



Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan: Sea level rise project alignment questionnaire

Overview

Local governments may have sea level rise adaptation projects underway before having an approved [subregional shoreline adaptation plan](#). We created this questionnaire to help local governments evaluate project alignment with the [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan \(RSAP\) Guidelines](#).

How to use this guide

The questionnaire has three parts: project logistics, community engagement, and project design. The blue text in parentheses after each question shows which RSAP guideline it relates to. The questionnaire is designed as a self-assessment tool. Filling out the questionnaire is optional.

Please contact your [subregional plan liaison](#) with any questions, or email us at SubregionalPlan@bcdc.ca.gov.

Project logistics:

1. Have you developed an implementation plan? What is your timeline for alternatives analysis, design, permitting, construction, and any other key actions? (F1-b; G1-a)
2. Who is the consultant for design (or construction)? Who is the consultant for engagement? Who is the project lead? (F1-a)
3. What are the known considerations and challenges (such as dependence on the action of private landowners) for the project? (F1-b). Are there any considerations (either physical, ecological, social, or funding-related) that constrain potential alternatives for the project design?
4. Are there cross-jurisdictional challenges or opportunities relevant to the project? What are the ongoing mechanisms for engaging with neighboring jurisdictions, Tribes, private landowners, special districts, or other entities that play a large role in the implementation? (F1-c)
5. Have you established your project costs and your funding or financing sources? (F2-a)
6. At what points do you intend to engage with BCDC?
 - a. Have you engaged with a BCDC permitting point of contact, or would you like us to make that connection?
7. Are you planning to submit the project data into [EcoAtlas](#)? (G1-b)



Community engagement:

1. What community engagement have you done to understand important assets, locations of vulnerable communities, and vision for the community? (D1; A)
 - How have you designed your engagement to meet communities where they are and to target underrepresented voices?
2. Have you considered how different alternatives may benefit the community? How does your project build community or tribal capacity? (D4-a)
3. Can your project result in any unintended negative consequences to the community? (D4-a)
4. Does the project provide risk reduction and/or benefits to vulnerable communities? (G1-a)
5. Have you developed an implementation plan, and does it include gathering involvement from affected and interested parties? (F1-b)
6. Does the project prioritize economic opportunities in vulnerable communities? Will project funding go towards hiring local people or companies for monitoring, construction, public outreach or other benefits? (F2-a)
7. How do you intend to measure and communicate publicly and transparently the progress of selected adaptation strategies? How will you identify and track key metrics of project success? (F3-b)

Project design:

1. What minimum assets and categories is this project protecting? Have you considered impacts to other minimum categories or assets from your proposed project? ([Minimum Categories & Assets Standard](#))
2. What alternatives are you evaluating? ([D2](#))
3. What scenarios are you evaluating for project lifetime/ capacity? ([D2](#), [G1-a](#)); Are you considering adaptation to 2100, including phasing of adaptation, monitoring, and trigger points? ([D4-b](#))
 - Adaptation strategy alternatives should contribute to flood risk reduction at the required 0.8 ft (2050) and 3.1 ft (2100 Intermediate) sea level rise scenarios. Strategies should allow for adjustments to enable adaptation at the 6.6 ft SLR scenario.
 - Include diagram of phasing of adaptation strategies (i.e. adaptation pathways), and a narrative description for how selected adaptation strategies would need to be adjusted to provide flood risk reduction for the 3.1 ft (2100) sea level rise scenario and options for what might need to occur in the 6.6 ft (2100) sea level rise scenario. The pathways should build upon the timing and phasing details from the vulnerability assessment and include triggers (e.g., water levels, changing land use, asset life cycle), decision points, lead times, strategy lifespan, and meet the Adaptation Strategy Standards.
4. Does the project incorporate existing or planned adaptation projects ([B2-e](#)) and their lifespan and protection level?
5. What evaluation criteria are you using? ([D3](#))
 - Evaluation criteria should include physical and economic feasibility, consider capital and long-term maintenance and operational costs, and support outcomes of the Adaptation Strategy Standards.



6. How does the project meet the adaptation strategy standards to the maximum extent feasible? ([Adaptation Strategy Standards](#))

Adaptation Strategy Standards:

- Maximize the benefits of shoreline uses and Baylands habitats that depend on their proximity and relationship to the Bay.
 - Improve public access and connection to and across the shoreline.
 - Prioritize uses that require a location along the shoreline.
 - Protect, restore, enhance, and adapt Baylands habitats, ensure complete and connected ecosystems, and facilitate their long-term survival.
 - Prioritize natural and nature-based adaptation where feasible.
 - Preserve natural and undeveloped lands for shoreline resilience.
- Improve community health, economic development, infrastructure, and housing needs.
 - Minimize flood risk to existing and planned development.
 - Include actions to mitigate involuntary displacement risk.
 - Promote safe, sustainable and strategic growth and density.
 - Maintain reliable critical and emergency services.
 - Maintain regional networks that facilitate the reliable movement of people and goods.
 - Prioritize contamination remediation in Environmental Justice communities.
 - Reduce contamination risks to all communities and ecosystems.
 - Appropriately utilize Bay fill for shoreline protection.
 - Integrate multiple benefits into adaptation.
- Create pathways to respond to changing flood risks over time.
 - Incorporate climate-responsive standards, codes, and zoning for adaptive design.



Adaptation Strategy Standards (Continued):

- Plan for changes in land use, removal of assets, and/or equitable relocation.
 - Identify actions necessary to enable future adaptation decisions, if currently not available.
 - Develop and maintain cross-jurisdictional flood risk reduction.
 - Integrate coastal flood protection with stormwater and riverine flood management.
 - Evaluate and minimize consequences of failure.
7. Have you identified any proposed land use changes necessary to achieve the project? What are the equity implications of the proposed land use changes? (E1-a)
8. Are there any proposed or established policies or programs that support or supplement the project (e.g., building standards, development policies, land acquisition policies, buffers or setbacks, special tax districts, etc.)? (E1-b)
9. Does the project (and associated adaptation strategy) require any integration into any planning, policy, or programmatic processes (e.g., consider linkages to local hazard mitigation plan/safety element, other general plan elements, capital improvement plans, specific plans/ special area plan)? (E2)
10. Have you developed a monitoring program that identifies a monitoring lead (if different than lead identified in F1-a)? Does the program contain key triggers, thresholds, and/or decision points for adaptation? (F3-a)