

# San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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## DRAFT MINUTES

**TO:** All Commissioners and Alternates

**FROM:** Larry Goldzband, Executive Director [415-352-3653; [larry.goldzband@bcdcd.ca.gov](mailto:larry.goldzband@bcdcd.ca.gov)]  
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**SUBJECT: Draft Minutes of April 3, 2025 Hybrid Commission Meeting**

**1. Call to Order.** The hybrid meeting was called to order by Chair Wasserman at 1:15 p.m. The meeting was held at the principal physical location of 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, California, and online via Zoom and teleconference.

Chair Wasserman stated: Good afternoon, all, and welcome to our hybrid BCDC commission meeting. My name is Zack Wasserman, and I am the Chair of the Commission. I want to thank the Commissioners who are here in person at the Metro Center for attending the meeting, and to acknowledge those who are participating virtually.

Chair Wasserman asked Ms. Peterson to proceed with Agenda Item 2, Roll Call.

**2. Roll Call.** Present were Chair Wasserman, Vice Chair Eisen, Commissioners Addiego, Ahn, Eckerle, Eklund, El-Tawansy (represented by Alternate Ambuehl), Gauthier, Gioia, Gunther, Hasz, Hermosillo, Kato (represented by Alternate Pemberton), Mashburn (represented by Alternate Vasquez), Moulton-Peters, Ramos (represented by Alternate Manfree), Showalter, Tam (represented by Alternate Gilmore) and Vacant Governor's Appointee (represented by Alternate Nelson). Legislative Appointee Frankie Falzon was also present.

Chair Wasserman announced that a quorum was present.

Not present were Commissioners: Association of Bay Area Governments (Zepeda, VACANT), USACE (Beach), Department of Finance (Benson), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Blake), City and County of San Francisco (VACANT), Governor (Randolph), Santa Clara County (Lee)

**3. Public Comment Period.** Chair Wasserman called for public comment on subjects that were not on the agenda.

Rollie Katz spoke: I am Rollie Katz. I am the Executive Director of the Marin Association of Public Employees. We are the union that represents the majority of Marin County employees. Among our members are the lowest-paid county employees.

I know that you have pulled the item today about the Richmond Bridge, so this is not an item on the agenda, but I want to take the opportunity under public comment to comment on that subject.

Many of our members have to commute across the Bridge every day. They cannot afford to live in Marin County. For us, this is a matter of equity. They cannot afford to live in Marin County. They have to live someplace else. These are working people, custodians, gardeners, office assistants, utility workers, eligibility workers, and so forth.

And for them, the reality is, they have to drive across the Bridge. There aren't any feasible alternatives. There is not public transit. One of our members has commented that she carpools. She lives in Oakland. When her carpool buddy is not available it takes her about four hours to get to work on public transit.

Riding a bicycle is not a viable alternative for somebody who lives in Solano County, Contra Costa County, Alameda County. It simply isn't. It is not a matter of having bike lanes that help people in Oakland who live in Oakland, work in Oakland, get to work. Or somebody in San Rafael, or somebody who takes the SMART train, as members of ours do with a bicycle and then bicycle from the San Rafael station to work. It is simply not a viable option.

So, we hope you will move along. Again, we see this as a matter of equity. We hope you will move with all deliberate speed to have the matter before you as soon as possible so you can move forward with this plan. Thank you very much for your time.

Chair Wasserman continued to the Report of the Chair.

**4. Report of the Chair.** Chair Wasserman stated: That brings us to Item 4, which is the Chair's Report.

**A. Chair's Comments:** I am going to exert my privilege as Chair to make some personal remarks today in a way I do not think I have done before, at least before this Commission. I would say my comments will be brief, but that is not true.

I believe that this is a time when each of us must speak out where and when we can. As United States Senator Cory Booker said in his historic Senate speech this week, our country is in crisis. Not a minor crisis, not a momentary crisis, but indeed a major crisis.

I believe our democracy, this document, the Constitution of the United States, and our society is under existential threat, and so I use my privilege. I am not speaking on behalf of the Commission; I am speaking on my own behalf. These are not partisan comments. I do not speak as a Democrat, although I most certainly am one. I speak as a citizen of the United States.

At this crucial moment in our history, I believe neither the Democratic Party nor the Republican Party are representing the American people or the principles each party claim to represent, although some people in each party are speaking on behalf of this country and its people.

Today, I speak out on behalf of our Constitution and our people.

I do not think we have faced a more difficult time in this country since the revolution that founded our nation or the civil war that almost split it.

I am almost 78 years old, and I have lived through some very challenging times in our country. I was young, but I lived through the Cuban Missile Crisis, certainly an existential one. I was very much a part of the protests during the late '60s and '70s when there was broad unrest in our country. When the destruction in Vietnam and Cambodia being shown on television ignited protests in the streets, bombings and unfortunately, some killings. I was out in the streets then and I did help shut down buildings on college campuses.

This time is different. Cory Booker said, what many of us know. These are not normal times and should not be treated as such. And yet, the abnormal, indeed, the almost unthinkable, is becoming normal.

The news stories about a possible third term for the current president are treated as, oh, maybe there is a way. Instead of that is the way to dictatorship, or that is simply not constitutionally possible.

How not normal? An unelected, unconfirmed, unvetted, previously illegal immigrant to this country, but a very rich individual has been given, given access to vital information about our government, our most personal information, and apparently almost our potential war plans against China, along with his 20-year-old minions. And yet our second branch of government, the Congress, has said nothing.

People are being snatched off the streets of America by masked men and delivered to prisons in other countries with no trial, no notice, no scintilla of due process. And when in the very rare instance, when the administration admits mistakes, the answer is, oops, we can't do anything. That is not democracy. That is not what this document requires. I have copies of this document at home, but I bought this one today just to make sure it is not yet a banned book.

Over 72 million Americans receive Social Security benefits, which they have paid for. Our government, our government, I will come back to that term, seems to have plans to slash the Social Security workforce by over 50% and close hundreds of Social Security offices. The Social Security website has crashed five times in the last month. What is DOGE doing? What doesn't this administration understand about the necessity of the Social Security lifeline for our people?

Our veterans are being attacked. The Veteran's Administration is being gutted. In addition, over 30% of the federal workforce are veterans, spouses of veterans or spouses of active military. And the ham handed, buzzsaw approach to trying to reduce bureaucracy will decimate their lives, is decimating their lives. And that is only one of hundreds of examples of how this administration is tramping the rights and authority of government agencies, government employees, and our citizens. And Congress does nothing.

So that leaves us to the courts, the third branch of government, the judiciary. So far that branch is holding. But the unceasing attacks against the courts by the administration and some in Congress tell us where this may go. And the attack by the President on law firms shows where he hopes this will go. He hopes to destroy the independence of the legal profession and the rule of law.

I am no longer a practicing attorney, but I was one for 50 years and I am still a lawyer, and the craven concessions of a few of the largest law firms in this country both sadden and anger me. When law firms give up the right to defend the least amongst us, or to take on the most powerful amongst us, we all fail.

My younger son is a public defender in Alameda County. And he often says that no matter how guilty a client may be, his client is the Constitution. I am given some hope by those law firms who have sued to oppose the incredible and insane executive orders against them, and the few like the Keker firm here in San Francisco who have spoken out against this kind of atrocity. And the reaction of Congress? Bills to restrict the courts' authority to enforce the Constitution.

I am much reminded of a line in the play *A Man for all Seasons* about Sir Thomas More, when he debates his son-in-law about the fight with Thomas Cromwell. William Roper, his son-in-law, says, "So, now you give the devil the benefit of the law." And Moore says, "Yes. What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to go after the devil?" Roper says, "Yes, I'd cut down every law in England to do that." More replies, "Oh. And when the last law was down and the devil turned round on you, where would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat."

This country is planted thick with laws from coast to coast, man's laws, not God's. And if you cut them down and you are just the man to do it, do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the devil the benefit of law for my own safety's sake.

On so many fronts this administration is destroying what this country is and what it stands for. Some of our longtime allies are issuing travel warnings that it is dangerous to come to the United States. Was that imaginable? I was in Canada this week and its citizens still like us, the people, but they do not like what the United States is doing to them and others. Canada has long been our largest source of international tourists, but travel is down 75% from Canada. Who is that going to hurt?

I studied politics and international affairs, so I think I know something about them. I did not study economics, but even I know that this administration's rationale for the tariffs announced yesterday is not rational. It is voodoo economics. As someone next to me said, it doesn't fail Economics 101, it fails Economics 1.

This trade war will hurt everyday Americans as much or more than it will hurt our trading partners, allies or not. And this illusion that it will bring in millions and millions of dollars to the US Treasury is plain and simply false. And any of its so-called benefits for manufacturing will take decades, not months, to help our citizens and our people.

All of these attacks, internal attacks on our country, are causing chaos. And when I ask myself, why is this being done? Why Musk and his administration, oh, sorry, want chaos. I do not have any good answers. Perhaps chaos helps the tech oligarchs in our country as they think it sometimes helps their business. What I do know is that chaos in America helps our foreign enemies and foreign oligarchs.

BCDC needs to find ways to work with this Congress and this administration, if at all possible. I hope we can do so. And our Executive Director will give you a report on how maybe that is possible from his recent visit to Washington with like-minded people.

But I will not wear blinders, and I will not be silenced. I am a grandchild of immigrants from Russia, Poland, and Germany. I do not know if any of my relatives died in the Holocaust, although I am sure there are some, and I certainly have friends whose grandparents died in the Nazi terror. Do not forget that dictators often slowly seize power through the big lie, and often a series of little lies stitched into the big lie.

And we cannot ignore, today we are hearing so many big lies that it becomes overwhelming as too many of our leaders totally disregard the truth. It becomes hard to remember what the truth is and what is the point of the big lie.

Do not forget that the German legislature gave power to Hitler. I very much fear that is where our country is heading today.

Today, they come for the immigrant who speaks out, who disagrees in public discourse, who opposes what this administration is doing. Tomorrow, they may not limit it to immigrants. It may be us, because we are a little different, because we speak out, or simply because they do not like us.

To bring my remarks closer to BCDC's purpose, we know that this administration opposes anything and anyone that talks of climate change. They are literally wiping references to climate change from our government websites.

NOAA is in danger, which will hurt our funding a bit and significantly hamper the Coastal Commission, but more importantly, hamstringing our ability to know the latest scientific predictions about the amount and timing of sea level rise we will face. Our mission is threatened.

Commissioner Gunther spoke eloquently some weeks ago about the assault on science. It is real and it is dangerous.

I do not have the wisdom to know what we can best do to oppose this onslaught. But I do know we need to do everything we can reasonably and lawfully to try. I do know that we must not hide in our California bubble. I do know we need to reach out to whoever we can from anyone in power we can contact, to anyone in other states who may need support, to using whatever public platforms we have available to us to encourage opposition to the actions that this federal - and I almost said feral - administration is taking.

And we cannot let the fear of retribution stop us or silence us. If we do, we are doomed.

And I do not believe we are doomed. I do think democracy will save us, will give us the tools and strength to stand up and to make America work again.

In the 1970s I, amongst a number of others, disrespected our flag as a symbol of our government because we disagreed with what it was doing. Today, I claim our flag and our government. The forces that disrespect and are trying to destroy our democracy are in control today, but it is still our country, and we must stand and stand up for what we believe.

Now is the time to follow the imperative of an organization called Facing History and Ourselves, which began by teaching about the Holocaust, but today teaches students across the country and indeed the world to be critical thinkers and active citizens. Facing History says we must be upstanders and not bystanders. People make choices, and choices make history. Our history at this time is yet to be decided. It is our choice.

This is a time when each of us needs to speak out wherever, whenever and to whomever we can. I do so today in this forum because I can, and because if I did not, I am not sure how I can face my children and my grandchildren when they asked me what I did to oppose this terror, this onslaught, this attempted tearing down of our, all our trees of liberty.

As I have said, I am not going to tell you what to do or how to act. I am not that wise. But I am asking you to figure it out for yourselves, both individually and much more importantly, collectively. How to be an upstander. How to preserve our precious and somewhat fragile democracy for our children and our grandchildren. I thank you for your patience.

