



Estuary Blueprint Update

BAFPAA Meeting

July 12, 2021



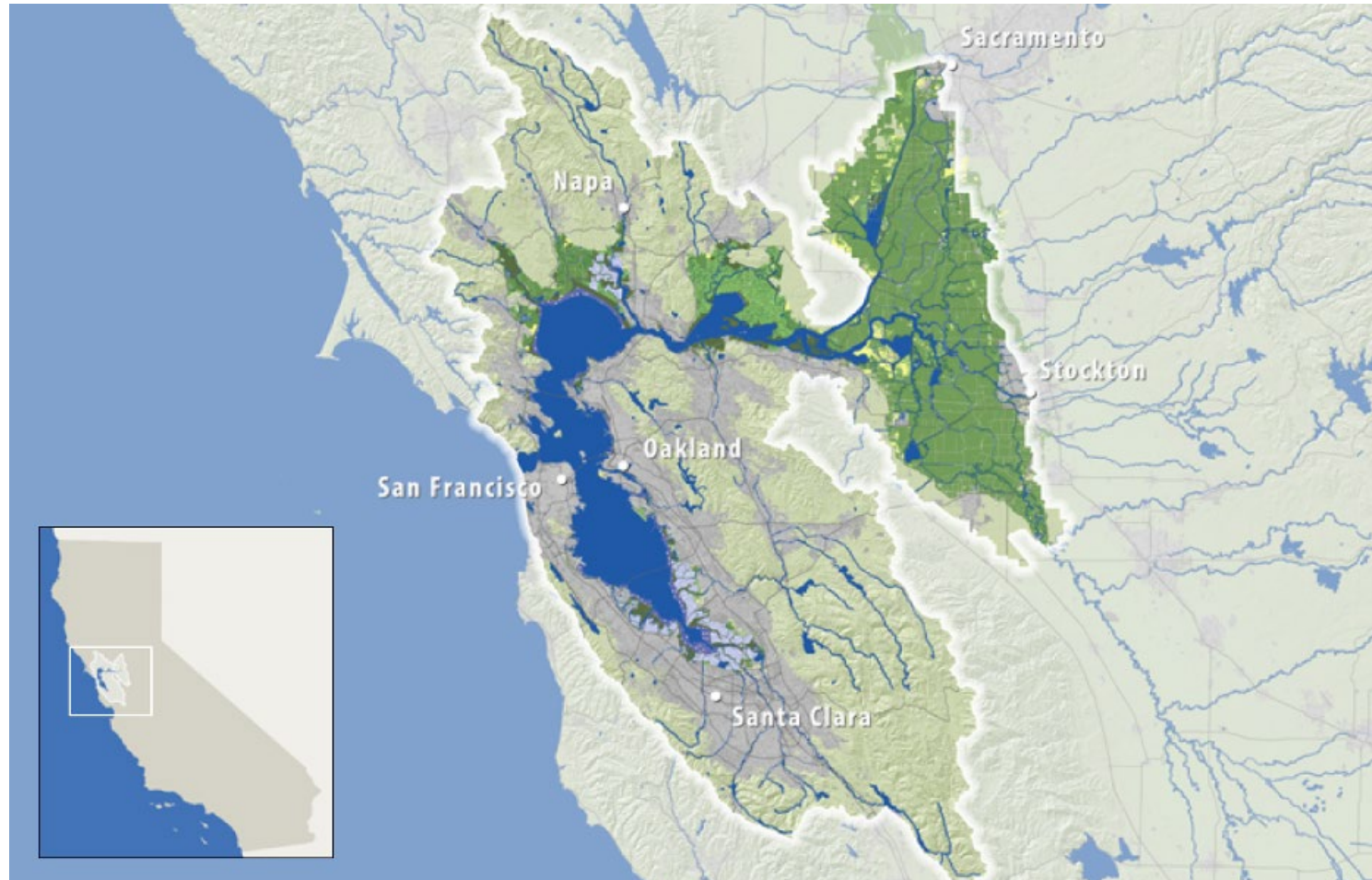
San Francisco
ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

