

Questions and Answers

PLANNING ESSENTIALS WEBINAR SERIES: UNDERSTANDING ELEMENTS A & B – PLANNING CONTEXT AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

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Funding & Cost

Question: I see the plan carries a 2023 \$210 billion estimate. Is there a rough order of magnitude?

Answer: The rough order of magnitude refers to a master budget estimate of all currently known and anticipated projects, intended to understand the overall scale of the cost challenge. The \$110 billion estimate represents the rough order of magnitude cost of all anticipated and planned projects that need to be built by 2050. This information is included in the [Shoreline Adaptation Project Mapping Program \(SAPMAP\) database](#), where we have been tracking progress to help inform planning analyses, such as the cost of adaptation. Through our planning efforts, we have also developed a partnership with [San Francisco Estuary Institute \(SFEI\)](#) and other regional partners to map these adaptation projects in the [EcoAtlas database](#). One of the outcomes we are anticipating is making this project data available through the RSAP Atlas, so users can see planned future changes in their planning area (which is required in B2.e). We also expect that as new projects are identified through the RSAP, they will be added to this database, helping maintain a living record of planned changes along the shoreline.

Question: One of the incentives for local jurisdictions to complete their plans early is to get in line for priority funding from BCDC. What does that look like?

Answer: BCDC is not a funding agency. The priority funding would come through the SB1 grants administered by the Ocean Protection Council, specifically the Track 2 grants, which support project implementation or design. There has already been one Track 2 funding announcement, which closes on February 20. Future rounds are expected to follow a similar structure, and projects that are included in subregional plans would be prioritized for funding under that track as well. Other state grant programs may also require completed subregional plans to qualify for funding in the future as well.

Planning, Timeline, & Resources

Question: What are the subregional boundaries?

Answer: There are no predefined subregional boundaries. Those are for jurisdictions to determine. Each city and county within BCDC's jurisdiction is required to develop a plan, and jurisdictions can choose to complete an individual plan or partner with neighboring cities or their county to create a multi-jurisdictional plan. When we use the term subregional plan, we mean any planning scale that is smaller than the nine county Bay Area region. That could be a single jurisdiction, or it could include multiple jurisdictions if you choose to collaborate on a multi-jurisdictional plan.

Question: When are the plans required to be done by?

Answer: The deadline set by SB 272 is January 2034. We already have six plans that have been initiated, so many jurisdictions are getting started early, which is fantastic.

Question: Who regulates the oceanside coastal areas equivalent to BCDC? Coastal Commission?

Answer: Yes, that is correct. The Coastal Commission serves a similar role. They also have an SB 272 compliant process for adaptation planning on the outer coast. This work is integrated into their Local Coastal Program, where cities are already developing plans for their own jurisdictions that align with the Coastal Commission's broader regulations. The Commission has added policies that address sea level rise in a way that is similar to how sea level rise is addressed in the RSAP for the Bay.

Question: For the [Community Vulnerability and Community Based Organization Directory Map](#), are the community vulnerability areas all places that are within BCDC jurisdiction and would require sea level rise plans be developed, or just community vulnerability in the bay in general regardless of sea level rise vulnerability/future sea level rise planning happening in that census tract?

Answer: The Community Vulnerability and Community-Based Organization Directory is designed to support shoreline adaptation planning and help implement BCDC's Environmental Justice and Social Equity Bay Plan policies. The Community Vulnerability mapping uses socioeconomic and contamination indicators to measure a community's vulnerability. The mapping includes communities across the Bay, not just those within BCDC jurisdiction, areas projected to be impacted by flooding, or areas where future sea level rise plans are underway. It is intended as a resource for project applicants, BCDC staff, residents, and community-based organizations to better understand vulnerability and guide adaptation efforts.

Question: Has a surge barrier been contemplated, such as the New Orleans surge barrier wall and gate outside the Golden Gate Bridge in the shallow waters of 35 to 45 feet deep?

Answer: There is a long history of studies examining whether a surge barrier could be a feasible solution, including at least one analysis conducted by BCDC many years ago. The high-level conclusion from that analysis was that a barrier could significantly disrupt the Bay's hydrodynamics, movement of sediment, and ecosystems, to a degree that would make it not beneficial for the Bay overall. Much of this work predates the current team.

Community Involvement

Question: How can an organization like the League of Women Voters best interact with and be involved with the RSAP?

Answer: For organizations like the League of Women Voters, one of the most effective ways to engage in the planning process is through local involvement. Assuming there are League chapters across the Bay Area, a helpful starting point is the BCDC website (<https://www.bcdc.ca.gov/local-sea-level-rise-plans/>), which includes a list of jurisdictions that have already initiated their subregional planning efforts. If your chapter is located in or interested in one of those jurisdictions, those planning processes can be a strong entry point for engagement. Staying informed about what is happening in your community and encouraging civic participation at the local level can play an important role in shaping strong, community grounded plans.