

# San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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**TO:** Commissioners and Alternates

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**SUBJECT:** **Staff Report and Recommendation on an Interagency Agreement between the Commission and San Francisco State University for the RIPTIDES Program Internship**  
(For Commission consideration on September 20, 2018)

## Summary

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to execute an interagency agreement with San Francisco State University to provide up to \$14,855 to SFSU for technical assistance related to SFSU's Research Intensive Pedagogical Training for Interdisciplinary Estuarine Scientists (RIPTIDES) Program. Masters students from the RIPTIDES Program will intern at BCDC to investigate questions related to monitoring and success of wetland restoration projects and mitigation requirements in the San Francisco Bay over the past 20 years. The term of the agreement will expire on March 31, 2019. The staff also recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreement in the future, if necessary, including the deliverables provided under the agreement, as long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in either the scope or amount of the contract.

## Staff Report

**Background.** The Commission (BCDC), San Francisco State University (SFSU) and the San Francisco National Estuarine Research Reserve (SFNERR) propose a research partnership to analyze wetland restoration and mitigation success and monitoring in the San Francisco Bay over the past 20 years. This partnership would be achieved through SFSU's Research Intensive Pedagogical Training for Interdisciplinary Estuarine Scientists (RIPTIDES) Program, whereby master's students from the RIPTIDES Program will intern at BCDC to investigate these research questions. BCDC has identified a series of internship projects over the next three years that

would focus on habitat related projects, in particular the relationship between monitoring requirements, project outcomes, and lessons learned. This research would help BCDC to understand how habitat projects, especially wetland restoration and mitigation, have been designed and permitted historically, how these projects are functioning today, and the ability of these projects to adapt to changing conditions including rising sea levels. Additionally, the research would advance BCDC's Strategic Plan objectives of encouraging and implementing Bay habitat restoration and mitigation while also providing master's students with valuable research and policy experience within the California State Government and an understanding of regulatory agencies. Additionally, the work would support regional efforts with the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) and Measure AA coordination.

In addition to examination of wetland restoration methods and monitoring, BCDC will host a RIPTIDES intern in the Sediment Management Team, focused on sediment management activities in San Pablo Bay. This work will assist in developing a sediment management plan for San Pablo Bay that considers dredging, flood protection, wetland and other habitat restoration projects, and watershed management. The Sediment Management Team intern will endeavor to develop a sediment budget for this embayment and assist in identifying challenges and opportunities that would improve the existing management regime for this area.

BCDC and the Estuary and Ocean Science (EOS) Center would agree that EOS will provide interns from its RIPTIDES graduate program to BCDC to assist them with information compilation and interpretation. BCDC, the EOS Center and the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve would agree to have Dr. Stuart Siegel help guide the work of the interns and to provide guidance on BCDC's efforts, drawing upon his 30+ years of experience on wetland restoration and monitoring in the San Francisco Estuary. This scope of work addresses Fall 2018 activities. The \$14,855 in funds the Commission would provide to SFSU would compensate for technical guidance provided by SFSU and Dr. Siegel in carrying out the research activities at BCDC pursuant to a Work Plan drafted by BCDC staff.