And now to turn to some more immediate matters. I want to give a few reports on what has been happening here.

**B. Richmond-San Rafael Bridge:** Several of us had a meeting 10 days ago with MTC about the Richmond San Rafael Bridge and I believe it was a very productive meeting. There will be a formal report about it, and this is not my formal disclosure of an ex-parte communication. It was a meeting amongst leadership at MTC, at both the board and staff level, leadership at BCDC, including at least one person who holds joint positions, Commissioner Moulton-Peters.

I believe we made significant progress on an approach that can benefit all parties and public access. Staff is working with MTC today. I am not saying that quite literally, but in these days I think we will have a solution in a reasonably short period of time. But these kinds of processes do take time.

**C. Ad Hoc Education Working Group:** On March 5 Vice Chair Eisen and I held a public discussion with representatives of the Exploratorium and a group of education and museum officials to learn about the Exploratorium's draft plans to institute a rising sea level education program as part of a future Port of San Francisco and Exploratorium permit application that we have discussed in concept before. A concept of trading, one kind of public comments for another. The Exploratorium, and this discussion will be brought formally to this Commission.

The Exploratorium plans to create exhibits in its public space, ensure that issues surrounding equity are embedded in the program, and concentrate on how the Exploratorium and other educational institutions can be positive forces for educating us about how to transform the shoreline in times of high uncertainty, amongst other goals. Both Vice Chair Eisen and I made significant comments and suggestions about a draft of their proposal, as did former Commissioner Alex Zwissler, who ran the Chabot Space and Science Center, and two other prominent science museum directors, amongst others.

**D. Toxic Tours:** I would like to ask Commissioner Ahn to give a short description of two new and interesting events to be conducted this month by our Environmental Justice Advisors, the Toxic Tours.

Commissioner Ahn reported the following: Thank you, Chair Wasserman. On March 28, BCDC staff and two Commissioners, I and Commissioner Gioia, were led on a Toxic Tour of the Campus Bay Zeneca site in Richmond. The leaders of our tour were Sherry Padgett and Janet Johnson of the Richmond Shoreline Alliance and the EJ Advisors; our Environmental Justice Advisors were also supporting this tour.

For over a century, Stauffer Chemical Company manufactured herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and sulfuric acid at the 86-acre site, and dumping its hazardous waste onsite and filling it in the Bay. The site on Richmond's southeast shoreline has been leaking highly contaminated water and soil vapor for decades. And boasting, my notes say million-dollar views, but on the tour, I believe it was billion-dollar views, and located only yards from the Bay Trail.



The site is actually slated for a development project of up to 4,000 homes. In 2016 the Richmond City Council endorsed a cleanup to the highest residential standard, and there has been a number of local discussions where the developer has promised millions of dollars to local groups to try to figure out how best to clean up the site. As we understand it is still under discussion and there has been no progress since.

We also toured Blair Landfill which is also near the site. The landfill itself is radioactive with thorium 228 and 223 found present on the site itself.

Overall, the estimates of a cleanup to this Campus Bay Zeneca site is estimated to be over \$150 million.

After the tour BCDC staff, the EJ Advisors and Commissioners engaged in a conversation about BCDC's role and responsibilities within the Campus Bay Zeneca site. We spoke of some of the limitations and the jurisdictional issues and the importance of coordinating our efforts with other agencies to be a good ally both to the community and to figure out maximizing public access to the site as well.

BCDC is expected to have a permit related to some remediation of the site in the near future. Generally, this tour was just a reminder, to Chair Wasserman's point, about the importance of addressing climate change and environmental justice in a federal environment where it does not seem to value it.

I do think this was a very worthwhile tour. I hope other Commissioners also join future environmental justice tours that are being planned by our EJ Advisors, a well worthwhile effort. And that concludes my report, Chair Wasserman.

Chair Wasserman acknowledged: Thank you, Commissioner Ahn.

I know there are a couple of hands up. I will recognize them before I finish my remarks, but I am going to conclude the basic remarks before I recognize you.

**E. Commissioners:** I do want to let the Commission know that supervisor Connie Chan of San Francisco has decided not to represent San Francisco on BCDC. Supervisor Matt Dorsey continues as San Francisco's Alternate Commissioner.

**F. American Planning Association Award:** We all received an email from the Executive Director about the great award earlier this week, but I want to offer my own congratulations to the Commissioners, our staff and all of our stakeholders for BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan being awarded the American Planning Association's State and Regional Award for Excellence in Sustainability at its annual conference in Denver earlier this week.

This is terrific. Such recognition is important. Well deserved, but important, and reflects very well on how everyone associated with the RSAP worked both collaboratively and tirelessly over the 14-month period to develop the Plan and earn its unanimous approval. Jessica Fain and Dana Brechwald accepted the award on our behalf, and I give congratulations to all who were involved inside and outside of BCDC.

**G. Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC):** The efforts on BARC's look at its organization and purpose and work plan is ongoing. I hope in probably not this month, but certainly May we will be able to bring a report to this Commission and the other participating members of BARC.

**H. Commissioner Comments:** And with that I am going to recognize either Commissioner Showalter or Commissioner Gauthier who are together.

Commissioner Gauthier commented: Chair Wasserman, I will just get started. There is no way I could let you go ahead without standing with you and just applauding your remarks. I agree with you, the time is always right to do what is right. We stand with you, and we are also working to figure out what we can do to stop what is happening in our country today. So, thank you for your courage and thank you for sharing those remarks.

Commissioner Showalter added the following: I think another thing I want to bring up is we are approaching the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. On March 27, there was Patrick Henry's speech, and in many ways that was one of the sparks that set off the Revolution. And I think it is really important to remember that our ancestors fought that revolution to not have a king, and to not put up with things like tariffs that they had no say in.

So, to me as somebody who was an American history major among other things, I think it is just so incongruous and dreadful that here we are 250 years later dealing with a very similar situation where we are fighting somebody wanting to become a king. It is just patently un-American. Thank you so much for your remarks, Chairman Wasserman.

Commissioner Gioia was recognized: I just wanted to add briefly that I did attend the Toxics Tour and really appreciated the efforts of our Environmental Justice Advisors and the community to walk through an area that I am already pretty familiar with. It is actually very close to where I live. And to appreciate all the BCDC staff that were there as well and my colleague Commissioner Ahn for his full report.

And then I also participated in the same meeting that our Chair mentioned with regard to MTC and also making a full ex parte communication disclosure.

**I. Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will occur in four weeks on May 1 so our meeting on the 17th of April is being canceled. Our expected agenda for our May 1 meeting includes:

- A public hearing and possible vote on the Cargill operations and maintenance environmental assessment, leading to a public hearing and vote on Cargill's operations and maintenance permit application scheduled for the first meeting in June;
- A discussion and vote regarding BCDC's new draft Climate Change Policy Guidance based upon the recently released State of California Rising Sea Level Guidance;
- A legislative update from Legislative Director Rylan Gervase; and,
- An update on the progress of BCDC's Strategic Plan.

**J. Ex Parte Disclosures:** Next is an opportunity for Commissioners to make an ex parte disclosure of anything that you have received, verbally or in writing outside of a Commission meeting that you have not previously reported, noting that you do need to make a written report, and also noting that this applies to adjudicatory matters, not policy matters. Are there any Commissioners who wish to make a report at the present time? I see none.

That brings us to the report of the Executive Director.

**5. Report of the Executive Director.** Executive Director Goldzband reported: Thank you, Chair Wasserman.



On April 3, 1860, the first rider of the brand-new Pony Express headed west from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, located almost 1,700 miles away. The riders took ten days to arrive there and continued on to San Francisco where they arrived a day later. I should note that there is a monument on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette about a half mile from our house where the Pony Express riders stopped 19 times to exchange horses. Unlike now, there was no Starbucks across the street where they could wet their whistles.

The Pony Express actually was in service for only a little more than 18 months before it was deemed technologically defunct.

The transcontinental telegraph did for the Pony Express what the PDF has done for the fax machine. Despite that short lifespan, Hollywood got into the act and created “The Pony Express” television series, which had an even shorter run than its namesake, although its last few episodes did coincide with the centennial of the actual Pony Express.

The big news regarding BCDC staffing is that the length of time that state employees have used remote or hybrid work since the pandemic began has outlasted the duration of the Pony Express but it will be very limited after July 1st.

Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order last month with instructions that all state employees who have been working in a remote or hybrid manner since the beginning of the pandemic will need to be present in their organization’s workspace four days per week starting on July 1st.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with this policy it seems to me that there are sensible ways to make it work as well as possible ways that may depend upon an office location or the type of work that staff members perform. Therefore, our senior staff will soon discuss with our management team a framework that we think will work best for BCDC and we will update you later in the spring.

Last month the state Office of Administrative Law approved BCDC’s Bay Plan Amendment 1-24, the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan, which makes effective the whole megillah that you approved on December 5, 2024. Among others, Amanda Boyd of our legal staff and Kat Riley of our administrative staff deserve tremendous credit for putting together the proposal and submitting it to OAL. And, of course, a hearty congratulations to all the BCDC staff and our hundreds of stakeholders who worked so hard on every part of the process to get the RSAP done.

This week, we posted on our website BCDC’s Interim Tribal Engagement Policy. Our Environmental Justice staff members and others have been developing a long-term Tribal Engagement Policy, but our legal staff rightly insisted that the Commission should follow an interim policy in the meantime. That interim policy is based on the Natural Resources Agency’s policy, and we have tailored it somewhat to BCDC’s specifications. Phoenix and Dalilah worked with our legal staff to formalize the policy, and we look forward to using it, but hopefully for not too long a time.

Now to sand mining. Those of you who are Commission veterans will remember that in April 2015 the Commission issued three ten-year permits for companies to mine sand in three different areas of the Bay. Those permits expire on April 29.

Unfortunately, the State Lands Commission has not yet completed the supplemental CEQA review required for new permit applications to be analyzed. Once our staff reviews the companies' applications for time extensions, staff will issue them administratively and you will see them in the Admin Listing.

Meanwhile, your Commissioner Working Group working on the sand mining issues has taken several deep dives into the issues and information gaps that Commissioners struggled with ten years ago. Commissioners Showalter, Gunther, and Nelson have met with researchers, independent science panel members, the mining industry, and the public to learn more about the findings of these studies and how they relate to mining activities. As expected, everyone has learned a great deal and the Working Group is scheduling two more meetings this year to discuss the biology of sandy shoals and the regional economics of sand mining. When we develop a more formal schedule for the sand mining issue moving forward, we will include at least a couple briefings for the Commission on the progress made by the Commissioner Working Group.

You will remember that BCDC is leading the regional "Sediment for Wetland Adaptation Project," or "SWAP" for short. I do want to make it clear to all involved that if staff had consulted with the Executive Director before naming the project, I certainly would have created a more appropriate acronym. But they didn't. So, instead of letting you know of several that I have considered, I would like Rachel Cohen of our planning staff to tell you about the progress we have made. Rachel.

Planner Cohen addressed attendees: Thank you, Larry. And just to be clear, I had nothing to do with the naming of this project. Hello, Chair Wasserman, Commissioners, and everyone in attendance. My name is Rachel Cohen, and I am a Planner on BCDC's Long-Range Planning Team.

Because wetlands are vital natural infrastructure that buffer waves, absorb flood waters, sequester carbon, and provide essential habitat and recreation, we need to protect them from rising sea levels that threaten their survival.

One solution to help protect our shorelines is to beneficially reuse sediment and soil to restore subsided Baylands to marsh plain elevation so that they can revegetate.

However, beneficial reuse is not currently being maximized to the extent that would be necessary to adapt wetlands to sea level rise. Much of the region's sediment and soil is still sent to landfills or dumped into deep water.

For many years resource managers engaged in sediment issues have discussed the many possible strategies to increase beneficial reuse, but implementing those strategies has been slow and piecemeal.

So, with generous support from the US EPA and the Ocean Protection Council of the California Natural Resources Agency, BCDC is leading the Sediment for Wetland Adaptation Project, or as Larry said, SWAP for short.

