



A local collaboration program of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)



About SF Estuary Partnership (SFEP)

SFEP was established in 1988 as part of the National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance. SFEP is a collaboration of federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, citizens, and scientists working to protect, restore, and sustain the San Francisco Estuary.

What Does SFEP Do?

SFEP directly manages dozens of important projects to improve the health of the Estuary, facilitates partnerships, and manages millions of dollars in grant funds for local and regional restoration, water quality and resiliency projects.

SFEP >><< ABAG

In addition to providing SFEP's fiscal and administrative home, ABAG's support means SFEP is connected to potential partners in the Bay Area's 101 cities and counties, local planning departments, and local agencies. SFEP also collaborates with ABAG's Planning Department in developing comprehensive strategies that connect the health of the Estuary to land use, resilience, and other regional planning efforts.

A Bright Future

With the support of ABAG, SFEP can continue to expand its programs, funding and reach. With the recent passage of Measure AA, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority will now allocate approximately \$23 million a year from a parcel tax to projects that restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands and natural habitats on the Bay Area's shoreline.

SFEP Delivers Success

- Released the most comprehensive report ever completed on the health of the Estuary (2015 State of the Estuary Report)
- Facilitated regional agreement among partners on priority actions to increase the health of the Estuary (2016 Estuary Blueprint).

SFEP By The Numbers

- **90** current projects (80 local on-the-ground and 10 regional)
- **13** staff positions, all fully grant-funded
- **32-member** Implementation Committee guides SFEP, composed of representatives from local, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the business community
- **\$24.5 million** current annual budget
- **\$100 million** in funding for projects and programs.

“THE ESTUARY BLUEPRINT CATALYZES THE WORK OF OTHERS—SETTING GOALS, DEFINING ACTIONS, AND AIDING IN EFFORTS TO COLLABORATE AMONG MULTIPLE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.”

--Amy Hutzel, CA Coastal Conservancy

THE ESTUARY BLUEPRINT

More than 100 scientists, regulators, businesses, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and citizens have collaborated with SFEP to develop four long-term goals and 32 actions to be taken over the next five years to protect, restore, and sustain the San Francisco Estuary. The 2016 Estuary Blueprint offers a forward-looking comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary.

The four goals of the Estuary Blueprint drive SFEP's collaborative projects:

Sustain and improve the Estuary's habitats and living resources

The Estuary provides habitat for hundreds of species of fish and wildlife. Tidal marshes along the shoreline filter pollutants, protect communities from floods, and provide residents with areas to hike, bird watch, bike, kayak, and enjoy. SFEP partners with numerous agencies and organizations to protect, restore and enhance a healthy mosaic of different habitats.

Bolster the resilience of Estuary ecosystems, shorelines, and communities to climate change

Resilience to climate change means cultivating the ability of cities, natural systems, and species to sustain themselves in the face of increased stressors such as extreme weather and rising sea levels. SFEP works to increase resilience through its projects. This includes efforts to advance natural and nature-based infrastructure to provide multiple benefits including greater flood protection and improved habitat. SFEP collaborates with partners to support research on important issues such as carbon sequestration and ocean acidification, and helps local communities assess their vulnerabilities and develop adaptation strategies.

Improve water quality and increase the quantity of fresh water available to the Estuary

SFEP and its numerous partners work cooperatively to prevent and reduce pollution of our waters. Stormwater and urban runoff pollution remain a threat to the

health of local waterways and the Estuary. SFEP works with cities across the Bay Area to develop green infrastructure approaches that incorporate natural functions into engineered stormwater systems to protect water resources while enhancing the urban form and quality of life. In addition, SFEP collaborates with partners to plan for long term droughts, and enable more water conservation and recycling.

Champion the Estuary

SFEP builds partnerships across the region that highlight our joint responsibility to protect the Estuary and acknowledge the connection between Estuary health and the vitality of its surrounding communities. SFEP's educational efforts include its Clean Boating Program and support of the Bay Area Watershed Network, the acclaimed Estuary News magazine, and the biannual State of the Estuary Conference.

More information about the San Francisco Estuary Partnership is available at www.sfestuary.org.