

SHORELINE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & EVALUATION

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Shoreline Leadership Academy informs and builds emerging community leaders to meaningfully engage in local and regional shoreline planning

Build leadership skills

Engage with experts

Learn by doing in real-world settings



FUNDING



Inflation Reduction Act Grant

\$262,500

PARTNERS



Delta
Stewardship
Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY



CURRICULUM ALIGNED WITH RSAP THEMES

Eight modules connect leadership development to regional shoreline adaptation priorities.



**Community Health
and Well-Being**



**Ecosystem Health
and Resilience**



**Development, Housing
and Land Use**



**Critical Infrastructure
and Services**



**Public Access
and Recreation**



**Transportation
and Transit**



**Shoreline
Contamination**



**Collaborative Governance, Flood
Management, and Funding**

CURRICULUM METHODOLOGY

The Shoreline Leadership Academies combine virtual learning and in-person experiences to explore shoreline issues in **real-world context**.



**INFORMATIVE. COLLABORATIVE. IMPACTFUL.**
Participants engage with experts, practitioners, and community members to deepen understanding and inspire action.



TOPICS EXPLORED

-  **Sea level rise**
-  **Flooding**
-  **Local Planning and Permitting**
-  **Contaminated sites**
-  **Economic development**
-  **More shoreline issues**

SAN FRANCISCO SHORELINE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Held weekly in the evenings



15 sessions



January 15 through May 7



20 junior and senior high school students



Students came from various high schools throughout San Francisco



The Academy combined youth leadership development with shoreline learning.



Photo: students learning together

LEARNING ACROSS SAN FRANCISCO'S SHORELINE



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS.

We partner with the Port of San Francisco and the Exploratorium to bring local knowledge and perspectives beyond BCDC expertise.



INFORMATIVE SESSIONS AT KEY LOCATIONS.

- Bay Metro Center
- Port Offices
- Exploratorium Observatory
- Islais Creek Community Room
- SF Planning Department Offices



LEARNING TOPICS.

- Climate change
- Sea level rise
- Regional use of RSAP
- Waterfront resilience
- Operational land use
- Nature-based solutions
- Habitat restoration/ ecosystem services of marshes and wetlands



SKILLS TRAINING.



Communications



Grant writing and funding mechanisms



City planning



SITE TOURS CONNECT CLASSROOM LEARNING TO REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS.

Site tours included the South wastewater treatment facility, Islais Bridge, Pier 96 Recology site, Muni Yard, Eco Center, Navy base overlook, and the Embarcadero.



PLACE-BASED LEARNING IN ACTION.

Our partnerships and locations ground learning in local realities, connecting classroom knowledge to the challenges and opportunities of San Francisco's shoreline.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT THE CENTER.

Many tours focused on Bayview Hunters Point, a historically Black neighborhood with a high concentration of waste treatment facilities and industrial uses. BCDC EJ/SE policies and the community vulnerability map identify it as an environmental justice community vulnerable to sea level rise.

CONTRA COSTA SHORELINE ACADEMY



Held every other Saturday



12 sessions



January 10 through June 13



23 intergenerational and diverse participants



Participants came from various cities
across Contra Costa County



The Academy combined hands on experiences with shoreline learning.

LEARNING ACROSS CONTRA COSTA'S SHORELINE



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS.

- Contra Costa County's Department of Conservation and Development Transportation Planning Division
- The Watershed Project
- The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
- Delta Stewardship Council



SITE TOURS AT KEY LOCATIONS.

- West County and City of Pinole Waste Water treatment plants
- Wild-cat and Pacheco Marsh
- Big Break
- North Richmond Shoreline



LEARNING TOPICS

- Flood risk
- Sea level rise
- Regional use of RSAP
- Levees
- Role of permitting
- Plant remediation vs traditional remediation of contaminated sites



PLACE-BASED LEARNING IN ACTION.

Our partnerships and locations ground learning in local realities, connecting classroom knowledge to the challenges and opportunities of Contra costa's shoreline



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE HIGHLIGHT.

