NOAA Assessment & Strategy – Five Year Update

OCTOBER 16, 2025

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA)

NOAA has certified BCDC's "Coastal Management Program" and as a result:

1. BCDC can review federal actions affecting the "Coastal Zone" for consistency with the state agency's coastal program ("consistency determination").
2. NOAA provides BCDC with Grants and Technical Assistance.
   - NOAA 309 – Program Development
   - Every five years an Assessment and Strategy is developed to guide grant tasks.

NOAA 309 Assessment and Strategy

STEP ONE: ASSESSMENT: Review issues in the Bay Area that can be addressed through BCDC program improvements (Phase I).

- NOAA identifies 9 enhancement areas (ex: Coastal Hazards, Wetlands).
- Prioritize enhancement areas and identify opportunities through a deeper dive (Phase II).

STEP TWO: STRATEGY: Guides how BCDC uses NOAA 309 Grant funds to develop program improvements (ex: Bay Plan Amendments, Guidance, Technical Assistance, etc.)

- Not enough for a full project, so use strategically to supplement larger work.
  - EX: NOAA 309 Funds support long-range planning work on RSAP BPA.

2025 A&S Enhancement Areas

Wetlands*
Coastal Hazards*
Public Access
Marine Debris
Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
Special Area Management Planning
Ocean (Coastal and Estuarine) Resources
Energy and Government Facility Siting
Aquaculture

