



Revision of Scope: San Francisco Bay Plan Amendment to Address Bay Fill for Habitat Restoration Projects



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San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Fill for Habitat



Project Goal

*Amend the San Francisco Bay Plan to address the planning, design, and permitting of necessary Bay fill for **habitat projects** in the San Francisco Bay, and to increase the region's resilience to rising seas using the best available science.*



Bay Plan Sections Currently Under Consideration



- Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife
- Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats
- Subtidal Areas
- Dredging
- Shoreline Protection



https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San_Pablo_Bay/Clapper_Rail.html



<https://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/south-bay-salt-pond-tidal-marsh-restoration-pond-a17-project>



<https://www.sfgate.com/science/article/2-million-oysters-in-bay-begin-restoration-effort-4984300.php>



<http://www.walking-the-bay.com/2011/04/albany-mudflats-bikepath-mar-30-11.html>

Revise Scope to include Major Conclusions and Policies



4. **Justifiable Filling.** Some Bay filling may be justified for purposes providing substantial public benefits if these same benefits could not be achieved equally well without filling. Substantial public benefits are provided by:

- a) Developing adequate port terminals, on a regional basis, to keep San Francisco Bay in the forefront of the world's great harbors during a period of rapid change in shipping technology.
- b) Developing adequate land for industries that require access to shipping channels for transportation of raw materials or manufactured products.
- c) Developing new recreational opportunities-shoreline parks, marinas, fishing piers, beaches, hiking and bicycling paths, and scenic drives.
- d) Developing expanded airport terminals and runways if regional studies demonstrate that there are no feasible sites for major airport development away from the Bay.
- e) Developing new freeway routes (with construction on pilings, not solid fill) if thorough study determines that no feasible alternatives are available.
- f) Developing new public access to the Bay and enhancing shoreline appearance over and above that provided by other Bay Plan policies-through filling limited to Bay-related commercial recreation and public assembly.

Fill for habitat creation, enhancement, or restoration is not listed as justifiable filling

