

## PROGRESS REPORT 5

August 7, 2024

Welcome to the fifth progress report of the 2022 Estuary Blueprint.

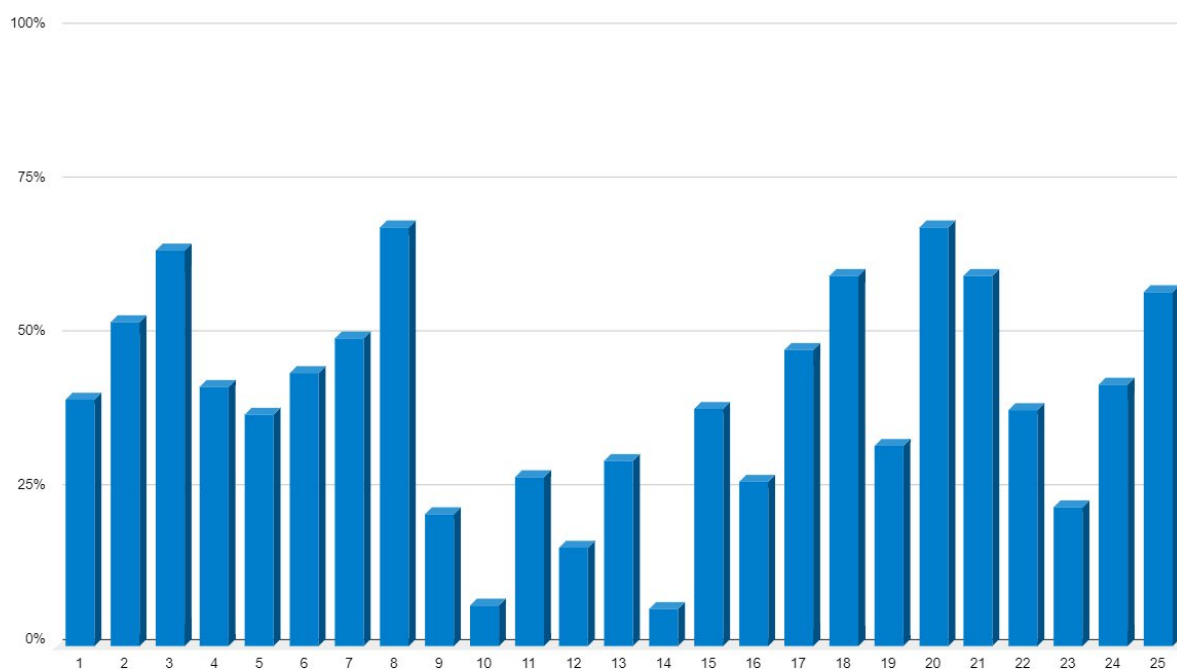
This report shares progress toward completion of the 25 Blueprint actions including current status of the 126 Blueprint tasks, and highlights successes and significant progress made in implementing the Blueprint, including the completion of two tasks.

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## ACTION PROGRESS

Percent Complete by Action



With this progress report, two years from the release of the Blueprint, all Actions are showing some progress. As of this month, 49 of the 25 Actions tasks are hitting or exceeding 50% completion including 16 completed tasks.

As a reminder, this graph is most useful for showing which Actions are making strong progress, since the Actions do not have a uniform number of Tasks.

For example, Action 17 (Adaptation Implementation) has five Tasks and completed two, with varying levels of progress made on the other three. Action 6 (Sediment), in comparison, has seven Tasks, five of which show substantial progress, but overall equates to a lower percent completed.

