



**DATE:** September 20, 2019

**TO:** BARC Governing Board

**FROM:** Allison Brooks, BARC Executive Director

**RE:** *Recommendation for San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to join BARC as non-voting member*

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Over the past seven years, the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) has worked to address cross-cutting issues of regional concern, with climate change and the associated rise in sea levels as a major area of focus. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), as the agency tasked with protecting water quality in the Bay Area through the regulation of discharges and dredge and fill activities, plays a key role in facilitating the sea level rise adaptation projects that BARC and its member agencies undertake.

The Water Board's regulation of dredge and fill discharges includes the permitting of innovative and regionally significant flood protection and restoration projects that are aligned with the measures that BARC, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) are actively facilitating through regional planning and investment. Currently, the Water Board is updating its policies to better facilitate these multi-purpose adaptation projects.

Furthermore, the Water Board is already involved in collaborative shoreline resiliency efforts with agency staff, regulatory bodies, and regional stakeholders that work closely with BARC and its member agencies. These efforts include participation in the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), a regulatory body created in 2019 to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit wetland restoration projects through inter-agency collaboration. The BRRIT, which is partially funded by the Bay Area Toll Authority (MTC/BATA), embodies the mission of BARC through its collaborative, inter-agency approach. The multi-benefit wetland restoration projects that it will finance are of critical relevance to the goals of BARC and its member agencies.

Given the critical role that the Water Board plays as both a regulatory body and as a key player in regional efforts to accelerate the pace of regional restoration and flood protection projects, BARC staff recommend that the BARC Governing Board approve the request of Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer of the Water Board, to allow the Water Board to serve as a non-voting member of the BARC Governing Board. The Water Board is committed to collaboration with BARC to help achieve kindred regional goals, and its involvement will enhance the work of BARC and its member agencies to improve resiliency to climate change and sea level rise in the Bay Area. The timing of this formalized collaboration works very well as BARC enters into our new 2020-2022 work plan.

**Recommended action:** Approval of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board as a non-voting member of BARC.