



BCDC RISING SEA LEVEL WORKING GROUP

Rising Sea Level Governance Initiative

December 4, 2025

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Review proposal to a collaborative RSL Governance Initiative
- Provide feedback and guidance on proposal: approach, timing, and key questions

MEETING AGENDA

1. Recap of why we are here
2. Share draft proposal
3. Commission and Public Discussion
 - Feedback on proposal
 - Next steps

BCDC BAY PLAN POLICY AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Bay Plan Climate Change Policy 6.d:

“Identify any other needed actions, including any needed changes in law, to successfully implement the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and better link sea level rise adaptation planning to the Commission’s regulatory program.”

BCDC Strategic Plan:

GOAL 2: Improve BCDC's regulatory and planning functions to create a more unified and consistent regional-scale approach to managing the Bay and its shoreline in light of the uncertain future caused by rising sea levels.

- 2.1 Determine whether and how BCDC’s regulatory and planning authority and jurisdiction should be expanded to foster larger scale adaptation efforts.

RECAP OF AUGUST 21 MEETING

- Agreed upon a problem statement
- Commissioners and Public urged BCDC to address sea level rise authority and jurisdictional gaps
- Commissioner feedback:
 - Need for a collaborative, consensus-driven process
 - Recognition that this is a Bay Area problem, not just a BCDC problem

Changing our relationship to the shoreline

- BCDC has been adapting to a changing shoreline since 1965
- Sea level rise actions include policy changes, planning studies, coalition-building, convenings, and leadership on sea level rise for the past 15+ years

