

Questions and Answers

PLANNING ESSENTIALS WEBINAR SERIES:

UNDERSTANDING ELEMENT C – VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Question: Within the [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan \(RSAP\) Atlas](#), where can one find a legend that explains the meaning of graphic symbols and hatches on maps?

Answer: In the top right corner of the map window, there is an icon that expands the legend, allowing you to view the symbols associated with any layers that are turned on.

Question: The RSAP Atlas is a tremendous resource. However, one thing that is difficult for people to extrapolate from the mapping is not just where vulnerable Bay habitats are today, but where they may need to migrate in the future. Can the RSAP Atlas link to resources like the Resilience Metrics Mapbook or Adaptation Atlas that identify opportunities for nature-based solutions?

Answer: [The San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas](#) is included within the RSAP Atlas in Element B: Existing Conditions. While today's discussion highlighted Element C, Element B of the RSAP Guidelines is where jurisdictions are required to look at suitability for nature-based adaptation strategies, existing habitats, and factors like marsh migration space. We also encourage jurisdictions to use resources like the [Baylands Resilience Framework](#) and associated [Mapbook](#) to better understand how different adaptation strategies can support long-term habitat resilience.

Question: The benefits of ecosystem services are still an evolving field. Does the RSAP Atlas include, or plan to include, references or guidance to help planners identify ecosystem services and start applying values to them?

Answer: Tools like the [Baylands Resilience Framework](#) are useful for considering ecosystem services and potential associated impacts of adaptation actions. We are going to be working with the [San Francisco Estuary Institute](#) (SFEI) to develop guidance on how to use the Adaptation Atlas and the Baylands Resilience Framework in subregional plan development.

Question: When we talk about the cost of inaction, one cost could be the failure to protect or provide migration space for tidal wetlands, given the resilience benefits they provide. How is that reflected in the Atlas, and if it is not, could that be made more readily available to support this element of the checklist?

Answer: We are hoping to scope out more guidance on the cost of inaction, including valuing ecosystem services. This may not be included in the RSAP Atlas but will be available on our webpage in the future, so please stay tuned for that.