And I am here to share that just last week we completed phase one of the project by releasing the *San Francisco Bay Sediment and Soil Beneficial Reuse Action Plan for Wetland Restoration Adaptation*. It is quite a long title.

Through a collaborative process this Action Plan was created, and it presents for the first time the steps necessary to increase and improve beneficial reuse of sediment and soil in wetland restoration and sea level rise adaptation projects through coordinated regional action.

Through interviews and a two-day in-person workshop last year we worked with stakeholders to identify and document barriers and possible solutions which led to the actions identified in the Action Plan. Participants in the Action Plan's development included the dredging industry, flood protection managers, contractors, restoration practitioners, environmental organizations, the maritime community, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Commissioner Working Group Larry noted just a few minutes ago, and a core team of partner agencies and organizations including the San Francisco Estuary Institute, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Regional Water Board and the US EPA.

We sincerely thank everyone who helped develop the Action Plan. This plan belongs to the region, not just to BCDC, and it will be the task of the region's agencies, restoration practitioners, resource managers and stakeholders to take action.

Next, we will need everyone involved in the SWAP project to get together and decide how to best implement the Plan. If you or your organization would like to get involved with any of the Plan's 70 or so initiatives, we would love to hear from you.

Commissioners, the Action Plan was emailed to you last Wednesday. But for others listening, you can find a copy at our website at [www.bcdc.ca.gov](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov) and head over to the Sediment Management section of our website.

Part of the Action Plan development included several presentations from technical experts at the Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Commissioner Working Group meetings about the science of Bay sediment. Working Group Commissioners suggested that staff create a Sediment 101 type of document to provide basic background on the science and issues of sediment in the Bay. This Sediment 101 document, the writing of which was led by our wonderful management staff technician Kat Riley, can be found at the same section of that website that I mentioned earlier.

This will be a great resource for understanding the Action Plan and also for our work with the Commissioner Working Group over the next year as we discuss the policies in the San Francisco Bay Plan. I highly encourage folks to take a look at Kat's great work.

I mentioned that releasing the Action Plan concludes phase one of the SWAP. Phase two will assess how best to amend the San Francisco Bay Plan to promote and enable more beneficial reuse of soil and sediment, supported by the Action Plan. We will come back to you in a few months with more on that, which I very much look forward to doing.

And finally, in phase three we will work to develop a funding strategy for increased beneficial reuse.

So that is all I have for you today. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Chair Wasserman asked: Do any Commissioners have questions for Rachel?

Commissioner Eklund was recognized: Thank you very much. First of all, I am really glad to hear this. In fact, when I worked for the US EPA, I wrote the first policy back in DC on the reuse of dredge material for wetland preservation and enhancement.

The question I have is that couldn't we be a little bit more aggressive and possibly putting in a permit condition that any dredging action would require the reuse of that dredge material, and for that particular permittee to work with another organization that is needing of the dredge material to actually possibly place it there if it attests that it is compatible.

I really think that we need to be a little bit more aggressive. Encouraging is great. But when I wrote the agency's Municipal Sludge and Dredge Material Reuse Policy that was, I hate to show my age, but it is over 20 years ago, and we are still talking about it. And not necessarily, it is not a normal, it is not a regular action. It should be part of every aspect.

And so I really would like to see some more requirements. I do not know if that is something that this Commission can have some discussion about in the future. So, those are my sentiments, but thank you so much. We need to do this before too long.

Ms. Cohen responded: Yes. Thank you for your sentiments. We will definitely carry them into the Bay Plan Amendment phase of the project. You are right, a lot of progress has been made in the last decades but not enough, and that is why we are working on this. And you are also correct, this is not a regulatory document. It is just a planning document, so we look forward to the next phase of looking at the policies.

Commissioner Eklund added: We need to make it part of the regulatory program, because that is the only way we are going to be able to achieve it in the time frame that we really need it, in my opinion. Thank you very much for your great work.

Ms. Cohen acknowledged: Yes, thank you.

Commissioner Eklund continued: And everybody else that is involved in this. But I have a lot of passion, and you can probably tell. Thank you.

Ms. Cohen replied: We appreciate it. And I would love to read your policy that you put together. It would still be interesting to see the progress.

Chair Wasserman acknowledged and asked: Thank you. And indeed, that is what the next phase is about is turning it into regulations.

Any other questions?

Commissioner Gunther commented: I just wanted to make a couple of observations as the Chair of the Working Group. I have always said that one of the big differences between LA, where I grew up and here is that here the edge is always visible, whether it is the Green Belt or the Bay, and we are stewards of one of those edges. There is no doubt that any of us can go almost anywhere on the shoreline and note the influence that BCDC has had over the last 50 years on how the edge has evolved.

At the heart of what Rachel is just talking about is an effort to influence how the edge evolves in the next 50 years. And in particular, trying wherever we can to create a living edge, because that living edge will be self-repairing and can move as sea level rises if we can get out of its way.

I think that in our classic manner we have worked diligently and carefully engaged all sorts of different stakeholders. I have always, as usual, come to appreciate that things are more complex than you think they will be when you get into it. But we have a community that is still evidence based, and we are clearly working in a manner that I think is going to generate over the next year, recommendations for Bay Plan Amendments that are going to help transform the shore over the next 50 years so that it will be much more resilient to the future that is facing us.

I am very excited about this. Staff has worked really hard on it, as did all the people engaged. We had 30 to 40 people every time we met who were full of ideas and full of commitment to what we are trying to do. So, I look forward to the next phase and you should too because it is going to be some good stuff.

Chair Wasserman continued: Thank you. Any other comments?

Thank you very much, Rachel.

Ms. Cohen acknowledged: Thank you.

Executive Director Goldzband chimed in: Now let me finish by talking just a little bit about the trip that Rylan Gervase and I took to Washington, DC this past week. What we learned and how we think it might affect BCDC.

Before I do that, I just want to thank Rachel and all the staff for their tremendous work on this despite the fact that the acronym should have been DIRT, Dig In Reuse Tomorrow. Nobody asked me.

The Coastal States Organization, which represents the 34 states and territories that have coastlines and shorelines, including America's Great North Coast, the Great Lakes, meets annually the last week of March, along with NOAA, bringing those same people together who are coastal zone managers as well as the estuary partnerships, the Association of Shoreline and Beach Preservation and a number of groups. So, we basically have a coastal fly-in for a week in Washington, DC.

I will tell you that this was the most interesting of the 11 in which I have participated. All of course for reasons that we would prefer not to think about. But it was very interesting, and I want to let you know a couple things that I believe to be the case. This is not state policy. This is not BCDC policy. It is Larry Goldzband sitting back and thinking about what he heard during that week.

A lot has been written and talked about, and this will be far more prosaic than the Chair's remarks about everything from birthright citizenship to impoundment to immigration, et cetera. But I think that what is just as important is what is going on with the budgetary process in the United States Congress and the Executive branch.

A couple weeks ago the Congress approved, and the President signed a continuing resolution which funds the federal government through September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Unlike all the other continuing resolutions with which I am familiar, this continuing resolution did not, from what I understand, include line-by-line demarcations with regard to what each program can spend on each subdivision and subprogram, et cetera. Instead, it was what was called a Top Line CR, which then enables the administration to move money among and between programs within the various cabinet agencies that are affected by the CR.

What that means is that there will be within the next month or two a series, I believe, of announcements from organizations such as NOAA and other organizations that money will be shifted from one part to another in ways that we may not well expect. This is all part of the budget process, which includes rescissions and does not allow for impoundments. But it is the rescissions that I think we need to really be very conscious of.

The Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974 enables the Executive branch to request from the Congress the ability to make rescissions for previously appropriated funds. It does so by providing the data on those funds to the authorizing committees, which then have the responsibility to decide what to do with those rescissions and bring them to the full Congress for a vote.

I fully expect there to be a lot of rescissions during the next few months as this Administration uses the rescission program to propose cuts in already provided for appropriated funding for all sorts of different programs.

In addition to the rescission actions, we will soon see what is called a reconciliation bill. A reconciliation bill is named that because it attempts to reconcile the different spending levels that have been approved through congressional resolutions and the appropriations process and the taxation process. And that reconciliation bill is handled under a series of very complex and different rules that make Gordian knots seem simple.

But it is through the reconciliation process that the Congress and the Executive branch can quite literally change the law on authorizing legislation and the different funding levels to get that reconciliation through.

For those of you who are veterans of more than 40 years of watching DC, you will remember that in 1981 and 1982 the Gramm-Latta I and Gramm-Latta II packages were approved by the Congress and signed by the President. Which until now I think, and I could be wrong about this, are the two most evident ways in which the Congress has used reconciliation to substantially change the way the federal government worked. This may well be the third.

So, what does this mean? Let me look at NOAA, because NOAA is something that we care certainly about. NOAA over the past two months has been faced with, like everyone else or at least like a lot of other organizations in the federal government, basically four different processes to reduce head count.

The first was the elimination of various probationary employees. Probationary employees are not just 23-year-olds who joined the federal government. They are essentially any civil servant who has started a new job and therefore is in probation as part of that new job. Which means that when probationary employees were released from their duties, it was not just people who were new to the federal government but also experienced veterans of the federal government. That was about 20 people in the National Ocean Service, which the Office of Coastal Management is part of, and we report up to the Office of Coastal Management.

In addition, a number of people in the NOS took upon themselves to say yes to the retirement offers that were offered.



In addition, there has been a budget freeze. Not unlike what the state did, although the state did not do a freeze, I apologize, but there was a budget freeze not to fill positions. The state did not do a budget freeze, the state got rid of various vacancies, my bad. And then there have been a number of early retirements.

And there has been so far one RIF, Reduction in Force, and they expect there to be at least one more.

In other words, we can expect that the National Ocean Service will be substantially smaller than it was last year, maybe upwards of 50% smaller. And we will only really know that after the rescission and reconciliation process goes through.

With regards to funding. Just so you all know, for BCDC's 2025-2026 budget starting on July 1, I have zeroed out all NOAA funding because I firmly believe that is the conservative and appropriate thing to do.

We certainly do not expect any continuing infrastructure or inflation funding that was provided in acts of Congress that were enacted by the Biden Administration. Indeed, it is quite possible that portions of those funding sources will be pulled back in at least a couple of different ways and so we will need to work through that.

The 2025 CR spending plan that I talked about is due within a couple weeks, and the reconciliation and rescissions program will happen between now, certainly in September. And those will cut both unobligated BIL and IRA funds. IRA is not your retirement, IRA is the infrastructure funds. But also, existing FY 2025 funds.

We expect that there will be a presidential budget proposed at some point this spring or very early in the summer that would include cuts of the next year that would start '25-26 and that would happen a little bit after this.

So, we expect a major downsizing of NOS. Contractors for the Office of Coastal Management were furloughed this week, at least a number of them were I should say so.

That is the news that we got budgetarily when we heard from everything from congressional staffers, to administration staffers, to people on the Hill.

Let me end by saying two things that really struck me. The first is that when one goes to the Hill to advocate, and I think we have all done that. One of the things that we do is we explain to members and their staffs what we do, and we ask them for information about how we can work best with them and how we can work with the Congress. We would sit down with congressional staffers and the first words out of their mouth were, what have you heard? Because they are not hearing anything. They do not know what is going to happen. And so, we would exchange in that dialog. Nobody really learned anything, but it just sort of confirmed what we all were thinking was going on.

The second thing is that there will be, I think, NOAA. NOAA is going to continue to exist in some form or another I believe.

But I think what the public needs to understand about how the administration appears to be thinking, again, this is Larry talking based upon Larry talking with people, is that you need to look at the original statutes of what these organizations were supposed to be doing. In NOAA's case, mapping.

How does the future NOAA leadership look at a future NOAA to see what NOAA should be doing. Well, mapping comes to mind, for example. You have to look at whatever the administration priorities are; and I do not know what the administration priorities are

for NOAA. You also have to look at national security and how different organizations relate to national security. I think that is a template, which may be totally incorrect about how we think about what future organizations within the federal government look to analyze so that they understand their future.

So, with that I am happy to answer any questions. I will tell you that BCDC will be fine budgetarily next year, unless something happens that we do not know about. But I will argue that that could well occur, and it could well occur on the state level. Because I do not think anybody has a great crystal ball about what next year's state budget will actually look like at this point, given what is going on in DC.