***enhancement areas of national importance**

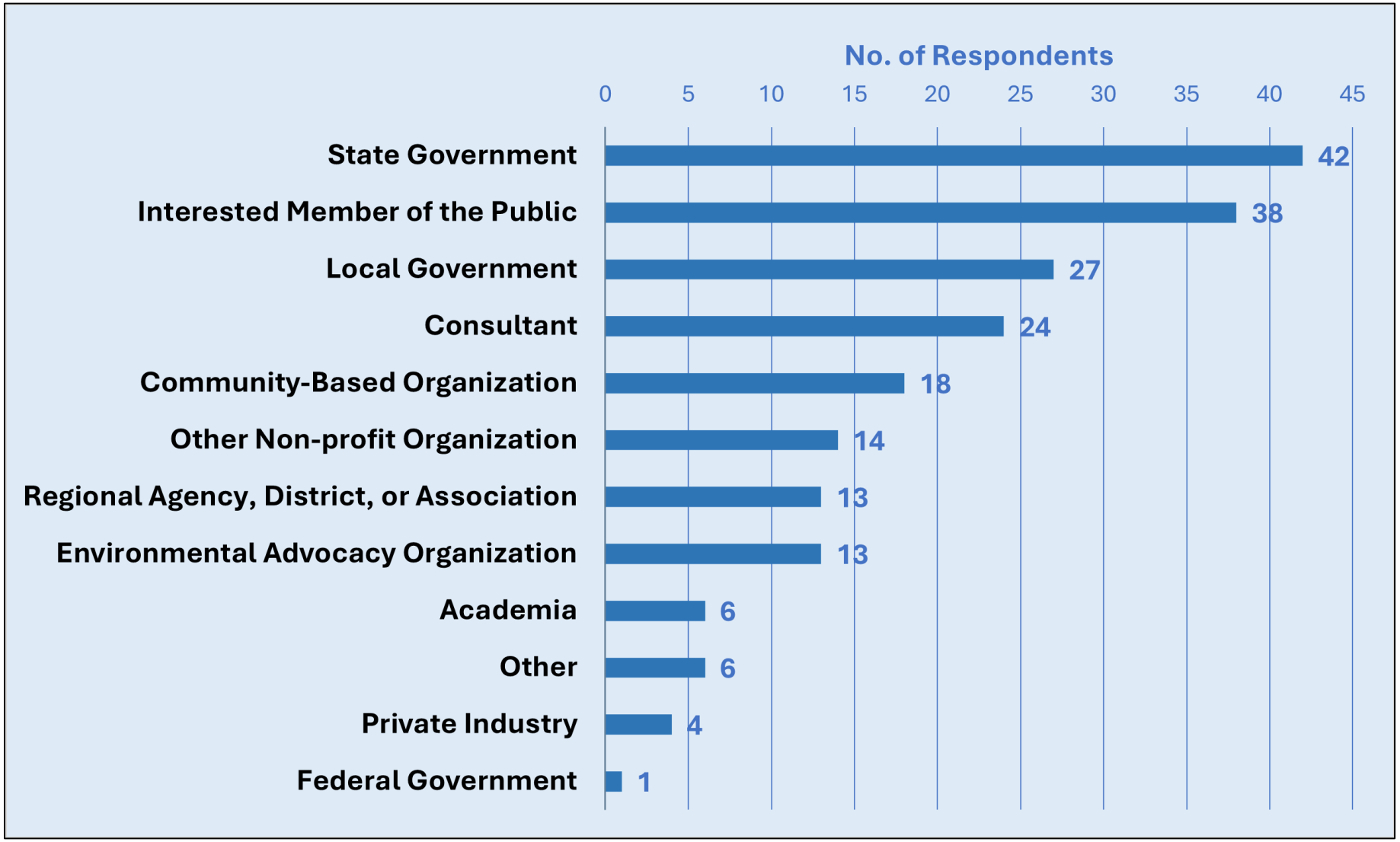
Stakeholder Outreach

Assessment: Phase I

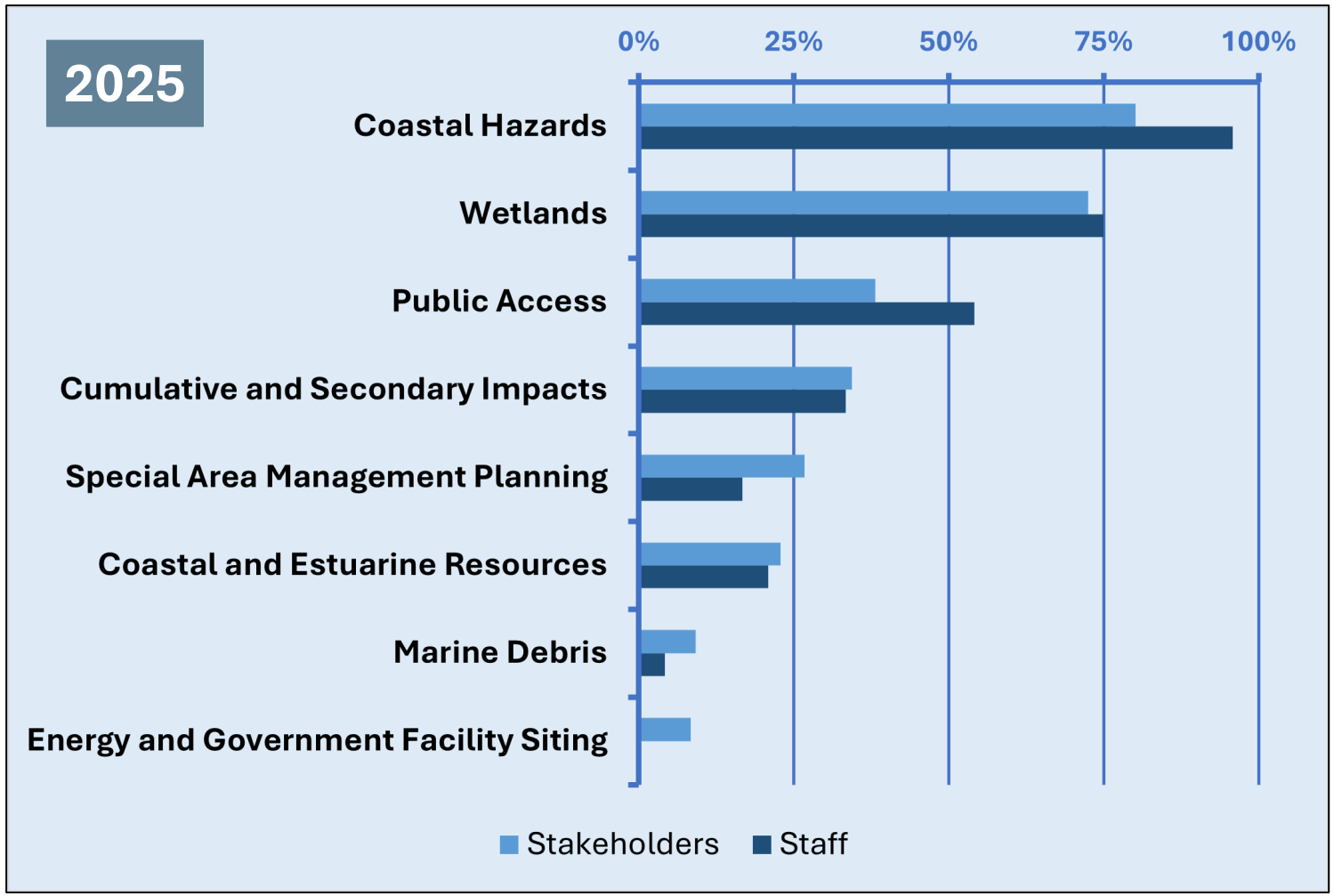
Assessment: Phase II

Strategy

Self-Identified Stakeholder Identification (156 total respondents)



Which of the following **coastal issue areas** should be the **three highest priorities** for BCDC's planning and regulatory program over the next five years?



