



DRAFT Resolution

**SPECIAL PARCEL TAX BALLOT MEASURE
FOR VOTER APPROVAL:
THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY
CLEAN WATER, POLLUTION PREVENTION AND HABITAT RESTORATION
MEASURE**

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay (sometimes referred to herein as the “Bay”) is the region’s greatest natural resource and its central feature and contributes significantly to the State’s economic health and vitality. The Bay is a hub of interconnected open-spaces, watersheds, natural habitats, scenic areas, agricultural lands, and regional trails;

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay and its wetlands, waterways and shoreline are a significant part of the State’s coastal resources and a healthy Bay not only enhances the quality of life for all Bay Area residents but is essential to support the state’s human and wildlife populations;

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay must be protected and restored so that current and future generations may use and enjoy it;

WHEREAS, the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the San Francisco Bay and its wetlands, improvement of Bay water quality, provision of public access to the Bay shoreline, and enhancement of shoreline recreational amenities for the growing population of the San Francisco Bay Area are immediate state and regional priorities;

WHEREAS, wetland restoration in the San Francisco Bay is necessary to address the growing danger that global warming and rises in sea level pose to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and environment of the State. Tidal wetlands can prevent flooding and adapt to rising sea levels;

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay require efficient and effective use of public funds, leveraging of local funds with State and federal resources, and investment of significant resources over a sustained period for habitat restoration on shoreline parcels, parks, and recreational facilities, and public access to natural areas;

WHEREAS, in 2008, the State established the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (the “Authority”) for the purpose of assisting in the restoration, enhancement, protection and enjoyment of the wetlands and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay and shoreline, including raising funds for programs that would protect and restore the Bay;

WHEREAS, the Authority is a regional governmental entity comprising the nine counties that touch the San Francisco Bay: the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa,

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San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma, and the City and County of San Francisco (such nine counties, collectively, the “San Francisco Bay Area”);

WHEREAS, after years of study, the Authority has prepared the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (the “Measure”) in order to fund programs that will:

- Reduce trash, pollution and harmful toxins;
- Improve water quality;
- Restore habitat for fish, birds and wildlife;
- Protect communities from floods; and
- Increase shoreline access for public enjoyment and recreation.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 50075 et seq. of the Government Code, cities, counties and districts in the State have the authority to impose special taxes pursuant to the provisions of Article XIII-A of the California Constitution, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast by voters voting upon the proposition;

WHEREAS, the Authority is authorized pursuant to the aforementioned provisions of the Government Code, as well as the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act (Title 7.25 of the Government Code, commencing with section 66700), to levy a parcel tax, subject to the requisite two-thirds voter approval, in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, the Authority proposes to levy a special parcel tax of \$12 per year for 20 years on each parcel wholly or partially in the San Francisco Bay Area, subject to two-thirds voter approval, to fund the programs identified in the Measure. Such a levy is anticipated to generate approximately \$25,000,000 a year to fund specific clean water, pollution prevention and habitat restoration projects and other purposes, including the possible payment of debt service on bonds, all as set forth in the Measure; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from the parcel tax will be spent only for local projects that directly improve the Bay, and cannot be taken away by the State. The Measure also requires citizen oversight, transparency, independent audits of all money collected and spent, and strict caps on the amount that may be spent on project management and administration.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY
GOVERNING BOARD HEREBY RESOLVES, DETERMINES AND ORDERS AS
FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Approval of Ballot Measure.

Pursuant to Government Code sections 50075 through 50077.5 and the San Francisco Bay

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Restoration Authority Act (Title 7.25 of the Government Code, commencing with section 66700 of the Government Code), the Authority hereby adopts the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (the “Measure”) and approves the placement of the Measure on the June 7, 2016 election ballot within the San Francisco Bay Area. A full copy of the Measure is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 2. Tax Imposed and Rate.

Subject to two-thirds approval of the voters voting on the Measure, a special parcel tax (the “Special Tax”) shall be levied in the amount and in accordance with the terms and procedures set forth in the Measure, for a twenty-year year period commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2037. The Special Tax shall be levied at an annual rate of twelve dollars (\$12) per parcel of taxable real property (as defined in the Measure) wholly or partially within the San Francisco Bay Area. The proceeds from the Special Tax shall be used solely to support the programs and priorities and other purposes set forth in the Measure, including, without limitation, the payment of debt service on bonds issued by or on behalf of the Authority for the purposes set forth in the Measure.

