
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 12, 2019

Cindy Chavez, Chair
Bay Area Regional Collaborative
Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) Request to Join the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC)

Dear Chair Chavez:

I respectfully request consideration of the addition of the Water Board as a non-voting member of BARC. I appreciate that BARC's Governing Board is made up of voting board members from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Association of Bay Area Governments, and non-voting staff delegates from the California Department of Transportation and State Coastal Conservancy. These members work collaboratively to address cross-cutting issues of regional concern, such as climate change and sea level rise, and they all have an affinity with the Water Board's mission.

The Water Board is a state agency whose mandate is to protect water quality in the San Francisco Bay Region. To accomplish this, we regulate discharges of dredge and fill materials, wastewater, and stormwaters under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and Federal Clean Water Act. Our regulation of dredge and fill discharges includes regional significant flood protection projects, such as the South Bay Shoreline Project, and restoration projects, such as the Sonoma Baylands and Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project, that incorporate innovative designs to build climate change resiliency. In addition, we collaborate with the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the regulated discharger community to implement a regional monitoring program to provide the information needed to manage the health of the San Francisco Bay.

Recently, we have embarked on a project to update our policies to facilitate permitting of multi-purpose projects to adapt to climate change. We also are collaborating with the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, a joint powers authority consisting of wastewater treatment agencies, on using horizontal levees to remove nutrients in treated wastewater and provide flood protection from rising sea-levels using a nature-based approach. Our collaborative efforts to build shoreline resiliency through nature-based solutions also includes funding the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas and participating in the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT). The Adaptation Atlas proposes a new science-based planning framework to facilitate collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries and identify climate adaptation strategies based on natural processes, such as tides, waves, and sediment movement. The BRRIT is team of dedicated, funded staff from the six state and federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over

MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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wetlands restoration projects. The purpose of the BRRIT is to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit wetland restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay by dedicating agency representatives to efficiently review project information and prepare permits.

Given the regional nature of the Water Board's Work, the overlapping areas of interest with BARC's member agencies, and the need for all regional agencies to work together to address the threats of climate change in the Bay Area, I believe it makes sense for the Water Board to support the work of BARC as a non-voting member. As Executive Officer, I would be committed to regular participation in BARC board meetings, as well as providing support from Water Board staff for BARC initiatives. I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to collaborating with BARC, regardless of the decision. You can contact me at michael.montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov or 510-622-2314 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Montgomery', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Montgomery
Executive Officer