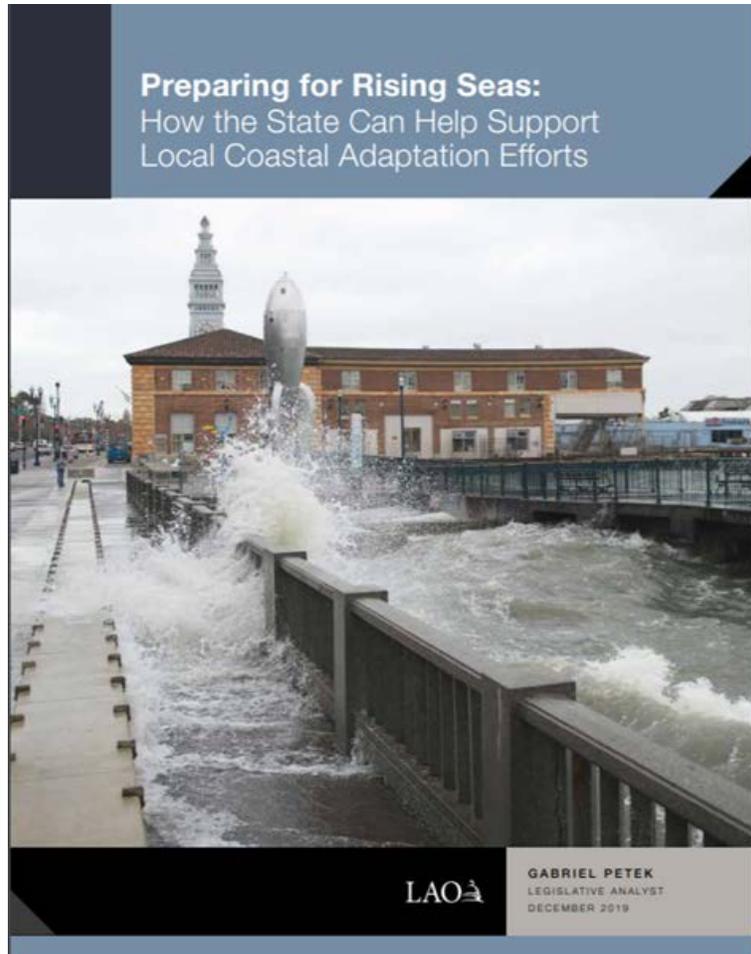


PREPARING FOR RISING SEAS: HOW THE STATE CAN HELP SUPPORT LOCAL COASTAL ADAPTATION EFFORTS



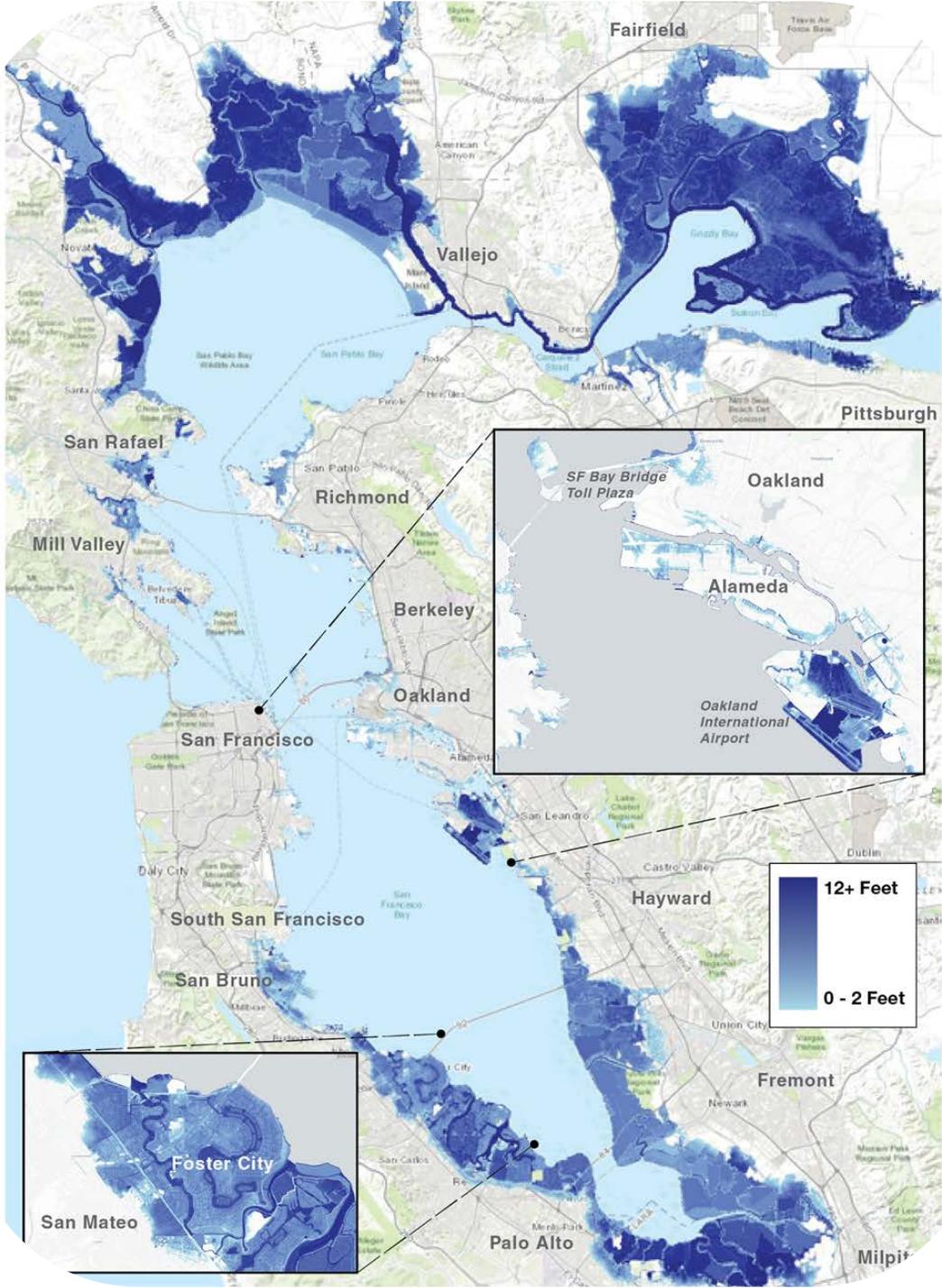
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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE (LAO)