Section 3. Method of Collection.

Subject to two-thirds approval of the voters voting on the Measure, the Special Tax shall be collected by the Tax Collector of each county, including the City and County of San Francisco(hereafter, all references to “County” include the City and County of San Francisco) within the San Francisco Bay Area in accordance with the terms and procedures set forth in the Measure.

Section 4. Accountability.

The Authority’s levy, collection and expenditure of the Special Tax shall be subject to the transparency, independent audit, and accountability measures set forth in the Measure, including requirements that: (a) the proceeds of the Special Tax be used solely for supporting the programs and priorities and other purposes set forth in the Measure; (b) the proceeds of the Special Tax be deposited in a special account; (c) the proceeds of the Special Tax be spent only for projects in the San Francisco Bay Area identified in the Measure and cannot be taken by the State; (d) an independent, annual audit be conducted of all Special Tax proceeds collected and allocated under the Measure; (e) an annual report be prepared showing both the amounts of Special Tax proceeds collected and expended and the status of any project funded pursuant to the Measure; and (f) annual audits and reports be submitted to an Independent Citizen Oversight Committee for review, with its findings to be posted on the Authority’s website.

Section 5. Additional Action.

The Vice Chair of the Governing Board of the Authority, or any of his or her designees, is hereby authorized and directed to make any changes to the text of the Measure set forth in Exhibit A, to the abbreviated form of the Measure, or to the text of this Resolution or Resolution No. 8 (calling the special election), as may be convenient or necessary to comply with the intent of this Resolution and Resolution No. 8 to place the Measure on the June 7, 2016 ballot, the requirements of elections officials, or the requirements of the law.

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Section 6. CEQA.

Pursuant to the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), adoption of this resolution to place the Measure, a government funding mechanism, on the ballot for voter approval is not a project subject to the requirements of CEQA. Prior to approval of funding of any projects pursuant to the Measure, any necessary environmental review required by CEQA shall be completed.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at its meeting on January 13, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Governing Board Members _____

NOES: Governing Board Members _____

ABSENT: Governing Board Members _____

ABSTAIN: Governing Board Members _____

[insert]
Chair

I, Frederick Castro, Clerk of the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at its meeting of January 13, 2016, which Resolution is on file in the office of this regional governmental entity.

Frederick Castro
Clerk of the Governing Board

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The people of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

Over the last century, landfill and toxic pollution have had a massive impact on San Francisco Bay (sometimes referred to herein as the “Bay”). It is not too late to reverse this impact and restore the Bay for future generations. To meet that objective, in 2008, state law established the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (the “Authority”), to raise and allocate resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitats in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline.

The purpose of the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (the “Measure”) is to protect and restore San Francisco Bay to benefit future generations by reducing trash, pollution, and harmful toxins, improving water quality, restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife, protecting communities from flood and increasing shoreline public access and recreational areas.

Section 2. Funding of San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Expenditure Plan.

Subject to voter approval, the Authority hereby establishes a special parcel tax (the “Special Tax”) the proceeds of which shall be used solely for the purpose of supporting the programs and priorities and other purposes set forth in this Measure. The Special Tax shall be levied at a rate of twelve dollars (\$12) per parcel within the jurisdiction of the Authority, which consists of the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma and the City and County of San Francisco (such nine counties, collectively, the “San Francisco Bay Area”). The Special Tax shall be levied annually for a total of twenty (20) years, commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2037.

The Special Tax shall be levied on each parcel of taxable property within the San Francisco Bay Area, and shall be collected by the tax collectors of each county (including the City and County of San Francisco) in the San Francisco Bay Area (the “Tax Collectors”) at the same time as, and along with, and will be subject to the same penalties as general, *ad valorem* taxes collected by the Tax Collectors. The Special Tax and any penalty shall bear interest at the same rate as the rate for unpaid *ad valorem* property taxes until paid. Any Special Tax levied shall become a lien upon the properties against which taxes are assessed and collectible as herein provided. The Special Tax shall appear as a separate item on the tax bill.

