

Exploratorium Sea Level Rise Education Initiative

Exploring sea level rise on the SF Waterfront

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SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission briefing
Sept 17, 2026



Exploratorium Sea Level Rise Education Initiative

The Sea Level Rise Education Initiative aims to increase understanding of the impacts of sea level rise in the Bay Area through public education. The outcomes span public education, teacher workshops, school field trips and regional collaboration. This is a joint effort between the Exploratorium, the Port of San Francisco and the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission.



Photo credit: Yalonda M. James SF Chronicle

Moving to the Piers-- Place-based Environmental Education



Fishers Bay Observatory



Regional Engagement-- Site Explorations



San Rafael Canal District



Embarcadero Royal Tides



Cooley Landing (E Palo Alto)

Educator and Student Engagement-- Investing in the Future



School Field Trips



Sea Wall Observation



Teacher Workshops

Collaborative Design and Evaluation-- We Are All In This Together



Bay Adapt Summit

Waterfront Field Station

Waterfront Field Station-- Public Learning Laboratory

The Waterfront Field Station is a public learning laboratory, a place where exhibit experiences, landscape interventions, and a place-based pedagogy come together to offer a window into the challenges of climate change through the lens of sea level rise.



Waterfront Field Station -- Plaza Prototyping



Site Plans & Perspective Views

OVERALL BIRDS EYE



VIEW FROM ACROSS THE STREET



OVERALL BIRDS EYE 2



RAILING PERSPECTIVE



TOWER PERSPECTIVE

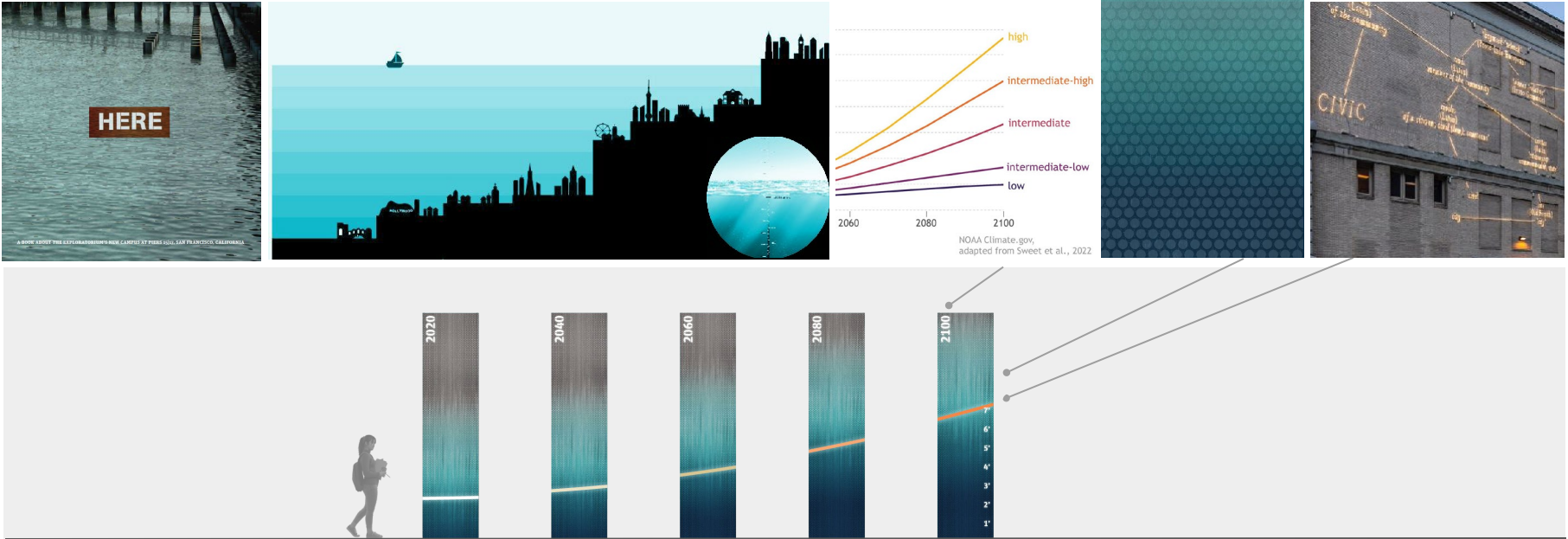


SOUTH EMBARCADERO WALKING



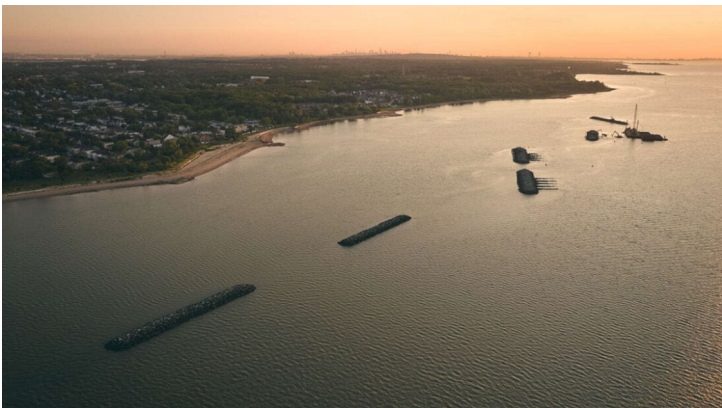
Tower large graphic

Sea Level Rise

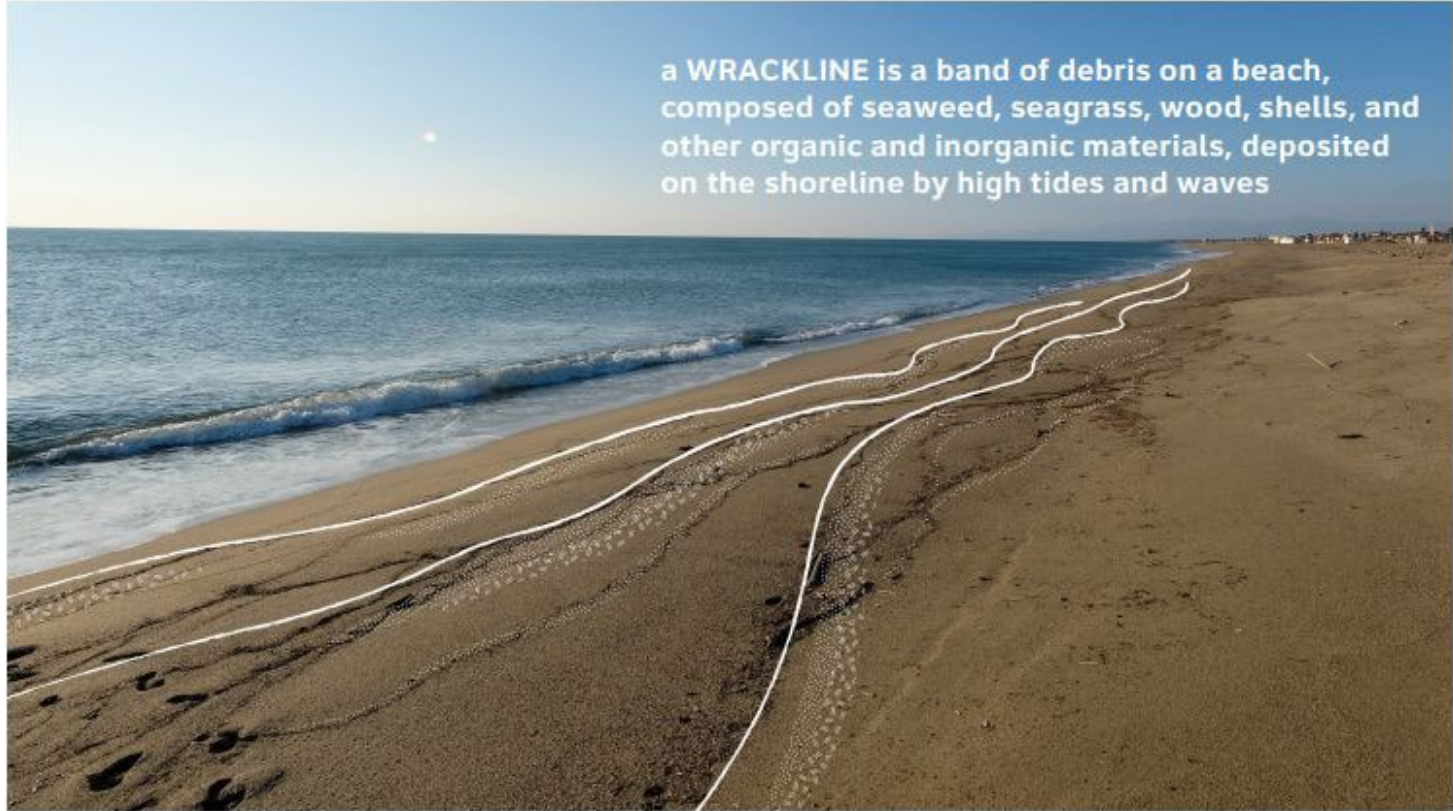


The Wrackline

SCAPE studio

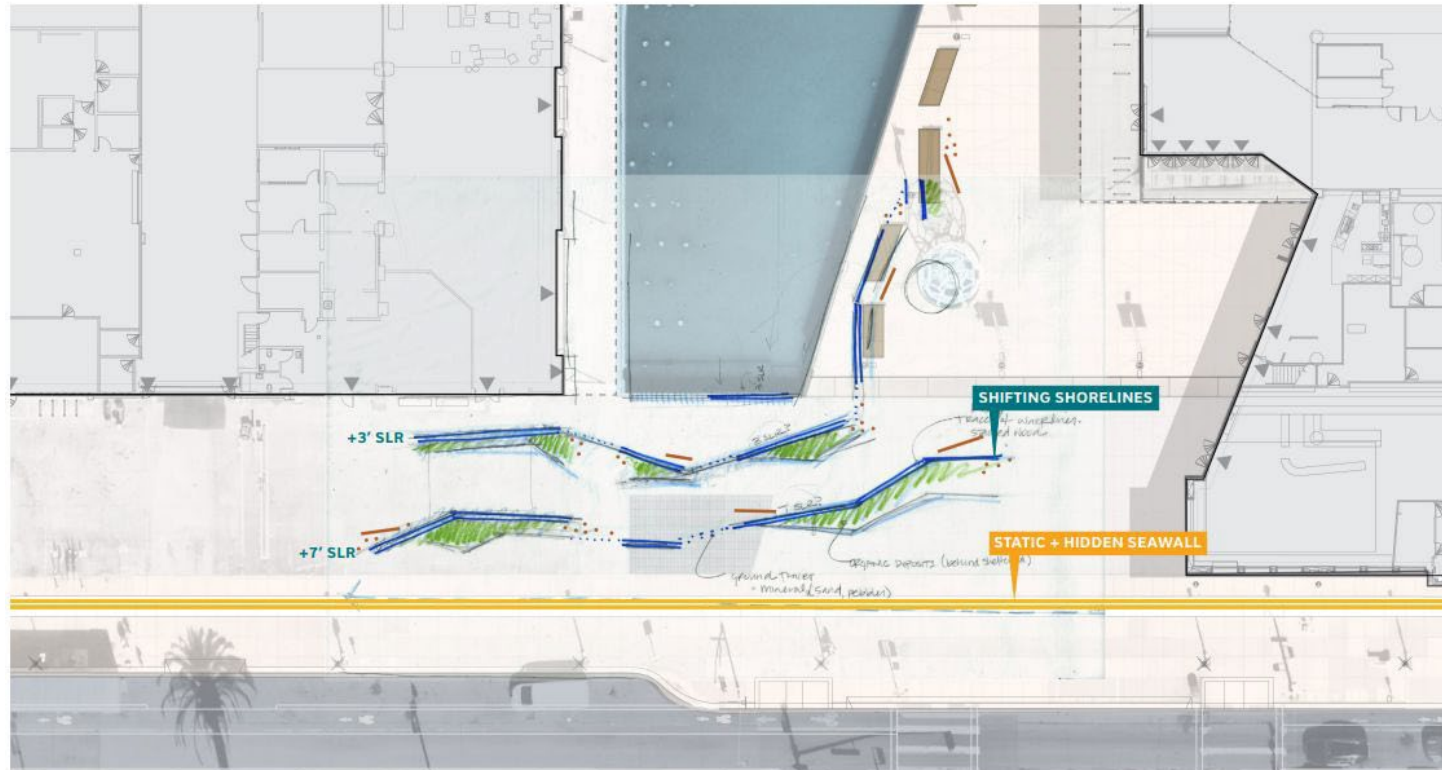


WHAT IS A WRACKLINE?



a WRACKLINE is a band of debris on a beach, composed of seaweed, seagrass, wood, shells, and other organic and inorganic materials, deposited on the shoreline by high tides and waves

