

## North Bay Watershed Association March 2020 - Director's Report

### NBWA Business ACTION and Information items

- **Strategic Plan implementation- consultant support. ACTION** The work of our communications and Strategic Plan consultants has been appreciated this past year. I am asking the Board for the approval to continue:
  - **1)** the Data Instincts contract for another year, the cost of which is \$10,000.
  - **2)** An extension of the SFEI web support work for an additional \$10,000.
  - **3)** Finally, in order to continue to make strides in our One Water strategy development, I am requesting additional support [Not To Exceed \$13,000] for Horizon Water to help NBWA define regional projects that most support the Strategic Plan objectives which then NBWA can work to find funding to implement.
- The Board approved the current budget in May 2019 which set aside \$40,000 for Strategic Plan implementation with an additional \$40,000 in Specific Benefit Projects – more than sufficient to cover the cost of these extensions. A fully revised budget will be presented to the Board in May that will include these extensions.
- The **Advisory Committee** of the **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority** will meet on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Authority closed the latest round of applications in December and should be making final funding decisions in June 2020. Several North Bay projects have already been funded through Measure AA, for a summary of projects read here <http://sfbayrestore.org/>. Kate Sears [Marin Co.] and Susan Gorin [Sonoma Co.] participate as a member of the Authority. The Governing Board will meet next in San Francisco on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The **NBWA Joint Technical Committee** has been in hiatus for a few months as we continue to consider how best to develop the NBWA Strategic Plan One Water concept at the Board and determine the best combination of membership and focus for the JTC going forward.
- Progress continues on our **NBWA 2020 Conference**. The full program is now up on the website, regular registration is [\$105] open until March 20<sup>th</sup> then late registration will be available until the day of the conference [\$135]. All members are highly encouraged to register for the conference soon and to encourage staff and other Board members of each NBWA agency to register. We hope to see everyone at the Petaluma Sheraton on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sign-in and continental breakfast will begin at 8:00 am.
- **Advance planning:** In May, as part of the agenda, the Board will consider and be asked to approve the 2020/2021 NBWA Budget, receive an overview of the outcome of the conference, and vote to approve the newly revised Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. In June, we will focus on the condition of our fishery resources in the North Bay and the issue of needed minimum flows to protect those fish.

## Funding News

**EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund OPEN NOW.** The RFA is soliciting proposals that will improve water quality and restore wetlands in San Francisco Bay and its watersheds. There is approximately \$5.9 million available to support projects in the range of \$500,000 to \$2,000,000. Applicants must provide a minimum 50% non-federal match and projects must be within the nine Bay Area counties that drain to San Francisco Bay.

**Proposals must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)** on or before the proposal submission deadline of **April 20, 2020 at 9:00pm Pacific Standard Time.** You will find the RFA on our EPA website and on Grants.gov (see links below).  
<https://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/san-francisco-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund-fy2020-request-applications>  
[www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=324667](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=324667)

- **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan [IRWMP]**

The DAC [Disadvantaged Communities] round of funding is well underway and findings were presented recently from three North Bay DAC entities participating in this effort.

Lorene Jackson gave a presentation on Marin Community Development Agency's (MCDA) needs assessment. MCDA's work focused on Dillon Beach village at the north end of Tomales Bay and Point Reyes Station at the south end of Tomales Bay. The methodology for the needs assessment was to gather background info, engage the communities with surveys, and create the communities' water stories. The takeaway for the Dillon Beach village is that the community wants to pursue a feasibility study of alternative solutions to address old and failing onsite septic systems.

The takeaways for Point Reyes Station are that wastewater is the biggest concern. The need for more public restrooms was identified as one of the high priorities. The community is concerned about fixing its residential and business wastewater problem, but is scared to open the door to new development. The community identified the need for more information on extent of failing onsite septic systems.

Marco Berger from the Multicultural Center of Marin (MCM) presented on their needs assessment for Marin City's Canal community. MCM collected data from February to August 2019. They surveyed 180 people with a verbal survey. They asked questions such as: How is the water you drink? How is your access to water? Do you have other issues around water? What is your experience with flooding especially after storms?

