



November 14, 2018

The Honorable Zack Wasserman, Chair
Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-17

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

It is very disappointing to see the schedule for consideration of an important Bay Plan amendment again delayed. The Fill for Wildlife policies and others in BCDC's Strategic Plan should have been completed long ago, notwithstanding concerns that have been expressed about inadequate BCDC staffing and resources. This work should be a top priority, and BCDC is surrendering its leadership on adaptation action and lagging behind the public and local jurisdictions in many areas, because it has not allocated staff resources to priority actions that the urgency of climate change demands.

As we and others have underscored repeatedly, BCDC has devoted money, staff, and Commissioner time to five years of stakeholder processes, Commissioner briefings and task forces that have established and re-established widespread agreement and alignment on many core issues and approaches. These include Policies for a Rising Bay, workshops on Sea Level Rise, the Bay Fill Policies Working Group, Financing the Future Working Group, Environmental Justice Working Group, and more.

We believe that Commission should accelerate the process of amending the Bay Plan, accelerate the process of recommending statutory changes in the McAteer-Petris Act or Commission regulations the new Governor and legislature should consider, and assert Commission leadership on regional planning by Bay Area agencies for sea level rise.

As a first step, the Commission should direct staff now to produce a draft Bay Plan Amendment on Fill for Wildlife Policies for public hearing and Commission debate within two months, instead of in eight months. We believe two months is more than sufficient time to produce a draft based on the extensive stakeholder and commissioner discussions, workshops and conversations that have already taken place. This acceleration is the best way to indicate that BCDC is moving from a long period of contemplation to appropriately urgent action, while still allowing opportunity for input and debate, and observing required procedures and timelines.

There is much more BCDC can do beyond this first step, and we appeal to you and other Commissioners who recognize the imperative for urgent action on climate adaptation to lead the acceleration, instead of treading water while sea levels rise.

Sincerely,

David Lewis
Executive Director