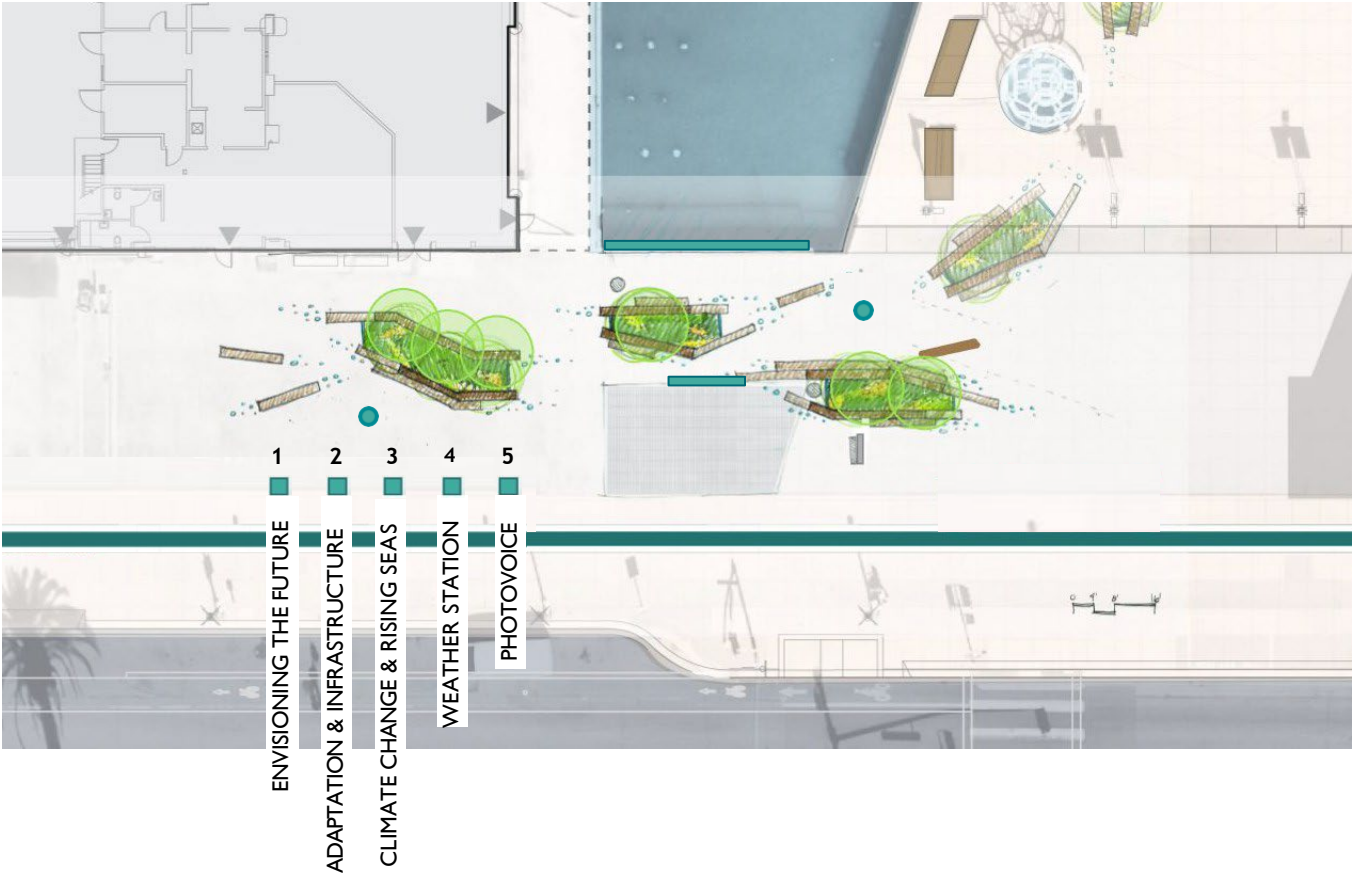
A LEGIBLE STORY: SHIFTING SHORELINES HAVE A WRACKLINE, STATIC SHORELINES DO NOT



SCAPE

Exhibits

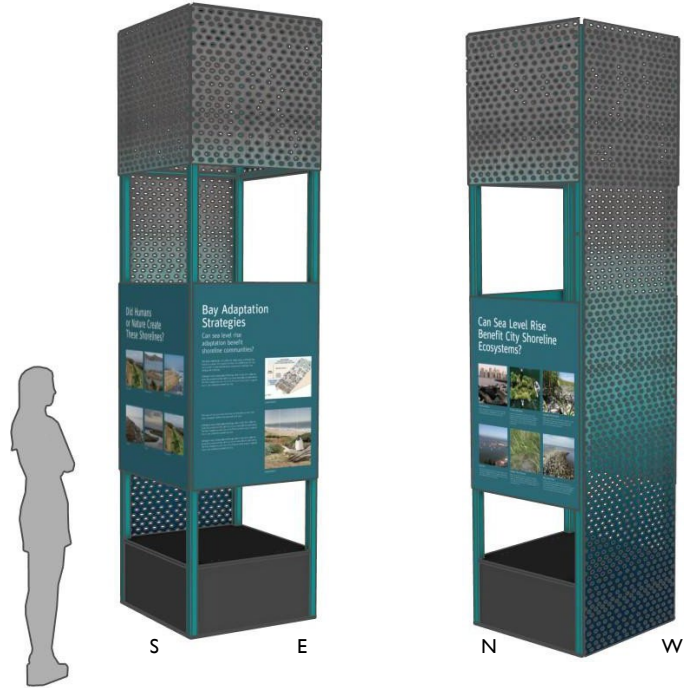
Site Plan Towers



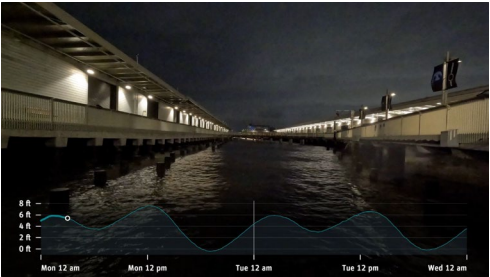
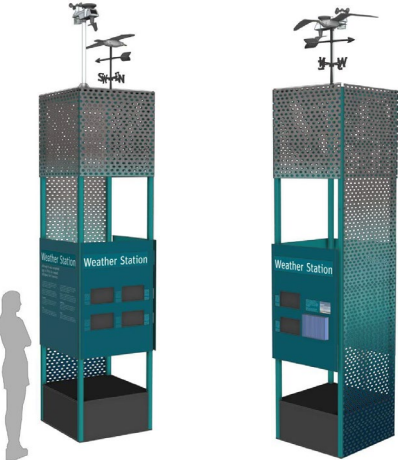
TOWER 2 CLIMATE CHANGE & RISING SEAS WITH FLOOD EXPLORER



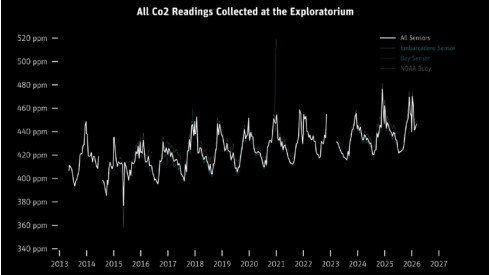
TOWER 3 ADAPTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE



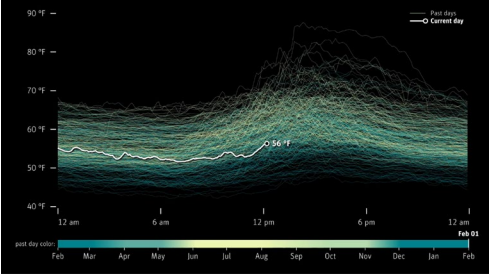
TOWER 4 Sensing the Bay



The bay in motion

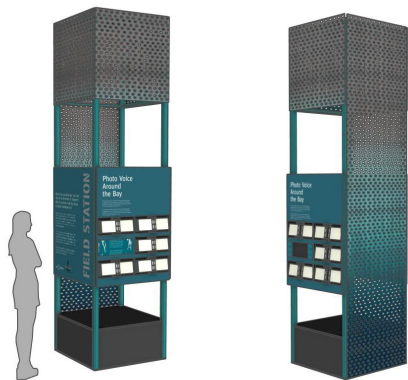


Urban CO₂



Patterns of weather

TOWER 5 PHOTOVOICE



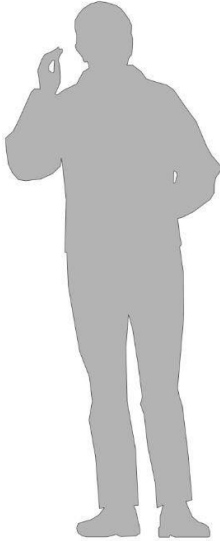
Once we open these ponds to the tides, every tide that comes in drops a little sediment. It settles on the bottom as the tide goes back out. That happens again and again, twice a day, every day.

As you enter the beach, you start noticing more and more bits of broken pottery. When you first see it, you're like, "Someone broke a dish!" but as you approach, you don't see sand or gravel.

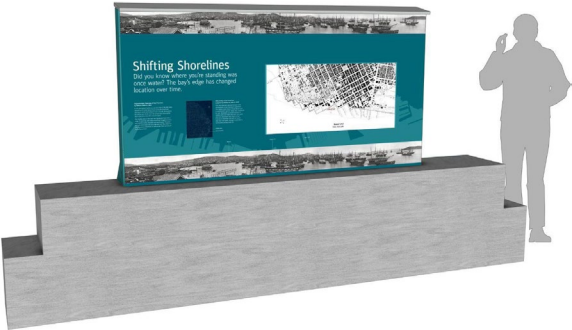
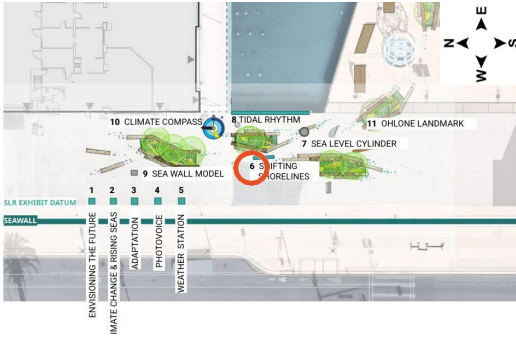
If they came today, they would've looked at this and said, "Oh, we shouldn't build a building here." But this hadn't been happening before.



EXHIBIT 6 SHIFTING SHORELINES

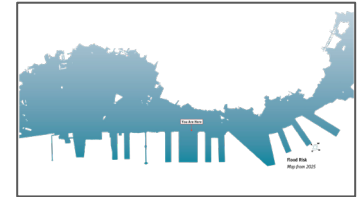
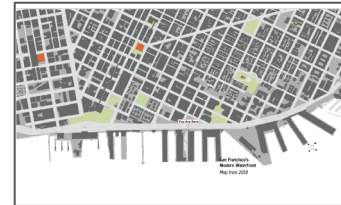
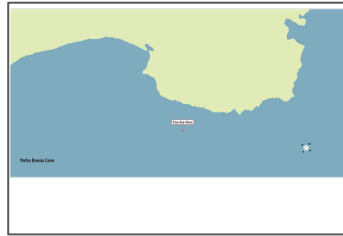
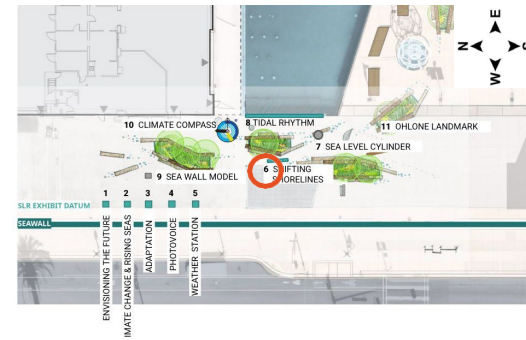


EAST SIDE



WEST SIDE

EXHIBIT 6 SHIFTING SHORELINES MAPS



YERBA BUENA
36 x 24.5"

1853 MAP
36 x 23.5"

1859 MAP
36 x 22.5"

2025 MAP
36 x 21.5"

FLOOD RISK MAP
36" x 20.5"