All property that is otherwise exempt from *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the Special Tax in such year. The Authority shall adopt procedures that set forth any clarifications and exemptions to address unique circumstances and any procedure for claimants seeking an exemption, refund, reduction or recomputation of the Special Tax.

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Section 3. San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Expenditure Plan.

The revenues from the Special Tax set forth in Section 2 above shall be used solely for the purpose of supporting programs and priorities and purposes set forth in this Measure, including the following:

A. Program Descriptions

Under this Measure, the Authority may fund projects along the Bay shorelines within the Authority's jurisdiction, which consists of the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma and the City and County of San Francisco. The shorelines include the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of the Delta Primary Zone. These projects shall advance the following programs:

1. Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to remove pollution, trash and harmful toxins from the Bay in order to provide clean water for fish, birds, wildlife, and people.

- a. Improve water quality by reducing pollution and engaging in restoration activities, protecting public health and making fish and wildlife healthier.
- b. Reduce pollution levels through shoreline cleanup and trash removal from the Bay.
- c. Restore wetlands that provide natural filters and remove pollution from the Bay's water.
- d. Clean and enhance creek outlets where they flow into the Bay.

2. Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to significantly improve wildlife habitat that will support and increase vital populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife in and around the Bay.

- a. Enhance the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, shoreline parks and open space preserves, and other protected lands in and around the Bay, providing expanded and improved habitat for fish, birds and mammals.
- b. Protect and restore wetlands and other Bay and shoreline habitats to benefit wildlife, including shorebirds, waterfowl and fish.
- c. Provide for stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay, to ensure their ongoing benefits to wildlife and people.

3. Integrated Flood Protection Program

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The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to use natural habitats to protect communities along the Bay's shoreline from the risks of severe coastal flooding caused by storms and high water levels.

- a. Provide nature-based flood protection through wetland and habitat restoration along the Bay's edge and at creek outlets that flow to the Bay.
- b. Build and/or improve flood protection levees that are a necessary part of wetland restoration activities, to protect existing shoreline communities, agriculture, and infrastructure.

4. Shoreline Public Access Program

The purpose of this program to be funded under the Measure is to enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents, including those with disabilities, through safer and improved public access, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay.

- a. Construct new, repair existing and/or replace deteriorating public access trails, signs, and related facilities along the shoreline and manage these public access facilities.
- b. Provide interpretive materials and special outreach events about pollution prevention, wildlife habitat, public access, and flood protection, to protect the Bay's health and encourage community engagement.

B. Additional Allocation Criteria and Community Benefits

1. The Authority shall ensure that the Measure's revenue is spent in the most efficient and effective manner, consistent with the public interest and in compliance with existing law. The Authority shall give priority to projects that:
 - a. Have the greatest positive impact on the Bay as a whole, in terms of clean water, wildlife habitat and beneficial use to Bay Area residents.
 - b. Have the greatest long-term impact on the Bay, to benefit future generations.
 - c. Provide for geographic distribution across the region and ensure that there are projects funded in each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area over the life of the Measure.
 - d. Increase impact value by leveraging state and federal resources and public/private partnerships.
 - e. Benefit economically disadvantaged communities.
 - f. Benefit the region's economy, including local workforce development, employment opportunities for Bay Area residents, and nature-based flood protection for critical infrastructure and existing shoreline communities.
 - g. Work with local organizations and businesses to engage youth and young adults and assist them in gaining skills related to natural resource protection.
 - h. Incorporate monitoring, maintenance and stewardship to develop the most efficient and effective strategies for restoration and achievement of intended benefits.
 - i. Meet the selection criteria of the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Conservation

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and Development Commission's coastal management program and with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation strategy.

