

## Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)

### February 2022 Report to North Bay Cities<sup>1</sup>

February 2022

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- 1) **New Report on Sea Level Rise in the United States:** Dr. Benjamin Hamlington, Research Scientist in the Sea Level and Ice Group of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, provided an update on the most recent data on rising sea levels to the Commission. Dr. Hamlington, a member of the national interagency sea level rise task force led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), announced that the soon to be released report entitled "*Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States*" concludes that "sea level along U.S. coastlines will rise between 10 to 12 inches on average above today's levels by 2050.
- 2) **Howard Terminal Bay Plan Amendment 2-19:** The Commission received an update on the Oakland Athletics request to amend the San Francisco Bay Plan and Seaport Plan to remove the Port Priority Use designation at Howard Terminal at the Port of Oakland. The briefing included an overview of the Seaport Plan and the process/timeline for considering the amendment.
- 3) **BCDC revised regulations implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** The Commission adopted revised regulations that clarify when BCDC will be the CEQA lead agency for future Bay Plan amendments and/or permit applications.

**New Report on Sea Level Rise in the United States:** Dr. Benjamin Hamlington, Research Scientist in the Sea Level and Ice Group of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, provided an update on the most recent data regarding rising sea levels. He indicated that flooding is linked to sea level rise and provided this example for Stinson Beach.

Dr. Hamlington is also a member of the national interagency sea level rise task force, led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA,). He announced that the report entitled "Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States" would be released mid-month.

The interagency report which was released in mid-February shows that NASA, NOAA, USGS, and

Without intervention, flooding linked to rising seas could damage or destroy between 200 and 400 of Stinson Beach's 775 homes by 2030.



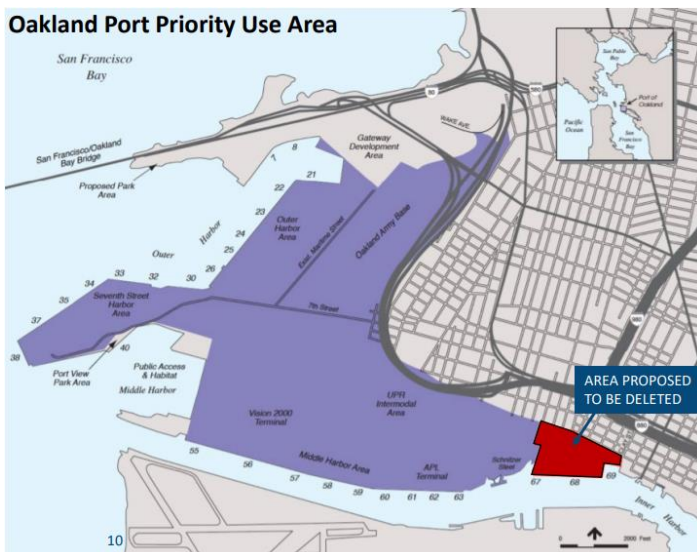
<sup>1</sup> Pat Eklund, Councilmember, City of Novato is the BCDC representative for the North Bay cities in Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties. If you have questions, contact Pat Eklund at 415-883-9116 or via email at: [pateklund@comcast.net](mailto:pateklund@comcast.net).

other U.S. government agencies project that the rise in ocean height in the next 30 years **could equal the total rise seen over the past 100 years.** To download the report click: [Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States \(windows.net\)](https://www.windows.net) .

The report concludes that “sea level along U.S. coastlines will rise between 10 to 12 inches on average above today’s levels by 2050. It also states that due to the emissions we’ve already put into the atmosphere, **2 feet of sea level rise is “increasingly likely between 2020 and 2100,”** the NOAA report notes. The report notes that if we don’t take action to seriously curb emissions now, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets could be seriously affected with increased warming. Ice sheet projections are difficult to model, but in a worst-case scenario, increasing temperatures could add an additional 1.5 to 5 feet (0.5 to 1.5 meters) of rise to what we can currently expect—meaning sea levels could rise a total of between 3.5 feet and 7 feet (1.1 and 2.1 meters) by 2100. That’s a much different world than the one we live in now.

NASA’s Sea Level Change Team, led by Hamlington, has also developed an [online mapping tool](#) to visualize the report’s state-of-the-art sea level rise projections on a localized level across the U.S. “The hope is that the online tool will help make the information as widely accessible as possible,” Hamlington said.

**Howard Terminal Bay Plan Amendment 2-19:** The Commission received a brief update on the request by the Oakland Athletics to amend the San Francisco Bay Plan and Seaport Plan to remove the Port Priority Use designation at Howard Terminal at the Port of Oakland in the City of Oakland (BPA 2-19). The briefing included an overview of the Seaport Plan and an overview of the process and timeline for considering the amendment on the Port Priority Use designation coming later in 2022.



In 2019, the State Legislature adopted AB 1191 that requires BCDC to determine, “whether the Howard Terminal property (55 acres) and adjacent areas designated for port priority use, or portions of them, are no longer required for port priority use and shall be deemed free of the port priority use area designation for purposes of the Oakland Sports and Mixed-Use Project, or whether these areas are needed for port priority use and should continue in port priority use designation.” BCDC is required to make this determination within 140 days of certification of the City of Oakland’s Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oakland Waterfront Ballpark District. If BCDC approves the their request to remove the Port Priority Use by approving the Bay Plan Amendment 2-

19, then the project will be required to obtain a BCDC Major Permit. If the A’s don’t enter a binding agreement by 2025, the Port Priority Use designation is automatically reinstated.

BCDC established a Seaport Planning Advisory Committee composed of representatives from the five Bay Area Ports, BCDC, MTC, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the federal Maritime Administration, Caltrans, and Save the Bay. This Committee recommended and the Commission agreed to use a new Cargo Forecast that was approved by the Committee in May 2020 and any other information needed to determine whether Howard Terminal is needed for Port Priority Use.

BCDC will conduct at least two public hearings in May and June on whether these 55 acres remains a port priority use area. The statutory deadline for BCDC’s determination is July 5, 2022.

**BCDC revised regulations for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** The Commission adopted amendments to the Commissions regulations for implementing CEQA to improve the clarity of when BCDC will be the lead agency and to incorporate statutory changes that have been made to CEQA since the Commission's regulations were last amended. For a complete listing of the amendments, please refer to the February 17, 2022 staff report: [Staff Report for Recommendation to Amend the Commission's regulations for implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act](#)

**UPCOMING BCDC MEETINGS:**

The BCDC Commission meets at 1:00 pm on the following dates: March 3, 17; April 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 16; July 7, 21; August 4, 18; September 1, 15; October 6, 20; November 3, 17; and December 1, 15, 2022.

The BCDC Enforcement Committee meets at 9:30 am on the following dates: February 23; March 10, 23; April 14, 27; May 12, 25; June 9, 22; July 14, 27; August 11, 24; September 8, 21; October 13, 26; November 3, 16; and December 8, 21, 2022.