PRESENTED TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

JANUARY 16, 2020

ABOUT THE LAO AND OUR RECENT COASTAL ADAPTATION REPORT



ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE (LAO)

- Provide independent, nonpartisan fiscal and policy advice to the California Legislature.
- About 45 analytical staff including five in the Resources and Environmental Protection unit.

THE LAO'S CORE ACTIVITIES

- Producing analyses and recommendations related to the **state budget**.
- Developing **special reports** (both statutorily required and self-generated).
- Providing general **analytical support** for the Legislature.
- Summarizing the fiscal effects of **initiatives and ballot measures**.

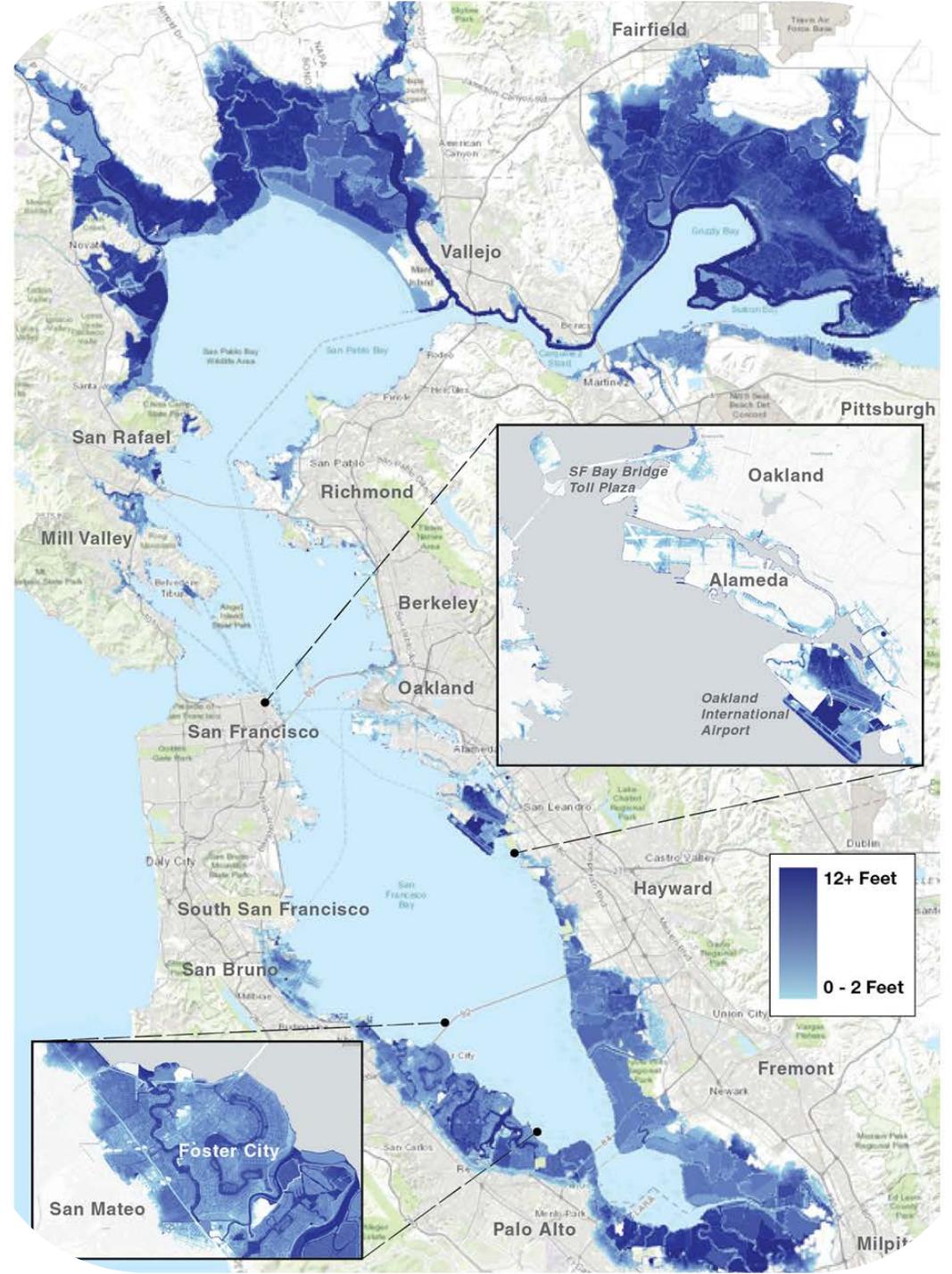
ABOUT THIS REPORT

- Undertaken in response to increasing legislative interest in climate adaptation.
- Focuses on how state can support local coastal adaptation efforts.
- Has a statewide perspective.
- Findings and recommendations informed by extensive interviews and research.
- Legislature will determine next steps.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT ON SEA-LEVEL RISE (SLR)**
- **KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL ADAPTATION EFFORTS**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE STEPS**

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT ON SLR



CALIFORNIA FACES THREAT OF RISING SEAS AND TIDES

- SLR could have extensive and expensive impacts on:
 - public infrastructure
 - natural resources
 - private property
 - state and local economies
- Most responsibility for SLR preparation lies with local governments.
- The state, however, has a vested interest in ensuring the coast is prepared.

