



The Policies for a Rising Bay Project

Commission Briefing
June 16, 2016



Project of
Special Merit

Project Objectives



- Collaboratively evaluate the Commission's laws and policies to determine if changes are needed to support sea level rise resilience and adaptation
- Assess how the Commission can most effectively allow fill for resilience and adaptation
- Evaluate existing laws and policies that can be used to ensure protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities

BCDC Sea Level Rise Initiatives



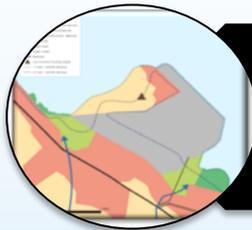
Project Process - Overview



1. Steering Committee



2. Policy Analysis



3. Case Studies



4. Final Report

Steering Committee Members



Project Process – Policy Analysis

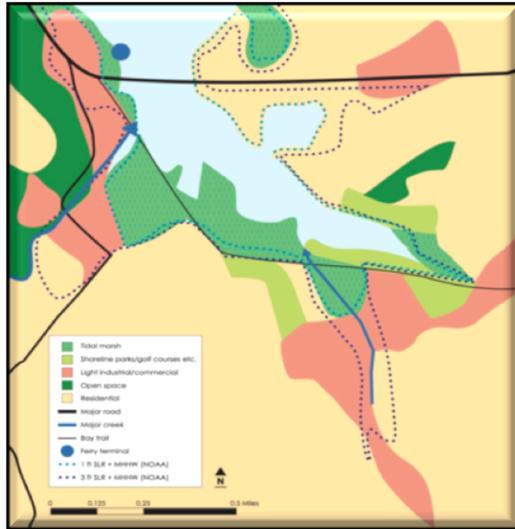


- BCDC staff and steering committee member perspectives on:
 - Fill Policies
 - Public Access and Recreation Policies
 - Environmental Justice and Social Equity
 - Challenges for both Regulators and Permittees in developing adaptation projects
- Which laws and policies are applicable to resilience and adaptation projects, and what are their limitations?

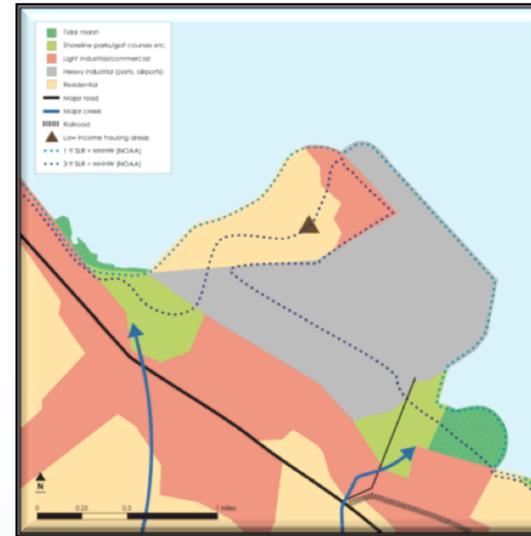
Project Process – Case Studies



Shoreline
Community



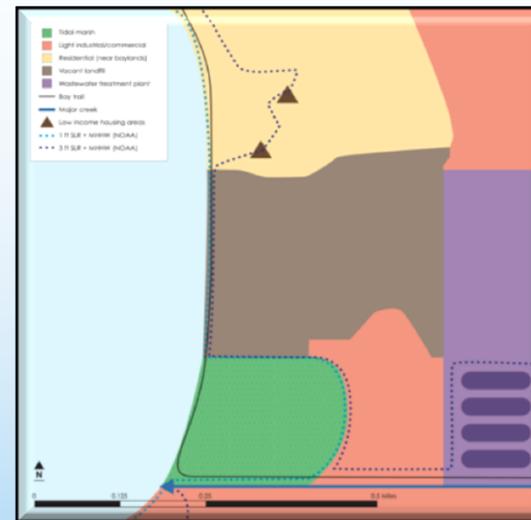
Airport



Transportation



Landfill



Project Process – Final Report



Contents:

- Background & History
- Methodology
- Policy Analysis & Findings
 - Issue
 - Current Law & Policy
 - Key Policy Questions
 - Steering Committee Findings
 - Policy Options
- Case Studies

Overarching Policy Issues



1. Fill for Resilience and Adaptation – Habitat Restoration and Protection
2. Fill for Resilience and Adaptation – Innovative Shoreline Solutions
3. Environmental Justice and Social Equity
4. Adaptive Management

1. Fill for Resilience and Adaptation

– Habitat Restoration and Protection



Policy Issue:

- Wetland protection, restoration and adaptation may require large amounts of fill.

