



INFORMATION ITEM

2022-2026 Estuary Blueprint

Summary: Caitlin Sweeney, executive director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), will provide the Council with details regarding the 2022-2026 Estuary Blueprint, a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the San Francisco Estuary. As part of furthering the coequal goals for the Delta, the Council provides input regarding the compatibility of the Estuary Blueprint with the Delta Plan, Delta Science Plan, and the Science Action Agenda.

BACKGROUND

SFEP was established in 1988 by the State of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act's National Estuary Program when the San Francisco Estuary was designated as an *estuary of national significance*. SFEP is a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies, NGOs, academia, and business leaders working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. SFEP's work is guided by the development and implementation of the Estuary Blueprint, a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future. The Estuary Blueprint maps out the regional actions needed for a healthy, resilient San Francisco Estuary. The Estuary Blueprint seeks to: 1) sustain and improve habitats and living resources; 2) improve water quality and increase water quantity; 3) increase resiliency to climate change; and 4) champion the Estuary.

Created in 1993 under the title "Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan" (CCMP), the document has undergone several updates. The most recent update was completed in 2022 for 2022-2026 priority actions.

The 2022 update was conducted with five guiding principles in mind: 1) remain aspirational yet feasible; 2) expand and deepen multi-sectoral engagement; 3) integrate further along geographies and plans; 4) focus on equity; and 5) include clarity and responsibility.

The Estuary Blueprint provides a comprehensive and collaboratively-developed roadmap for furthering the regional goals of the myriad community-based, local, State, and federal organizations and agencies working in the region. The Estuary Blueprint is not regulatory and does not require the filing of a certification of consistency with the Council. As part of furthering the coequal goals for the Delta, however, the Council provides input regarding the compatibility of SFEP and Estuary Blueprint efforts with the Delta Plan, Delta Science Plan, and the Science Action Agenda and supports and partners with SFEP (see Fiscal Information, below).

The Council also has a seat on the SFEP Implementation Committee; Special Assistant for Planning and Science Amanda Bohl is the current vice-chair of the Implementation Committee.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOPIC

The 2022 Estuary Blueprint update was conducted through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process. Council staff has been actively engaged in updating actions relevant to the Delta, including minimizing the impact of invasive species, increasing carbon sequestration, improving riparian and in-stream habitats, and providing input on compatibility with the Delta Plan. With the completion of the update, Council staff is now coordinating with SFEP staff to implement science actions relevant to both SFEP and the Council, building resilience to climate change, improving water quality, and pursuing equity in our work.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The Council's current contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments (\$946,246.40) supports SFEP's work to plan and track estuary status and trends (including updating the Estuary Blueprint), communicate science, plan the bi-annual State of the Estuary Conference, and enhance coordination across the estuary.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Estuary Blueprint Update - <https://www.sfestuary.org/estuary-blueprint-update/>

CONTACT

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