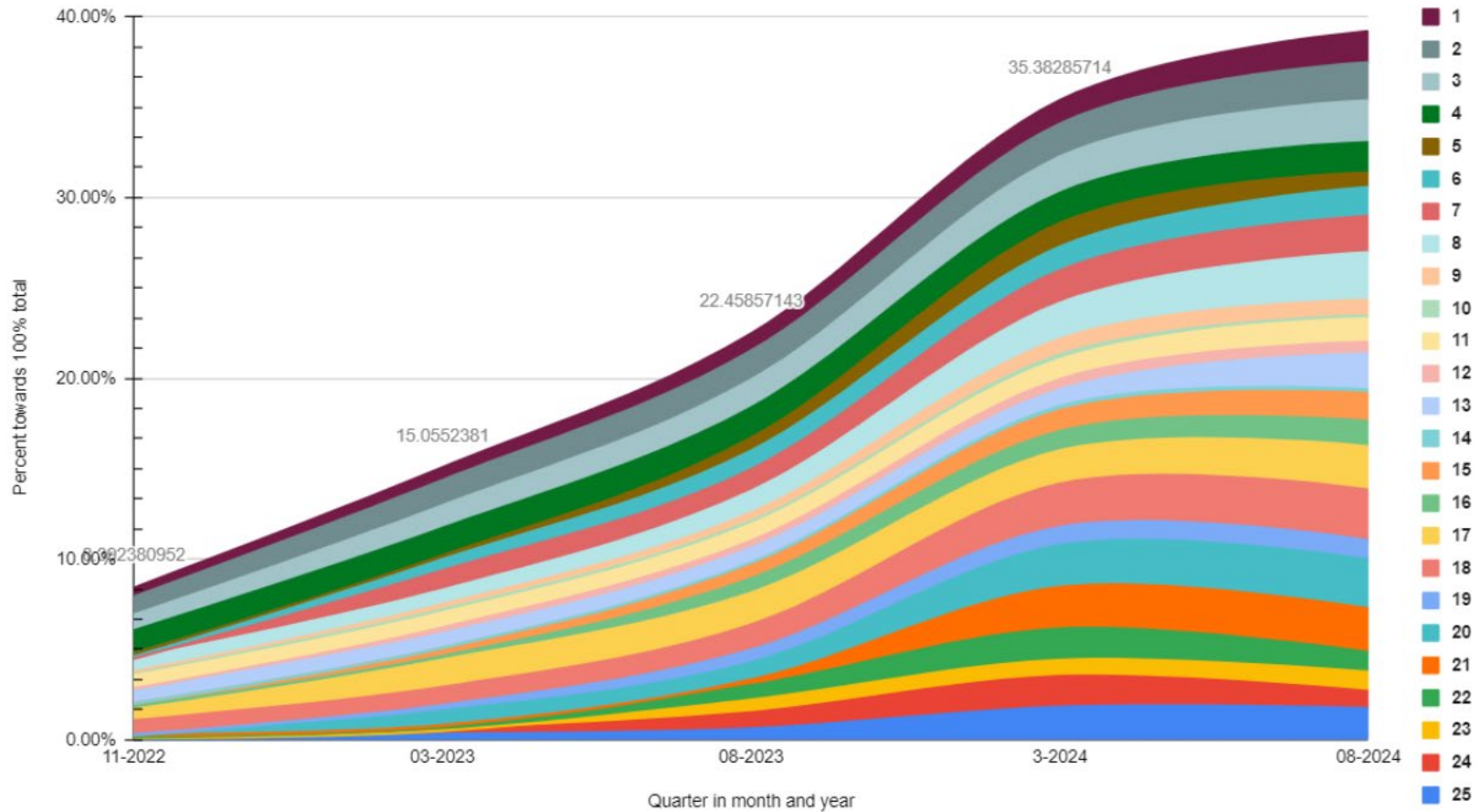
A supplemental graph below shows the relative progress of each Action as well as progress toward the overall goal of 100% completion of all Tasks. The graph provides a snapshot of the variation among the Actions, as well as the cumulative progress of all Actions toward a 100% implemented Blueprint.

Currently, the cumulative progress is approaching 40% completion.