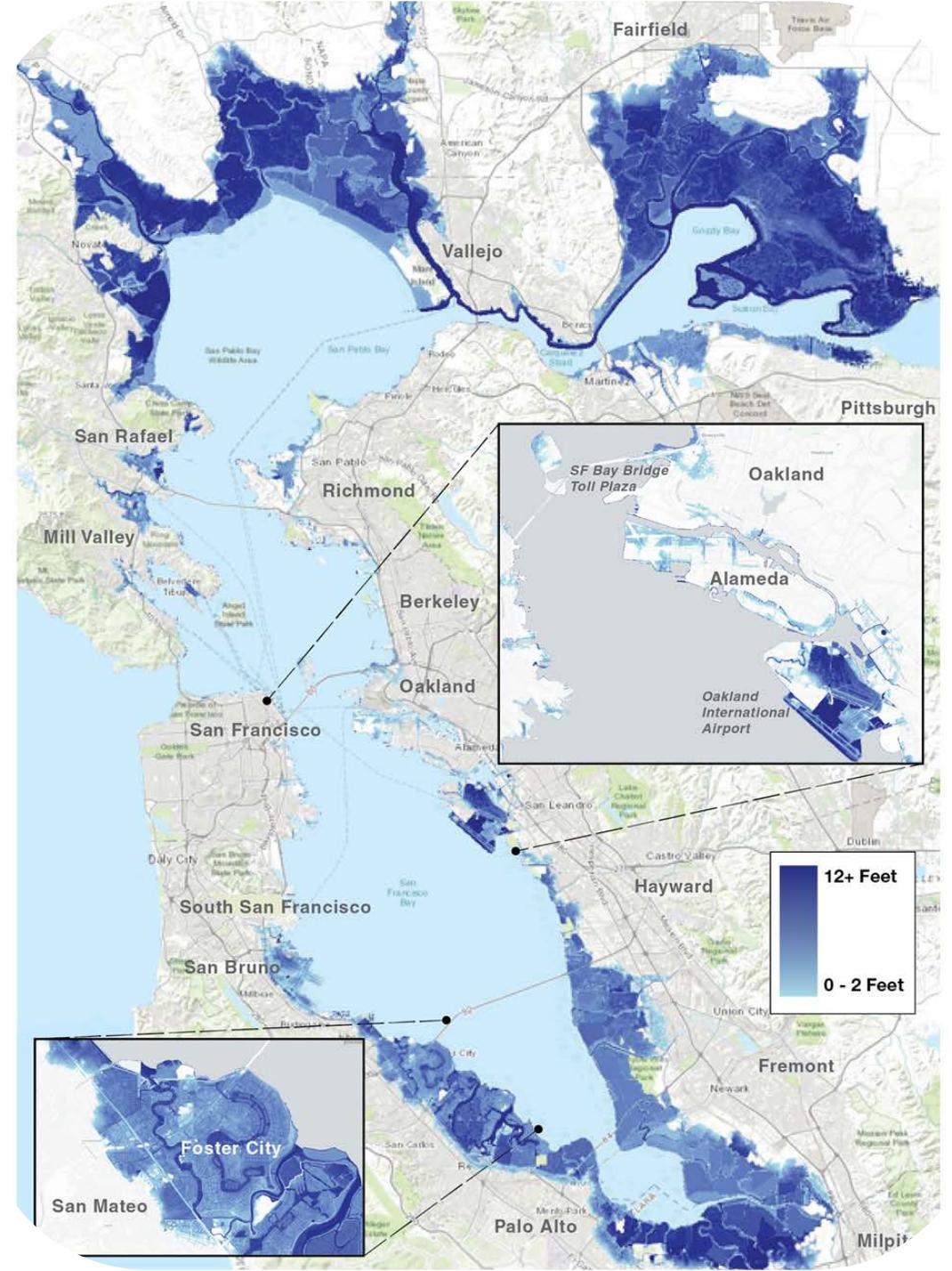
BENEFITS OF TAKING EARLY ACTION TO PREPARE FOR SLR

- Adaptation actions can be strategic and phased.
- Can “buy time” before more intensive responses are needed.
- Opportunity to test approaches and learn what works best.
- May make overall adaptation efforts more affordable.
- Coming decade represents key window.

LOCAL SLR PREPARATION EFFORTS ARE IN EARLY STAGES

- Many—but not all—coastal jurisdictions across the state have begun planning for SLR.
 - Conducting vulnerability assessments
 - Developing adaptation plans
 - Beginning to develop detailed project plans and policies
- Few communities have progressed to implementing projects.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL ADAPTATION EFFORTS



SIX KEY CHALLENGES FACING LOCAL ADAPTATION EFFORTS

- Funding constraints hinder both planning and projects.
- Limited local government capacity restricts their ability to take action.
- Adaptation activities are constrained by a lack of key information.

SIX KEY CHALLENGES FACING LOCAL ADAPTATION EFFORTS

(CONTINUED)

- A lack of forums for shared planning and decision-making impedes cross-jurisdictional collaboration.
- Responding to SLR is not yet a priority for many local residents or elected officials.
- The protracted process for attaining project permits delays adaptation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE STEPS



FOUR CATEGORIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Foster Regional-Scale Adaptation
- Support Local Planning and Adaptation Projects
- Provide Information, Assistance, and Support
- Enhance Public Awareness of SLR Risks and Impacts

FOSTER REGIONAL-SCALE ADAPTATION