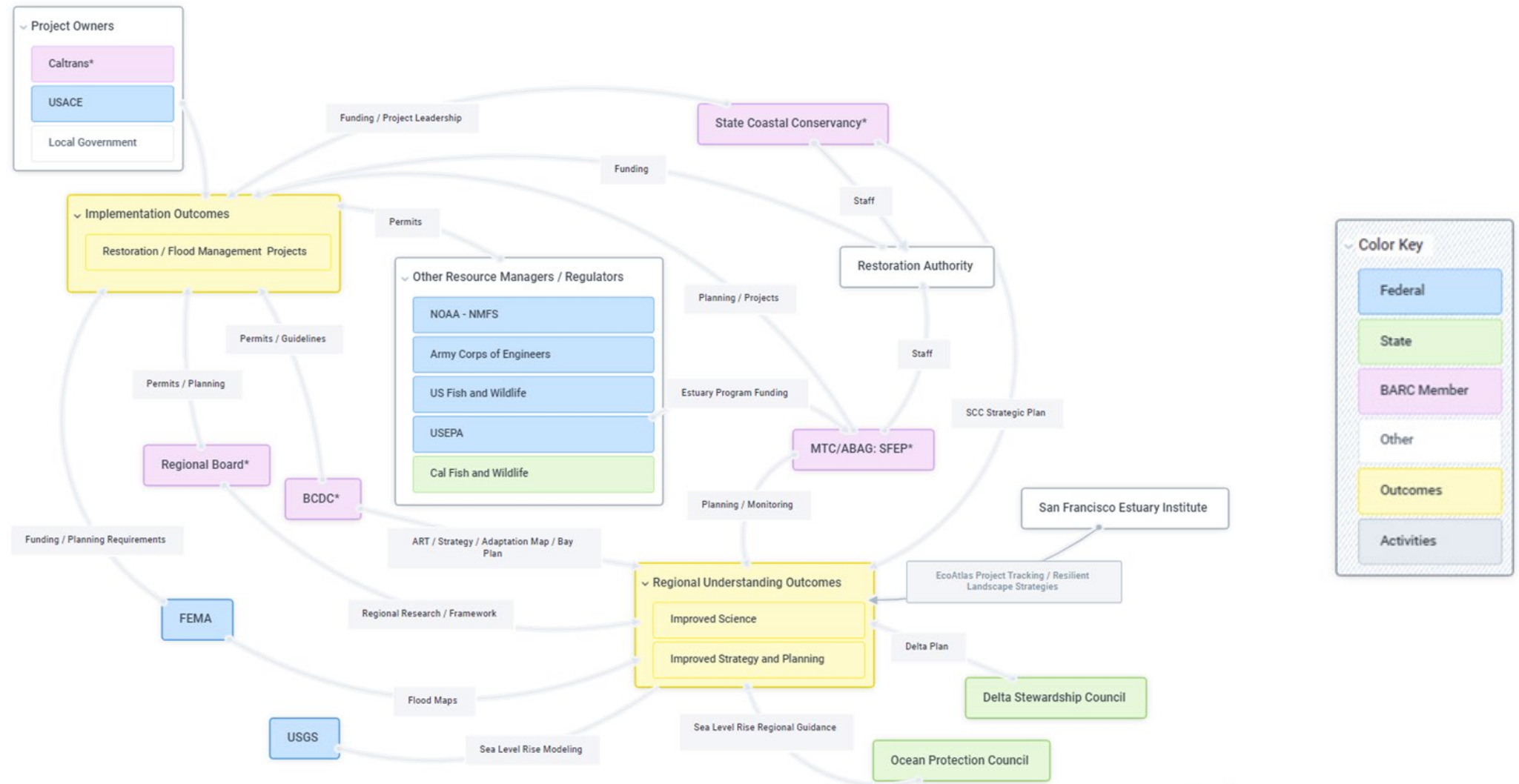


The Problem Statement

Although we have made progress, the current system is fractured...

- **Conflicting priorities** among local, state and federal agencies
- **Complexity and scope** of adaptation planning
- **Gaps in authorities** to incentivize/compel adaptation action
- **Coordination challenges** with many independent decision-makers
- **Lack of clear processes** for Bay-wide coordination

Example: Nature-based Solutions System Map



Source: Bay Area Regional Collaborative

A SHARED PATH FORWARD

- No single agency can solve this alone
- Requires cooperation from all levels of government, and public, private, and non-profit organizations
- BCDC seeks to take the next step in our collaborative work to address governance gaps across the region to protect our shoreline and the Bay Area from sea level rise.

RSL Governance Initiative

Purpose: Build agreement on governance solutions to enable effective, long-term, regional adaptation to sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay

Approach:

- **Engage stakeholders** through a collaborative process that encourages dialogue and shared problem-solving.
- **Explore a range of solutions:** including voluntary agreements, new or improved governance structures, and potential regulatory or legislative changes.
- **Work together to shape a path forward** that reflects regional needs, builds on existing efforts, and supports long-term resilience

KEY QUESTIONS



What specific governance gaps and frictions hinder effective regional adaptation?



What governance models and funding mechanisms could best enable comprehensive regional SLR adaptation? Who benefits?



San Francisco Bay is a state-protected resource. Should the State assert new or different authorities to protect the Bay and its resources to create a regional RSL response?



How can we build consensus across diverse stakeholders for governance changes?

Why Now?

- **We're building on strong partnerships.**
Regional efforts like Bay Adapt and the RSAP have already brought people together around shared strategies.
- **SB 272 is pushing planning forward.**
It also highlights where authority and coordination are still missing.
- **Outcomes-focused leadership.**
Leaders across the region are focused on moving from planning to implementation. The next step is unlocking how our fractured system may slow down or complicate getting projects on the ground—this initiative provides a structured path forward while momentum and commitment are strong.

Phase 1 (2025) Scope, Organize, Research

- Internal and external alignment on problem alignment on problem definition
- Research on issues and alternatives
- Initial stakeholder engagement

Phase 2 (2026) Evaluate Issues and Options

- Stakeholder engagement including public workshops and roundtables
- Co-develop issue papers with partners
- Generate and evaluate multiple governance options

Phase 3 (2027) Develop Solutions

- Translate stakeholder consensus into roadmap across multiple tracks: new voluntary agreements, governance structures, authorities, and/or regulatory and legislative changes

Phase 4 (2027 - 2028) Pursue Policy Changes

- Introduce and advance policy and governance changes
- Monitor progress and adapt approach

Potential Outcome(s)

- A proposal for a variety of sea level rise governance solutions, which may include:
 - Policy and organizational changes (internal to BCDC or external for other agencies, governments, or organizations)
 - Voluntary interagency agreements and enhanced coordination across the region
 - Innovative and/or proven funding mechanisms
 - New and/or improved use of authorities, including potential legislation

Vision

By addressing governance gaps, the Bay Area will work seamlessly together to plan and implement effective shoreline adaptation and resilience.

DISCUSSION

- Do the purpose and key questions resonate?
- What concerns or opportunities do you see?
- What methods for stakeholder engagement are missing?
- Who else needs to be involved for this to succeed? What advice do you have to make this effort a success – on either process or policy?