- A place-based EPA program
- Collaborative and non-regulatory
- Created to leverage federal, state, and regional resources to support local projects



Estuary Partnership Planning Area



Estuary Blueprint Background

- The Clean Water Act calls for each NEP to develop and implement a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)
- EPA requires periodic review and revisions of CCMPs
 - 1993 – First CCMP completed for the San Francisco Estuary
 - 2007 – CCMP updated (revised existing and added new actions)
 - 2016 – Major revision of CCMP (renamed “SF Estuary Blueprint”)



Estuary Blueprint Background

- Estuary Blueprint identified in the following funding or potential funding sources:
 - San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority grants
 - EPA's Water Quality Improvement Fund grants
 - San Francisco Bay Restoration Act bill (Speier / Feinstein, Padilla)



2016 - 2021 Estuary Blueprint



A Regional, Collaborative Vision for the Future of the Estuary

Where do we want to be in 2050?



2016 Estuary Blueprint

- 4 Goals
- 12 Objectives
- 32 Actions
- 80 Partners
- 5 Years (2016 - 2021)



2016 Estuary Blueprint

Actions

- Strategies or set of Tasks
- Task Milestones:
Achievable within 5 Years
- Identified Task Owners
and Collaborating Partners

CCMP 2016

54

ACTION
30

Reduce trash input into the Estuary

Assist regional municipalities and agencies in attaining trash reduction objectives by assisting in source reduction activities, such as extended producer responsibility strategies that can reduce trash before it reaches the Estuary, and by highlighting trash reduction rates in the *State of the Estuary Report* when trash-tracking metrics are agreed upon by Bay Area stakeholders.

TASK 30-1 Partner with municipalities, counties, pollution prevention organizations, and other stakeholders to research and implement effective extended producer responsibility (EPR) strategies for food and beverage packaging in the Estuary. Highlight successful strategies and develop recommendations for regional and well as local approaches.

BY 2020 Implement four new EPR ordinances or other strategies based on recommendations.

TASK 30-2 Review trash reduction tracking metrics, currently being developed by Bay Area stormwater permittees, for use in the next *State of the Estuary Report*.

BY 2021 Include assessments of trash reduction in San Francisco Bay and its watersheds in next report.

BACKGROUND

Trash is a serious problem in the urbanized Estuary. Every year 1.36 million gallons of trash flows into San Francisco Bay and its creeks from storm drains. Plastic makes up approximately 49 percent of the trash; followed by paper products (bags, newspapers, receipts) at 21 percent, beverage containers and miscellaneous items (including cigarette butts) at 15 percent, single-use plastic bags at approximately eight percent, and polystyrene foam at seven percent.

Trash is one of the easiest pollutants to see but one of the most difficult to measure, which creates challenges for developing accurate and feasible tracking methods. The development of a trash reduction indicator for the *State of the Estuary Report* will rely on standards developed for the state and regional water boards, and other vetted methodologies. Once adopted, the State Water Resources Control Board's statewide policy for trash control will also guide this action.

The current Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requires municipalities and local agencies in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, and the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City, and Vallejo, to meet the goal of 100 percent trash load reduction or no adverse impact to receiving waters from trash by July 1, 2022. All other Bay Area and Delta municipalities are covered by Trash Amendments adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2015.

In recent years, cities and counties around the Estuary have passed a number of ordinances banning plastic bags, polystyrene, and other items commonly found in the region's waterways. Extended producer responsibility (EPR) ordinances and legislation, which require waste product producers to take responsibility for treating or disposing of the trash produced at the end of a product's use, are gaining momentum. Take-back programs are one effective EPR strategy.

Food and beverage packaging from grocery stores and restaurants, and other materials made from plastic, are the most frequently occurring forms of trash in the region's waterways, and therefore should be prioritized in EPR strategies for the Estuary. Because so much of this packaging is made of plastic, these efforts may also help reduce the rising problem of microplastics identified as an emerging concern in San Francisco Bay and the nearby ocean.