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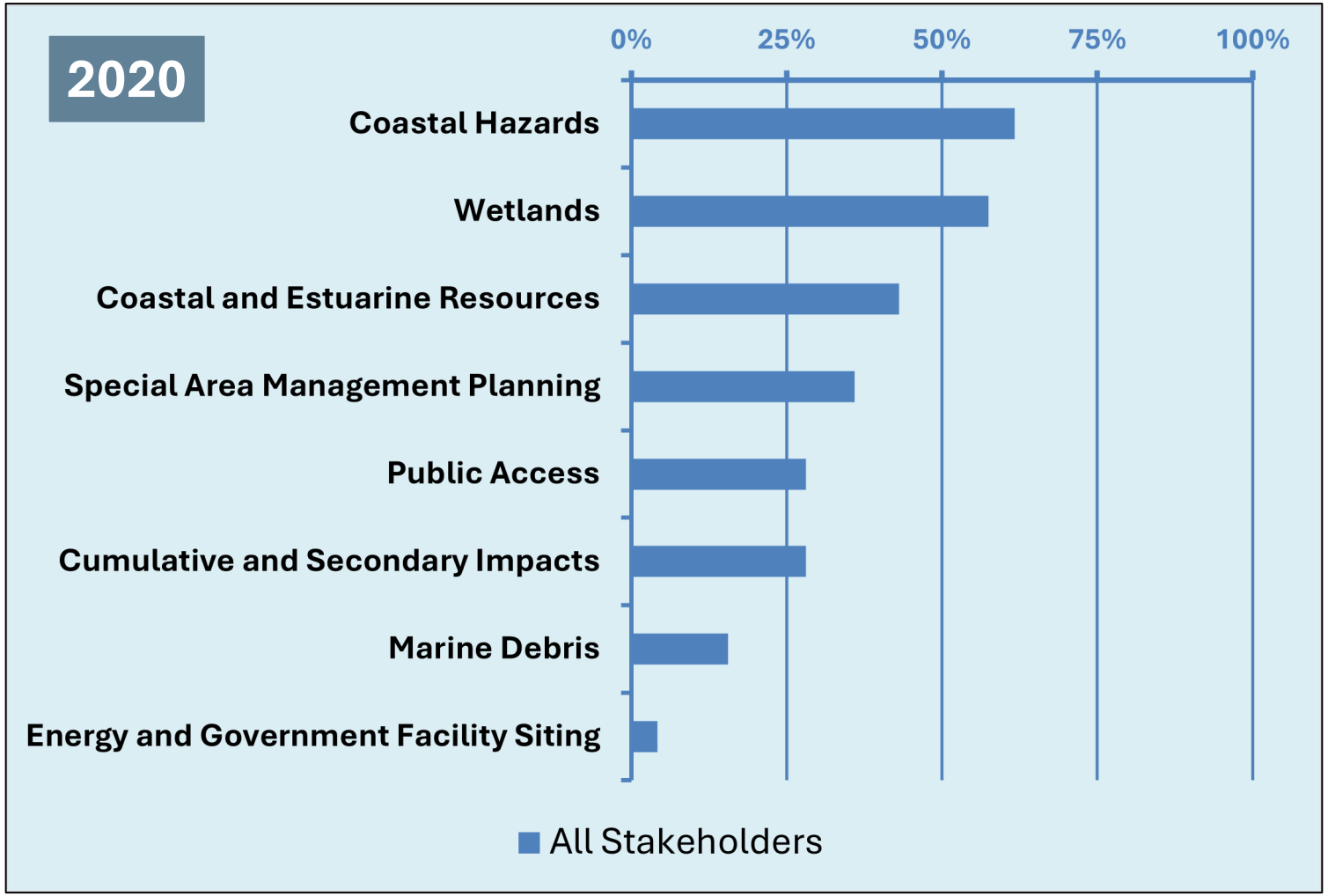