So, we will be working closely with the administration to implement their proposals, because that is what we should do, and to make sure that BCDC continues. But absent that, I think we will be fine.

The NOAA portion of our budget is less than 5% of our budget. We can make that up. I am not sure what else to say but I am happy to answer any questions.

Chair Wasserman asked: Any questions for the Executive Director?

Commissioner Eklund chimed in: Larry, thank you very much for your report. Having worked for the Feds for 43 years, 7 months, 11 days, through both Republican as well as Democrat administrations, I definitely understand the challenge that we have over the next four years. And I think NOAA is just the first organization that is being hit. I know the other one that is being hit also is the US EPA as well.

I would not be surprised as what was actually attempted several times through my experience, they really tried to eliminate the organization or the agency as much as they could. If we get any money from EPA, I would really suggest that we do the same thing as you are doing with NOAA, because there is a real concerted effort to reduce the flexibility in using the money to help states and the country.

It is a very unnerving situation. Having been through this as a federal employee and seeing a lot of people having to leave the organization. It is really very troubling. But most importantly, it affects every single person in this country because of the health impacts that are impacted because of environmental issues.

Anyway, I really appreciate you taking the lead and really trying to make sure that BCDC is going to survive this. I just hope that the other state agencies do the same. Anyway, thank you very much.

Commissioner Gunther was recognized: Larry, do we have contracts with EPA? Isn't the SWAP program a contract and how are those funds affected?

Executive Director Goldzband replied: Yes, the SWAP does get EPA funding, and I do not remember exactly how much is remaining. But we will work to make sure we finish the SWAP program. We will figure out a way to do that even if all the money would be pulled.

I should have actually said one more thing about context here. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought has been very clear in describing what his vision is; and argues that instead of the Imperial Presidency that we all have heard about so much, the budget has turned into the Imperial congressional process. There is, to be honest, in my view, some actual veracity to that in terms of how the Congress budgets and in terms of how it hamstring the Executive branch. And I say that having worked for members of Congress and having worked for a state governor who had to work with a

legislature.

But the real point behind what they are doing is to shrink the size of the federal government. That is what they are trying to do. And how they do that is what we need to look at and continue to look at through the rescissions, through the reconciliation bills, through the next president's budget and appropriation bills. Because that is what they are trying to accomplish.

With that I am happy to answer any more questions.

Chair Wasserman added: I would simply add that I am not sure any of us, or at least many of us, are necessarily opposed to shrinking the size of the federal government. The issue is how, and again, the methods that are being used are thoughtless, reckless, and destructive.

## **6. Consent Calendar**

### **a) Approval of Minutes for the February 6, 2025 Meeting**

Chair Wasserman reviewed the items on the Consent Calendar and called for public comment.

(No members of the public addressed the Commission.)

Chair Wasserman asked for a motion and a second to adopt the Consent Calendar.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Eklund moved approval of the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Addiego.

**VOTE:** The motion carried with a vote of 18-0-0 with Commissioners Addiego, Ahn, Ambuehl, Eckerle, Eklund, Gauthier, Gilmore, Gioia, Gunther, Hermosillo, Manfree, Moulton-Peters, Nelson, Pemberton, Showalter, Vasquez, Vice Chair Eisen and Chair Wasserman voting, "YES", no "NO" votes, and no "ABSTAIN" votes.

**7. Consideration of Administrative Matters.** Chair Wasserman asked if there were any questions for Executive Director Goldzband regarding the Administrative Listing.

(No members of the public addressed the Commission.)

(No questions were posed to the Executive Director.)

**8. Public Hearing and Possible Vote on an Application by the California Department of Transportation for the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Pilot Project Modifications Project along the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, in the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, and the City of San Rafael, Marin County; BCDC Permit Application No. 1997.001.06.**

Chair Wasserman announced Agenda Item 8 was postponed.

**9. Briefing on the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Program.** Chair Wasserman stated: That brings us to Item 9, a briefing and discussion on the progress of the San Francisco Bay Water Trail.

We are all familiar generally with the success of the Bay Trail, which now consists of approximately 350 miles of public access. Today we will receive a briefing about the San Francisco Bay Water Trail, a regional program that encourages non-motorized small boaters to experience the San Francisco Bay through a growing network of boat launching and landing sites. The briefing will feature the history of the program and an update on the new signage design to be implemented later this year. Yuriko Jewett, of our staff will provide the briefing for the Commission.

Associate Bay Design Analyst Jewett presented the following: Good afternoon, Chair

Wasserman, Commissioners, and the public. My name is Yuri Jewett and I am the Associate Bay Design Analyst here at BCDC. Today I am joined by my colleague Ben Botkin with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership in the room. We make up two-thirds of the Water Trail Project Management Team. Shalini Kanaan from the Coastal Conservancy, unfortunately, could not be here today. We are going to carry on the briefing and let you know more about the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Program.

The San Francisco Bay Water Trail is a network of launching and landing sites around the nine-county Bay Area for non-motorized small boats. And to be clear, there is actually not a trail in the water. I like to think of it as a freeform, nonlinear, choose-your-own-adventure kind of trail. You can use these launch sites to follow along the shoreline or cross over the Bay to the other side, it is completely up to you. But the key is that it allows anyone to access one of the largest open spaces that we have, which is the Bay itself.

So, non-motorized small boats. You heard me use this term. What is that exactly? It is exactly what it sounds like, it is human-powered or wind-powered vessels, which is a key part of what makes a water trail. So, this means kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, dragon boats, kite boards, all sorts of water crafts that you see here on the slide fall into the non-motorized small boat category.

Non-motorized small boat recreation and water trails are not exactly a new idea. There are water trails all throughout the country, up in Seattle, the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi. In fact, a majority of the water trails follow a lake or river landscape.

But let's zoom in and focus on the Bay as I do want to recognize that we do have a lot of new faces on the Commission that may or may not know, BCDC's deep involvement during the early days and creation of the Water Trail.

I want to highlight the one thing that really makes our Water Trail special is that it was born out of community advocacy. A small group of citizens called Bay Access Inc. voiced the need for more access in the Bay and partnered with Senator Loni Hancock to adopt AB 1296, the San Francisco Bay Water Trail Act 20 years ago, back in 2005.

This legislation was then included in Chapter 7 of the McAtteer-Petris Act. If you would like to do some reading I encourage it, Section 66690 to 66694. But at a very high level for today, basically our law spells out how BCDC would help establish the Water Trail Program through the creation of a key guidance document called the Water Trail Plan.

And this is the BCDC part of the story as we forged many partnerships and led this big planning effort by forming a steering committee in 2006 that convened many public meetings, workshops, we wrote white papers, to explore and analyze how to provide this network of public access in the Bay, which then led to the Draft Plan in 2007 to be reviewed by the public.

All of this effort then led to the certification of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and the final Water Trail Plan, also known as the Enhanced Water Trail Plan, which still serves as the North Star that continues to implement the Water Trail Program.

We also focused on education outreach efforts to get the word out about this new recreation program that was now available to the public.

So again, I just want to highlight this law was passed in 2005 and finally seven years

later, through all this planning effort with BCDC, the Coastal Conservancy, MTC/ABAG and the Department of Boating and Waterways, and of course the public, the first Water Trail site was designated into the program in 2012 at Tidewater Boat Center in Oakland, which is a part of the East Bay Regional Park System. It is a lovely place. It is right there on the slide. I highly recommend you take a visit.

Of course, there is more because we love to plan here at BCDC. As the program progressed a few other key planning documents were established to help clarify and build out the Water Trail. While BCDC did not directly lead this effort as previously, we were very much a part of it.

That includes the adoption of the Water Trail Accessibility Plan in 2015. This document takes an ADA Title II programmatic approach for accessibility and uses geo-regions to provide at least one accessible site per geo-region and establishes parameters to provide funding to enhance accessibility at our Water Trail sites.

And then the Design Guidelines were established in 2019. This document works in concert with the Accessibility Plan as it provides the design network for the Water Trail site. It is important to be mindful that boat launches accommodate various watercrafts and landsite amenities that support the use of these sites. Things like accessible parking, path of travel, restrooms, laydown areas, are all factors that can contribute to making a launch a very special place.

And then I do want to highlight that in a recent site that was designated in 2022, which was Eckley Pier in the Carquinez Strait, and that brought our number up to 54. I want to highlight that because this is a 10-year run. We went from zero sites to 54 sites in 10 years. So, if you are familiar with how things get designed, built, and constructed, this is a very big deal. It was a lot of work, and we made it happen.

And so lastly, I want to highlight the more recent BCDC planning effort that supports the Water Trail and that would be, of course, the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan just adopted last year, as you know, which identifies the Water Trail as a potential asset to further public access as part of the development of a subregional plan to address sea level rise.

That brings me back here to the vision. Normally, when you give a presentation like this you put the vision in the front, but I decided I am going to put it at the end because really the vision has not changed since 2005. We have been doing this work for 20 years and the vision has really remained the same, which is a programmatic approach to preserve and strategically enhance access. We want to respect the Bay as an open space, including all its wildlife and habitat, all the creatures that live here.

Plan for future growth. To explore ways to increase water-oriented recreation as a part of our changing shorelines, and we all know it is going to change.

Promote safety and environmental education, spreading the word about the Water Trail as best we can. Ben is going to actually present some new signage at the end of the presentation to highlight that fact.

And then increase funding to create opportunities for all. This program really has a core mission of supporting ADA-accessible design and continues to fund that work.

So, all this great work that I mentioned is on the Water Trail website if you really, again, want to do some homework and some reading. There is a planning document

section on the Water Trail website. You can actually download all of these plans that I mentioned and read some of the really interesting white papers and research that has been done to really bring us here after 20 years of work.

With that I am going to pass it on to Ben Botkin who is going to talk about the implementation of the Water Trail and how we have been doing that over the last few years.

Mr. Botkin spoke: Chair Wasserman, Commissioners, so happy to be here. My name is Ben Botkin. I am a Planner at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership but have had the good fortune of helping to implement the Bay Area Water Trail for the last 10 years or so. It is really just a wonderful program and so thankful for all of our collaboration with BCDC, wonderful staff and all the planning documents developed in those early years.

So, when we think of program implementation for the Water Trail, we really have three key buckets.

One is continued planning and partnerships and Yuri described those planning efforts in a lot of detail.

But we are also involved on the project level in supporting additional designs and considerations that really benefit the non-motorized small-boat community because they oftentimes are unique, and in being able to be an interface between the public and those users and the design process has been really, hugely beneficial. Really partnership based. This is a voluntary program. So we rely heavily on the partnerships with local jurisdictions, with those local communities, and that has really just made it a feel-good project. It brings together a lot of people who are just excited to be out on the water.

Facilities and grants. I will get a little bit more into the designation process. The Coastal Conservancy has provided funding for this program including for providing grants.

And then education and outreach. That has been a core of the program from the very beginning. Making sure that people when they get out on the water know how to do it safely in a way that minimizes impacts to wildlife.

Starting with our structure. The Water Trail has a broad-based Advisory Committee. It has accessibility experts, folks from the wildlife agencies, hospitality industries, and the US Coast Guard. We convene, it used to be quarterly, it is now semiannually, to discuss all of the important issues that each of these entities brings to the table.

We are fortunate to have representatives from the North Bay all the way down to Alviso in the South Bay. It is such a huge area. To get to convene and to hear these different perspectives has really helped us to take a thoughtful approach to implementing the Water Trail.

Really a lot of that is based in our interface and our ability to be a resource for all of our partners across the region and so that is local users. We are fortunate to have some great nonprofit organizations like the Bay Area Sea Kayakers, which has over 1,000 members. The San Francisco Boardsailing Association, which speaks for kite boarding, windsurfing, winging. And then the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors, which really advocates for accessible access to the water.

You may have seen recently in the news there was a couple of kayakers that completed the first ever, that we are aware of, circumnavigation of the entire San Francisco Bay. And that really is bringing together the vision that we have for the Water



Trail, providing opportunities for not just these day trips, but also multi-day opportunities around the Bay.

