



Policies for a Rising Bay Project

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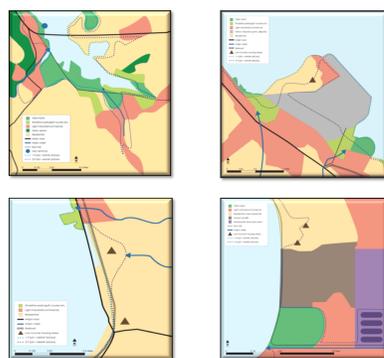
BCDC was created in 1965 to address a shrinking San Francisco Bay due to haphazard filling and to increase public access. BCDC policies restrict development in the Bay to water-oriented uses, require mitigation for any Bay fill, and ensure projects in the Bay and along the shoreline include public access. BCDC has succeeded and now the Bay is larger than it was in 1965. The Bay's natural resources are also more protected and hundreds of miles of the shoreline are accessible to the public.

Today, the Bay is getting larger due to sea level rise, presenting new challenges. Some flood protection strategies may require larger amounts of Bay fill than BCDC has ever permitted. Since the Bay is changing in unanticipated ways, we need to formulate adaptation strategies that allow fill where appropriate, allow the Bay to claim upland areas, and ensure that our shoreline remains public and all Bay Area residents are protected from flooding.



The Project

The Policies for a Rising Bay Project evaluated the Commission's laws and policies in light of sea level rise to determine if changes are needed to help the region advance appropriate resilience and adaptation actions. To ensure a broad and collaborative review of the Commission's laws, policies, and climate change program, the Steering Committee included over 30 stakeholders representing public, private, and non-governmental organizations.



Figures 1-4: Conceptual case studies developed with Steering Committee members and experts

Working together with steering committee members and other interested parties, the Commission staff analyzed existing laws and policies through one-on-one interviews, case studies, permit review, and a series of working meetings. The Policies for a Rising Bay project has been a multi-step, collaborative process that led to the exploration of specific policy issues and recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

Policy Options

Steering committee discussion in conjunction with staff analysis and consultation produced a wide range of both short-term and long-term policy options as potential solutions.



Recommendations focused on policy changes are presented today at the posters titled: Fill for Habitat Restoration, Green Infrastructure for Flood Protection, Social Equity and Environmental Justice, and Adaptive Management. Please visit the appropriate posters to learn more.



Visit www.bcdc.ca.gov/prb.html to download the full Policies for a Rising Bay Project report.

Steering Committee Members

Jim Allison, Capitol Corridor; Tameeka Bennett, Youth United for Community Action; Brad Benson, Diane Oshima, Port of San Francisco; John Bourgeois, California Coastal Conservancy – South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project; Jason Brush, Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Paul Campos, Northern California Building Industry Association; John Coleman, Bay Planning Coalition; Ms. Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project; Marie Harrison, Greenaction; Jane Hicks, Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Kristina Hill, University of California, Berkeley; Marc Holmes, The Bay Institute; Beth Hunning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture; Amy Hutzler, California Coastal Conservancy; Ken Kirkey, Stephanie Hom, Metropolitan Transportation Commission; Roger Leventhal, Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; David Lewis, Save the Bay; Jeremy Lowe, San Francisco Estuary Institute; Jim McGrath, Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Anne Morkill, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Barry Nelson, Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Paloma Pavel, Carl Anthony, Breakthrough Communities; Sean Randolph, Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Richard Sinkoff, Port of Oakland; Salote Soqo, Environmental Coalition for Water Justice; Mark Stacey, University of California, Berkeley; Dilip Trivedi, Moffat & Nichol.