Mr. Berger presented the following results from the needs water expressing concerns about smell and taste. Other concerns included flooding that interferes with activities, no access to water at times, low water pressure due to many people in one building sharing water, trash in the streets when it floods, old pipes, and fear of raising issues with landlords. There was interest in a potential Prop 1 grant to pursue pipe replacement projects in buildings, water quality testing at the tap, and a project to address sea level rise.

For the pending round of implementation funds [Approx 6.5M] DWR is completing a technical review. DWR reported the draft award will be coming out at the end of March or the beginning of April.

The IRWM Plan has been modified as per direction from DWR and NBWA, as a signatory agency, NBWA will be asked to re-approve the Plan this Spring [scheduled now for the May meeting]. A final round of IRWMP implementation funding is expected to be available in 2021.

## Publications



Be sure to check out the new Estuary News magazine linked here. Good story on the Flows issues in the Delta plan. Download the latest issue at <http://www.sfestuary.org/estuary-news/>.

The latest edition of Bay Nature is also available and has a great story on about the One Tam work of connection in the Marin Watersheds <https://baynature.org/article/one-tams-meteoric-rise/>



## Other

### Current Status of North Bay Resilient by Design Concepts

The State Route 37 (SR37) Public Access Study is an outgrowth of the Grand Bayway Concept developed by the Common Ground Team as part of Resilient by Design. Funded through a grant from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), with matching funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and project management by the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), the project examines a full range of appropriate public access opportunities within a large ecology crossing four counties that includes sensitive habitats. [http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-the-grand-bayway?utm\\_source=BARBD&utm\\_campaign=72feadbfd-](http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-the-grand-bayway?utm_source=BARBD&utm_campaign=72feadbfd-)

[February+2017+Newsletter COPY 01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_94a1b6db65-72feadbfad-119639793&mc\\_cid=72feadbfad&mc\\_eid=b5b7c0b9da](http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-the-peoples-plan?utm_source=BARBD&utm_campaign=72feadbfad-February+2017+Newsletter+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_94a1b6db65-72feadbfad-119639793&mc_cid=72feadbfad&mc_eid=b5b7c0b9da)

## **Flooding in Marin City**

Since the challenge ended, graduates from the “Designing Our Own Solutions,” a course that was developed as part of the challenge, continued the work together to advance resilience strategies. They formed a steering committee and launched a new organization called *The Marin City's People's Plan* with seed funding of \$250,000. The steering committee practices deep democracy in making all decisions and design steps. This organization will share permaculture and nature-based design trainings for community members, where participants will co-design green infrastructure strategies to mitigate flooding as well as create more food resilience in Marin City. Steering Committee members are co-designing the curriculum and also co-facilitating the course.

[http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-the-peoples-plan?utm\\_source=BARBD&utm\\_campaign=72feadbfad-February+2017+Newsletter COPY 01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_94a1b6db65-72feadbfad-119639793&mc\\_cid=72feadbfad&mc\\_eid=b5b7c0b9da](http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-the-peoples-plan?utm_source=BARBD&utm_campaign=72feadbfad-February+2017+Newsletter+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_94a1b6db65-72feadbfad-119639793&mc_cid=72feadbfad&mc_eid=b5b7c0b9da)

## **Elevate San Rafael**

The awareness of city and county staff, community residents and other local stakeholders to the City of San Rafael's significant vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise was heightened through the Bionic Team's Elevate San Rafael project as part of Resilient by Design. The deep research and conceptual designs developed by the Bionic team, alongside local partners like the Canal Welcome Center, informed the City of San Rafael's update of their Climate Action Plan. In May 2019, the City Council approved the new Climate Change Action Plan 2030 that incorporates strategies to adapt to sea level rise and other climate change impacts.

[http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-city-of-san-rafael?utm\\_source=BARBD&utm\\_campaign=72feadbfad-February+2017+Newsletter COPY 01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_94a1b6db65-72feadbfad-119639793&mc\\_cid=72feadbfad&mc\\_eid=b5b7c0b9da](http://rebuildbydesign.org/news-and-events/updates/bay-area-update-city-of-san-rafael?utm_source=BARBD&utm_campaign=72feadbfad-February+2017+Newsletter+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_94a1b6db65-72feadbfad-119639793&mc_cid=72feadbfad&mc_eid=b5b7c0b9da)