# PROGRESS TOWARD 100% COMPLETION OF ALL TASKS

## Progress Towards Goals

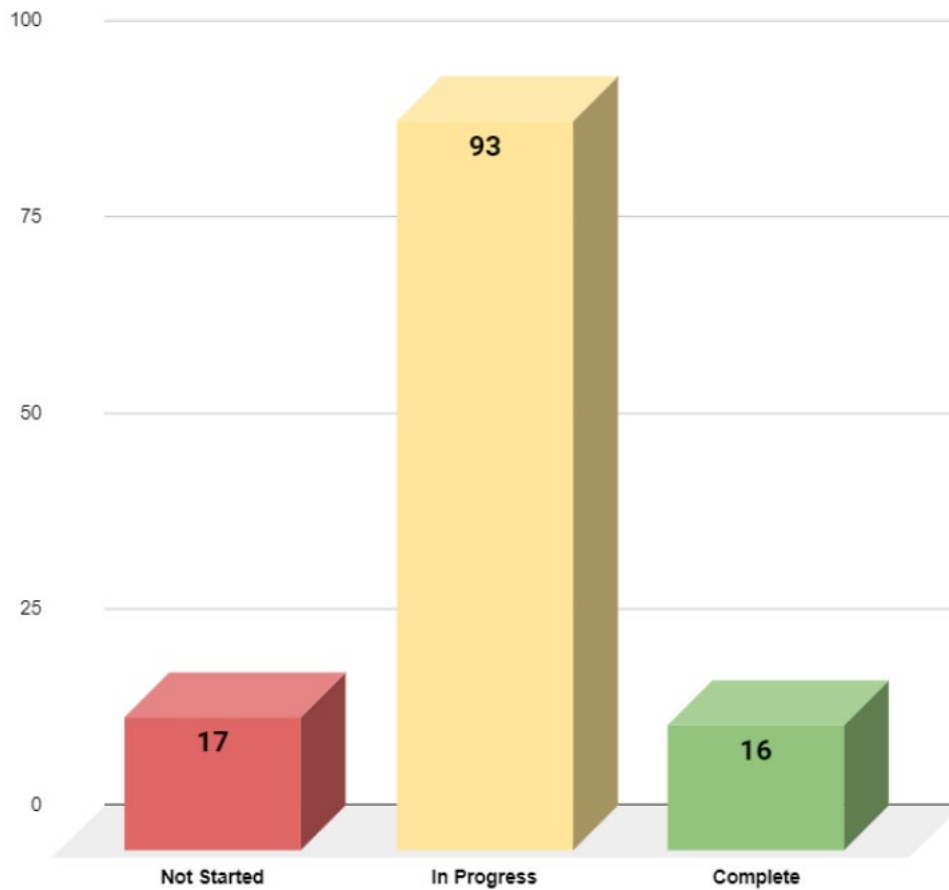
Shows the progress towards 100% achievement for past quarters



## TASK PROGRESS

### Tasks by Status

Indicates task status across all actions



Since the last report, two additional tasks have been initiated and two more tasks have been completed, bringing the percentage of tasks underway to 87%.

The completed tasks are highlighted in this progress report and will be highlighted in the upcoming edition of the Estuary Blueprint e-newsletter.

## PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS: COMPLETED TASKS

This tracking cycle celebrates the completion of two tasks and significant progress of 16 tasks.