And so, continuing to work closely with site operators to make sure that they have the information that they need to help provide access in a way that, again, is safe and respectful to the environment.

When we are implementing the Water Trail we have these semi-annual meetings where staff will provide an update, and we will get information from various sites that are both officially part of the Water Trail as well as ones that are planned and potentially to join the Water Trail, and get that guidance from our Advisory Committee on how these sites are currently operating or can address issues as they arise.

And then sites are also presented for designation. So, a site to officially be part of the Water Trail, and as Yuri mentioned we have 54 that are officially part of the Water Trail, it has to go through a designation process.

When we are looking at a designation process that is something that is locally nominated. So, it has to be brought to us by our local partners, East Bay Regional Park District, City of Richmond, Port of San Francisco, whoever is managing the site can come and say, we really think this is a great access point and we want it to be part of this broader Water Trail network. Staff will then go and develop a site report that details the facilities that are there, and then really creates a one-stop shop of information so that people can determine if this is an appropriate site for them to be able to get onto the water - accessibility, restrooms, parking, proximity, the types of crafts that it offers, as well as the type of experience that it offers as well.

Because we have so many diverse opportunities here from the rural sloughs in the North Bay to the San Francisco Waterfront, and it really just makes it such a special place to live, in my mind. I am a big paddler. Love getting out there and you can feel like you are miles away from anything within a few minutes on the Water Trail.

Once a site is officially designated then it is eligible for funding from the Water Trail Grant Program. It also receives educational signage. And then is included as part of our website, our maps and outreach.

A little bit more on our facilities and grants.

This is an example of one of our grant-funded projects. We worked closely with East Bay Regional Park District on Point Isabel launch here. This was a longstanding wind surfing launch that as you can see in that left hand picture had eroded pretty significantly. Working with our partners and some other funding we are able to develop this really state of the art, I think, highest quality windsurfing site on the entire West Coast as it has been characterized. And as well as providing accessible access down to the water.

And it is one of just a variety of projects. And we really have focused on accessibility to the water for many of our grants. But again, these are brought to us by the local partners. It is a unique source of funding. It can be hard to find funding that specifically is for non-motorized access.

And lastly, education and outreach. Really want to just create that cohesive culture of safety and stewardship and give people the information that they need so that they can get out there safely understanding Bay conditions change rapidly. So, it is important to

understand the weather and the tides and currents and how they can affect your ability to get back. Mud flats are a big issue at a lot of sites, and so making sure people are aware of that. But also, how to appropriately interact with wildlife when they are out there as well and not disturbing birds or harbor seals or a variety of other sensitive wildlife that we have here in our Bay.

And part of that effort is our Signage Program. Back in the 2011 timeframe we had developed some signs as part of our education and outreach program and they had not kept up with current educational standards and approach to interpretive. We, fortunately, had funding from the State Coastal Conservancy to go out and develop this new signage in collaboration with our Advisory Committee and our Project Management Team that I think really turned out very nicely to highlight core information that folks need both ahead of when they get out there and once they are out there.

We are going to be working to develop the site-specific information that then will go on these signs.

Each sign has three components, an overview of what the Water Trail is at the top, some site-specific information in the middle there, and then the stewardship information there at the bottom.

And so, we will be developing this site-specific signage and be going out to fabricators here over the next number of months.

Lastly, we want to just mention the Water Trail website. This really, again, is that one-stop shop. So previously if folks wanted to find information about how to find a new launch, how to get out to an area that they have not been before, finding that information could be really difficult. And so now with our Water Trail website there is a large map. There's site profiles, and so you can see photographs of what it looks like, as well as with each one of those sites, a detailed description of the facilities that are there, the types of experiences you can have, and then also up-to-date tides and currents information to help you plan your trip.

And then lastly, really programmatically working to enhance opportunities for all. Recognize there are a lot of barriers to getting out onto the water. It is expensive to own your own equipment. You have to have a place to store it, a way to transport it. And so really working closely with community partners, nonprofit organizations, concessionaires, to make sure that there are opportunities for community members to have low-cost programs to get out on the water and to experience just the remarkable waters and shorelines that we have here in the Bay.

And then continuing to focus on lower cost overnight accommodations. That is a key priority for the Coastal Conservancy as well. And something that the folks that recently did their circumnavigation were noting, we need a few more of those along the shoreline. The Water Trail has a goal of an overnight site every eight miles and we are not quite there yet. We have a couple of great shoreline campgrounds but a few more to go.

With that I just want to thank you all so much for your support for this program. We are really excited to continue to support integration into the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and to continue to support boaters across the Bay Area. So, thank you.

Chair Wasserman acknowledged: Thank you both for the presentation.

Sierra, do we have any public speakers?

Ms. Peterson replied: You do, Chair Wasserman. There are two online currently.

Gita Dev spoke: Thank you, Commissioners. This is Gita Dev. I am with the Sierra Club's Bay Alive Program, which is extremely interested in the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and its hopefully effective use by cities around the Bay.

The reason that I am talking to you right now is very, very, I have always been very interested in the Bay Water Trail. And we have been getting some questions from swimmers about whether the Bay Water Trail has ever accommodated swimmers? That is a lower cost way of accessing the Bay. The Bay water is safe to swim in. The Dolphin Club, members of the Dolphin Club have approached us.

I was wondering if the speakers could talk to the issue of where the swimmers, how the swimmers could interact with the Water Trail, you know, the organization; so that they could find out ways in which they could access the water safely at certain points and come up with these low-cost ways for lower-income communities, as well as for everyone who is in the Dolphin Club, the Polar Bear Club and so forth, that they would like to be able to swim in the Bay again. So, I wonder if they could tell us if there is some way to, you know, who they should contact, how they can get involved in this process of the Water Trail. Thank you. Thank you so much for talking about the Water Trail.

Mr. Botkin fielded this question: Great. Thank you, Gita. Yes, certainly there is a lot of overlap at these sites in the types of uses and swimming has a lot of alignment. And so, a lot of the information that is included with the Water Trail would certainly be relevant and support swimmers as they are trying to assess a site and its potential use.

The Bay Area Water Trail, though, with our legislation, we are focused on non-motorized, small boating and swimming uses were not considered as part of the Water Trail Program itself. Similar as to sailboats, motorized boats, were not part of the Water Trail purview. Certainly, would be happy to talk with you and where there are opportunities to work collaboratively towards enhancements to a site that would both benefit non-motorized uses and swimmers would welcome those conversations anytime and my contact information is in the slides here.

Arthur Feinstein was recognized: Hi, Commissioners. I am Arthur Feinstein. I am Chair of the Bay Alive campaign that Gita was talking about.

First, I would just like to express my appreciation to the Chairperson. Zack, that was an impassioned and quite wonderful presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Chair Wasserman acknowledged: Thank you, Arthur.

Arthur Feinstein continued: I appreciate on the Water Trail presentation the fact that the environment and critters were brought up repeatedly. But you might not understand, to new Commissioners and even old ones, what the impacts might be. So, I thought I would just take a second to elaborate on those. I used to Chair the Golden Gate Audubon Society before I moved to Sierra Club and did a lot of wildlife. I am in Berkeley.

When the Eastshore State Park was being developed there were studies done on North Basin Cove and Aquatic Park, specifically on what is the impact of kayaking and canoeing on water birds. And they are extensive.

Another background, over 500,000 ducks come to the Bay Area every winter. They migrate down from their nesting grounds, and they stay here for the non-nesting season, around six months, November through March or April.

Fifty percent or more of their time is spent feeding, building up their energy reserves for their migration back and for their reproductive cycle. The rest of the time is spent in what we call roosts, rafts, duck rafts. It is just they are roosting. They are being calm, not exerting any energy so that they can save up their energy.

What the study showed is that if you kayak through a bunch of rafting ducks, they all start moving and disperse, start flying, using up that energy, and it has a really significant effect on their ability to reach their breeding grounds at the end of the migratory season or successfully reproduce. So, there is a real impact from boating that is not really being informed of what the impacts could be. If they see a raft of ducks, they should avoid them, but they do not always do that and there are serious effects afterwards.

The other thing of this study that came out that was most interesting to me was harbor seals. Harbor seals reacted really badly to kayaking and small water boats. The same kind of impacts with the water birds. It is energy consumption when they run away to get away from the boats. They are not feeding. They are not conserving energy. Breeding might be impacted. You know, just their existence might be impacted. So, it is not negligible the impacts that come from boating. Thank you very much.

Chair Wasserman asked: Questions or comments from Commissioners? I see two hands virtually and two here. I am going to go to the screen first.

Commissioner Gioia commented: Thanks for the presentation. I had just a general question then a specific question.

I am sure a number of these landing areas that are identified on the map, and I will take Shimada Park which is near where I live, need some improvements. What is the funding source we are looking at? Understandably, they are owned by different facilities and Shimada Park is owned by the City of Richmond.

So, if we wanted to identify improvements to make the landing safer, have you begun developing a plan of improvement for those based on input from kayakers or others who use those facilities? And then how do we work to come up with funding to do that, knowing that the ownership of each of these is very different?

Mr. Botkin answered: Yes, thank you for that question. Typically, we rely on jurisdictions to come to us with particular projects that they are interested in initiating. There have been cases where community members have worked to elevate issues through their jurisdictions and then we can get involved.

But Shimada Park is a designated Water Trail site. We do have very limited funding left in our block grant from the Coastal Conservancy. However, the Water Trail is eligible for funding under Prop 4 as part of the Conservancy's Bay Area Program and we understand that they are open to project-specific proposals that would enhance the Water Trail, so that might be an opportunity starting point.

The Division of Boating and Waterways also has a non-motorized boating program that is accepting applications on a rolling basis, and those tend to be the core funding sources for these types of improvements.

Commissioner Gioia continued: You know, what you may want to do is send out general information to those jurisdictions that own the landing sites so that they could then apply for it. Because presumably would the property owner apply directly for the

grants?

Mr. Botkin replied: Yes, yes. We are a voluntary program that does not have any official land-use authority and so cannot apply for these projects specifically, but would be happy to partner and support a local jurisdiction in their application.

Commissioner Gioia offered a recommendation: Yes, I think providing information to them about the funding sources that are available, because they are they are not able to keep up with all of that. That may be helpful, some uniform communication to all the sites.

Mr. Botkin acknowledged: That is great feedback, thank you. We are going to be engaging with all the site owners as part of the signs when we go out to install those and so that would be a good opportunity to share that kind of information. Thank you.

Commissioner Pemberton was recognized: Wonderful presentation, really appreciate it. Just a quick question on the lower-cost visitor serving accommodations. If you had a sense of what type of accommodations are lower-cost accommodations. Is it mainly like campsites or are there other types of accommodations that are lower-cost and what the price point might be? And then a sense of the timing for making new low-cost visitor serving accommodations operational.

Mr. Botkin replied: Thank you. Yes, great question. There are three currently kayaking campgrounds on the Bay right now, Sunrise Point and Candlestick Point State Recreation Area on Angel Island and then in Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Park. To my knowledge there are no other ones that are currently being proposed.

This is certainly something that is a priority for the Coastal Conservancy and so would defer to them in terms of funding and opportunities for future projects.

You know, we would certainly love to see additional opportunities. Alameda Point seems like a great spot. But those are things that would have to go through the local jurisdiction to propose.

Commissioner Eklund commented: This is really an exciting program. I have to admit that I have never even heard of the Water Trail, but I am assuming that I am not alone. And so, I have some comments but I also have some questions too.

First of all, I would highly encourage you and your group to send a letter to all the cities and the counties that border the Bay and let them know about what the program is. And I would send it to the city council as well as the city manager. Being Past President of the League of California Cities, reaching out to cities and counties I think is really helpful because I think you will be surprised how many cities are interested in something like this, and counties. Because access to the Bay and to the environment is really a benefit to being around the area.

On your map that shows the dots, and it says that these are potential Water Trail sites, both existing and planned. And the dots do not distinguish between the ones that are existing and the ones that are planned. I would highly encourage you to do a map showing the difference so that those cities that border the Bay, like Novato and a lot of others around the Bay Area, that there are some that are planned but they are just sitting there and maybe with somebody who would like to sponsor it and really work towards it we might be able to expand this Water Trail Program around the Bay, which I totally support.