EXHIBIT 7 SEA LEVEL CYLINDER FORM FACTOR

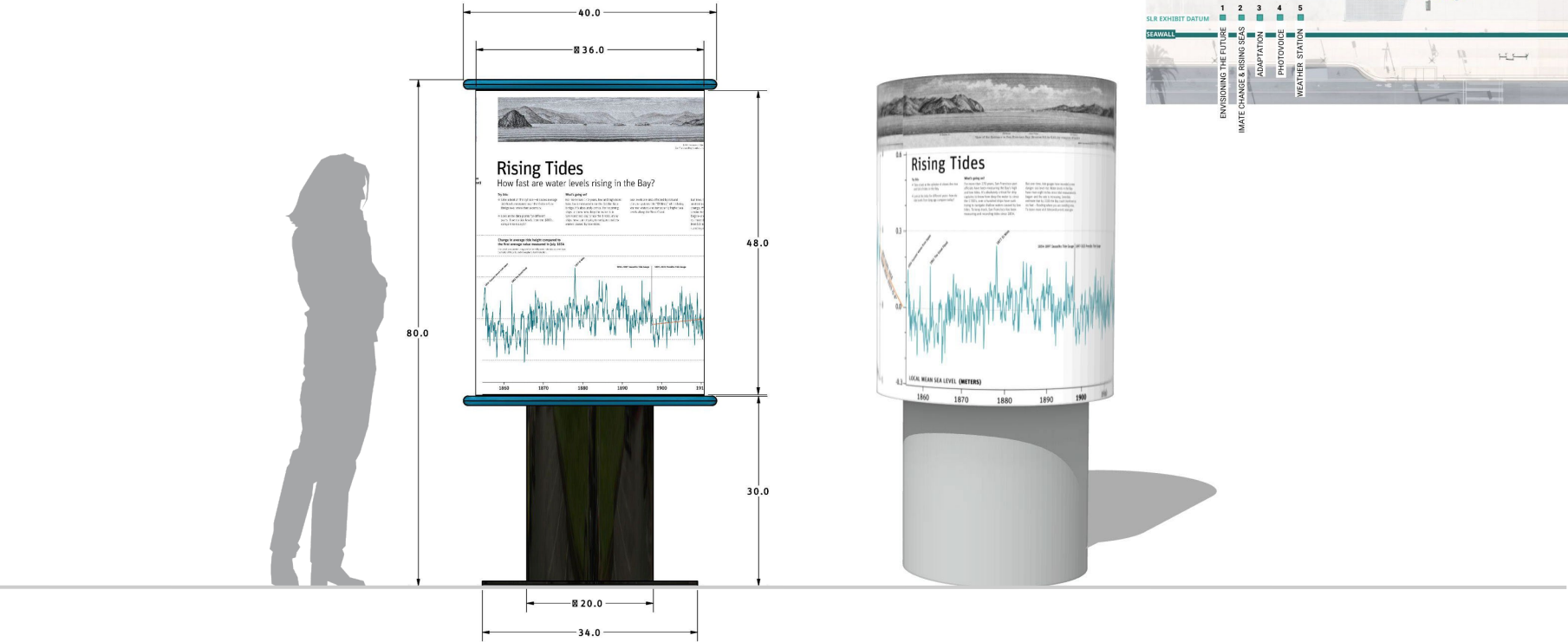
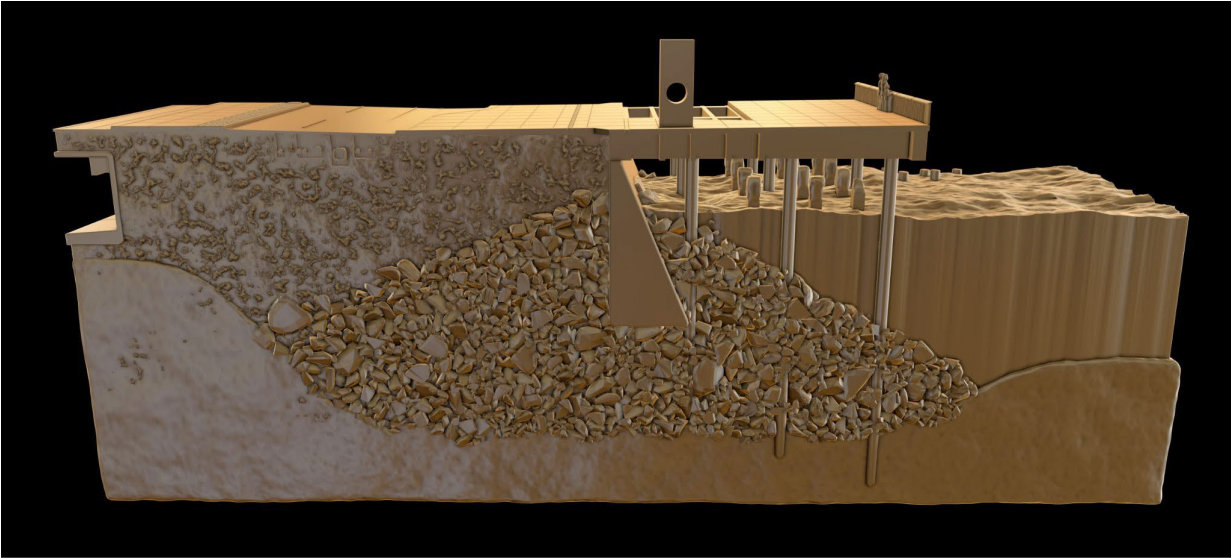