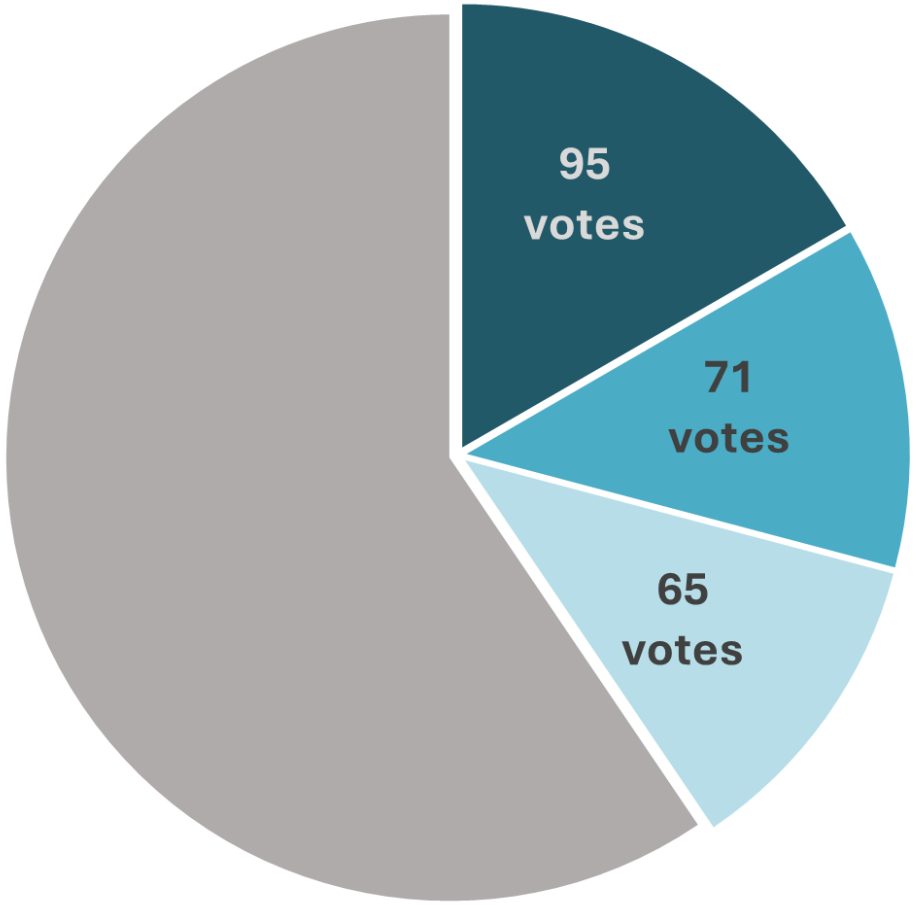
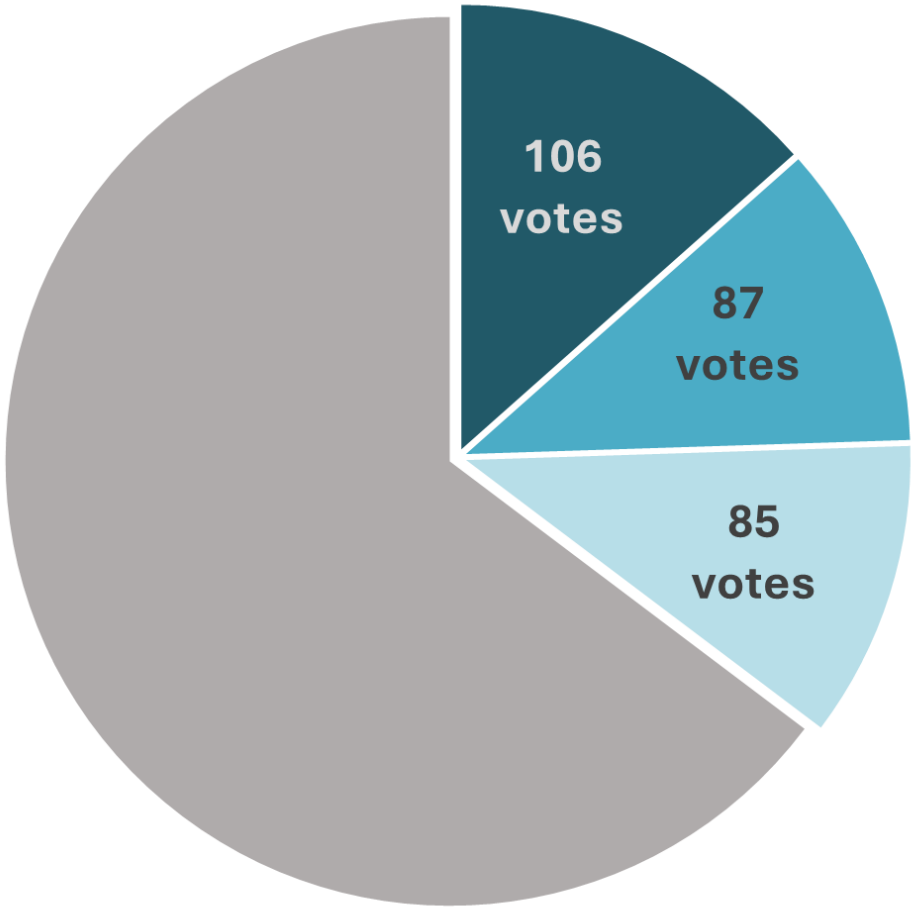