I am also an avid swimmer and used to swim in the Bay on a regular basis. I really support also reaching out to the organized swimming organizations around the Bay too, because you might be able to find some that are also supportive of making it part of a Water Trail for boats as well as to people who want to swim off of a deck or something like that, for an example. So, I really encourage that.

Have you reached out to marinas and yacht clubs around the Bay? Not just sending them a letter but actually engaging in some conversations? Because there's the Belvedere and Tiburon Yacht Clubs that I am sure would be interested in at least having some discussion about it. But kind of curious as to what the extent has been on the outreach.

Mr. Botkin explained: Thank you for those comments and question. Yes, we have. It is been a number of years now. We are operating more on a shoestring staff these days, but used to engage more regularly with those types of partners.

We do have requirements as part of the Water Trail Plan that a site be open to the public and broadly open to the public, so some of the more private yacht clubs or marinas that do not allow for drop-in public access would not be eligible to be a designated Water Trail site. But certainly, more public marinas. Quite a few of those have been added as part of designated Water Trail sites.

Ms. Jewett chimed in: I am just also going to add that marinas do require a BCDC permit. So oftentimes when we do receive an application for an upgrade to a marina, the Bay Design Analysts, we work with the project proponent or the permittee to see if we can get a public doc, there. And once we do that, then that dock would then qualify for potential designation into the Water Trail system. So, we always work toward that in those types of applications.

Commissioner Eklund asked: Does BCDC provide some incentives for a yacht club to be able to have public access as well?

Ms. Jewett replied: I would not say incentives. The maximum feasible public access is a part of our law. We do our best just to work with each applicant to see if we can include that as part of their public access program.

Commissioner Eklund continued: Again, like if somebody applies for a permit like from a yacht club, I think engaging some time with the city or the county that may have some jurisdiction over that - they may be able to convince them a little bit more than maybe you guys can to be able to have that public access. Because most of us have knowledge of who those owners are or their organizations. I think using us as locals to help you advance your program, I think would be very beneficial. I encourage you to do that. Because I know most elected officials would be glad to help you. You just sometimes need to, like, I did not even know about the Water Trail, so it would be helpful.

And then lastly, do we need legislation to allow the swimmers to be able to use the public docks and stuff like that? I do not think so, but. No. Okay.

Mr. Botkin replied: Yes, no new legislation. It just is not, I guess, formally the focus of the Water Trail Program. But there have been enhancements like things like adding stairs onto docks is something that we encourage. That really is beneficial for swimmers as well by overlap.

Commissioner Eklund reiterated: Again, I think reaching out to cities and counties would be helpful. And lastly, I know the Coastal Conservancy is really supportive of this,



but anything we can do to help please do not hesitate to ask.

Vice Chair Eisen noted the following: I did take a quick look at your website. It is really excellent. I am not sure who is responsible for it, but I commend them for creating a website that is very easily understood and provides a lot of very useful information.

With respect to one of the earlier comments about wildlife and the intersection of boaters, kayakers, et cetera, with wildlife. I saw that you do have a section about that on your website, although it seems to be more focused on seals than on birds. But it occurred to me that, and I know you have got a limited budget, but it occurred to me that you might be able to work with somebody like Golden Gate, I do not think it is any longer called Golden Gate Audubon but Golden Gate Birding Association, to help you develop a little more content about that on your website, I think that would be useful. Thank you.

Chair Wasserman continued: I do not see any others and we have had public comment. I thank you very much for the presentation, and more importantly, the work. Thank you.

Mr. Botkin acknowledged: Thank you.

**10. Briefing on Bay Adapt Implementation (Metrics, Mapping Platform, Funding Strategy) and RSAP Technical Assistance.** That brings us to Item 10, a Briefing on Bay Adapt Implementation, Metrics, Mapping Platform, Funding Strategy and RSAP Technical Assistance.

I think that it is very appropriate, in light of the marvelous award that our Commission received earlier this week from the American Planning Association, to now receive a briefing on the status of the tasks and actions in the Bay Adapt Joint Platform. Topics will include the development of BCDC's Technical Assistance Program to support local government planning, the new RSAP Atlas Beta, an online mapping platform being developed to support local jurisdictions, communities, and consultants as they implement the RSAP guidelines, and Bay Adapt Currents, a new online metrics tracking dashboard that monitors progress on sea level rise adaptation

We are going to let the Executive Director kick off.

Executive Director Goldzband gave introductory remarks: Thank you, and then we will go to Dana.

When you all approved the RSAP in December of last year it was certainly the culmination of so much work that started with the Adapting to Rising Tides Program, went to Bay Adapt, and included the RSAP and everything else.

We are here to talk to you today about, to some extent, a lot of everything else. While we are certain to talk about what you know about this is sort of like Jaws, just when you thought it was safe to go in the water, right. Just when you thought you had heard enough of the RSAP and heard enough about Bay Adapt here comes BCDC staff with a whole lot of new, interesting things that you all should take back to your counties and to your cities so that they can start using them.

It is really, really, I will say it is really, really exciting to see our staff be able to turn grants from the Coastal Conservancy and the Ocean Protection Council and General Funds and GGRF into that which we think will be really, really useful for the Bay Area local governments as they work through the RSAP.

Now I want to give it to Dana, but I just wanted to set you up a little bit, so thank

you.

Assistant Planning Director for Climate Adaptation Brechwald spoke: Thank you, Larry, and Chair Wasserman, I just apologize for not being there in person. On our trip to Denver, I picked up not just an award but a cold as well; you will probably be able to hear it in my voice.

Today, as you have heard, the Adapting to Rising Tides Team is excited to share some major milestones in implementing the Bay Adapt Joint Platform. I am Dana Brechwald, Assistant Planning Director for Climate Adaptation, and I am joined today on this presentation by several members of the ART and GIS teams including Jackie Perrin-Martinez, Todd Hallenbeck, Cory Copeland, and Katie Fallon.

Many but not all of you have heard a lot about the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan over the past 18 months. But as Larry said, there are many other projects we have been working on to get adaptation moving in the Bay Area. So today you are going to hear specifically about three initiatives to provide key information to prepare for sea level rise. Each one of these provides a different lens on the data or is geared toward a different audience, and this really illustrates how we are providing complementary tools for different people and different purposes.

So, for example, the first initiative that you will hear about, which is providing local assistance for developing subregional plans, the audience is really geared towards your planners who will be developing these plans.

The RSAP Atlas is also for those planners, but may also be of interest to CBOs, academics, and teachers.

And lastly, our Bay Adapt Currents is a key tool for you as Commissioners or other public officials to provide data to help communicate adaptation to your constituents.

So as a reminder of where all this work started. In 2020 in the middle of a pandemic we kicked off our Bay Adapt Initiative. This brought together stakeholders all over the region to develop a consensus-driven approach to adapt the Bay Area to rising sea levels. This really collaborative process set the groundwork for much of the work we have done over the past five years and really helped to establish BCDC as a leader and trusted partner in adaptation.

In October 2021 you voted to adopt the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, which really captures a snapshot in time of the actions that we and many others in the region felt would be critical for advancing sea level rise adaptation.

The RSAP is one of many projects that are implementing the actions of the Joint Platform. It is certainly our most visible to date and is really the cornerstone of Bay Adapt implementation, but many other projects have been going on behind the scenes.

By now most of you are familiar with the RSAP with the exception of you new Commissioners. But today you will get to hear about the tools we are developing to implement it and how we plan to work closely with your cities and counties.

So as a reminder, the RSAP is the award-winning response to the mandate set forth in SB 272. I can say that now and I am going to say it every time. It is really the second major guiding document for adaptation coming out of BCDC alongside the Joint Platform. It lays out our regionwide plan for successful adaptation along the Bay shoreline and guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that

all work together to meet our regional goals.

The work that BCDC does now to implement the RSAP, which you will hear about from Jackie next, continues to advance the goals and actions of the Joint Platform and work in concert with the other projects you will hear about today as well.

For example, a major component of RSAP implementation will be tracking the status and progress of subregional plans in every city and county that is required to do one.

This information, the data is zero at this point because no one has initiated yet, will be highlighted on the RSAP web page on the BCDC website, which is now live, so please go check it out. But we also have plans to display this data by geography in the RSAP Atlas and summarized in a metric on the Currents dashboard. So, you will see that all the work we do to implement the Joint Platform, including the RSAP, creates an intertwined and supportive network of tools that collectively advance the larger goal of successful adaptation outcomes for the region.

And lastly, I will just briefly mention how our relationships with other agencies work to ensure that our regional plans and policies speak to one another.

The Bay Area Regional Collaborative, or BARC, has been a critical boundary organization helping to tease out the various roles and strengths of each agency and spurring greater alignment in our work. And BARC's Sea Level Rise MOU advances a joint work plan for agencies to address flooding and sea level rise threats with other regional and state agencies, including BCDC.

We also work closely with SFEP in aligning with their Estuary Blueprint and with MTC/ABAG on Plan Bay Area 2050+. For example, through producing the funding and investment framework that we published in 2023.

The common thread in the MOU is how all regional agencies will provide assistance to cities and counties to advance our various programs in a way that is cohesive and clear to users.

Next, I will be turning it over to Jackie to talk specifically about BCDC's TA offerings directly in support of developing subregional plans. But as you listen to her and others today, please bear in mind that this is all working within the broader ecosystem of support with all the BARC agencies, and BCDC is committed to our role in a regional multi-hazard technical assistance network that goes above and beyond the RSAP.

Climate Adaptation Planning Manager Perrin-Martinez addressed attendees: Hello and good afternoon, Commissioners. I am Jackie Perrin-Martinez, the Climate Adaptation Planning Manager. I recognize that title is maybe not the best title at this point, but I am very proud of it, and I lead the team who is developing the program for RSAP implementation.

Dana did a great job summarizing the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. I just want to add a reminder that local governments subject to SB 272, which are all those within BCDC's jurisdiction, are required to create their own local adaptation plans that align with BCDC's guidelines by January 2034. The work we are doing now in the RSAP Technical Assistance Program is supporting cities and counties in developing these plans through various ways, which I will touch on in these slides.

Before developing this program, we first engaged with local government staff at numerous cities around the Bay, including consultants, to ask them what their key

challenges are when it comes to sea level rise adaptation and the RSAP guidelines. We held focus groups, one on one interviews, and we sent out a survey. Here are five key challenges we learned from local governments that we used to help shape our TA Program.

Local governments are at different stages of planning and will have different needs, ranging from getting started on a plan, to thinking through more complex adaptation strategies. Meaning that our program needs to meet a variety of needs.

There were a lot of concerns about funding shortfalls and uncertainty about how much different plan components might cost to even seek funding for.

Local governments told us that they want support and a key go-to person for whom they need to be connected to across other jurisdictions or with broader regional entities such as Caltrans or BART, for example.

We heard that local governments want support on integrating adaptation into existing efforts and face challenges of in-house technical capacity related to adaptation.

And lastly, we heard that jurisdictions want clarity on meeting RSAP requirements and want to know that they are on the right track.

To respond to these challenges and to ensure that we are creating a program to set ourselves up for success we have identified three main goals.

The first is to support local adaptation plans, which we refer to as Subregional Plans. And this goal is to accelerate effective and compliant Subregional Plans by providing tailored services and support to individual cities and counties.

Goal 2 is related to our outreach and resources to increase awareness about the RSAP and provide relevant adaptation resources to meet cities and counties where they are.

And goal 3 is about our role in coordination support. To provide seamless support to cities and counties by developing and improving interagency processes and practices.

I will give you some examples of what these tools look like in our program to achieve these goals.

Goal 1 is focused on ensuring that we provide specific guidance and support to local governments while they are developing their plans.

We have assigned BCDC staff to serve as county-specific liaisons and be an easy, reliable point of contact.

We have been developing a transparent process for conducting consultation meetings, which are required in the RSAP, to ensure that these meetings have clear steps and outcomes and provide useful points of feedback to cities and counties.