North Richmond was highlighted as an Environmental Justice community. The Watershed Project shared North Richmond's history and what led North Richmond to become home to heavy industry in close proximity to residents

PROGRAM IN ACTION



FINAL PROJECTS



CCC Shoreline Leadership Academy

Permit Transparency Tool

Natalie Rodriguez

JUNE 2026



CONTRA COSTA SHORELINE STEWARDS



Love Earth And Respect Nature

Activity and Coloring Book

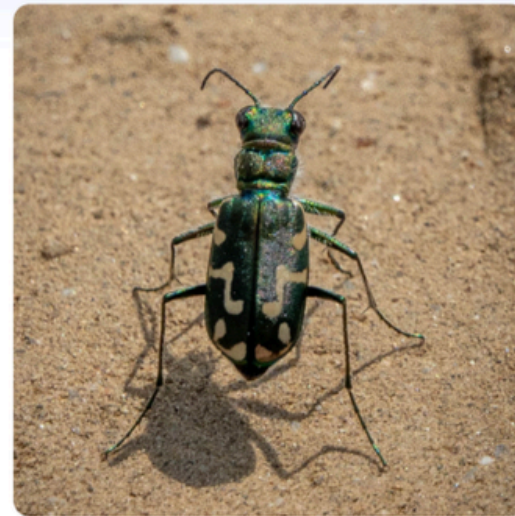
Cicindela senilis

And the Overlooked Arthropods of Bay Point Regional Shoreline

Maryam Saad Eldin



Shoreline Leadership Academy



Key Sources & Acknowledgements



Climate , Community , Action

Refineries, Sea Level Rise & Community Impact

Aashish Khanal

Contra Costa County Shoreline Leadership Academy



Program Evaluation Highlights

Participant surveys show strong growth in Sea Level Rise knowledge, growth in leadership skills and positive program experience.



4.4

Average Rating for
Program Overall

100%

Would recommend
this program
continuing

HOW WE EVALUATE

Post-program survey

Rating scale: 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

Outstanding
36.4%

Neutral
9.1%

Satisfactory
27.3%

Very Satisfactory
27.3%

Participants reported **meaningful growth** across all key areas.

Program Evaluation Highlights

100%

Completion Rate

THINGS TO WORK ON

1. Communication
2. Clearer pathway from project proposals to reality

PROGRAM EXPERIENCE RATINGS



VOICES FROM PARTICIPANTS



“Wish there was more 1 on 1 with organization to develop project plan. More project development workshops, since leadership is a part of program more development. Presentation tips, develop those skills and gain confidence.”

“Have a share platform online from day one. Ask participants to use it live. Live work on shared drive. Word cloud on project.”

“I walked away with a sense that small local acts matter. Still intimidated by governmental agencies. Feels hard to accomplish anything – hoping there would be a way to learn how to interface with government more”

“No after action strategy to guide the students.”

VOICES FROM PARTICIPANTS



“It was an incredible experience just to take a look at the shoreline across Contra Costa and learn more about ecosystems, climate change and sea level rise.”

“The oyster balls were my favorite interactive trip.”

“Holistic approach with presenters and ecological samples and field trips. Learning cycle process was great.”

“Stipend was main factor of why I could attend. College student, travel stipend helped. Freedom to choose between academy versus getting another job on the weekends”

“Created a community around people who care about the shoreline and a space to learn and also foster new ideas to address rising sea levels. Nice community to build with people who have similar interests –which is hard if you are not already working in environmental field”

PARTNER REFLECTIONS



Ryan Hernandez
Assistant Deputy Director
Department of Conservation and
Development-
Contra Costa County



Susan Shwartzenberg
Director Bay
Observatory-
Exploratorium



Stephanie Romano
Senior Manager
Environmental Education and
Operations-The Watershed
Project

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Stronger leaders still
growing in confidence and capability

Positive community impact
driving real and active engagement along
our shoreline

Stronger network
connecting leaders, local government and
community based organizations

Future opportunities
opening doors to continued impact



LOOKING AHEAD & THANK YOU



- Creating Stronger Website Presence
- Exploring Ways to Continue Program
- After Action Workshop or Event

Thank you to our sponsor,
participants, partners, and supporters
for driving meaningful change along
our Bay shoreline