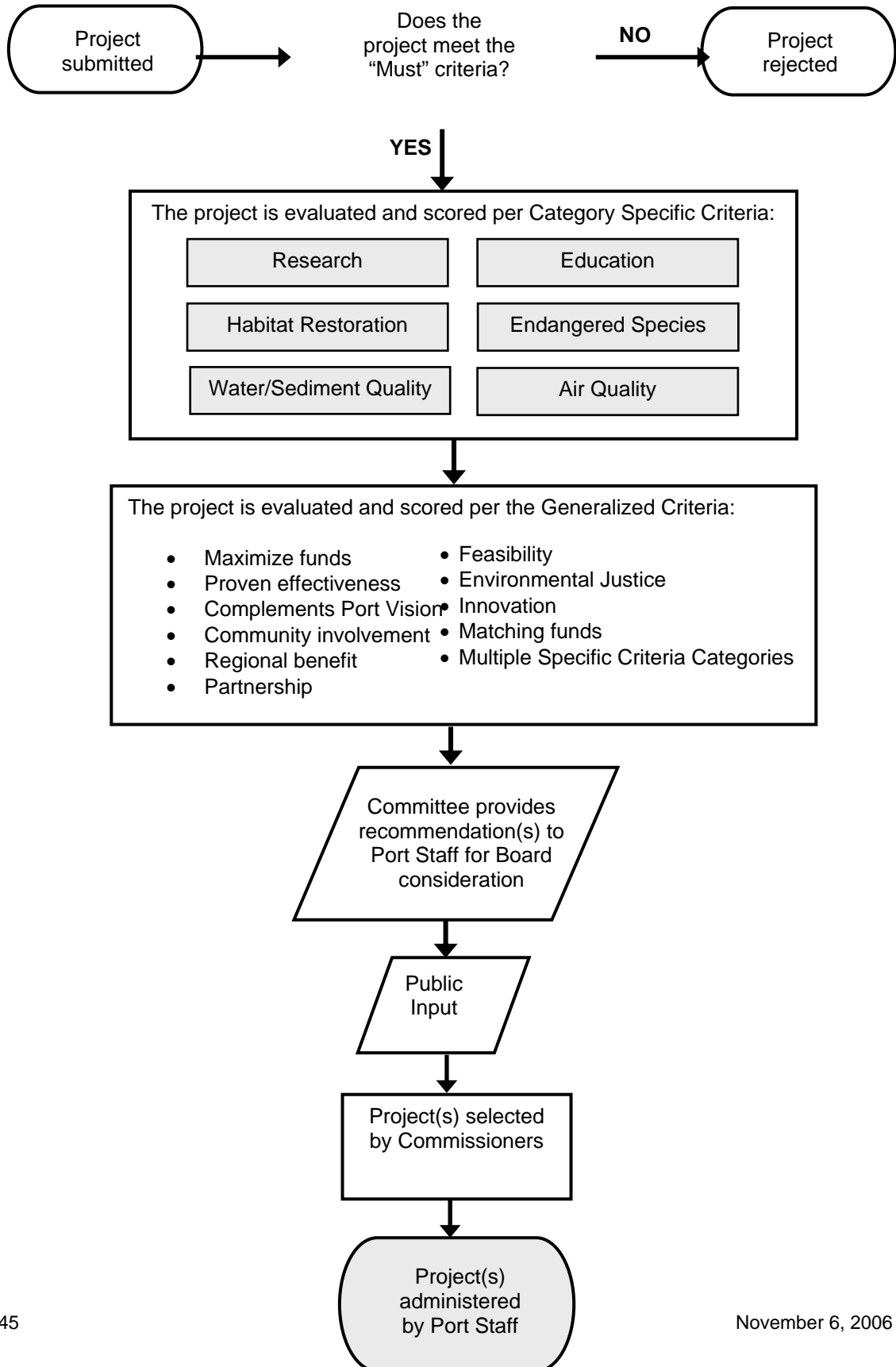




### Environmental Advisory Committee Environmental Fund Project Selection





**“Must” Criteria**  
**For all projects – to be completed prior to the Category Specific Criteria**

Criteria	Pass/Fail
Beyond compliance and beyond mitigation- Is the project required to be done as a matter of compliance or mitigation? ("Yes"= Fail)	
Is the project intended to be fully funded by another entity? ("Yes"= Fail)	
Has the project been identified as a specifically required activity of another agency or entity? ("Yes"= Fail)	
Is this project consistent with the Port Mission? ("No"= Fail)	
Does the project focus on San Diego Bay and its Watersheds? ("No"= Fail)	

**Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Criteria**



Criteria	Points (1-5)
The project benefits one or more of the nine threatened or endangered species found in the Bay.	
To what extent would other endangered or threatened species benefit?	
The project is consistent with the recovery criteria, as defined in US Fish Wildlife Services recovery plans for listed species.	
<p>Recovery Priority: for species to benefit, the top of the list receives higher scoring.</p> <p>California Least Tern (<i>Sternula antillarum</i>)            Light-footed Clapper Rail (<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>)            California Brown Pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>)            Salt Marsh Bird's Beak (<i>Cordylanthus maritimus maritimus</i>)            Western Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>)            Pacific Green Sea Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)            Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)            California Gnatcatcher (<i>Poliopitila californica californica</i>)            Belding's Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>)</p>	

**The following scoring system will be used to score the criteria:**

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- A score of 4 points will be awarded where the criterion is fully addressed but is not supported by thorough documentation or sufficient rationale.
- A score of 3 points will be awarded where the criterion is less than fully addressed and documentation and/or rationale are incomplete or insufficient.
- A score of 2 points will be awarded where the criterion is marginally addressed.
- A score of 1 point will be awarded where the criterion is not addressed or no documentation or rationale is presented.