What are the **most critical issues affecting wetlands** that could be addressed through improved regional management in the San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh?



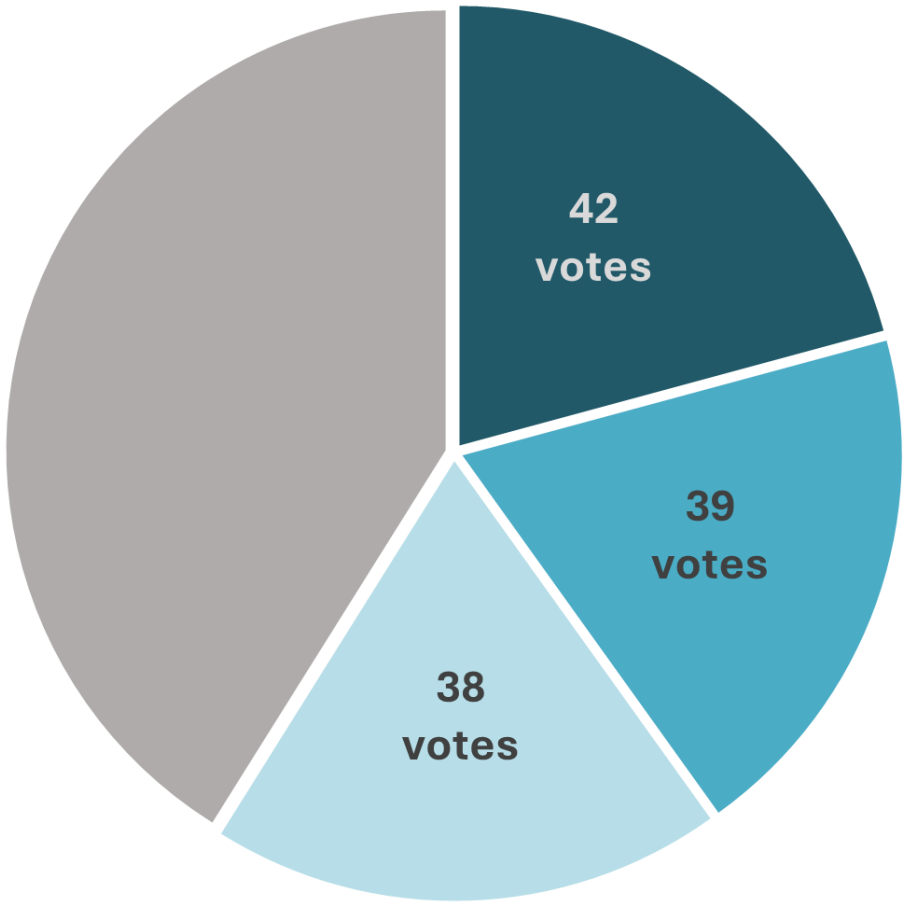
- Sea level rise and increasing erosion
- Lack of sufficient transition area for landward migration of wetlands
- Challenges with sediment management and beneficial reuse of dredged sediment

What are the **most critical issues affecting coastal hazards** that could be addressed through improved regional management in the San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh?



- **Flooding shoreline communities and disruption to adjacent critical infrastructure**
- **Challenges with funding for sea level rise adaptation plans and projects**
- **Sustainability of natural Bay ecosystems as sea level rises**

What are the **most critical issues affecting public access** that could be addressed through improved regional management in the San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh?



- Long-term maintenance of public access
- Inclusive public access opportunities usable to people with disabilities, people of all income levels, and people of all cultures
- Equal distribution around the Bay to public access and water-oriented recreation

