

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

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SUBJECT: Revised Final Draft Background Report for Proposed Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08 Concerning Climate Change
(For Commission consideration on October 6, 2011)

Revisions to Background Report

Attached is a revised final draft background report, which supports the staff's recommendation on proposed Bay Plan Amendment 1-08 concerning climate change.

On April 7, 2009, the staff released a draft report entitled *Living with a Rising Bay: Vulnerability and Adaptation in San Francisco Bay and on the Shoreline*. The report provided extensive background information on the most current scientific research on climate change, presented maps depicting the low-lying areas around the Bay that could be impacted by future flooding from sea level rise and storm surge, and assessed the sensitivity, adaptive capacity and vulnerability of three systems: the shoreline environment, the Bay ecosystem and governance. Possible adaptation strategies to address key vulnerabilities were identified.

In its second and third preliminary recommendations on Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08, the Commission staff included responses to comments on the report, and committed to make several revisions to the background report, including the following:

1. In response to comments from San Francisco International Airport and Oakland International Airport regarding their vulnerability to sea level rise, the level of protection provided by existing levees and planned improvements have been clarified and passenger and cargo data for these airports have been corrected.
2. The differences in the vulnerability of wetlands compared to diked baylands are discussed.
3. The need to update the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals as habitat targets is addressed.
4. The vulnerability of people with disabilities is acknowledged, and the report has been revised so that people with disabilities have been added to the list of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In addition, the report has been revised to indicate that options, such as stairs or ramps, may not satisfy the requirement to provide barrier-free public access and that new shoreline protection devices that also support public access will have to be designed with the needs of people with disabilities in mind.
5. The adaptation strategy of creating a clearinghouse for scientific information related to climate change or other approaches that facilitate science-based adaptive management has been added.



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6. A discussion of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study has been added.
7. The invasive species discussion in Chapter 3 of the report has been revised to more accurately distinguish between invasives, exotics and migrating endemics with examples of each and the implications for the Bay ecosystem.
8. Clarifications of the Commission's role and responsibilities in addressing equity issues have been added.

The background report has also been revised to ensure consistency with the final staff recommendation on Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08 findings and policies, which have been revised several times since the draft report was first released. In particular, the adaptation chapter has been updated to describe the use of vulnerability and risk assessments, and to reflect the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, which was released in 2010 after the draft background report was released in 2009. The report has also been updated to ensure consistency with the Sea Level Rise Interim Guidance document developed by the Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the California Climate Action Team (CO-CAT) in 2010 and endorsed by the California Ocean Protection Council in 2011.

A redline version showing the differences between the April 7, 2009 draft and the final draft background report will be available on the Commission's website by September 30, 2011.