Association of Bay Area Governments

ABAG Administrative Committee

December 13, 2024 **Agenda Item 6b**

Adoption of ABAG Resolution No. 12-24: to Apply for an Enter into an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for up to $1 million to Implement the San Francisco Estuary Blueprint

Subject:

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership staff requests authorization to submit an application for up to $1 million to the State Water Resources Control Board's State Revolving Fund for Clean Water (SRF) to implement several priority actions in the San Francisco Estuary Blueprint.

Background:

As a National Estuary Program (NEP), the San Francisco Estuary Partnership is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under a reauthorization of the Clean Water Act in 1987 to produce a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), also known as the Estuary Blueprint (Blueprint). The Estuary Blueprint is a collaborative agreement about what should be done to protect and restore the San Francisco Estuary, essentially a roadmap for restoring its chemical, physical, and biological processes to health. It emphasizes the connection between the lower and upper Estuary, recognizing that the Bay and Delta are one integrated system that must adapt holistically, urgently and equitably to climate change.

Funding for achieving Blueprint milestones comes from an array of local, regional, state and federal sources. The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) manages the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program that offers funding for projects that protect and improve water quality. Under the Intended Use Plan for the SRF program, the Estuary Partnership is eligible to apply for funding for projects that implement the Estuary Blueprint under a category of "principal forgiveness", meaning the funding is essentially a grant rather than a loan. The Estuary Partnership has identified projects within the Blueprint that would benefit from SRF funding to see progress in a meaningful way.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends the ABAG Administrative Committee adopt Resolution No 12-24 to apply for and enter into an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for up to $1 million to implement the San Francisco Estuary Blueprint.

Attachments:

- ABAG Resolution No. 12-24: Apply for an Enter into an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for up to $1 million to Implement the San Francisco Estuary Blueprint

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