

# **Executive Committee Quarterly Meeting Estuary Program offices, Morro Bay, CA**

Aug 15, 2018 4:00 pm

## **Staff Report**

- 1. Introductions and Updates
- 2. Public Comment
- 3. Agenda Revisions
- 4. ACTION: Consider Approval of May 9, 2018 Executive Committee (EC) minutes
- **5. ACTION:** Restructuring of Implementation Committee (see attached)

Committee and partner feedback on the May 2018 proposal for restructuring of the Implementation Committee (IC) has been positive and no substantial changes to the proposal were suggested. A total of 22 IC, EC, and Bay Foundation members responded to the feedback survey. Staff recommends approving the proposal at the August meeting, with implementation beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. See attached for a final proposal that reflects minor suggestions received since April 2018. These suggestions focused on the frequency of meetings, as reflected in the "New Structure" section of the proposal. The rest of the proposal remains the same as the draft proposed in May 2018, with the addition at the end of the document of a section summarizing the approval process and next steps.

**6. ACTION:** Approval of Revised IC Bylaws (see attached)

If the IC restructuring proposal is approved, then the IC bylaws must be updated and approved to reflect these changes. Staff updated the IC bylaws to incorporate the IC restructuring. Staff recommend approving the bylaw revisions so that implementation of the new IC structure can begin in FY2019.

7. **DISCUSSION:** Technical Advisory Committee Membership

The new Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) will include individuals with expertise and interests in many different technical areas. Staff are interested in the feedback of committee members and partners to gather ideas for potential TAC members to invite. The goal is to develop a robust membership list that adequately covers the main topic areas of the Estuary Program's work. Staff determined potential TAC topics as follows:

- Monitoring (includes water quality in the bay and creeks, habitat monitoring, wildlife monitoring, etc.)
- Sedimentation (projects to model, monitor, and control erosion and sedimentation)
- Watershed Habitats Restoration (riparian and floodplain restoration, upland habitats restoration, invasive species, climate change)
- Freshwater Flow (projects to conserve water and address needs of special status species dependent on freshwater flow, invasive species, climate change)
- Land Management (conservation and agricultural best management practices, climate change)

- Bay Habitats and Waterfront (includes salt marsh, other estuary habitat restoration and management efforts and clean boating and other harbor practices, climate change and sea level rise, invasive species, wildlife issues)
- Eelgrass Restoration and Monitoring

We will be distributing a series of sign-up sheets at the IC and EC meetings to gather ideas on potential members to invite to the TAC based on these focus areas.

#### 8. DISCUSSION: Kandarian Farms Easement

Due to internal family dynamics, the Kandarian Farms conservation easement may be back on track. The Land Conservancy is continuing to work with the landowner and expects to finalize the deal by the end of FY2018.

### 9. **DISCUSSION**: Program Updates

**Eelgrass Update:** The Estuary Program was awarded a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Duck Stamp grant to fund eelgrass restoration and monitoring over the next two years. This funding allows us to expand these efforts, building off of the knowledge from the past two years of experimental transplanting.

Bay Bathymetry Survey: Staff are in the process of gathering cost estimates for a bay wide bathymetry survey. The effort will involve sonar to collect information on the deep channels and LiDAR to collect information on the shallow mudflats. The two datasets are seamed together to create a single bathymetry dataset for the estuary. The information will assist with TMDL tracking as well as feeding in to the modeling to be conducted by Cal Poly as part of their Sea Grant project to better understand circulation and sedimentation in the bay. The work is expected to be conducted this fall with funding from EPA and US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as individual donations to the Estuary Program.

Stormwater Management Project at State Park Marina: The Ocean Protection Council just approved funding for a project to reduce stormwater runoff from the State Park Marina parking lot by re-grading and pumping the stormwater to a biofiltration leach field on the other side of the street. It will also include two new electric vehicle charging stations and additional Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking. This project is in partnership with State Parks and California Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

10. Adjourn to next meeting of November 14, 2018 at 4 p.m. at the Estuary Program offices.

#### **Attachments:**

- Minutes from May 3, 2018 meeting
- Proposed Plan for Implementation Committee Restructuring
- Updated Implementation Committee Bylaws