This CCMP action supports filling critical gaps in the battle to reduce trash impacts on the Estuary and regional quality of life.

OWNERS

SF Estuary Partnership (Tasks 30-1, 30-2)

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group, Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Save the Bay, US Environmental Protection Agency, various municipalities

NEXUS

Actions 23–26, 31, 32
Goals 1, 3
Objectives a, i

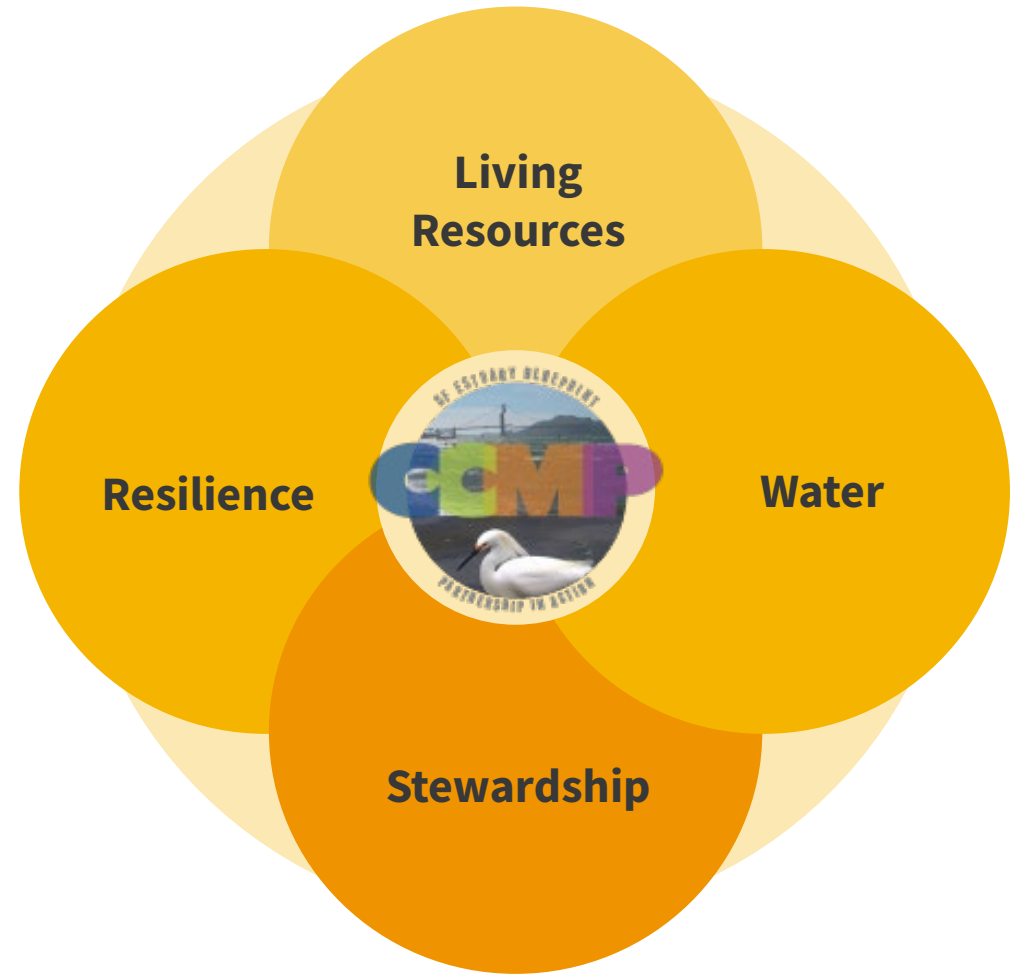
From Estuary 2016 Blueprint