- Establish and assist regional climate adaptation collaborative groups.
- Encourage development of regional coastal adaptation plans.
- Support implementation of regional adaptation efforts.

SUPPORT LOCAL PLANNING AND ADAPTATION PROJECTS

- Increase assistance for cities and counties to plan for SLR.
- Support coastal adaptation projects with widespread benefits.
- Facilitate monitoring of state-funded demonstration projects.

PROVIDE INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORT

- Establish the California Climate Adaptation Center and Regional Support Network.
- Develop a standard methodology for economic analyses of SLR risks and responses.
- Require a review of how regulatory permitting processes can be made more efficient.

ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SLR RISKS AND IMPACTS

- Require coastal flooding disclosures for real estate transactions.
- Require that state-funded adaptation plans and projects include robust public engagement.
- Direct state departments to conduct a public awareness campaign about SLR.

NEXT STEPS

- Legislature will consider report recommendations.
- Various avenues available for legislative action:
 - Policy bills
 - Budget Act
 - Bond proposition (would need voter approval)
 - Direction to state departments
 - Oversight and informational hearings

ADDITIONAL ISSUES WILL NEED LEGISLATIVE ATTENTION IN THE FUTURE

- Clarifying uncertain legal questions.
- Defining statewide priorities and responsibilities.
- Rethinking how and where we build.
- Responding to changes in insurance markets.
- Addressing additional climate-related risks and challenges.

THANK YOU!



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