### Action 2: Equity

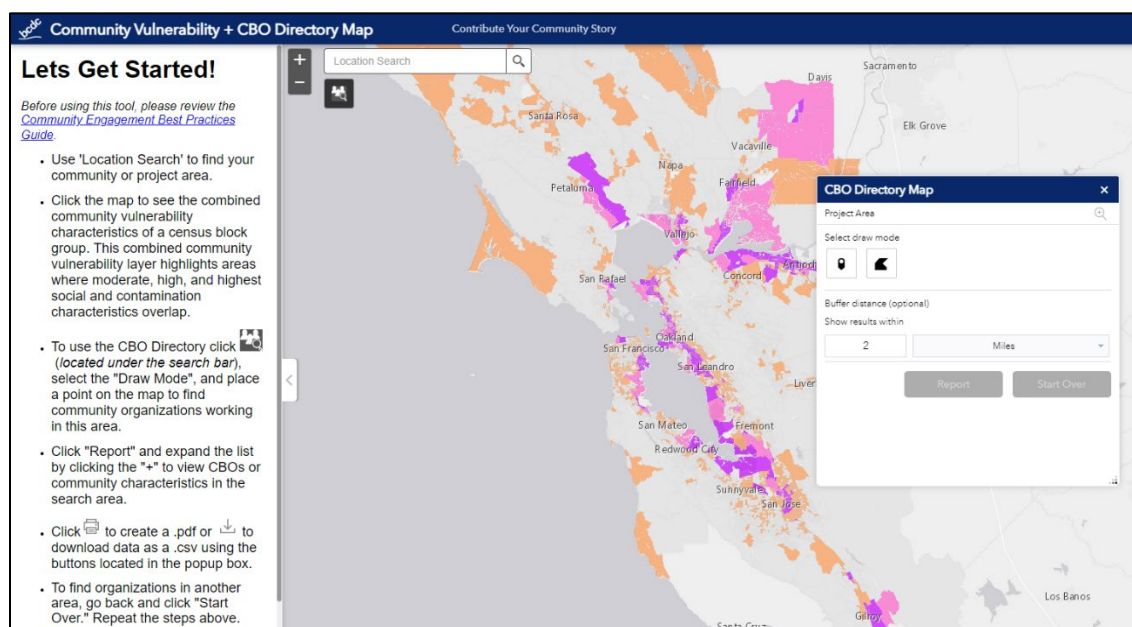
Support the role that Indigenous and frontline communities play in promoting Estuary health and resilience by advancing equity through regional strategies, including growing capacity for government agencies and for organizations with deep roots in frontline and underserved communities.

#### TASK 2-1

Develop a living network of Bay Area community-based organizations to foster collaboration and increase equity in planning and permitting decisions.

#### MILESTONE

A pilot Community-Based Organization Directory Map launched with a requisite training module.



#### UPDATE

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission released the Community Vulnerability + CBO Directory Map. The tool includes a dataset on community vulnerability which categorizes social and contamination vulnerability by census block groups, and a Community Based Organization Directory which allows users to discover CBOs working in proximity to shoreline planning, development, or adaptation area of interest to facilitate partnership and engagement. The Map also includes a link to a “Farther Together”, a guide developed by the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) for engaging communities.

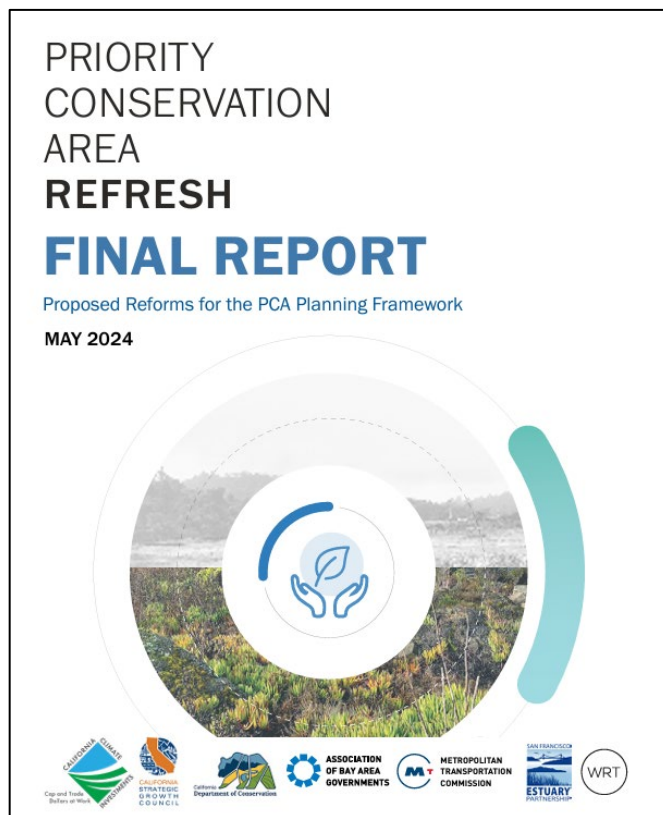
**PERCENT COMPLETED – 100%**

## Action 3: Adaption Planning

Overcome challenges to accelerate implementation of climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies.

