SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT SPECIAL AREA PLAN COMMISSIONER WORKING GROUP

Bay Plan Amendment No. 3-17

March 5, 2025

Ben Dorfman | Coastal Program Analyst

AGENDA

1. SFWSAP Amendment Background Information
2. SLR Education Initiative
3. Education Initiative Discussion
4. Public Comment

WORKING GROUP MEETING GOALS

- Explain what the SLR Education Initiative is and how it fits into the broader SFWSAP Amendment.

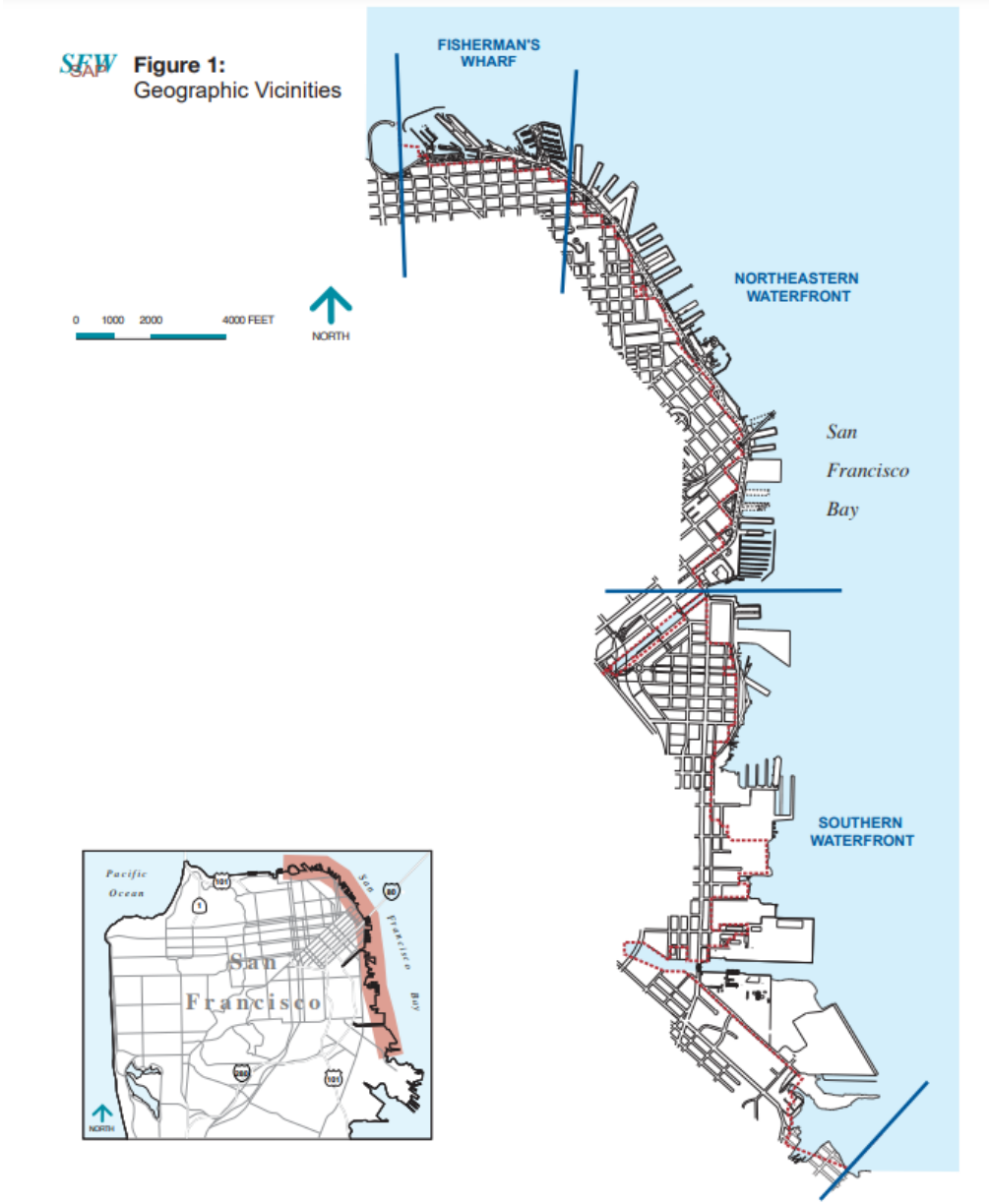
- Gather feedback on the SLR Education Initiative.

  - Highlight strong aspects of the plan, or areas you think could use improvement.

  - Call out potential project partners.

SCOPE

SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT SPECIAL AREA PLAN UPDATE



- First established in 1975, last major update in 2000.
- BPA 3-17 initiated Sep 2019.
- Intention was to undertake a comprehensive update to the plan.
- Commission and Port staff developed an MOU in 2023 to coordinate work.
- Commission authorized MOU in Dec 2023.

SCOPE

BPA 3-17 MOU

- As outlined in MOU, the new update will include:

1. Updating provisions to satisfy a public benefit requirement at Piers 15 & 17

2. Discontinuing application of the Replacement Pier / Replacement Fill Policy (the 50% Rule) at Fisherman's Wharf;

3. Other small changes to terminology and findings to remove outdated information and align with Port's 2023 Waterfront Plan.

BACKGROUND

NORTHEASTERN WATERFRONT

- Major amendment in 2000.
- Removed the 50% rule and water-oriented use and alternative upland location restrictions for the repair and reconstruction of existing piers between Pier 35 and China Basin.
- In exchange, the Port agreed to provide a package of public benefits along the waterfront.

BACKGROUND

WHAT ARE PUBLIC BENEFITS?

- Public benefits are NOT mitigation for project impacts.
- The Commission can determine what public benefits are appropriate.
- Past benefits included:
  - Removing derelict piers.
  - Creating open water basins.
  - Developing public access areas.

BACKGROUND

AMENDMENT REQUEST

- Special Area Plan Policy 1D: Remove the deck and pilings that form the "valley" between Pier 17 and Pier 15.
- Port and Exploratorium are requesting a new amendment to the Special Area Plan.
- Exploratorium proposes to develop a Sea Level Rise Education Initiative as a public benefit instead of removing pre-existing Bay fill.

SEA LEVEL RISE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

- Increase public understanding of sea level rise in the Bay Area from impacts to solutions.
- Elevate public awareness of regional cooperation initiatives and shared vulnerabilities.
- Expand student engagement with sea level rise content through teacher professional development and field trip opportunities.
- Would be a new Public Benefit in place of a previously-agreed upon Public Benefit, NOT in place of mitigation.

Photo of King Tides flooding at the Embarcadero, San Francisco. Photo courtesy of the California King Tides Project.

Thank you, and now more details on the SLR Education Initiative.