Outlook

September 17 Commission Meeting — Item 10: Public Sea Level Rise Education Initiative

From Roshan Saxena <roshandsaxena@gmail.com>
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To BCDC Public Comment <publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov>

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Dear Commissioners and BCDC Staff,

Please include this written comment for Item 10, the Exploratorium's Public Sea Level Rise Education Initiative, at the September 17 Commission meeting.

My name is Roshan Saxena. I am a student in Santa Clara County, help lead the FUHSD Climate Collective, and serve as a youth member of the Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission. I am writing in my personal capacity.

Thank you to BCDC, the Exploratorium, and the Port of San Francisco for working together on this initiative. Bringing sea-level-rise education to the waterfront gives people an opportunity to understand the issue in the place where adaptation will happen. I particularly appreciate the requirement that the initiative be free and publicly accessible, along with its emphasis on equity and community engagement.

As a student involved in climate education, I would encourage the project team to make a small selection of the material usable beyond an in-person visit. If not already planned, a downloadable classroom activity adapted from the exhibits could help teachers and student groups use the initiative without arranging transportation to San Francisco. This could be a modest extension of the existing content rather than a separate curriculum.

For example, an activity could ask students to examine a shoreline location, identify what flooding could affect, and compare possible responses such as wetland restoration or changes to infrastructure. It would be helpful to explain that different locations face different conditions and that adaptation involves choices about access, habitat, cost, and community needs.

I would also welcome a clear connection between the educational material and opportunities to learn about local adaptation planning. A maintained link to relevant public planning resources would give interested visitors somewhere to go next, without requiring the exhibits themselves to track every meeting or project.

As the planned evaluation develops, I hope it can consider what visitors understand afterward, alongside measures of reach. A brief optional question about a local risk or an adaptation approach could help identify where explanations need improvement.

Thank you for making shoreline adaptation more accessible to the public and for considering how this work can reach students throughout the Bay Area.

Best,
Roshan Saxena