Possible Actions:

- Organize and work with partners to develop guidance/best practices for minimizing fill for wetland habitat protection
- Ask permit applicants to identify benefits and impacts of using fill for wetland adaptation
- Develop region-wide permit for SLR habitat resilience and adaptation projects
- Explore amending the Bay Plan or the McAteer-Petris Act

2. Fill for Resilience and Adaptation – Innovative Shoreline Protection



Policy Issue:

- Limited jurisdiction and permitting requirements can hinder innovative shoreline adaptation

Possible Actions:

- Organize and work with partners to develop guidance/best practices for innovative shoreline protection solutions
- Provide green shoreline project applicants technical support via a “help desk”
- Develop region-wide permit for SLR green shoreline protection projects
- Use special area plan and priority use area jurisdiction to encourage innovative green shoreline projects
- Explore amending the Bay Plan

3. Environmental Justice and Social Equity Policies



Policy Issue:

- BCDC has limited ability to address environmental justice concerns

Possible Actions:

- Continue highlighting disadvantaged community vulnerabilities, as well as resilience and adaptation opportunities, via Adapting to Rising Tides program
- Actively engage environmental justice communities in BCDC planning and permitting processes
- Explore amending Bay Plan to include policies on social equity and environmental justice

4. Adaptive Management Policies



Policy Issue:

- Clear guidance is needed on what constitutes an adaptive management plan and/or risk assessment

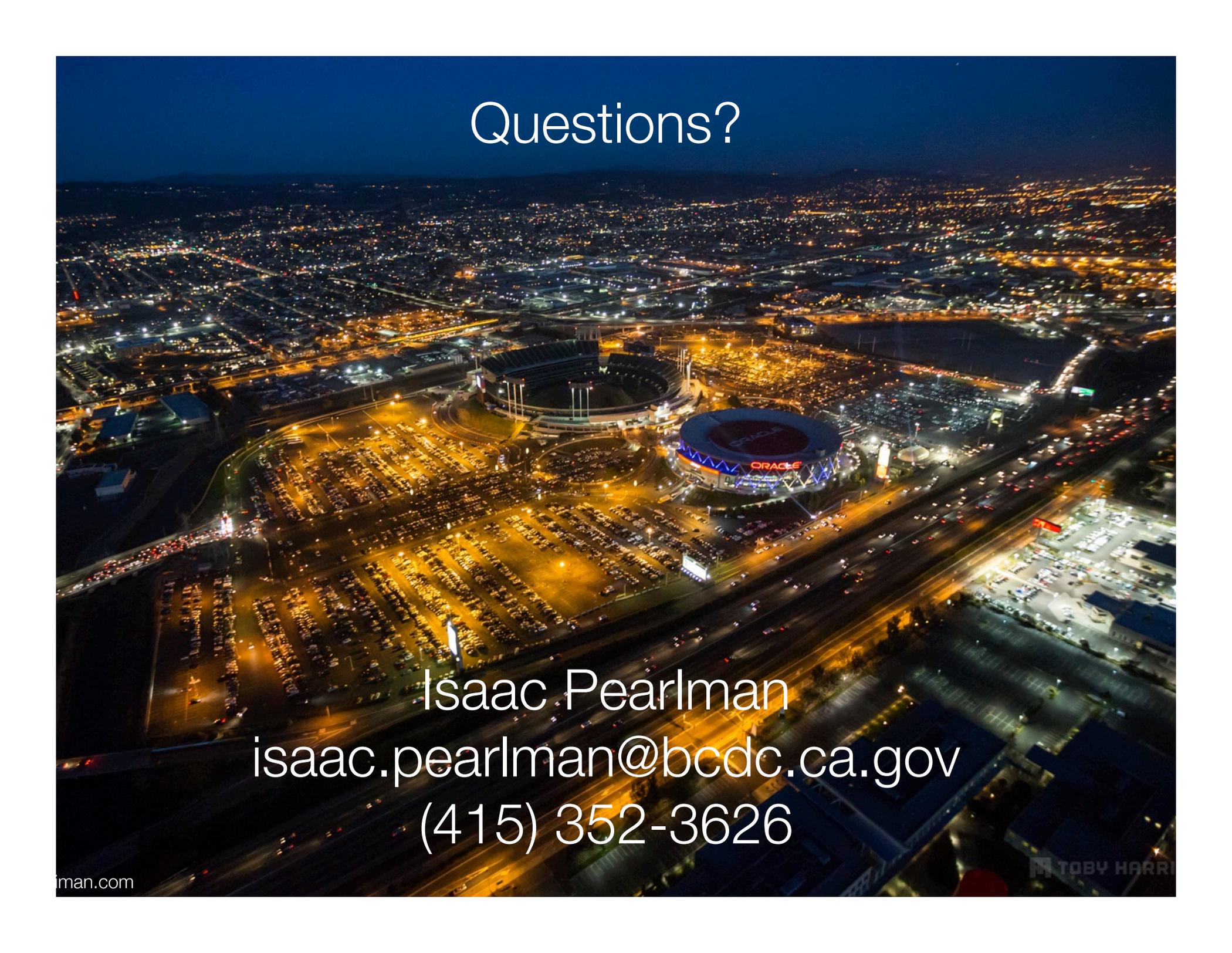
Possible Actions:

- Work with partners to develop criteria and guidance for adaptive management plans and risk assessments
- Require projects to include key thresholds and triggers for adaptive management action, e.g. number of days public access may be closed
- Increase coordination and collaboration with RWQCB to ensure contaminated lands are adaptively managed to protect environmental and human health

Project Timeline



- May 24th – Steering committee Open House
- Integrate feedback from BCDC staff and steering committee into final report
- June 30th – Submit final report to NOAA
- Continue to work with partners to refine policy options

An aerial night photograph of San Francisco, California, centered on Oracle Park. The stadium is brightly lit with blue and red lights, and the word "ORACLE" is visible on its facade. The surrounding city is illuminated with numerous lights, and a large parking lot filled with cars is visible in the foreground. The sky is dark blue.

Questions?

Isaac Pearlman
isaac.pearlman@bcfdc.ca.gov
(415) 352-3626