As Dana mentioned, we are beginning to track cities and counties' progress on their Subregional Plans. We have updated BCDC's website, as Dana mentioned, with a lot more information about the RSAP, including how to get started on a Subregional Plan.

We will be adding this tracking information to the website shortly. It will include information such as who has initiated a plan, including if these are single or multi-jurisdictional plans, and where they are in the process, such as how many consultation meetings they have held with us, or whether they have submitted their plan for approval.

And Dana stole my spoiler alert, which is that this information is not too exciting quite yet, we do not have any plans officially initiated. However, we have held numerous

what we call pre-consultation meetings with cities who are getting ready to kick off their planning efforts. We have discussed SB 1 grant proposals, we have reviewed RFPs, and we have participated in a few different multi-jurisdictional conversations to support cities as they determine how they might best work together. So, we do anticipate that we will have a number of plans officially started in the coming months.

Once we launch this tracking resource we will be sharing this information, not only on the website but in a few other ways as well, which Todd and Katie will touch on in their presentations.

And lastly, we work very closely with the Ocean Protection Council and their TA provider Coastal Quest on the SB 1 Funding Program. We have already helped eight cities and counties secure funding and there's many more in the pipeline. We will continue to coordinate on this to help cities and counties get the funding that they need for plans.

Goal 2 is focused on ensuring local governments know about the RSAP and have tools and resources to help them make their plans.

Working with the liaisons and with many of you Commissioners we will be developing a county-by-county strategy for how to best engage in each location around the Bay.

We will be developing webinars and trainings to ensure local governments understand what is required of them in the RSAP.

We will be developing specific resources to support planning and advance adaptation practices.

And we will be maintaining the RSAP Atlas, an incredible new tool that you will hear a lot more about from Todd that will support cities and counties in accessing the data they need to create compliant plans.

Our last goal is focused on how BCDC staff engage across state and regional agencies to provide the best support for cities and counties.

We will continue coordinating with our partners at BARC and many other agencies including ABAG, SFEP, Caltrans, MTC and more, on how we create and deliver seamless technical assistance across our agencies. For those who sit on the ABAG Board, you heard about their technical assistance program last month; and we have been working very closely with ABAG on aligning our efforts.

We intend to establish even more relationships across agencies and partners to ensure that technical information of certain topics such as contamination or ecosystems is easier to access and use to support local plans.

We have a lot of exciting work ahead. Of the things you heard, these are going to be our top priorities in the next three months:

Proactively developing a county-by-county strategy. We have been gathering what we know about each city and county, including existing planning efforts, to help us organize an approach for how BCDC can proactively work with cities and counties who are either ready to get started or those who might have high vulnerabilities, and where we can help catalyze critical planning.

Of course, we will first be reaching out to the Commissioners in each county to make sure we understand how to take the best approach in your communities. Part of this strategy will also include outreach and roadshow presentations to raise awareness about

the RSAP, encourage folks to start planning, and provide an easy BCDC point of contact for who can assist them.

As I mentioned, we will be launching our jurisdictional tracking tool shortly to ensure information on these plans is easily accessible on our website and cross a variety of our tools.

We will continue to coordinate with our partner agencies on developing a cohesive Technical Assistance Program.

We will also be bringing on more staff capacity including hiring new staff and ensuring that we are onboarding quickly and efficiently.

And lastly, launching a significant new tool, the RSAP Atlas. Todd, I will now hand it over to you to talk about this incredible new tool.

GIS Specialist Lead Hallenbeck spoke: My name is Todd Hallenbeck, I am your GIS Specialist Lead, and I am going to provide a little update on the development of a tool to help support local jurisdictions get a jumpstart on their planning called the RSAP Atlas.

We are developing this tool in conjunction with SFEI and we hope to launch it later this spring. Think this resource will help local jurisdictions plan better, faster, and more efficiently.

The primary users for this tool are really the local planners who will be responsible for developing these Subregional Adaptation Plans. But we do think there are other audiences that will benefit from this tool, and we have been keeping them in mind as well. These are the community-based organizations will be partnering with local jurisdictions to conduct this adaptation planning, as well as consultants that will be supporting local jurisdictions in completing their plans.

You do not see necessarily the general public on this list. And while the tool will be accessible to them, the functionality and design is not really being directly informed by their needs. Instead, we are looking at other resources that we have launched like the Bay Shoreline Flood Explorer, EcoAtlas, the Bay Adapt website, to provide more background on the science of sea level rise or adaptation planning.

The Atlas has been developed over the last year in conversation with these users and is really intended to, again, help local jurisdictions access data, develop some of the baseline submittals for the RSAP, and make complying with the RSAP easier. The Atlas is intended to provide information in a couple different ways to meet different jurisdictions where they are with regard to their technical capacity.

This means making it easier to explore some of the baseline regional topic area asset and hazard layers, to understand the social, physical, and natural context of their shoreline providing the baseline analysis that BCDC has conducted for jurisdictions to export and use to develop their RSAP submittals.

And then finally, allowing download of the raw data sets for those jurisdictions that are wanting to integrate this information into their own analysis.

The Atlas is going to provide probably about 75% of the required data, the data required by the RSAP, which we think provides a really solid foundation for jurisdictions to build from and supplement review and synthesize with their local data where needed.

This diagram illustrates some of the information flows for the Atlas. In particular it really tries to emphasize that the data included in the Atlas as well as the functionality



really originate from the RSAP guidelines and requirements themselves.

The Atlas, as I mentioned, makes data available in a couple different ways, and when combined with local data form the basis of the Subregional Adaptation Plans.

These plans then feed back into the Atlas to support future iterations of planning, including things like the planning status, the proposed projects that get identified in that effort, and then also local data that gets collected to help eventually fill regional information gaps. So, in this way, the Atlas is part of a feedback loop that can evolve alongside the RSAP.

I am going to provide a short, canned demo of the functionality of the Atlas. We just concluded about a month-long user testing period to gather a lot of feedback on how we can improve the functionality and design of the tool to better serve user needs. So, there will be some changes to the look and design of the tool, but the core functionality will be the same.

So, I mentioned that the Atlas has been designed to provide users different ways to access information based on their technical capacity and familiarity with the RSAP. This really starts at the splash screen that will help direct users to the relevant resources in the Atlas for them.

For those folks that are maybe less familiar with the Atlas or the RSAP, the User Guides section is going to serve as a starting place. These user guides will be short, one-to-two-minute video tutorials aimed at explaining the relationship between the Atlas and the RSAP, as well as getting them familiar with key functionality relevant to their needs.

After a user has reviewed those guides, they are likely interested in exploring the maps to better understand the physical and social context of their shoreline, as well as start generating materials for plan submittals.

In the Explore Map section users are going to interact with the data in a couple different ways. One of those ways is just to explore the data sets listed on the left-hand side in the table of contents. The different layers that are being made accessible in the Atlas and how they are organized in ways that are familiar to the way they are organized in the RSAP. The map shown here reflects historical Baylands.

Next users will likely want to learn more about sea level rise, storm surge, groundwater rise and the hazards that are being required to be assessed in the RSAP. So, we developed a tool to help them explore these hazards and what the potential impacts are on various assets that are described in the RSAP.

The Coastal Hazards Explorer allows users to select a topic area of interest along the right-hand side of the screen. One of the four RSAP hazard scenarios, one or all of the different hazard types that we map, and then one or more assets, and will map the results of BCDC's hazard exposure analysis for them. Here you are seeing a map of one of the coastal flood hazard maps that we have developed.

After exploring the data and the hazards we anticipate local planners will want to export information to support their submittal requirements, and so the plan assistant tool will be able to help them with that.

The RSAP provides flexibility in how Subregional Plans are structured and developed and so across the tool we provide information at a couple different scales, and that is both at the city, county, and operational landscape unit scale. Users will also be able to

select a specific RSAP element and topic area, again, along the right-hand side of the screen in this screenshot.

Using this tool and based on the selections the users will generate these jurisdiction-specific maps here showing existing critical infrastructure in Marin County.

Tables that indicate what assets are exposed under different hazard scenarios. Hard to read, but these tables show wastewater treatment facilities exposed under a .8-foot sea level rise scenario in Marin County as well as tables showing power plants, for example. And then summaries of exposure, in this case the number of health care facilities in Marin County exposed to that same scenario that they can review and combine with other local information to develop plan submittals.

Lastly, for the most technical users we are providing all the data sets and associated analysis as downloadable GIS data.

We have gathered a lot of great feedback over the last, like I said, month. Over the last year but especially over the last month. That is going to inform this next draft of the tool that we are intending to launch near the end of May, early June.

We do hope that and think that this tool will enable local jurisdictions and governments to do their planning more efficiently and effectively and be able to meet many of the minimum requirements set forward in the RSAP.

I have just shared a couple of the different ways that we are supporting the planning and planners. But to visualize the broader trends in adaptation progress and climate awareness I am going to turn it over to Cory Copeland and Katie Fallon to talk about the Bay Adapt Currents Dashboard.

Adapting to Rising Tides Data and Science Manager Copeland presented the following: Thank you, Commissioners, for giving me the opportunity to talk to you today. We are turning from a platform that focuses on technical users to one that is more designed to inform decision-makers such as yourselves as well as the general public.

For those who do not know I am Cory Copeland, the Adapting to Rising Tides Data and Science Manager, and I am joined by Environmental Scientist Katie Fallon. After this when you go to [Bayadapt.org/bay-currents](https://bayadapt.org/bay-currents) and smash the big red button that says, Go to Bay Currents and explore the Dashboard you are going to love it, and most of what you love about it will be because of Katie Fallon's hard work, and we are both really thrilled to show you this metric dashboard today.

So as background, as Dana mentioned earlier, the Bay Adapt Joint Platform is a consensus-based strategy to protect people and the environment in the Bay from rising sea levels. The platform has been a blueprint for work in the region as we move towards true sea level rise resilience. In particular, I would like to draw your eye to the bottom right corner of that slide for Action 9, which calls on us to track and report on progress. The Bay Adapt Currents Dashboard fulfills this vision. It is the long-term home for transparency and tracking of progress towards Joint Platform goals.

The Dashboard provides the shared regional metrics to report on sea level rise adaptation progress. The goal of the Dashboard is to create visually compelling metrics that present easily digestible information. We want it to be informative, visually appealing and to communicate clearly. Whether you are an organization that wants educational material, a community member interested in what adaptation is going on in

your region, or a decision-maker who needs to needs relevant information, we want Bay Adapt Currents to be a dashboard that is useful to you.

In order to achieve this vision, which is not a small one, we have worked on this project for almost two years, and we are very excited, as I said, to show it, and I am going to pass it over to Katie who will talk about the development and some of the contents of this product.

Environmental Scientist Fallon addressed attendees: Work on the Bay Adapt Currents started in September of 2023 with background research into similar metric tracking dashboards to get a sense of what was possible and what we wanted to emulate. We then worked with internal and external partners to brainstorm an initial list of 80-plus possible metrics that helped track progress across the nine Joint Platform actions.

From these conversations we further refined what the metrics as a suite should accomplish.

The metrics should better inform decision makers and the public about adaptation planning.

They should give a complete picture of what is happening in the region.

And they should tell a compelling story about adaptation progress.

Based on the advice of the metrics experts we spoke to we developed a framework to determine which of our brainstormed metrics we should pursue for development.

We prioritized metrics based on their ease of update ability, if the metric was highlighting information that tells a compelling story, if the metric avoids redundancy with work that is already happening in the region, and finally, if the metric would be producible before our expected launch date of early 2025.

This process left us with a list of 11 initial metrics.

While there is more that we hope to add to the Dashboard beyond this initial suite of metrics, some of the data we hope to track does not yet exist or is not complete enough to give a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the Bay.

As the Bay Area continues to adapt to sea level rise, we will see emerging stories that we may want to track. Part of this effort is working to develop the data that we want through some of BCDC's other projects. As Jackie mentioned earlier, one additional metric we plan to add in the future is tracking the submittal of Subregional Plans and progress.

Now let's get into the Dashboard and the metrics themselves. The Dashboard is live and hosted on the Bay Adapt website under Actions. The QR code will take you to the Bay Adapt Currents page if you would like to explore it on your own time. In the Dashboard the metrics are categorized by the five buckets in the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, People, Information, Plans, Projects, and Progress.

