access infrastructure features.
- A project does not have to be receiving SFBRA funding.
- Projects need to be in EcoAtlas or added to EcoAtlas.
- SFBRA staff determines Measure AA eligibility and adds projects to the BRRIT's list.



# What You Can Expect from BRRIT

- Pre-application meetings with the BRRIT team.
- Coordinated questions and comments in writing from all the agencies on your project design and suggestions for permitting pathways.
- Feedback while your project is in the planning and design phase.
- Site visits as a team (impacted by Covid).
- Prioritized, coordinated review of your permit applications.
- BRRIT may elevate issues to the PMC as needed.



# What BRRIT Expects from You

- Engagement in the pre-application process.
- Sufficient information describing the current conceptual approach to your project.
- As much detail on the project as possible in writing as the project develops.
- Identification of how agency feedback was incorporated or explanations if it wasn't.
- Complete applications, all required attachments, and permit fees.
- A mutual understanding that permits will be issued in a timely manner if adequate time has been invested in the pre-application phase resolving issues that the agencies have identified.



# We Want Your Feedback!

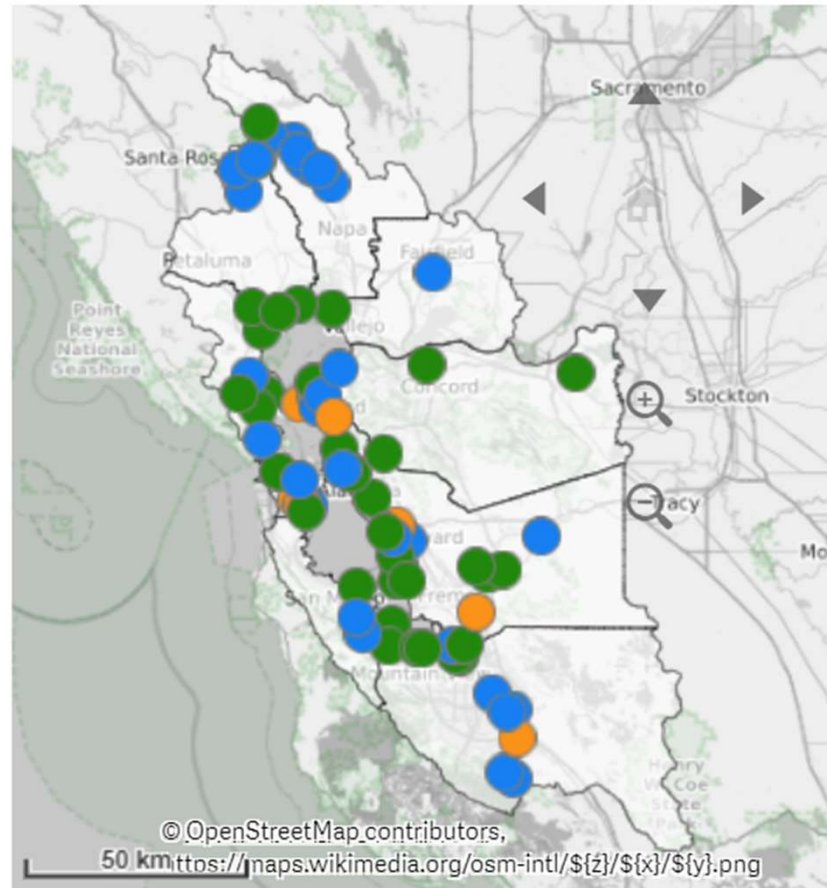
- The BRRIT is always looking to improve and we want your feedback and suggestions.
- [BRRIT@sfbayrestore.org](mailto:BRRIT@sfbayrestore.org)



