

EPA REGION 9 SAN FRANCISCO BAY PROGRAM OFFICE FY 2024 PRIORITY LIST

EPA’s Strategic Plan and Equity Goals in the FY24 Priority List

As a Clean Water Act authorized program, the San Francisco Bay Program Office priority list intends to invest in the partnerships, science and projects needed to “move the needle” on a range of water quality issues. The San Francisco Bay Program also intends to continue to support the leadership role the state of California, local governments and Tribal partners have demonstrated in preparing our landscapes and communities for climate change and doing so equitably.

The eleven (11) priorities listed below collectively achieve three separate EPA Strategic Plan (2022-26) goals, namely, **Goal 1:** Tackle the Climate Crisis, **Goal 2:** Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights, **Goal 5:** Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities. Many identified priorities achieve multiple strategic plan goals simultaneously, such as the legacy PCB contamination priority which is a Goal 2 and Goal 5 combination. Eight (8) of the 11 priorities are part of the Bay Area’s response to the climate crisis, Goal 1, and will be implemented regionally with an emphasis on bringing resources to bear in underserved and frontline communities. Those eight are the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program, Beneficial Reuse, Nutrient Management, Subtidal Habitat Restoration, Large-scale Tidal Restoration, In-Bay Pollutant Monitoring, Large-scale Shoreline Multi-Benefit Projects, and Large-scale Green Stormwater Infrastructure.

The federal government has committed to the Justice40 initiative, which has the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. This commitment extends to EPA’s grant programs which have been directed by EPA’s Administrator to consider and prioritize direct and indirect benefits to underserved communities in the development of requests for grant applications and in making grant award decisions, to the extent allowed by law. In 2022, Congress appropriated additional funding to the SFBWQIF under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) specifically to support project implementation and climate resilience in underserved communities. The SF Bay program has incorporated equity considerations into the program and expects all activities to include meaningful involvement with underserved communities. Meaningful involvement means people have an opportunity to participate in planning efforts and decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected. In addition to EPA’s Strategic Plan Goal 2 guiding San Francisco Bay Program priorities, the 2022 San Francisco Estuary Blueprint (CCMP) highlights equity as a priority to support underserved communities who bear higher environmental burdens.

FY24 Priority List: Projects, Activities and Studies that Restore San Francisco Bay, Achieve Equity and Build Climate Resilience.

Priority	Link to San Francisco Estuary Blueprint (CCMP)
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Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program	Action 8: Implement a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program. Action 10: Protect, restore, and enhance tidal marsh habitat.
Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material Support	Action 6: Manage sediment and soil on a regional scale and advance beneficial use.
Nutrient Management	Action 20: Advance nutrient management in the Estuary.
Subtidal habitat, eelgrass and oyster reef restoration	Action 4: Implement climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies. Action 9: Protect, restore, and enhance intertidal and subtidal habitats.
BRRIT (Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team)	Action 3: Overcome challenges to accelerate implementation of climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies. Action 9: Protect, restore, and enhance intertidal and subtidal habitats.
Large scale tidal wetlands restoration	Action 4: Implement climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies. Action 7: Decrease carbon emissions and subsidence in the Delta and increase carbon sequestration on natural and agricultural lands. Action 12: Maximize habitat benefits of managed ponds and other non-tidal wetlands and waters.
In-Bay Monitoring of Pollutants, including trash, and algal species under the Regional Monitoring Program	Action 20: Advance nutrient management in the Estuary. Action 21: Address emerging contaminants in the Estuary's waters.
Large scale shoreline resilience, multi-benefit projects	Action 1: Plan for increased climate resilience that incorporates natural resource protection. Action 4: Implement climate adaptation projects that prioritize natural and nature-based strategies.
Large scale implementation of urban green stormwater infrastructure	Action 19: Manage stormwater with low impact development and green stormwater infrastructure. Action 23: Reduce trash and marine debris in the Estuary.
Special studies/projects for addressing PFAS in SF Bay	Action 21: Address emerging contaminants in the Estuary's waters. Action 22: Reduce human health risks due to legacy contaminants and contaminants in fish.
Special studies/projects for addressing PCBs under TMDL implementation plan	Action 22: Reduce human health risks due to legacy contaminants and contaminants in fish.