Revise Scope to include Major Conclusions and Policies



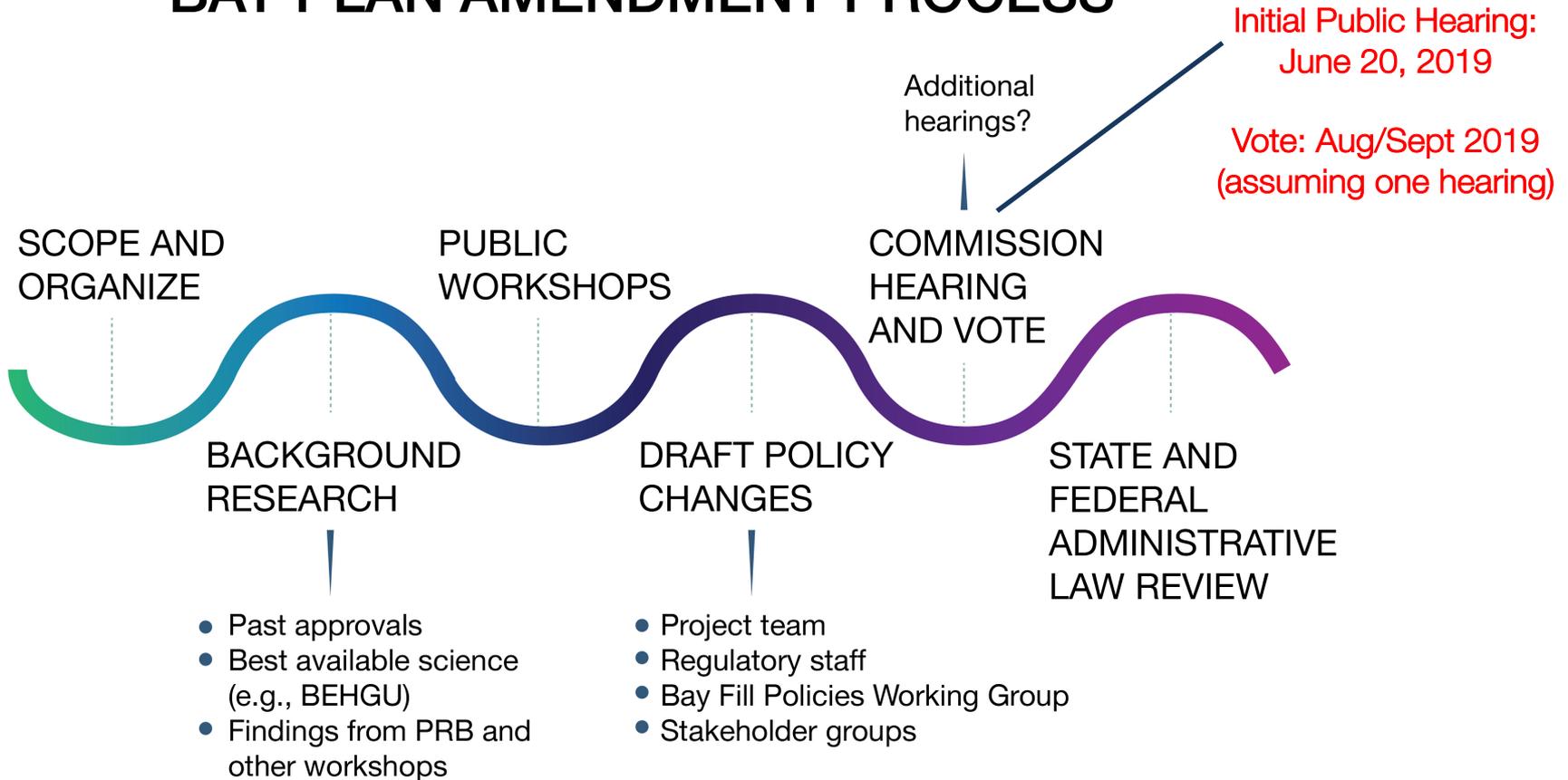
5. **Effects of Bay Filling.** Bay filling should be limited to the purposes listed above, however, because **any filling is harmful to the Bay**, and thus to present and future generations of Bay Area residents. **All Bay filling has one or more of the following harmful effects:**

- a) Filling **destroys the habitat of fish and wildlife**. Future filling can disrupt the ecological balance in the Bay, which has already been damaged by past fills, and can endanger the very existence of some species of birds and fish. The Bay, including open water, mudflats, and marshlands, is a complex biological system, in which microorganisms, plants, fish, waterfowl, and shorebirds live in a delicate balance created by nature, and in which seemingly minor changes, such as a new fill or dredging project, may have far-reaching and sometimes highly destructive effects.
- b) Filling almost always increases the danger of water pollution by reducing the ability of the Bay to assimilate the increasing quantities of liquid wastes being poured into it. Filling reduces both the surface area of the Bay and the volume of water in the Bay; this reduces the ability of the Bay to maintain adequate levels of oxygen in its waters, and also reduces the strength of the tides necessary to flush wastes from the Bay.
- c) Filling reduces the air-conditioning effects of the Bay and increases the danger of air pollution in the Bay Area. Reducing the open water surface over which cool air can move in from the ocean will reduce the amount of this air reaching the Santa Clara Valley and the Carquinez Strait in the summer-and will increase the frequency and intensity of temperature-inversions, which trap air pollutants and thus cause an increase in smog in the Bay Area.
- d) Indiscriminate filling will diminish the scenic beauty of the Bay.

Revision Will Not Impact Timeline



BAY PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS



Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the attached “Notice of Revision of Scope to add consideration of the “Major Conclusions and Policies” section of the San Francisco Bay Plan as part of Bay Plan Amendment No. 1- 17 to address Bay fill in habitat projects, in addition to those sections of the Bay Plan previously identified.