

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This report includes a synopsis of status of the preliminary draft Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and guidelines for the preparation of sea level rise plans; and

1. ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL SHORELINE ADAPTATION PLAN (RSAP) AND GUIDELINES FOR THE

PREPARATION OF SEA LEVEL RISE PLANS: On October 17, 2024, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) conducted a public hearing on the Draft Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) that includes guidelines for local governments to use in preparing the rising sea level plans by January 1, 2034 pursuant to Senate Bill 272 (Laird, 2023). Written and oral comments were provided by many environmental organizations, cities and counties, and others. The Commission is scheduled to finalize the RSAP and Guidelines on November 21, 2024.

Background: In 2023, SB 272, was signed into law October 7, 2023 that requires all local governments along the San Francisco Bay shoreline to address how they will tackle the ramifications of sea level rise through Shoreline Resiliency Subregional Plans. BCDC developed the draft guidelines that will be used by the local governments to prepare these plans in San Francisco Bay and is required to approve or deny plans based on consistency with the guidelines. While SB 272 provides the mandate for these plans, BCDC has been setting the stage for local governments to create coordinated adaptation plans for well over a decade. The San Francisco Bay Plan (Bay Plan) is BCDC's guiding policy document for implementing the laws as outlined in the McAtter Petris Act of 1965.

In September 2024, BCDC issued the draft Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Guidelines that shapes what Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans contain, how they are to be developed, and the standards the plans must meet. They also outline which Bay Area jurisdictions are required to create a plan, what plan submittal, review, and approval process involves, how and when plan updates should be completed, and guidance for how to access support and resources. It can be downloaded by clicking: [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan: One Bay Vision, Strategic Regional Priorities, and Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Guidelines Draft for public comment.](#)

The Guidelines are organized by required plan elements:

- Element A: Planning Process
- Element B: Existing Conditions
- Element C: Vulnerability Assessment
- Element D: Adaptation Strategies and Pathways
- Element E: Land Use and Policy Plan
- Element F: Project Implementation Plan and Funding Strategy
- Element G: Project List

Over 225 written comments were presented along with hours of verbal testimony from environmental organizations, business and industry, local governments, individuals and many others. I specifically want to thank the **Cities of Concord, Corte Madera, Palo Alto, San Carlos, San Rafael, and Sausalito** for sending in comments and urging the Commission to be more flexible in what is required in the Plans. Also, comments were made that even applying for grants to develop these plans takes resources which most cities and counties would struggle to divert to this effort. In November, the Commission will discuss changes to the guidelines and decide whether to take action on the final guidelines.

¹ Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC)

2. SEDIMENT AND BENEFICIAL REUSE OF DREDGE MATERIAL: On October 18, 2024, the BCDC Committee for Sediment and Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Material met to discuss the existing and proposed amendments for the Bay Plan on sediment use for wetland adaptation projects.

BCDC staff presented ALL of the policies in the existing **San Francisco Bay Plan** that addresses sediment and beneficial reuse of dredged material. This list is quite extensive. However, I raised a concern as to whether there are other 'special area plans' that include issues related to 'dredged material' is list did not include policies that are in the other **BCDC Special Area Plans** (e.g. Richardson Bay Special Area Plan, San Francisco Waterfront Special Area Plan, Benicia Special Area Plan, South Richmond Shoreline Special Area Plan, White Slough Special Area Plan, San Francisco Bay Area Seaport Plan, Suisun March Protection Plan).

In looking at just the Richardson Bay Specific Area Plan, it appears that there are adopted policies that may be appropriate to include in this extensive list to ensure that BCDC is consistent and complete.

