




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE October 15, 2024
TITLE Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's San Francisco Bay Estuary Conservation Fund for Site Protection at Hayward Marsh in the Amount of \$100,000
DIVISION Finance and Management Services
FROM Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager
Deborah Spaulding, Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services
APPROVED Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize a grant application to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's San Francisco Bay Estuary Conservation Fund for site protection actions at Hayward Marsh.

BACKGROUND

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2024 San Francisco Bay Estuary Conservation Fund (SF Bay Fund). The SF Bay Fund was established with community service payments arising from federal prosecutions of environmental cases brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. The SF Bay Fund will provide approximately \$500,000 in 2024 for projects that will conserve, protect, restore, and otherwise benefit the San Francisco Bay estuary environment, including, but not limited to fish and wildlife, and the habitats upon which they depend, such as the water, land, and air resources of the estuary and its tributary watersheds located in, adjacent to, or affecting the estuary.

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) has previously applied to the SF Bay Fund four times and was successfully awarded funding for three projects. The table below lists the projects awarded funds through the SF Bay Fund:

PARK	PROJECT	GRANT AMOUNT
Bay Point Shoreline	Bay Point Restoration and Public Access	\$105,000
McLaughlin Eastshore	Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access	\$101,500
Alameda Point	Encinal Beach Restoration and Public Access	\$100,000
Total		\$306,500

After reviewing the grant program's criteria, staff determined the Hayward Marsh Restoration project to be eligible, most competitive, and in need of funding for site protection actions while site preparation is underway for construction.

ANALYSIS

Hayward Marsh, completed in 1985, is a 145-acre fresh and brackish water marsh and is somewhat unusual in that it relies on secondary treated effluent as the freshwater source. The marsh is made up of five managed ponds and has 15 islands that are utilized by many species of nesting birds. Flow through the five basins is controlled by a series of weirs, valves, and channels, and allows for great flexibility in operation, management, and biological research.

The project supports the state of California's 30x30 conservation initiative that calls for the protection of thirty percent (30%) of lands and waters by the year 2030 to meet the environmental challenges due to the devastating loss of the natural world and its life supporting systems.

The project has four primary restoration goals and relative objectives to improve vital fish, bird, and wildlife habitat, integrate flood protection, provide for safe, clean water and pollution prevention, and increase shoreline access for nearby businesses and families.

The Project aims to optimize the mix of habitat types that can be sustained once freshwater inflow ceases, inclusive of seasonal wetlands, managed perennial wetlands, muted tidal marsh, fully tidal marsh, or a combination thereof. In addition to establishing new habitat, the project team aims to maintain, protect, and enhance nesting habitat for California least terns, Western snowy plover, special status birds and other shorebirds and waterfowl currently using the site.

If awarded, NFWF funding will go towards the cost of site protection actions necessary to protect threatened and endangered species while site preparation is underway for construction of future habitat restoration improvements and natural-infrastructure, more resilient to the impacts of sea level rise. Site protection is expected to be ongoing as soil import operations and related construction equipment and personnel are active onsite.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action proposes submission of a grant application in an amount up to \$100,000. If awarded, funds would be budgeted into existing project #160500. The estimated total cost for site protection actions is \$750,000. When completed, the Hayward Marsh project will increase the long-term operational cost of the Park District.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 10 -
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL FISH
AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION'S SAN FRANCISCO BAY ESTUARY
CONSERVATION FUND FOR SITE PROTECTION AT HAYWARD MARSH IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$100,000**

WHEREAS, the National Fish and Wildlife has issued a Request for Proposals for the 2024 San Francisco Bay Estuary Conservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the grant program's criteria, East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) staff determined the Hayward Marsh Restoration project to be eligible, most competitive, and in need of funding for site protection actions while site preparation is underway for construction; and

WHEREAS, Park District procedures require Board approval of grant applications;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby:

1. Authorizes the application for funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2024 San Francisco Bay Estuary Conservation Fund; and
2. Authorizes and directs the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to accept grant funds and execute and deliver such documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and amendments and to do such acts as may be deemed or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution as presented to the Board on October 15, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO or Budget Manager is hereby authorized to amend the current year's budget, without further Board action, upon receipt of the executed contract from the Grants Manager. The budget amendment will include an increase in budgeted revenue and a corresponding increase in appropriation for the amount stipulated in the contract, including any interest.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and
adopted October 15, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: