

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

January 16, 2025

Agenda Item 6.c.

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Subject:

Authorization to accept up to \$8,346,022 and enter into a funding agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program

Background:

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) is one of 28 programs mandated under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act, the National Estuary Program (NEP). SFEP applied for and was awarded up to \$8,346,022 in funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco Bay Program Office. The funding will build on current Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) work to plan a robust regional monitoring program for tidal wetlands in the San Francisco Estuary.

The funding will facilitate effective WRMP governance and administration and strengthen partnerships and communications with wetland decision-makers to translate monitoring results into better decision for adaptive management. The funding will also allow for integration of equitable community engagement into the program through collaboration with community groups and Tribes to co-develop programming related to wetland workforce development and community-engaged monitoring. Finally, SFEP staff will also develop metrics and collect critical data about the human dimensions of wetlands, and support cost-effective monitoring throughout the WRMP Monitoring Network.

Issues:

None

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Recommended Action:

The Executive Board is requested to authorize the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or his designee, to accept an award from and enter into a funding agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Association of Bay Area Governments and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership in an amount of up to \$8,346,022 to advance development of the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program.

Attachments:

- A. Summary Approval

Reviewed:



for

Andrew Fremier