Stakeholder Outreach

Assessment: Phase I

Assessment: Phase II

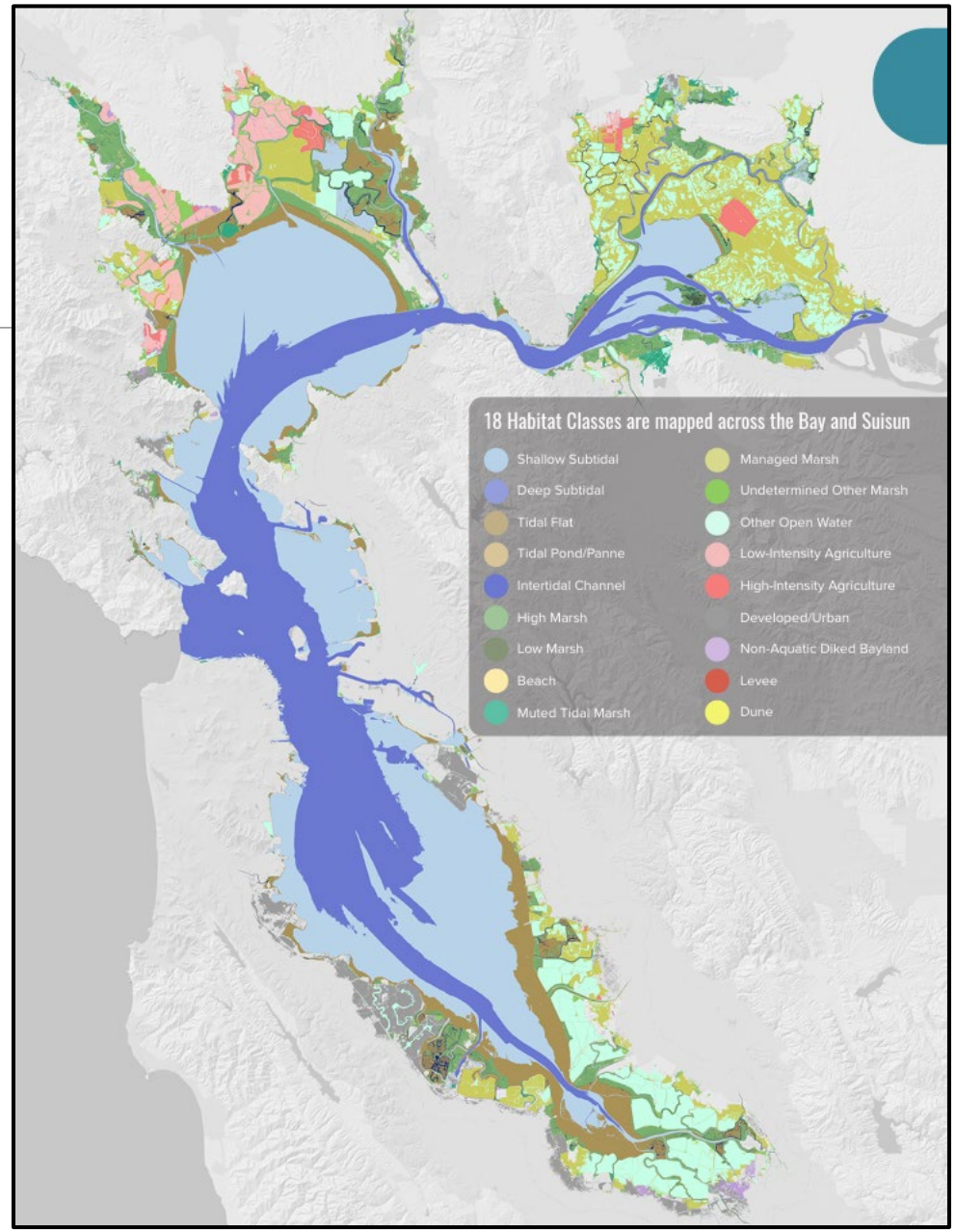
Strategy

Wetlands

- **1,018 total acres of restoration**
- **Vast majority of acreage in…** Contra Costa and Solano counties
- **Over 25 acres of restoration in…** Alameda County
- **Many small acreage restoration projects in…** Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma
- **No restoration projects in…** Napa County

Year	Acres of Restoration
2020	307
2021	643.4
2022	1.7
2023	35.1
2024	31
Total	1,018.3

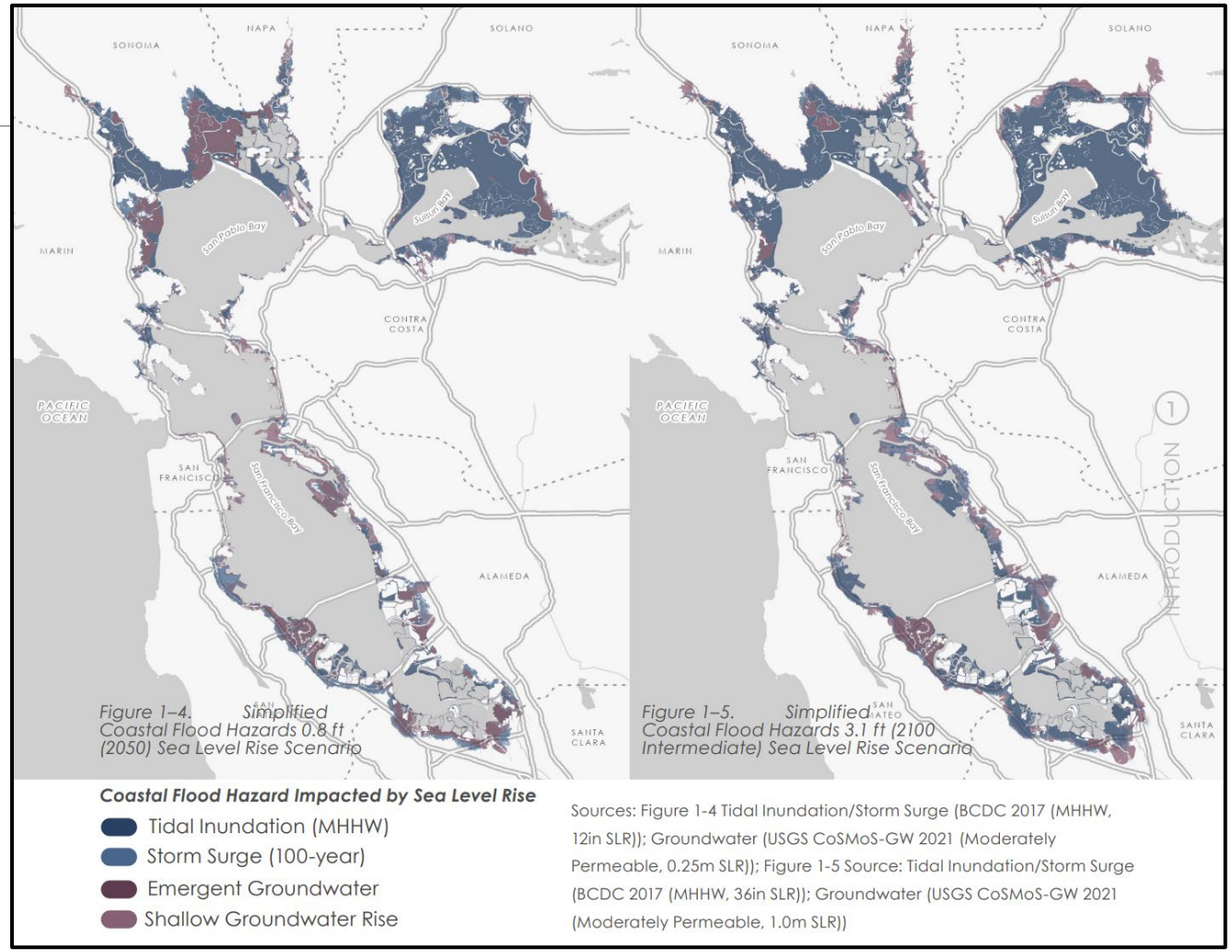
Table: Restoration permitted by BCDC 2020-2024. *Source: BCDC permit data.*