2. The Authority shall ensure that 50% of the total net revenue generated during the 20-year term of the Special Tax is allocated to the four Bay Area regions, defined as the North Bay (Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Solano Counties), East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties), West Bay (City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County) and South Bay (Santa Clara County) in proportion to each region's share of the Bay Area's population, as determined in the 2010 census, and consistent with the priorities set forth in this section. As a result, each region will receive the following minimum percentage of total net revenue generated during the 20-year term of the Special Tax: North Bay: 9%, East Bay: 18%, West Bay: 11%, South Bay: 12%. The remaining revenue shall be allocated consistent with all other provisions of this Measure.
3. The Authority shall conduct one or more public meetings annually to gain public input on selection of projects under this Measure. All actions, including decisions about selecting projects for funding, will be made by the Authority in public meetings with advance notice and with meeting materials made available in advance to the public.
4. The Authority may accumulate revenue over multiple years so that sufficient funding is available for larger and long-term projects. All interest income shall be used solely to support programs and priorities set forth in this Measure.
5. No Special Tax proceeds shall be used for campaign advocacy.
6. No more than 5% of the Special Tax proceeds generated in any given fiscal year may be used by the Authority for general government purposes in such fiscal year, including to administer the projects funded under this Measure. Any unused funds may be carried over for use in subsequent fiscal years.
7. The Authority shall have the right, power and authority to pledge Special Tax proceeds to the payment of bonds of the Authority or another public agency (including, but not limited to, a joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Government Code Section 6500 et seq.)), and use Special Tax proceeds to pay debt service on such bonds and the costs of issuance related thereto.

C. Accountability and Oversight

In order to ensure accountability, transparency and public oversight of funds collected and allocated under this Measure and comply with State law, all of the following shall apply:

1. The specific purpose of the Special Tax shall be to support only programs and priorities and other purposes listed in this Measure. The Special Tax proceeds shall be applied

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only for specific purposes of this Measure and shall be spent only in accordance with the procedures and limitations set forth in this Measure.

2. A separate account shall be created by the Authority into which all Special Tax proceeds must be deposited. The Authority shall commission an independent annual audit of all revenues deposited in, and all expenditures made from, the separate account and publish annual financial statements.
3. All Special Tax revenue, except as set forth in Section 3.B.6 above, shall be spent on projects for the benefit of the San Francisco Bay Area, and shall not be taken by the State.
4. The Authority shall prepare annual written reports showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from Special Tax proceeds and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the Special Tax, as identified above. The report shall comply with Government Code section 50075.3, be posted on the Authority's website, and be submitted to the Bay Restoration Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Government Code section 66703.7 (the "Advisory Committee"), for review and comment.
5. The Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the Authority on all aspects of its activities under this Measure to ensure maximum benefit, value, and transparency. Advisory Committee meetings will be announced in advance and will be open to the public. The responsibilities of the Advisory Committee shall include, but shall not be limited to: (a) advising the Authority about implementation of this Measure; and (b) making recommendations regarding expenditure priorities under this Measure.
6. The Authority shall appoint six members of the public to an Independent Citizens Oversight Committee that shall: (a) annually review the Authority's conformance with the Measure; (b) review the Authority's audits and expenditure and financial reports; and (c) publish an annual report of its findings, which shall be posted on the Authority's website. The six members shall include residents of the North Bay, East Bay, West Bay, and South Bay, as defined in Government Code 66703(a), who are experts in water quality, pollution reduction, habitat restoration, flood protection, improvement of public access to the Bay, or financing of these objectives. No person may serve on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee who (a) is an elected official or government employee, or (b) has had or could have a financial interest in decisions of the Authority as defined by Government Code section 87103 and the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Section 4. Establishment of Appropriation Limit.

Pursuant to Article XIII-B of the California Constitution and section 66704.05(b)(2) of the Government Code, the appropriation limit of the Authority shall be set by the total revenues actually received by the Authority from the proceeds of the Special Tax levied in fiscal year

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2017-18, as adjusted each fiscal year thereafter for the estimated change in the cost of living, population and number of parcels on which the Special Tax is levied (such estimate to be determined by the Governing Body of the Authority and be conclusive for all purposes after made). The appropriation limit may be further adjusted by any other changes that may be permitted or required by Article XIII-B of the California Constitution.

Section 5. Amendments and Severability.

A. The Governing Board of the Authority shall be empowered to amend this Measure by majority vote of its members to further the purposes of this Measure, to conform the provisions of this Measure to applicable State law, to modify the methods of levy and collection of the Special Tax, or to assign the duties of public officials under this Measure.

B. If any part of this Measure is held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Measure and the voters declare that they would have passed the remainder of this Measure as if such invalid portion were not included.