### Habitat Restoration and Protection Criteria

Criteria	Guidance for Project Review	Points (1-5)
<p><b>1. Habitat Productivity and Function</b></p> <p>Increases the productivity of native habitats to support a functional and diverse food web within the Bay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would the project enhance the productivity of moderately deep habitat, unvegetated shallows, or vegetated shallows?</li> <li>• Would the project contribute to a long-term net gain and ensure no net loss of salt marsh habitat, intertidal flats or adjacent uplands?</li> <li>• Would the project identify and protect the physical and chemical factors supporting plankton productivity, and its use of the Bay?</li> <li>• Would the project contribute to an increase in the abundance, biomass, and diversity of algal, marine invertebrate, and fish populations?</li> <li>• Would the project enhance or restore habitats supporting resident and migratory birds?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Restoration of Rare and Unique Habitats</b></p> <p>Creates, restores, or enhances habitat types that have been disproportionately lost or impaired, or have been identified as locally rare or unique</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the project restore or enhance a habitat identified as scarce or missing? The following habitats ranked in order, are preferred for habitat restoration and protection:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intertidal excluding salt marsh</li> <li>○ Salt ponds</li> <li>○ Riparian connections and freshwater marsh</li> <li>○ Salt marsh</li> <li>○ Shallow subtidal (vegetated and unvegetated)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Would the project achieve a long-term net gain and ensure no net loss of salt marsh, intertidal flats or adjacent uplands?</li> <li>• Would the project protect and enhance the important wildlife functions of the Salt Works, with emphasis on shorebirds and seabird nesting?</li> <li>• Would the project allow river mouths and floodplains to fulfill their natural ecological function as a source of sedimentation, organic matter, and freshwater input?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Support of At-Risk or Endemic Species</b></p> <p>Enhances habitat that supports the survival and recovery of sensitive or declining species including those that are listed as threatened or endangered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would the project protect and enhance the important wildlife functions of the Salt Works, with emphasis on shorebirds, and nesting seabirds?</li> <li>• Would the project maintain, enhance, and restore habitats for at-risk resident and migratory birds and fishes? (Resident fishes: young-of-year topsmelt, giant kelpfish, pipefish. Shorebirds are identified as an at-risk class)</li> <li>• Would the project support endemic species (deepbody anchovy, slough anchovy, California killifish, arrow goby, longjaw mudsucker, bay pipefish, barred pipefish, cheekspot goby, striped mullet, spotted sand bass, bay blenny, shadow goby; Nuttall's lotus; tiger beetles; wandering skipper; San Diego jackrabbit; coast horned lizard; coastal burrowing owl; coast horned lark)?</li> </ul>	



<p><b>4. Addresses an Ecosystem-wide Threat</b></p> <p>Prevents new problems or threats to the Bay's ecosystem</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would the project prevent the introduction of or control exotic species?</li> <li>• Would the project prevent the introduction of or control some other clearly identified threat to habitats or ecosystem productivity?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Value is Long Term and Sustainable</b></p> <p>Self-sustaining after completion, through natural processes or long-term management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to be considered sustainable, would the project take into account long-term management of issues, i.e. invasive species, sedimentation, erosion, sea level rise, and anticipated future development?</li> <li>• Would the project include long-term maintenance?</li> <li>• Is a timeline to independence included?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Habitat Connectivity</b></p> <p>Contributes to a suitable mix of habitat types that maximizes ecosystem support of species that need access to a habitat mix</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the project consider habitat connectivity in order to support species that need to move among multiple habitat types to complete their life cycle, or migrate in and out of the Bay seasonally? (Focus species in this category: California halibut; California killifish; California halfbeak; western snowy plover and shorebirds as a class (high mudflat and upland transition)).</li> </ul>	

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## Research Criteria

Criteria	Points (1-5)
The proposed project addresses an important issue, problem, data gap, or opportunity in the enhancement, promotion, conservation or management of marine or coastal resources.	
The project advances the underlying science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods and approaches, availing of opportunities in data and resource management and public outreach.	
The project provides critical information to guide and improve habitat restoration, conservation, enhancement and planning.	
The project will produce or contribute to a broad information base that is relevant to addressing a key issue, data gap, or concern in San Diego Bay.	
The project will assist in understanding the biological, chemical or geophysical structure of the Bay, and the interactions of the San Diego Bay ecosystem with near coast ecosystems and sediments.	
The project will contribute to a quantitative understanding of the structure and inner workings of the physical and biological systems of San Diego Bay, and demonstrate applicability to predicting ecosystem reactions to natural and human-induced disturbances, including those affecting invertebrates, plankton, fish, marine mammal, sea turtle and bird populations.	
The project demonstrates scientific merit/quality. The approach is technically sound and/or innovative, the methods appropriate, and the project goals and objectives clear. Performance evaluation methods are clear, and project outcomes can be disseminated to or shared with the scientific community, resource managers and the general public.	