Coastal Hazards

Type of Hazard	General Level of Risk (H, M, L)
Flooding (riverine, stormwater)	High
Coastal storms (including storm surge)	High
Geological hazards (e.g., tsunamis, earthquakes)	High
Shoreline erosion	Medium
Sea level rise	High
Great Lakes level change	N/A
Land subsidence	High
Saltwater intrusion	High
Groundwater flooding	High

Table: General Level of Hazard Risk in the Coastal Zone



Public Access

Since 2020 the region has added…

- **55** public access sites
- **43** new park/open space permits
- **35** acres of shoreline public access
- **12** miles of shoreline public access
- **5** water trail access sites

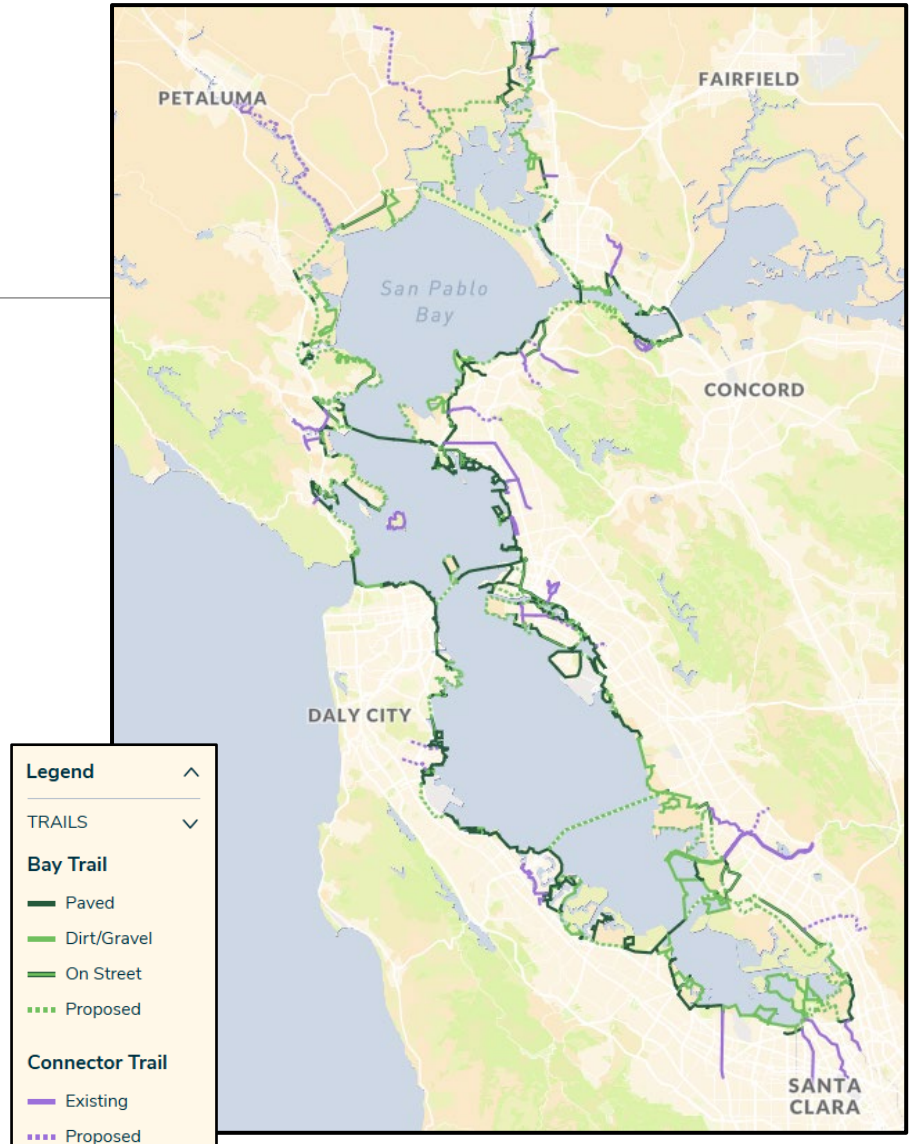


Image: Bay Trail
Bay Trail Interactive Map, MTC

Enhancement Area Ranking

Enhancement Area	Prioritization
Wetlands	High
Coastal Hazards	High
Public Access	High
Ocean (Coastal and Estuarine) Resources	Medium
Cumulative and Secondary Impacts	Medium
Special Area Management Planning	Medium
Marine Debris	Low
Energy and Government Facility Siting	Low
Aquaculture	Low