2022-2026 Estuary Blueprint



2022 Estuary Blueprint Update

GOALS → OBJECTIVES → **ACTIONS** → TASKS



2022 Estuary Blueprint Update – Guiding Principles



Remain aspirational yet feasible



Expand and deepen multi-sectoral engagement



Integrate further across geographies and plans



Focus on equity



Improve clarity and responsibility



2022 Estuary Blueprint Update

Resilience

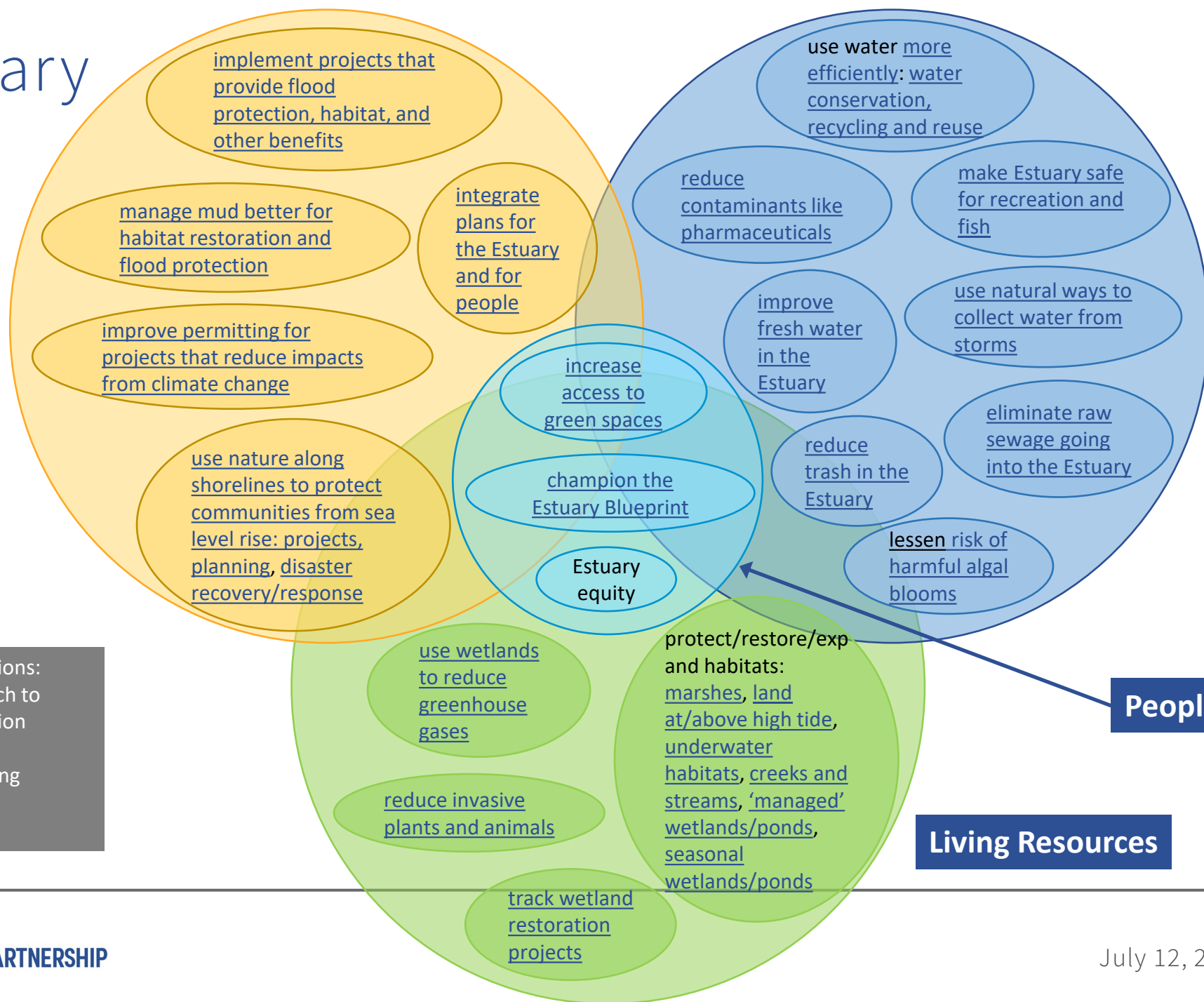
Water

People

Living Resources

Discontinued/Integrated Actions:

