

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT  
MEETING DATE: March 11, 2015

ITEM            **6**

SUBJECT:       **Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update** – Status Report by Matt Gerhart of the State Coastal Conservancy

DISCUSSION: The Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals report was produced in 1999 to be a scientifically-based vision of the types, amounts, and distribution of wetlands and associated habitats needed to sustain healthy and diverse communities of fish and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay Region. It was developed by the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project, a stakeholder group of technical, environmental, and regulatory interests that included significant Water Board staff involvement. Since its completion, the Goals report has been an inspiration for protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetlands around the Bay's edge. Scientific guidance from the Goals report has contributed to the protection of 40,000 acres of Baylands and has helped attract funding for acquisition, protection, and restoration projects. The Basin Plan identifies the Goals report as one of the scientific documents the Board shall use in its determinations of the beneficial uses of the wetlands and associated habitats ringing the Bay.

In recent years, it has become clear that the Goals report needs to be updated to incorporate the impacts of climate change on the Bay's wetland ecosystems. The update, now nearing completion, synthesizes current scientific knowledge regarding climate change impacts on the Baylands; assesses how climate change will influence the evolution of Baylands habitats, shoreline migration, the transition zone between Baylands and uplands, and the interface between the Baylands and the Bay; and makes recommendations for management actions to ameliorate climate change impacts.

Matt Gerhart, the State Coastal Conservancy's Deputy Program Manager for the Bay Area, will update us on the content and timing of the Goals report update.

RECOMMENDATION: No action needed – information item.