

# SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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January 3, 2014

**TO:** Commissioners and Alternates

**FROM:** Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653 lgoldzband@bcdc.ca.gov)  
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**SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments to Assist In an Evaluation of the Vulnerability and Risk of Priority Development Areas Identified in Plan Bay Area to Sea Level Rise**  
(For Commission consideration on January 16, 2014)

## Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments to provide up to \$75,000 over one year to the Commission for its staff costs to provide services in support of ABAG's Plan Bay Area Implementation project funded by the Sustainable Growth Council (SGC). Under this contract, BCDC staff will assist ABAG in evaluating the vulnerability and risk to sea level rise of Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in Plan Bay Area, which is the objective of Task 5 of ABAG's SGC grant. BCDC staff will: (1) identify through GIS analysis and mapping the approved PDAs that are exposed to sea level rise; (2) identify the types of vulnerabilities these PDAs may face due to sea level rise; and (3) characterize the consequences to local communities and the region if the exposure occurs. The evaluation conducted under this contract will support ongoing ABAG and BCDC efforts, notably the Bay Area Housing and Community Multiple Hazards Risk Assessment project, that are developing strategies to address PDA risks due to sea level rise and earthquakes. The staff also recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in either the scope or amount of the contract.

## Staff Report

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is a recipient of a Sustainable Growth Council (SGC) grant that is funding the Plan Bay Area Implementation project. This SGC funded project includes six tasks, and ABAG desires to partner with BCDC to assess the vulnerability of PDAs to sea level rise and develop strategies to address the vulnerabilities. BCDC staff will draw from the data, resources, information and experience developed as part of the Commission's Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) project to provide the following services to support ABAG's successful completion of the Plan Bay Area Implementation project:

1. Identify which PDAs are vulnerable to sea level rise. BCDC staff will first review the state's current sea level rise guidance and select no more than three sea level rise projections to evaluate. Staff will then obtain the best available regional sea level rise inundation dataset to determine which will be exposed to future flooding due to sea level rise. This effort will be summarized in both mapping and tabular formats.



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2. Evaluate the vulnerability and risk the exposed PDAs may experience due to sea level rise and the consequences on local communities and the region if this exposure was to occur. Staff will conduct this assessment using existing information and resources regarding the vulnerabilities and risks Bay Area community may face including the detailed vulnerability and risk assessment conducted as part of the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) pilot project in Alameda County. For no fewer than three and no more than ten representative PDAs the types of vulnerabilities and consequences that may occur due to sea level rises will be characterized and presented in a “community profile” format that will serve to exemplify the likely future flood risk PDAs may face as sea level rises.

The work conducted under this contract will directly support other ongoing ABAG and BCDC collaborative projects aimed at understanding the risks faced by the region due to sea level rise and earthquakes. Notably, the Bay Area Housing and Community Multiple Hazards Risk Assessment project, which will be directly supported by the work described in this contract, will result in recommended strategies to decrease vulnerability and increase the region’s resilience to natural hazards that can be incorporated in Bay Area long-range community plans such as Plan Bay Area. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to: (1) execute a contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments to provide up to \$75,000 over one year to the Commission for its staff costs to provide services in support of ABAG’s Plan Bay Area Implementation project funded by the SGC; and (2) amend the contract, as long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in either the scope or amount of the contract.