### TASK 3-5

Further integrate resilience and natural resource protection into Plan Bay Area by restructuring Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments' Priority Conservation Area Program to advance natural and nature-based strategies for climate resilience.



#### MILESTONE

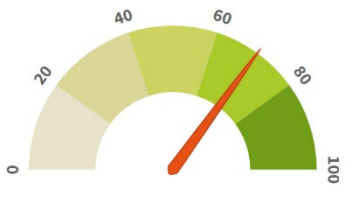


Restructured Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments' Priority Conservation Area Program.

#### UPDATE

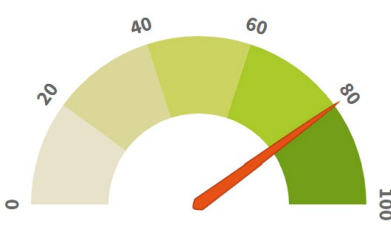

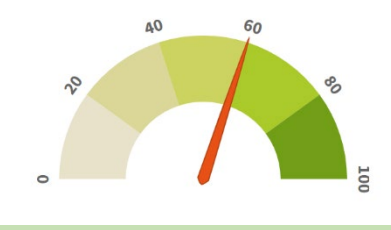
MTC/ABAG completed the "PCA Refresh" effort which sought to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current PCA Framework; articulate a vision, goals, and objectives for PCAs 2.0; incorporate a wider range of policy concerns into the planning framework; and develop data and mapping tools available to program partners.

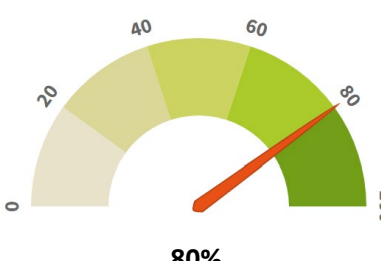
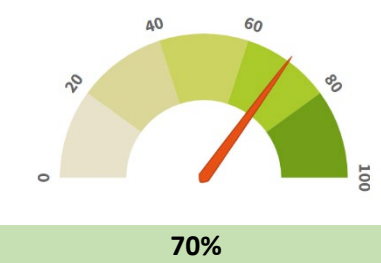

**PERCENT COMPLETED - 100%**

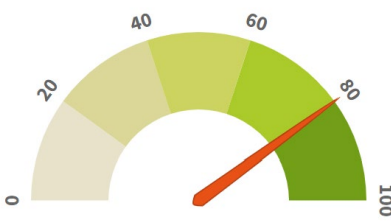

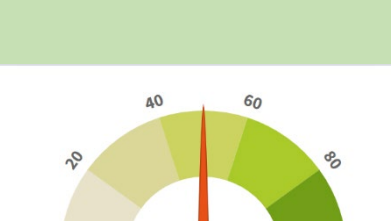
## PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS: SIGNIFICANT UPDATES



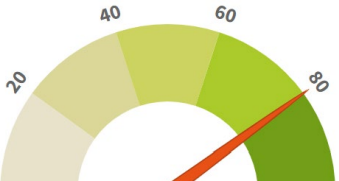
Task Number	Task Description	Milestone	Update	Percent Complete
Task 1-2	Complete and implement Delta Adapts to advance climate adaptation in the upper Estuary that supports protection of the Estuary's resources and its communities.	Delta Adapts Adaptation Strategy.	Draft Adaptation Strategies were presented to the Delta Stewardship Council in March 2024. The draft Plan will be released for public comment this summer.	 <p>70%</p>
Task 1-5	Establish an independent Climate Science Consortium that supports needed science and provides high-quality science translation to advance adaptation and resource protection.	Climate Science Consortium.	The Regional Climate Science Consortium kicked off in July with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy. The Consortium is housed at SF State's Estuary and Ocean Science Center and the two-year pilot will focus on the science of two approaches for innovative nature-based shoreline adaptation solutions.	 <p>50%</p>
Task 2-2	Grow the capacity of community members and community-based organizations to be active leaders in improving the health of the Estuary, including funding, grant-making, and grant-writing assistance to result in restoration project planning, design, and implementation.	20 projects that grow the capacity of frontline and underserved communities to plan and implement projects.	There are currently 16 in progress or completed projects around the Estuary supporting Community Based Organization partners and funded from a variety of sources including the SF Bay Restoration Authority, Coastal Quest, SF Estuary Partnership, SF Estuary Institute, and Audubon.	 <p>80%</p>




