

§ 1276. Enhanced aquifer use and recharge**(a) In general**

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall provide funding to carry out groundwater research on enhanced aquifer use and recharge in support of sole-source aquifers, of which—

(1) not less than 50 percent shall be used to provide 1 grant to a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe to carry out activities that would directly support that research; and

(2) the remainder shall be provided to 1 appropriate research center.

(b) Coordination

As a condition of accepting funds under subsection (a), the State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe and the appropriate research center that receive funds under that subsection shall establish a formal research relationship for the purpose of coordinating efforts under this section.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(June 30, 1948, ch. 758, title I, §124, as added Pub. L. 117-58, div. E, title II, §50222, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1181.)

§ 1276a. San Francisco Bay restoration grant program**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

(1) Estuary Partnership

The term “Estuary Partnership” means the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, designated as the management conference for the San Francisco Bay under section 1330 of this title.

(2) San Francisco Bay Plan

The term “San Francisco Bay Plan” means—

(A) until the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 1330 of this title for the San Francisco Bay estuary; and

(B) on and after the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d).

(b) Program Office**(1) Establishment**

The Administrator shall establish in the Environmental Protection Agency a San Francisco Bay Program Office. The Office shall be located at the headquarters of Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) Appointment of Director

The Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Office, who shall have management experience and technical expertise relating to

the San Francisco Bay and be highly qualified to direct the development and implementation of projects, activities, and studies necessary to implement the San Francisco Bay Plan.

(3) Delegation of authority; staffing

The Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(c) Annual priority list**(1) In general**

After providing public notice, the Director shall annually compile a priority list, consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, identifying and prioritizing the projects, activities, and studies to be carried out with amounts made available under subsection (e).

(2) Inclusions

The annual priority list compiled under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Projects, activities, and studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan, for—

- (i) water quality improvement, including the reduction of marine litter;
- (ii) wetland, riverine, and estuary restoration and protection;
- (iii) nearshore and endangered species recovery; and
- (iv) adaptation to climate change.

(B) Information on the projects, activities, and studies specified under subparagraph (A), including—

- (i) the identity of each entity receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (e); and
- (ii) a description of the communities to be served.

(C) The criteria and methods established by the Director for identification of projects, activities, and studies to be included on the annual priority list.

(3) Consultation

In compiling the annual priority list under paragraph (1), the Director shall consult with, and consider the recommendations of—

(A) the Estuary Partnership;

(B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed;

(C) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; and

(D) any other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary that the Director determines to be appropriate.

(d) San Francisco Bay Plan**(1) In general**

Not later than 5 years after December 23, 2022, the Director, in conjunction with the Estuary Partnership, shall review and revise the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 1330 of this title for the San Francisco Bay estuary to develop a plan to guide the projects, activities, and studies of the Office to address the restoration and protection of the San Francisco Bay.