




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

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<b>DATE</b>	March 5, 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Authorization to Partner with San Francisco Estuary Institute for the Restore Wildcat Creek at Brook Road Project
<b>DIVISION</b>	Finance and Management Services
<b>FROM</b>	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
<b>APPROVED</b>	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize a partnership with San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) for the Restore Wildcat Creek at Brook Road Project at Tilden Regional Park.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) solicited proposals under San Francisco Bay Area Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) to protect and restore the water quality of the San Francisco Bay and its watersheds through comprehensive watershed management. The SFBWQIF program seeks to fund projects to achieve significant improvement in water quality and attainment of beneficial uses. This program is included under the Biden Administration's Justice40 program. The Justice40 Initiative, established with Executive Order 14009, is a commitment by the Federal Government that 40 percent of the funding from certain Federal programs will be invested in marginalized, underserved, and overburdened populations. While the Restore Wildcat Creek and Replace Crossing at Brook Road project is not located within a Justice40 qualifying disadvantaged community, it was still both an eligible and competitive project after staff reviewed the SFBWQIF criteria. The project also 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 East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) was recently notified by the EPA that our application for the Restore Wildcat Creek and Replace Crossing at Brook Road was selected for grant funding. Because the project is not located in a qualifying disadvantaged community, applicants must include a partnership to complete project work.

**ANALYSIS**

San Francisco Estuary Institute is an ideal partner for this EPA grant, as well as the project as a whole. Since 1993, SFEI has been a Bay Area leader in developing holistic scientific approaches to support healthy estuaries and watersheds through three programs: Resilient Landscapes, Clean Water, and Environmental Informatics.

In this project, SFEI will use expertise developed through all three programs to carry out geomorphic monitoring (focusing upon channel stability and sediment transport) and rapid assessment of overall ecological condition using the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)

for streams and wetlands. In addition, SFEI will utilize this project to implement data collection at the project location that will contribute towards a larger effort to quantify carbon sequestration in a variety of Bay Area habitat types and quantify change in carbon values associated with restoration projects. SFEI views the Wildcat Creek Brook Road project as an opportunity to implement an important local project that aligns with regional environmental management priorities such as:

- taking a watershed approach to project planning, design and monitoring,
- tracking sediment erosion and transport within a watershed, and considering how local changes will affect the health of the watershed as well as the receiving baylands,
- implementing restoration projects that will improve fisheries habitat and passage, as well as overall stream function, and
- considering carbon capture within projects and working to improve the overall amount of carbon sequestration within our managed landscape.

The monitoring and carbon data collection component of the project builds on previous projects conducted by SFEI in collaboration with the Park District, as well as numerous other regional partners, including the EPA. SFEI is currently partnering with the Park District to provide similar work on the Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access project. SFEI also provided similar monitoring work for the McCosker Restoration and Public Access project.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This action proposes a partnership with San Francisco Estuary Institute for the Restore Wildcat Creek at Brook Road Project at Tilden Regional Park. The partnership agreement will not exceed \$100,000. Funds will be budgeted in existing project #154800 (Construct Bridge at Brook Road). The EPA grant budget will include funds allocated to covering the cost of SFEI's work on the project.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 03 -  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO PARTNER WITH SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE  
FOR THE RESTORE WILDCAT CREEK AT BROOK ROAD PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) solicited proposals under the San Francisco Bay Area Water Quality Improvement Fund to protect and restore the water quality of the San Francisco Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the East Bay Regional Park District submitted an application for the Restore Wildcat Creek at Brook Road project (Project) at Tilden Regional Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project includes the removal of a concrete at-grade creek crossing that is a barrier to migration by native Rainbow Trout and replace it with a naturalized roughened riffle and native plantings; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) is an ideal partner for the Project to carry out pre- and post-project monitoring, data collection, and assessments within the project area; and

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

1. Approves a grant partnership with SFEI and to disburse funds per the partnership agreement; and
2. Appoints the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO as agent of the East Bay Regional Park District to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendment, payment requests and perform such acts, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project; and
2. Authorizes the Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO or Budget Manager to amend the current year's budget, without further Board action, upon receipt of the executed grant 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 grant contract.

Moved by Director \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, and  
adopted March 5, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: