



The

Policies for a Rising Bay

Project

Commission Fill Policies Working Group
April 16, 2015

Steering Committee Meeting Recap



Meeting Objectives

1. Confirm project goals, approach, and BCDC staff and Steering Committee roles and responsibilities
2. Understand Steering Committee members' experience addressing sea level rise and perspectives on BCDC policies

Steering Committee Members



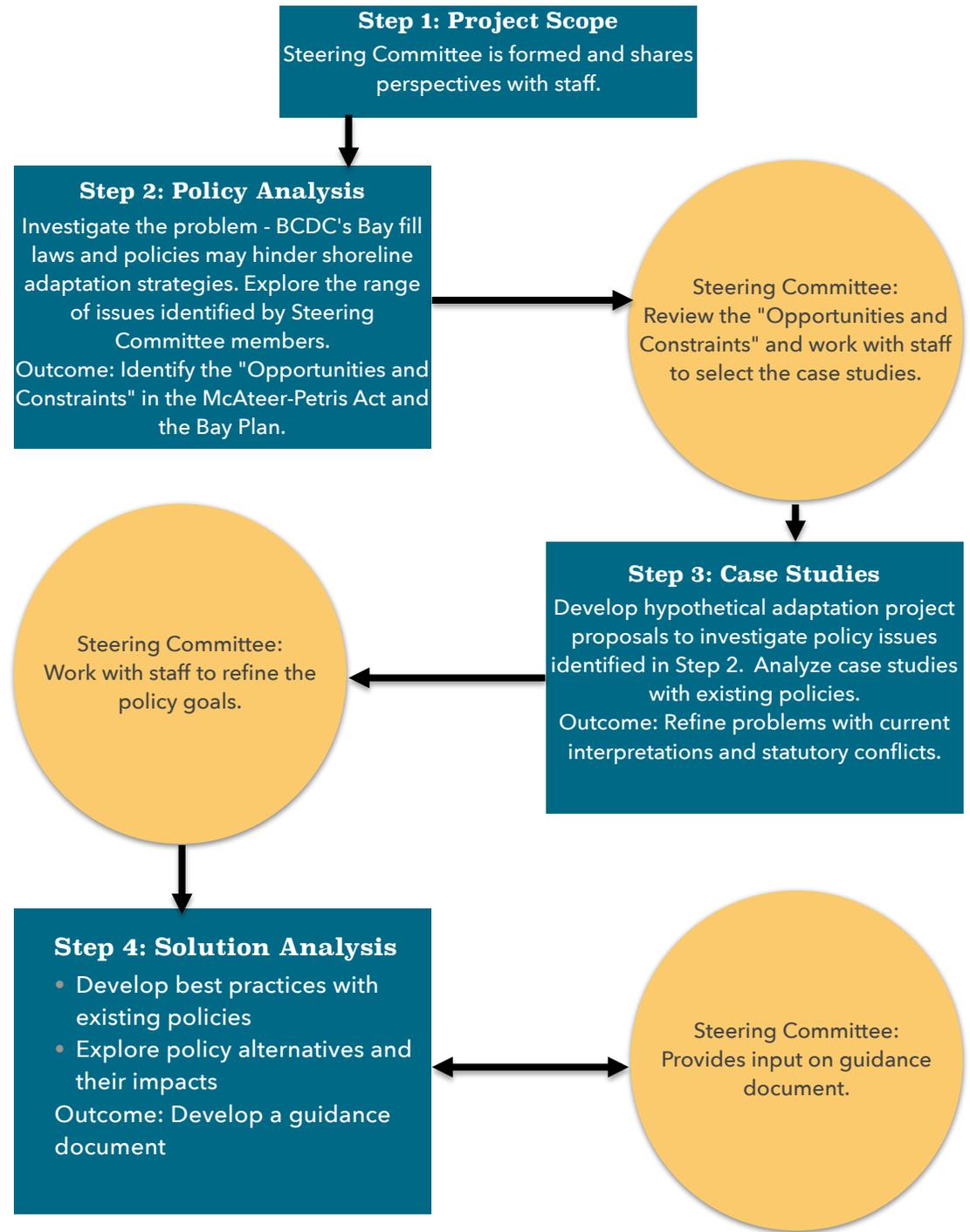
Project Goal



Collaboratively evaluate BCDC's fill policies in light of sea level rise and develop guidance for the Commission, staff and project proponents to promote shoreline resilience

Approach

Confirmed steps, roles, and timeline (through June 2016)



Key Questions



- What is the nexus between this Steering Committee and Commission Fill Policies Working Group?
- How are we protecting people where sea level rise may cause groundwater intrusion into brownfields?

Context: Policies in Practice



- All proposed fills for shoreline protection/habitat have been approved
- Fill in Bay more restrictive than fill in salt ponds and shoreline band
- Several questions need to be answered to understand appropriate fill for habitat features



Steering Committee Perspectives (Highlights)



- McAteer-Petris Act, Section 66632 provides a mechanism to approve fill for shoreline resilience.
- BCDC’s mission to protect the Bay and encourage its responsible use will stay the same as sea level rises, but the approach to achieving these goals will need to change, i.e., BCDC’s interpretation of the policies should be revisited.
 - What is the minimum amount of fill for a transition zone slope? Is there a policy basis for “beneficial” fill?

Steering Committee Perspectives (Highlights) – cont.



- There are limitations to the project-by-project approach to building resilience. Regional flood protection solutions need to be considered.
- We are in the last stable 20-year period before sea level rise and its demands on the environment, infrastructure, and communities accelerate. We should use this time productively because we will need to make bigger moves, more efficiently in the future.
 - Expand conversation to other regulatory agencies, private finance, public utilities, etc.

Next steps



- May 5th Technical Workshop
 - Initiate case study development by selecting actions based on landscape conditions and environmental, economic, and equity tradeoffs
 - Explore the implications of policies that encourage innovative and nonstructural adaptation actions “wherever feasible and appropriate” and that require projects be resilient to mid-century sea level rise projections and adaptable to end-of-century

Next steps – cont.



- Ongoing policy analysis to identify issues
 - Early June conference call to solicit feedback on policy opportunities and constraints
- July 24th Steering Committee Meeting
 - Confirm priority policy issues
 - Discuss case study analysis based on technical input and policy issues



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Photo: Courtesy of Peter Baye