

BCDC RISING SEA LEVEL: In a previous meeting, there was a recognition that there is a need for a collaborative, consensus-driven process and an overall recognition that this is a Bay Area problem, not just a BCDC issue.

On December 4, 2025, the “BCDC rising sea level working group” met and agreed that there would be a more thorough discussion on the authorities and jurisdictional gaps on addressing sea level rise. At the working group meeting there was a recognition that although progress has been made, the current system is fractured. It appears there are conflicting priorities among local, state and federal agencies; a complexity and scope of adaptation planning; gaps in authorities to incentivize/compel adaptation action; coordination challenges with many independent decision-makers; and, lack of clear processes for Bay-wide coordination. It is recognized that no single agency can solve this issue alone. It will require cooperation from all levels of government, and public, private and non-profit organizations. It was recognized that we need to build an agreement on governance solutions to enable an effective, long-term, regional adaptation to sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay.

It was agreed that some of the potential outcomes could include a variety of sea level rise governance solutions – whether it be policy and organizational changes, voluntary interagency agreements and enhanced coordination across the region; innovative and/or funding mechanisms; and/or, new and/or improved use of authorities including potential legislation. In addition, it was recognized that by addressing the governance gaps, the Bay Area could work seamlessly together to plan and implement an effective shoreline adaptation and resilience effort.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OPERATIONS & MAINTENACE DREDGING PROGRAM, 2026-29:

BCDC approved with conditions, the request to maintenance dredge between 7.46 million cubic yards, and potentially a maximum of 17.6 million cubic yards of sediment over 4 years, as follows: an average of 1.755 million cubic yards, and potentially a maximum of 4.22 million cy of sediment annually from six deep draft channels annually to depths ranging from minus 30 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to minus 50 feet; one time dredging of 30,000 cy of sediment from one deep draft channel; and between of 450,000 cy, and a potential maximum of 725,000 cy of sediment from three shallow draft channels and one associated “across the flats” channel, with depths ranging from minus six feet MLLW to minus nine feet MLLW. Conduct two “sea trials” to calibrate recently repaired hopper dredges with dredging of up to 12,000 cy of sediment. Dispose of between 7.46 million cy and 17.6 million cy of sediment at in-Bay disposal sites over four years, and/or beneficially reuse between 560,000 cy and 4.64 million cy over four years. Up to 1.23 million cy would be disposed of at the San Francisco Deep Ocean Disposal Site.

REGIONAL SHORELINE ADAPTATION PLAN (RSAP): As mentioned in previous BCDC reports, only a few jurisdictions have officially initiated a RSAP. Those include, Cities of Alameda, San Mateo, Richmond, San Francisco; along with Solano County which includes Benicia, Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo. This is roughly 15% of those that are required to create a Subregional Plan. \$20M of SB1 grants have been awarded to date which covers almost 70% of the jurisdictions required to develop plans. 44 of the 51 jurisdictions (which is 86% of those required to submit a plan) have formally or informally begun planning. This spring, BCDC will be launching a new webinar series focused on RSAP’s along with tools and resources to help jurisdictions begin planning for the future development of their Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plans.

¹ Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC). For questions, contact Councilmember Pat Eklund; City of Novato at: pateklund@comcast.net; and/or 415-336-9913 (cell).