<p>Task 3-3</p>	<p>Revise or create regulatory policies, guidelines, or regulations to accelerate natural and nature-based adaptation projects consistent with the overall protection of the health of the Estuary.</p>	<p>Three new or revised policies, guidelines, or regulations to facilitate natural or nature-based adaptation projects.</p>	<p>The SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board unanimously adopted a Basin Plan Amendment on climate change and shoreline adaptation on June 12, 2024. In addition, BCDC has been working with the dredging, flood protection, construction, and restoration communities to develop the Beneficial Reuse of Sediment and Soils Action Plan that will inform its proposed 2025 Bay Plan Amendment on Sediment Management.</p>	 <p>80%</p>
<p>Task 3-4</p>	<p>Strengthen and improve the ability of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) to accelerate projects and incentivize nature-based approaches.</p>	<p>Solutions for one to three high priority issues identified by the BRRIT’s Policy Management Committee.</p>	<p>The PMC Permit and Policy Improvement List was updated August 2023. In addition, the Regulatory Pathways for Nature-based Solutions was completed. The effort released its Call to Action Memo, an updated White Paper and a series of case studies. The project is also completing a conceptual workplan to coordinate and fund future phases of work.</p>	 <p>60%</p>
<p>Task 3-7</p>	<p>Align Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard planning with climate adaptation planning to secure funding for protection of habitats and use of natural and nature-based strategies.</p>	<p>15 grant applications submitted to FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and/or other Federal Emergency Management Agency grant programs for nature-based adaptation projects.</p>	<p>The Bay Area was awarded only one BRIC grant in 2023. The City of Alameda won \$50m for work on Bay Farm Island. Even with just one award, the Bay Area continues to perform well nationally, continuing to pull in 2-3x it’s share (by population). Including the last update, since 2022 there have been 5 successful Bay Area awards and 3 known unsuccessful awards (8 total applications).</p>	 <p>60%</p>

<p>Task 6-3</p>	<p>Update contaminant screening criteria and risk assessment methodology for dredged sediment and upland soils.</p>	<p>Revised Beneficial reuse of Dredged Materials: Sediment Screening and Testing Guidelines and Master Quality Assurance Project Plan for upland material reuse at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.</p>	<p>South Bay Salt Ponds submitted a revised QAPP to the Water Board and BCDC based on the conceptual model prepared and approved earlier. The revised master QAPP includes a mean hazard quotient and weighted average risk assessment approaches to facilitate additional beneficial reuse of upland soil materials. It also proposes some additional studies to collect data that will be used to further refine the master QAPP.</p>	 <p>80%</p>
<p>Task 6-6</p>	<p>Obtain funding for research efforts to address the 16 critical knowledge gaps identified in the 2021 Sediment for Survival Report.</p>	<p>Technical reports addressing sediment demand for vertical accretion, lateral movement of sediment, sediment supply, and organic matter accumulation.</p>	<p>SFEI completed the Regional Analysis of Potential Beneficial Use Locations with funding from USACE to support the development of the RDMMP. SFEI calculated vertical accretion rates and sediment volumes for diked baylands/marshes, reaching two of the technical reports mentioned in the milestone.</p>	 <p>70%</p>
<p>Task 8-1</p>	<p>Develop the WRMP Monitoring Network through the establishment of benchmark, reference, and restoration project sites.</p>	<p>Five monitoring sites with biogeographic representation within San Francisco Bay.</p>	<p>The Monitoring Implementation plan is complete.</p>	 <p>50%</p>