This is what the landing page of the Bay Adapt Currents looks like.

Under People the Dashboard has three metrics. The first looks at how public opinions on climate change have changed over time in the Bay Area. The second looks at whether Bay Area residents think local officials are doing enough to address climate change. And the third tracks local programs that pay Bay Area residents to learn about environmental justice and climate change, especially those that specifically address sea level rise. This metric has found that Bay Area residents have spent 52,000-plus hours being trained in climate justice.

Under Information there are two metrics. The first looks at 45 years of research published on sea level rise in the Bay Area and how it has changed over time, while the second looks at the media's coverage of sea level rise in the Bay Area.

The next section Plans has two metrics looking at how sea level rise is included in general plans. I want to shout out our 2024 BCDC summer intern Ben Witek who compiled much of this data. The first looks at city general plans, programs and policies that talk about sea level rise and flooding, while the second looks at time horizons and water levels used in city general plans. When we add a metric on Subregional Plan Progress this is where it will be included.

The Projects section includes three metrics. The first looks at the placement of dredged sediment used for wetland restoration. The second looks at the 6.5 billion in funding that has been forecasted for shoreline adaptation in the Bay Area. And the third provides information on the location and implementation of 47,000 acres of adaptation projects completed over time in the San Francisco Bay.

Finally, under Progress we have a metric that acts as a landing page to take users to other environmental health metrics and monitoring programs that are occurring in the region.

Now that we have a sense of what the metrics cover, I am going to dive a little deeper into two metrics to give you a sense of how the Dashboard works and how users can delve further into the data.

The first metric we are going to look at is tracking how much sediment has been used for wetland restoration over time. This data comes from the Dredged Material Management Office with support from BCDC's Sediment Team.

Most metrics include a graph and a high-level takeaway. In this case, that 31.4 million cubic yards of sediment have been placed for wetland restoration since 2000. And some text that aims to give a high-level overview of the metric and why we should care about it. A few metrics, including this one, track progress towards a stated goal. For example, we have placed nearly 7% of the estimated sediment needed by 2100 to prevent tidal wetlands and mud flats from drowning, as outlined in SFEI's *Sediment for Survival* Report.

While this is what the metric will look like when first clicked on, one of the things that is cool about Power BI is that users can interact with it to pull out more data.

For example, if a user is most interested in wetland restoration that is occurring in the Suisun Marsh, they can click on the button under the graph to update the metric to only show data on the Suisun Marsh. Here we can see that projects in the Suisun Marsh represent half of all sediment placed for wetland restoration in the region in the last 25 years.

If a user is interested in a specific project or subset of the data, they can also select a row in the table to get more information on it. Users can also select multiple regions or projects at once if they want to combine a subset of the data.

The next metric we are going to look at looks at public perception of local action on climate change in the Bay Area and how that has shifted over time. This data comes from the Yale Climate Surveys, who are currently releasing their 2024 data so this will likely be updated soon.

So, 63% of Bay Area residents believe local officials should be doing more to address climate change. This is 3 percentage points higher than California and 7 percentage points higher than the United States.

This metric also includes 2024 data from the Public Policy Institute of California, which shows that 90% of Bay Area residents believe reducing flood risk by helping regions prepare for new flood patterns is very or somewhat important. And I think this highlights the important work of BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

The final thing I want to mention about the Dashboard is each metric includes a one page data sheet that can be accessed by clicking the information button in the bottom right hand corner. Each data sheet includes information on why we chose to track this metric, more detailed information on the data source, our methods for analysis, and our proposed update schedule.

Now I will turn it back over Cory to talk about our next steps.

Mr. Copeland continued: As we wrap up I want to talk about what we are looking forward to next.

First is to raise awareness of the product. We want to get the word out and learn how people are using it. It is a live site, and we can improve it incrementally as we get feedback.

One great thing about Power BI as a platform is it is really easy for us to make improvements incrementally and keep it up to date.

In the future, as mentioned, we are very excited about Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans as a great source for data for this. This is a great way for us to get some information from those to the public at a regional scale.

And then lastly, we are hoping that you all will use it and share it with your communities. We want to offer that we are available to walk anyone who is interested in the Dashboard through it; and we plan to be showing it to partners throughout the region in the coming weeks and months.

With that we want to thank you. Here is our contact information and we are open for any questions you have on this item.

Chair Wasserman asked: Sierra, do we have any public comment?

(No members of the public addressed the Commission.)

Commissioner Eklund commented: Great presentation and great program and I am really excited about it. I would like to really help in the outreach effort. When I was President of the League of California Cities one of the things that I did is I went to every single division in the state. And I did it because I wanted to make sure that we engaged all the locals in developing a statewide initiative that we were working on to really be more active legislatively, which we did, and we are.

I have to tell you, I am so proud that Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project has the second highest use of dredged material, 5.8 million cubic yards. I was instrumentally involved in that from the very beginning, not only as the EPA employee but also as a resident of Novato, being on the planning commission and also on the city council. And so that whole Hamilton restoration project, the levee, the wetlands, the development of Hamilton, I was there from the very beginning. So, it is really exciting to see that on the map and it being so prominently displayed as the second largest in the whole Bay Area.

So, one of the things with the League of California Cities I would highly encourage, and I had like to help you all get connected with each of the regional representatives, like Nancy Hall Bennett is for Marin County and some other counties as well. And so, they can help you in reaching out. I think that doing a presentation at each county, like we have Marin County mayors and council members. So, if you do a presentation there you get all 11 cities as well as the county. You do the same thing in Sonoma, Napa, whatever. You can also do it on a division level as well. The League has division meetings, so you can hit like three, four counties at the same time.

And so, I think that the more you reach out to each of those existing organizations and use that existing network, it will only help you because obviously you are limited in staff.

But I personally would like to be helpful for you with at least the counties that I represent here on the BCDC. And I would hope, and I am sure, that my colleagues on this board would like to do the same. And so, because we have that institutional knowledge it will help you in really maximizing your impact so that you can make sure that you reach as many cities as possible.

I do need to share with you that I did reach out to my city manager some time ago about this effort and it was like deer in headlights, literally. And she said, well, we cannot do anything without money. And I said, well, this is a required program; and we may not get the money to necessarily do the whole plan, but we are going to be responsible for it.

So, you are going to have some challenges in each of the cities depending on the level of support on the city council. But obviously having somebody on BCDC that is an elected official helping you transmit the information will only help you in making sure that the locals really understand that this is a requirement, regardless of whether they get enough money to do the plan or not.

I also think too, you have community-based organizations listed on your slide. But I would specifically also encourage you to include homeowners associations. For an example, Bel Marin Keys, which is in the County of Marin. Stephanie, not her particular area, but she is obviously representing Marin County. But we also have Bahia too, which is on the water, and they have an HOA, so does Bel Marin Keys. They have meetings. Like I am president of my HOA, we are not on the Bay. But those organizations have direct contact with each of the homeowners, so that is another way to also get involved as well and get contact.

I was really disappointed that ABAG was not listed on one of the organizations that you reach out to. ABAG does have, like in June we are having a meeting of all the ABAG representatives, Association of Bay Area Governments. You did put MTC there but MTC does not necessarily have the network that ABAG does. We are having a general meeting in June and there is no reason why you couldn't be put on the agenda to talk about that. But that hits all of the cities and counties in the Bay Area, so that would be a nice blurb to just get out. And I would encourage you to talk with, I guess the Chair of MTC. Or no. Andy. Yes, you should talk to Andy about getting on the agenda.

Commissioner Gioia interjected: The Chair of ABAG is Belia Ramos. I am with her today at a conference.

Commissioner Eklund acknowledged: Okay.



Commissioner Gioia added: It is Supervisor Ramos from Napa, but she is the Chair of ABAG.

Commissioner Eklund acknowledged and continued: Yes, she is the Chair of ABAG but they could talk to Andy too, who is the Executive Director for ABAG. But I am sure Belia would be very supportive of having you there because Napa obviously is going to have to be one of the counties that adhere to this.

But anyway, I really want to make sure that you use all the existing organizations. I would love to sit down with you and have a conversation about how I could help you be more effective in your outreach. I think this is an exciting program and I really think it is important that all the locals be a partner with BCDC in this effort. Thanks.

Commissioner Manfree was recognized: Thanks for this really helpful update. This is really critical work. I am so happy to see that it is getting done. To some extent I am going to echo Commissioner Eklund's comments. But I certainly would be interested in seeing some kind of walkthrough for our county staff here in Napa because we are just about to embark on our baseline data report, which is then going to inform our general plan. So, it is great timing for us to incorporate just as much knowledge as possible because that is what building the baseline data report is about, so that we have a good general plan after that.

I am here just as an alternate for Belia Ramos today. But it is nice to be here because I have a science background and this is, this is fun for me.

Something that I would say that I am noticing, coming from a science background into elected leadership, is that there is a real lack of understanding about the scarcity of space for marsh upland transitions with sea level rise. And we are still developing those little, tiny scraps of space, even here in Napa County, where people tend to be really environmentally aware, it is still happening. So, there is definitely a lot of room for outreach there. I would be happy to have more of a conversation about it offline later.

I think that is about it for my comments, but you can find me at Napa County's website if you want to do follow-up. Thanks.

Commissioner Eckerle gave kudos to staff: I want to just say what an incredible job well done to the staff and everyone who was involved in this.

The Ocean Protection Council gave a small investment to really launch this and I am just so impressed with the work that has been done, and appreciative of the collaboration with the team at the Ocean Protection Council and everyone else who has had a part in this.

I would love at some point to have some version of this presentation given to my council. I think not only to demonstrate the value of the investments we are making at the statewide level but really to showcase this incredible work and how that investment is really translating to impact on the ground to make sure that our communities around the Bay are resilient and can adapt to sea level rise. I will talk to Larry and others offline about getting that on our calendar.

And finally, I just wanted to share that the Ocean Protection Council is developing a suite of ocean health indicators to really help the public understand what is happening, how our investments are making a difference, where we have data gaps. And I really see an opportunity to link the indicators that we developed with more detailed, specific

indicators that we saw today.

Thank you so much for this presentation and looking forward to the continued partnership and work together.

Chair Wasserman continued: Thank you. And although she does not have her hand up, I am going to give Jessica Fain dialing in from the smallest but far from least state in the United States, Rhode Island. Jessica, do you want to chime in?

Planning Director Fain commented: Rhode Island is also known as the Ocean State so it is appropriate that I am calling in from there.

I just appreciate all of the Commissioners' comments and really appreciate the BCDC team's really hard work on this. We are really excited to now put our foot on the pedal to help cities get these plans before you to vote on them as Commissioners. We have a lot of work to do before us, but it is going to be a good year, so thank you.

Commissioner Gunther spoke: This is great stuff. I do want to, without trying to be a wet rag here, the ambition of what you are doing implies an enormous future investment in maintenance and upgrading the information that is on these sites so that they remain robust and valuable to people. The internet is littered with moribund projects like this because somebody leaves the agency and nobody is identified to update or to maintain it, or they do not have the enthusiasm the previous person had for it.

As a previous developer of such a moribund site I can say that this kind of investment, and Jessica maybe this is for you, but to not be overlooked. That it is essential that you guys be identifying who is going to keep doing this.

Todd in particular for the GIS data. I am assuming you are going to promulgate some kind of data standards. Because people are going to tell you that there is a mistake in your layer, right, or they are going to want to add things. That will make it incredibly valuable.

In the end I think your part of this has to be what I would call authoritative. So how you go about doing that? SFEI I know has a lot of experience doing this over the years here and I am glad you are leaning on them because this is part of their job. But I just want to call attention to how big a bite of the apple you guys are taking. If we can keep chewing it up we are going to be miles ahead in five years from now, but we need to keep that. And Larry, we need to keep the budgetary implications of this in our sights because it is only just starting the work. Thanks.

Chair Wasserman acknowledged: Thank you.

I do not see any other hands.

I thank you very much for the briefing; and again as always, more importantly, for the work. And as Commissioner Gunther points out, the continuing work.

**12. Adjournment.** There being no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.