

PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISION OF A NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM CCMP

STATE PROGRAM: California Water Resources Control Board

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Association of Bay Area Governments

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$693,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the last 150 years, habitat destruction has eliminated more than 90 percent of shoreline wetlands and 40 percent of the San Francisco Bay aquatic ecosystem, leading to the need for special protection of more than 90 species of plants and animals. Throughout the Bay, state Water Quality Standards are exceeded for pesticides, invasive species, mercury and other metals and toxic substances. Many miles of beaches are impaired because of unacceptable levels of bacteria due to sewage spills and crumbling sewage infrastructure. The San Francisco Estuary is a Section 320 estuary of national significance.

In 2015, the California State Water Resources Control Board, California's CWSRF program, provided a loan for over \$693,000 with 100% principal forgiveness to the Association of Bay Area Governments for the Unified Bay and Delta Protection Planning and Reporting project. In three phases the project developed reports based on established monitoring programs designed to provide key information for decisions affecting the health of the Estuary. The first two phases of the project produced the State of the Bay Delta Science (SBDS) report, and the first-ever State of the Estuary Report. These reports identified areas of new understanding that can be used to refine condition and stewardship indicators.

Based on the information from these two reports, Phase 3 included the complete overhaul and update of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's CCMP resulting in their 2016 San Francisco Estuary Blueprint.² The new CCMP incorporated findings from both the SBDS Report and the State of the Estuary Report, reflecting recent adjustments in public environmental policies and priorities for protecting the Estuary. With estuarine habitats shrinking and water quality problems remaining, the project, and resulting updated CCMP, will help meet the challenge of restoring and sustaining a healthy Bay-Delta Estuary.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-04/documents/cwsrf_section_320_estuaries.pdf.