<p>Task 8-3</p>	<p>Identify sustainable funding for the WRMP to support science, data management, and administration, and develop a strategy that is tied to the sources of funding.</p>	<p>New funding sources secured for the WRMP.</p>	<p>Significant funding is being allocated to the WRMP from EPA SF Bay Program Office, and a new EPA Wetland Program Development Grant was awarded.</p>	 <p>80%</p>
<p>Task 8-4</p>	<p>Ensure that WRMP outreach and engagement includes diverse audiences. Increase engagement with community representatives, social science and community-based science, and TEK on the Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and in development of indicators to monitor connections between people and wetlands.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures to monitor connections between people and wetlands.</p>	<p>The People &amp; Wetlands representation survey is in development, the Equity &amp; Engagement strategy is nearly complete, the community-engaged monitoring review is complete, a People &amp; Wetlands StoryMap about wetland wave attenuation is drafted, and a wetland restoration benefits map is in development.</p>	 <p>70%</p>
<p>Task 13-3</p>	<p>Advance best practices for grazing management to protect natural seasonal wetlands and enhance habitat value of stock ponds.</p>	<p>Four workshops around the region for landowners.</p>	<p>The Conservation Partnership held a Wildlife-Friendly Pond Outreach and Celebration event on June 26, 2024 for ranchers and land managers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties interested in pond restoration. Topics included the history and description of the pond restoration program in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, accomplishments to date, and future plans and innovation for the program.</p>	 <p>50%</p>

<p>Task 15-1</p>	<p>Maintain, expand, and improve invasive species prevention programs. Actions may include developing new or expanding existing policies and programs, conducting outreach and working with existing entities to identify priority activities.</p>	<p>Five to seven new or expanded policies or programs, list of priority activities in various programs, and two outreach campaigns implemented through pertinent networks.</p>	<p>EPA released its supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Ballast Water in October 2023 and the Final Rule is now under review by the White House. In anticipation of the Final Rule being released, the US Coast Guard and US EPA, in coordination with the ANS Task Force, are in the process of establishing a workgroup to develop a response framework for ANS risks from vessel incidental discharges.</p>	 <p>50%</p>
<p>Task 19-3</p>	<p>Pilot an alternative or in-lieu LID compliance program for SFBRWQCB that demonstrates to municipalities a programmatic approach to alternative compliance that can provide funding for both capital implementation and long-term operations of multi-benefit GSI, and result in projects that provide a net environmental benefit or increased water quality benefit.</p>	<p>San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board-approved alternative compliance pilot program with two public projects identified for receiving resources from regulated project proponents.</p>	<p>The Water Board approved the Final Summary Report and provided formal acceptance for the Contra Costa County Regional Alternative Compliance System at the October 11, 2023, SFBRWQCB meeting. The City of San Pablo has recently finalized the design for a pilot project for this system and is working on an agreement with our first buyer.</p>	 <p>60%</p>
<p>Task 20-5</p>	<p>Develop a framework for monitoring, modeling, and disseminating information on the extent, severity, and impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Delta.</p>	<p>HABs framework for the Delta.</p>	<p>The Delta Stewardship Council is leading the development of a Delta HABs Strategy and to release a final Strategy in Fall 2024.</p>	 <p>80%</p>

<p>Task 25-4</p>	<p>Support and expand Estuary-oriented outreach and education programs provided by local and community-based organizations, either through direct funding, by developing materials, or through other tools to be identified in collaboration with existing programs.</p>	<p>Existing or new outreach and education programs expanded to reach 500 new participants.</p>	<p>The Estuary Youth Council completed its first pilot year, reaching new participants in partnership with Nuestra Casa, Mycelium Youth Network, and Restore the Delta. The SFBRA has funded projects that include outreach/education in partnership with Ninth Root, Sustainable Solano, Sacred Spaces, and other CBO partners.</p>	 <p>50%</p>
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