Stakeholder Outreach

Assessment: Phase I

Assessment: Phase II

Strategy

Wetlands

Coastal Hazards

Physical Stressors and Emerging Issues of Concern

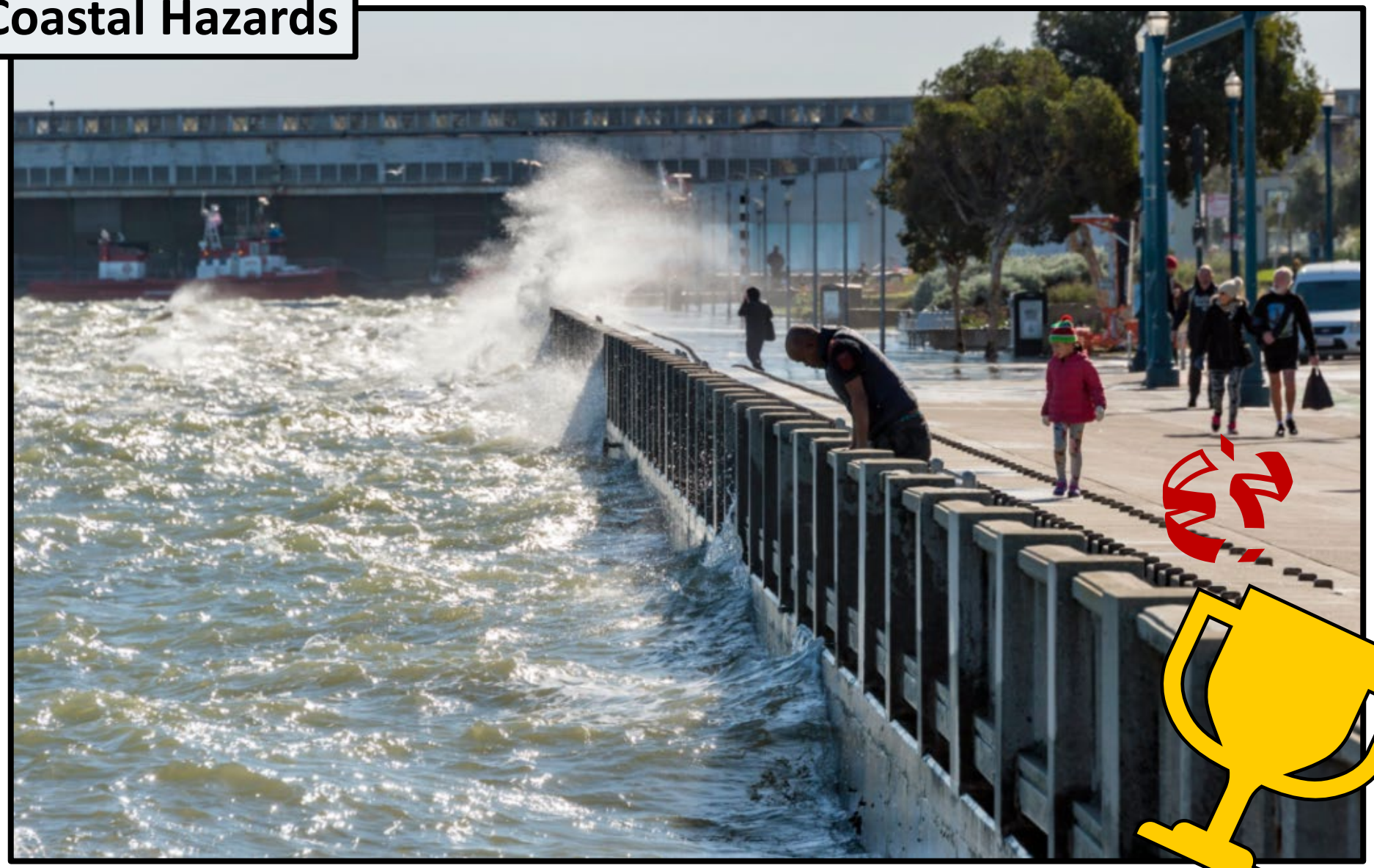
Significant Management Changes

Identification of Management Priorities

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Decision: Pursue Strategy Development?

Coastal Hazards



Stakeholder Outreach

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Strategy

Advance Regional and Local Efforts to Develop Subregional Adaptation Plans and Address Coastal Hazard Risk

1

Building the RSAP Program by evaluating and revising the RSAP Guidelines and advancing the RSAP technical assistance program to support local jurisdictions tasked with submitting Subregional Plans.

2

Integrating BCDC's Regulatory Program with the RSAP Program by evaluating and advancing improvements to the Bay Plan and other BCDC plans, policy guidelines, and regulatory authority to advance the goals of the RSAP.

Stakeholder Outreach

Assessment: Phase I

Assessment: Phase II

Strategy

Public Comment
Closes Nov. 3rd

Final Submission
November

Questions?