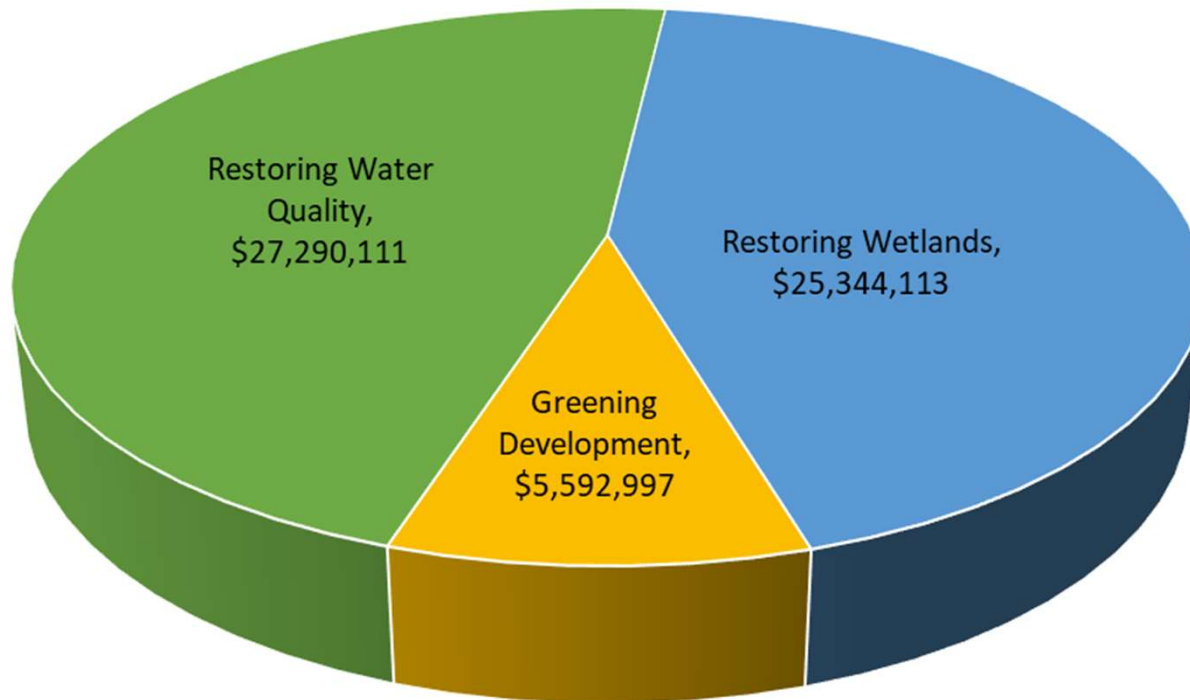
Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

# Geographic Focus

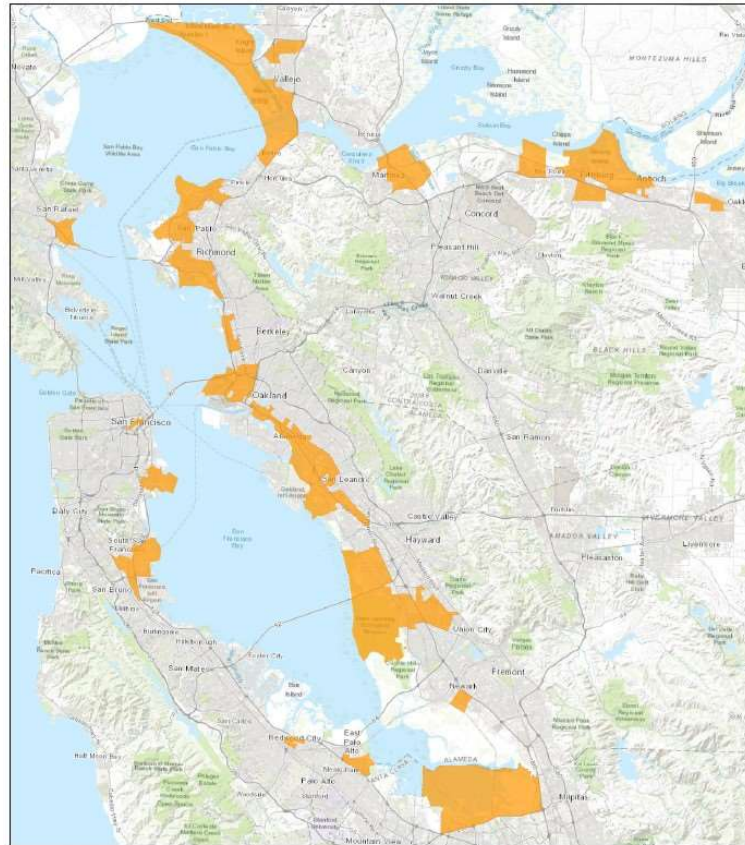
<https://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/san-francisco-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund>



**Distribution of Funding by Project Type  
SFBWQIF 2008-2019**



# Disadvantaged Communities Criterion



**Disadvantaged Communities Identification Map**  
for the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund.

The map's highlighted areas have been derived from a combination of census tract areas identified by EUSCREEN and indicators for pollution burden and population characteristics identified by CalEnviroScreen v3.0.



WTR-17-02862-2 Created On: 2/1/2017





## **SFBWQIF**

**Contact: Luisa Valiela  
Valiela.Luisa@epa.gov**

**<http://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/sf-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund>**