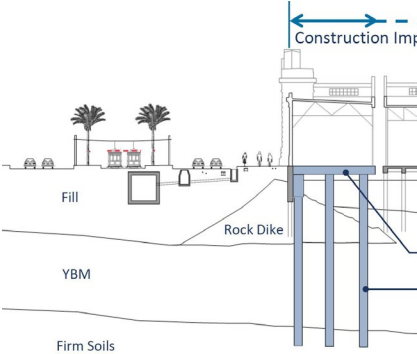
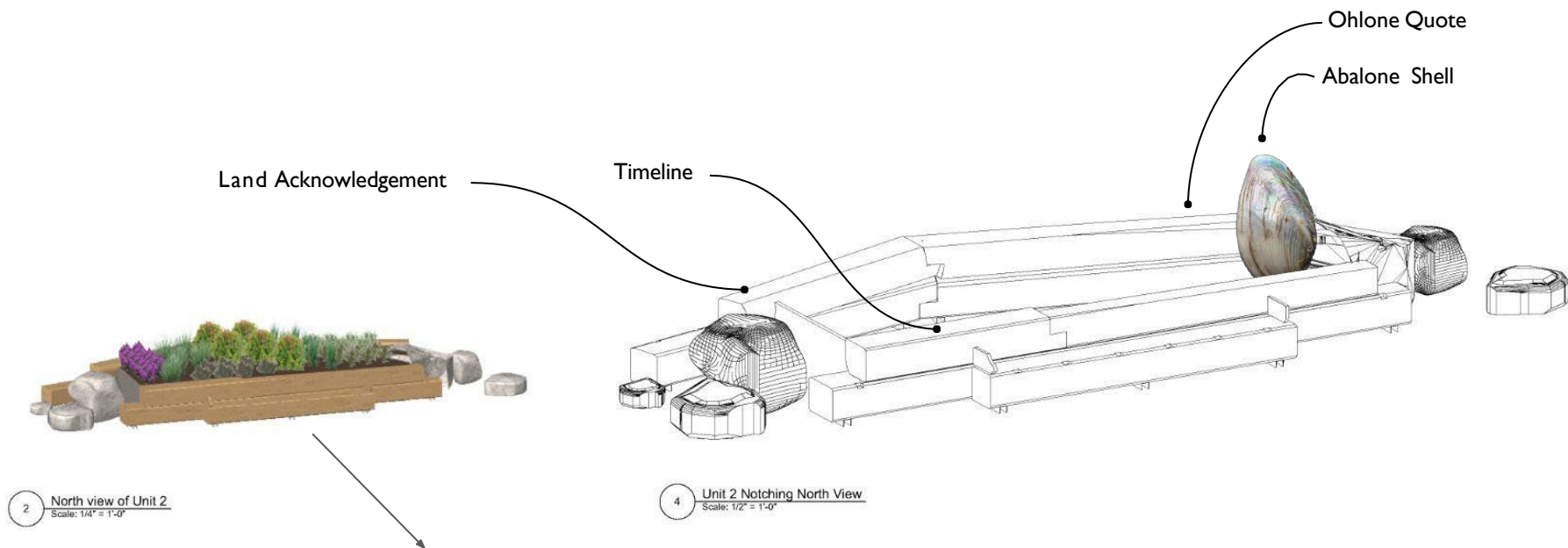