EXISTING POLICIES FOR THE RICHARDSON BAY SPECIFIC AREA PLAN: Dated: April 13, 1984

1. The Corps of Engineers navigation channel and turning basin, currently dredged to -28 feet MLLW, should be maintained at that depth and at current widths. If in the future the channel depth is not necessary to maintain access to the Corps' Operations Base, the channel should be maintained no shallower than -10 feet MLLW to allow navigation by fishing vessels.
2. Marina basins, navigational fairways, the Marinship Launching Basin, and navigational channels designated on Plan Map 6, Navigation Plan, to be dredged should be dredged to a minimum depth of -8 feet MLLW.
3. The Saucelito Canal should be dredged from the Corps of Engineer's turning basin to the Kappas Yacht Harbor area to a minimum depth of -8 feet MLLW.
4. The locally designated navigation channel from the Kappas Yacht Harbor to the Saucelito Canal should be dredged to a minimum depth of -8 feet MLLW.
5. The Salt Works Canal in front of the Strawberry Spit wildlife preserve area should not be dredged.
6. Dredge spoils should be disposed of either: (a) on dry land at an approved fill site; (b) in a Corps of Engineers approved spoiling site in San Francisco Bay outside Richardson Bay; or (c) at sea beyond the 100-fathom line if the dredged materials are contaminated in excess of federal Environmental Protection Agency standards.
7. The Corps of Engineers should continue to evaluate on a case-by-case basis proposals for the disposal of small amounts of dredged materials in Raccoon Strait, which is outside Richardson Bay. If dredge spoils are authorized to be discharged into Raccoon Strait, disposal should not take place during fish migration periods and spoiling should take place on the ebb tide.

3. BAYLANDS HABITAT MAP: On October 15, 2024, I participated in a presentation on the SF Baylands Habitat Map which is a good tool. It was co-created by the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program's (WRMP) Geospatial Workgroup and San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), and funded by the USEPA Water Quality Improvement Fund.

The Baylands Habitat Map 2020 represents the condition of the San Francisco Bay Baylands in the year 2020. It was published in April 2024. It was developed to meet the needs of the San Francisco Estuary Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program's (WRMP) by mapping habitat types for the purpose of monitoring regional change over time using primarily remote sensing data.

The Baylands Habitat Map 2020 (BHM2020) Is a fundamental component of the San Francisco Estuary Regional Wetlands Monitoring Program (WRMP) and serves as a common reference map to help coordinate Baylands protection and restoration for all interests. It is intended to be used commonly by public agencies to visualize and track Baylands projects in EcoAtlas. The creation of the Baylands Habitat Map was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund. The San Francisco Estuary Institute developed and refined the ruleset to produce the map through regular consultation and collaboration with the WRMP Geospatial Workgroup and WRMP Technical Advisory Committee. The dataset was developed using Object Based Image analysis and a rule-based approach in Trimble eCognition and ESRI ArcGIS Pro software. The dataset was published in April 2024. The fact sheet about the Bayland Habitat Map can be viewed here: [Baylands Habitat Map Factsheet 2024 v6.pdf](#)

During the BHM2020 mapping effort, methods for differentiating one class from another were largely based upon relative tidal elevation, vegetation cover, and feature structure/shape. Tidal influence varies not only across the regions of the bay area, but also between Bayland areas within that are constrained by levees and complex hydrological connections. To account for this variability and uncertainty, some flexibility in regard to modeled relative tidal elevation was required and adjustments based on spectral signature was necessary to accurately capture the habitats and extent of influence in areas with complex and varying tidal connections. More information can be found in the BHM2020 methods document.

The classification system used was developed in close coordination with WRMP staff and advisors and can be found more fully described in the [WRMP Baylands Habitat Map 2020 Classification Key](#). The Baylands Habitat Map can be accessed here: [Layer: Baylands Habitat Map San Francisco Bay 2020 SFEI ds3190 \(ID:0\)](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 4 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm --	Design Review Board Meeting
November 7 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm --	BCDC Commission Meeting
November 14 @ 9:30 am - 12:00 pm --	Enforcement Committee Meeting
November 19 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm --	Engineering Criteria Review Board Meeting
November 21 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm --	BCDC Commission Meeting
November 22 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am --	Sand Studies Commissioner Working Group
November 27 @ 9:30 am - 12:00 pm --	Enforcement Committee Meeting
December 5 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm --	BCDC Commission Meeting
December 9 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm --	Design Review Board Meeting
December 10 @ 9:30 am - 12:00 pm --	Enforcement Committee Meeting
December 10 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm --	Engineering Criteria Review Board Meeting