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### Air Quality Criteria

Criteria	Points (1-5)
The project reduces air emissions emanating from the tidelands.	
The project reduces toxic and criteria pollutants, Aerial deposition, and green house gas emissions.	
The project is consistent with local air quality strategies.	
The project helps address Air Pollution Control District non-attainment/State Implementation Plan issues.	
The project reduces energy consumption.	
The project reduces peak power usage.	

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### Education Criteria

Criteria	Points (1-5)
The project focuses on San Diego Bay or impacts of the activities of the watersheds.	
The project focuses on priority pollutants identified for the San Diego Bay and its watershed (bacteria, sediment, pesticides, metals, PCBs, etc.).	
The project focuses on habitats and wildlife in San Diego Bay and its watersheds.	
The project describes environmental problems, issues, or conditions with fairness and accuracy.	
If project is K-college based: The project meets or exceeds appropriate state standards/guidelines such as state science standards or the Environmental Education Initiative. ( <a href="http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/default.htm">www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/default.htm</a> )	
The project facilitates "hands-on" learning, such as field trips, restoration enhancement, information gathering, and/or clean-up.	
If project is K-college based: The project includes a teacher-training or leadership component.	
The project creates an effective learning environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages critical thinking skills.</li> <li>• Encourages creative thinking skills.</li> <li>• Provides a connection to learners' everyday lives.</li> </ul>	
The project includes a measurable assessment component, such as a pre/post questionnaire.	
The project demonstrates (or if a pilot project, is likely to demonstrate) an increase in environmental knowledge within the target audience.	
The project encourages and documents behavioral changes.	
The project is likely to receive positive media attention.	

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## Water and Sediment Quality Criteria

Criteria	Points (1-5)
The project improves water or sediment quality in the Bay.	
The project reduces the generation of NPS pollution with clear methods to document the improvement.	
The project provides a clearly stated ecosystem-wide benefit or potential.	
The project provides a clearly stated contribution to maximizing the Bays function such as a nursery, for wildlife and human health.	
The project is part of a comprehensive strategy to improve water quality of San Diego Bay.	
The project implements a cited objective of a management plan.	
The project relates to a watershed plan, NRMP, or other comprehensive plan management strategy.	
The project supports the survival and recovery of management indicator species proposed in the NRMP, or sensitive or declining species including those that are listed as threatened or endangered.	
The project prevents new problems or threats to the Bay's ecosystem.	

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**General Criteria**  
**To be completed after the Category Specific Criteria**

Criteria			Weight
1	Makes most effective use of the funds available	Would the project take into account the costs of long-term maintenance and monitoring?	8
		Would the project be completed within the funding provided?	
		Would the project be a cost effective approach to the issue?	
		Would the project provide the highest return value for the investment and effort put into it?	
		Would the project be affordable?	
		Would the project resolve one or more recognized important deficiencies?	
2	A feasible and effective approach to the issue	Would the project have measurable results?	10
		Would the project provide evidence to support its feasibility and effectiveness?	
		Would the project be replicatable or reproducible?	
		Would the project have scientific merit?	
		Would the project be sustainable?	
3	Consistent with Port's Mission and BPC priorities	Would the project balance recreation opportunities and environmental stewardship?	10
		Would the project protect tidelands trust resources?	
		Would the commissioners support the project?	
4	Capitalizes on community involvement	Would the project be seen and appreciated by the public?	3
		Would the project activate the community?	
		Would the project allow public participation?	
5	Activates and uses partnerships	Would the project create new partnerships with one or more stakeholders?	6
6	Environmental Justice	Would the project benefit underserved communities?	6
		Would the project benefit heavily impacted communities?	
7	Innovative – An innovative approach to the issue that may expand knowledge and benefit other projects	Would the project employ an approach which hasn't been used before on similar projects?	7
		Would the project have application to other projects?	
8	Matching funds – Project attracts matching funds from other sources	Would the project have sources of matching funds and have they been identified?	5
		Is the project likely to be funded within three years if the Environmental Fund does not provide funding?	
		Is funding contingency based on matching funds?	
9	Regional Benefit	Would the project provide broad benefits to the entire Bay?	3
		Would the project benefit the surrounding region and watershed?	
10	Multiple Specific Criteria Lists	Would the project benefit more than one "Specific Criteria Category"?	5
11	Existing Plans	Does the project implement an applicable existing plan?	7



The highest scoring projects from the Category Specific Criteria will be scored under the General Criteria. The top projects will then be forwarded to the Environmental Committee. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Port Commissioners for funding of projects.