EXHIBIT 9 SEA WALL MODEL



OHLONE PLANTER



List of possible plants for Landmark wrackline bench # 2



Black Sage



Yerba Buena



Mugwort



Arroyo Willow



Barrenwort



Coyote Bush Mint



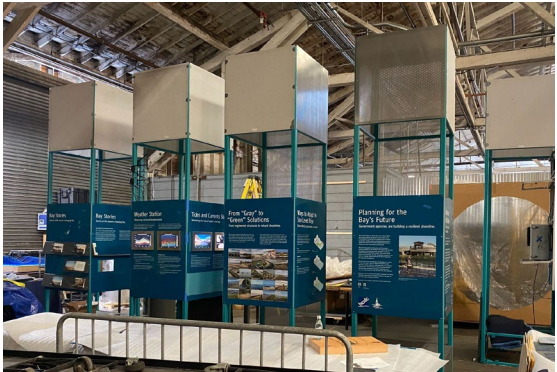
Aster



Monkey Flower

Exhibits in progress

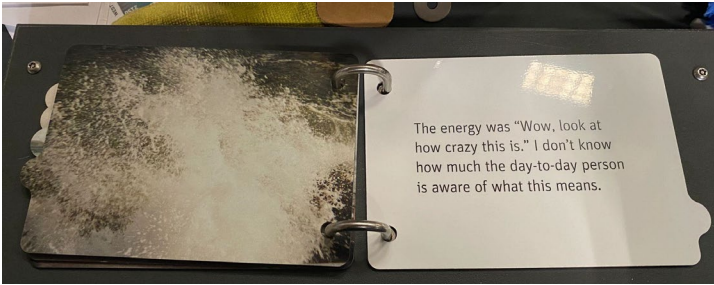
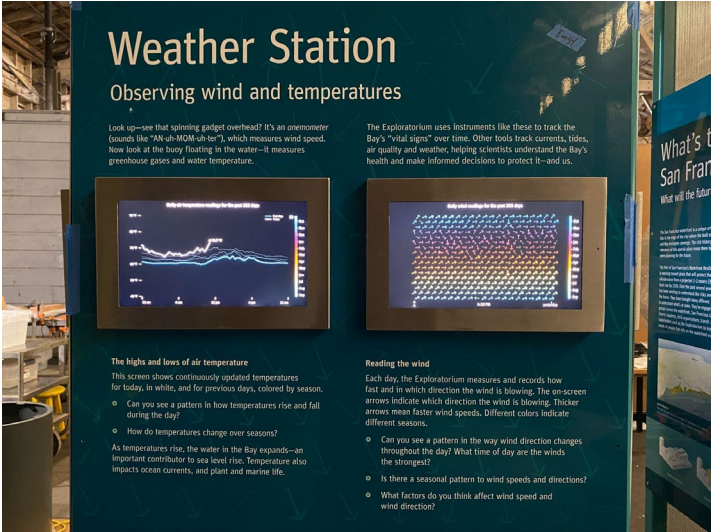
EXHIBITS IN PROGRESS



EXHIBITS IN PROGRESS

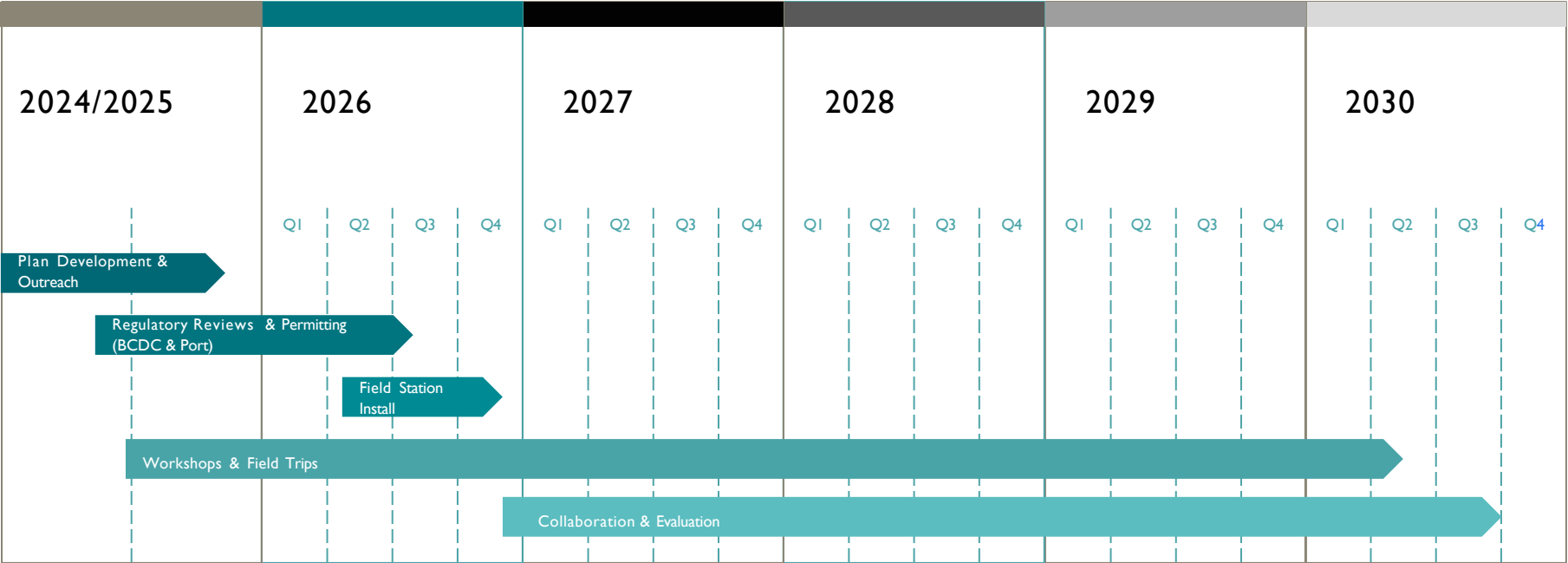


EXHIBITS IN PROGRESS

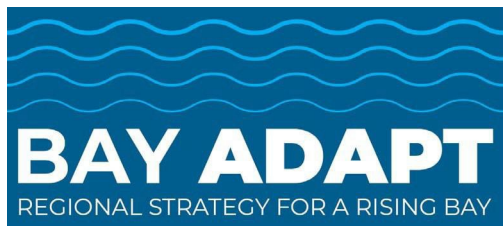


Timeline

Exploratorium Sea Level Rise Education Initiative-- Timeline



Exploratorium Sea Level Rise Education Initiative-- A Collaborative Effort



**San Francisco Bay
Conservation and Development
Commission**

Thank you.