



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 2022

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Amy Hutzler, Executive Officer
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San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SUBJECT: Approach to Authority Outreach to Local Governments in Partnership with the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Local governments along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay face the challenge of adapting to sea level rise in a manner that reduces flood risk while protecting and enhancing shoreline habitats. The Governing Board has asked staff to respond to this need by providing information to city and county elected officials and staff about sea level adaptation options and how the Authority can help them develop and implement nature-based solutions. Staff proposes to create and update some outreach materials for local governments, as well as collaborate with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to achieve this goal.

Authority Outreach to Local Governments

The scope of the Authority's outreach to local governments is focused on promoting its mission of funding projects that protect, enhance, and restore shoreline habitats, as well as the flood protection and public access components of those projects. Within the context of supporting sea level rise adaptation, the Authority's goal will be to make local governments aware of the Authority and its grant programs and opportunities to use nature-based adaptation solutions.

To achieve greater awareness of the Authority and its grant programs, staff will take the following steps.

- Create a short video about the Authority's mission, accomplishments, role in supporting nature-based adaptation, and opportunities to apply for grants; and encourage shoreline city councils and county boards of supervisors to play it at their meetings.
- Update the Authority's fact sheet to highlight accomplishments over the agency's first five years and future funding opportunities and provide it to local elected officials and staff through distribution networks such as the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).
- Ask to present on shoreline resilience and restoration at the ABAG General Assembly in June 2023.

Additionally, staff intends to work closely with BCDC, which has recently expanded its capacity to support local governments in developing and implementing sea level rise adaptation plans and projects.

BCDC's Role in Providing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Support

BCDC has worked for many years to advise local governments on sea level rise adaptation. Most recently, BCDC led the development of the Bay Adapt Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay (also called the Bay Adapt Joint Platform). As described in BCDC staff's presentation to the Governing Board on October 14, 2022, the Bay Adapt Joint Platform was adopted by the Commission in October 2021. Over 50 city and counties, agencies, including the Authority, and other groups have signed on. The Joint Platform is made up of nine actions that identify ways to overcome barriers to adaptation and ensure faster, more equitable outcomes.

Since the Joint Platform was adopted, BCDC has secured over \$5 million from the Ocean Protection Council and State Coastal Conservancy to hire staff and engage consultants to implement it. The agency will focus on four key areas over the next three years:

1. Building on the Joint Platform's equity principles, BCDC will advise the Coastal Conservancy on targeting grants to frontline communities, particularly disadvantaged and low-income communities of color, to increase community capacity, education and adaptation planning.
2. BCDC will lead the development of a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) and sub-regional adaptation plan guidelines.
3. BCDC will assess the need to update its adaptation-related regulatory processes, and underlying policies, regulations and authorities, and will work to improve coordination with other regulatory agencies on facilitating adaptation.
4. As the "backbone agency" for Bay Adapt, BCDC will take the lead on convening, coordinating, tracking, and reporting on the region's adaptation successes and progress.

Development of the RSAP and BCDC's role as the Bay Adapt backbone agency will include a significant amount of local government outreach, including:

- Developing a RSAP Task Force including two local elected officials per county to provide local perspectives to the RSAP and champion sub-regional adaptation plan guidelines.
- Organizing at least two public workshops and at least six subregional stakeholder meetings to support development of the sub-regional shoreline adaptation plan guidelines.
- Organizing an annual symposium to highlight sea level rise adaptation progress around the region.
- Developing a presentation on sea level rise adaptation planning for the State of the Estuary Conference and advertising it to local elected officials.

To support the collaboration between the Authority and BCDC, Authority staff will provide BCDC staff with slides about Authority and its ability to fund nature-based sea level rise

adaption to include in the presentations at the workshops, meetings, symposium, and conference described above. Staff will also provide BCDC with value propositions regarding nature-based adaption, i.e., short, persuasive examples of how nature-based strategies saved communities money by preventing a specific dollar amount of flood damage.

Conclusion

Staff look forward to raising awareness of the Authority's potential to support nature-based adaptation to sea level rise among local governments officials and staff. Although it is beyond the scope and capacity of the Authority to conduct extensive local government outreach on adaptation planning, we are fortunate that BCDC is funded to do this work as the Bay Adapt backbone agency. Staff will also consider ways to incorporate sea level rise messaging developed by Bay Adapt into the Authority's communications work. We look forward to collaborating with BCDC to achieve our shared goals.