- Watershed-based approach to aquatic resources protection
- Terrestrial predators
- Long-term drought planning (integrated elsewhere)
- Ocean acidification



2022 Estuary Blueprint Update - Select Actions

Action 12

Restore watershed connections to the Estuary to improve habitat, flood protection, and water quality.

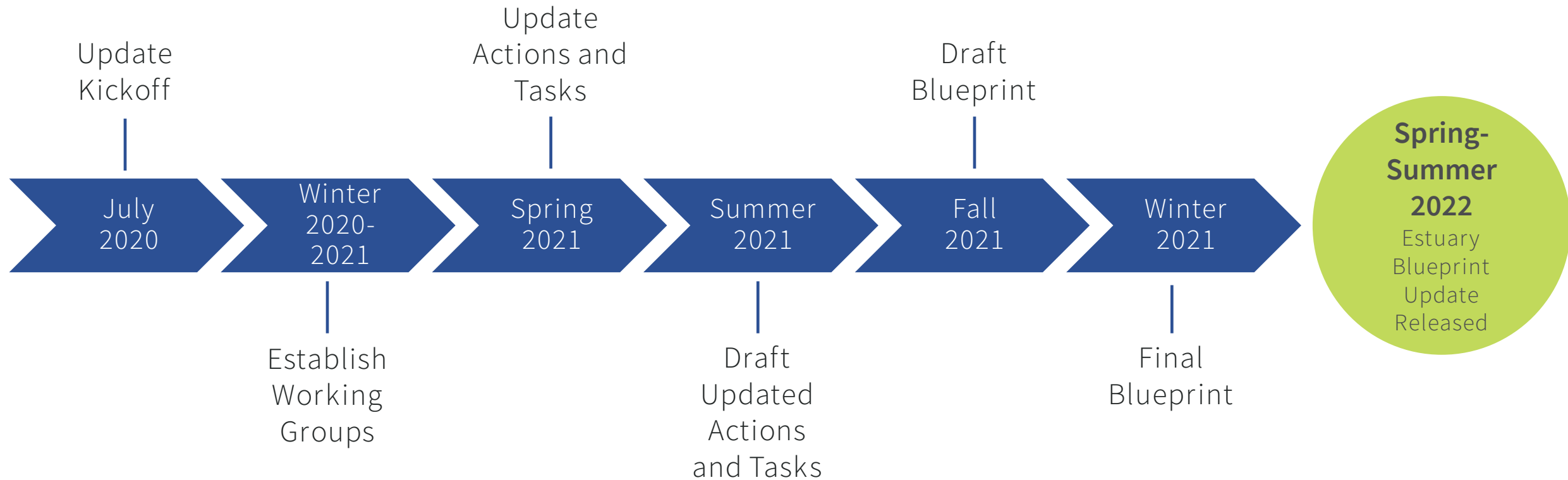


Action 17

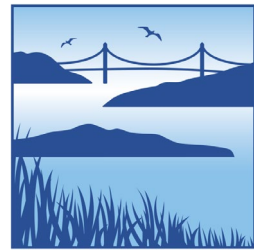
Improve regulatory review, permitting, and monitoring processes for multi-benefit climate adaptation projects.



Estuary Blueprint Update - Timeline



To learn more or get involved



San Francisco
ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP

Have Questions?

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Q&A / Discussion

1. From your perspective, what are the priority regulatory challenges to planning, designing, or implementing multi-benefit projects?
2. What are the challenges to restoring hydrologic connections along the edges of the Bay?
3. What do you need (funding, research, planning, etc.) to be able to ensure sediment transport and hydrologic connections are integrated into your project?





Thank You

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