

BAY ADAPT | Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay

Statement of Purpose and Process Guidelines

Updated: 4/1/20

BAY ADAPT is an initiative to establish regional agreement on the actions necessary to protect our people and the natural and built environment from rising sea levels. Bay Adapt will build a new type of regional collaboration among a wide variety of agencies and stakeholders, based on a strong foundation of climate science and the proactive Bay Area adaptation efforts both already underway and proposed. Through this six-month, collaborative action-setting initiative, Bay Area regional, local and community leadership will identify, deliberate and commit to a set of shared actions that will allow the Bay Area to adapt better and adapt faster to a rising Bay.

Anticipated Outcomes

1. Develop Guiding Principles on adapting to rising sea level
2. Develop a Joint Platform of priority actions
3. Adopt the Joint Platform with a commitment to act and to act together

Why a Regional Strategy?

Rising sea levels will dramatically affect our way of life in the Bay Area. Our daily commutes, the goods and services we depend on, the places we live and work, and the natural spaces that make the Bay Area a beautiful place to live will all be impacted. Highways will be affected with as little as one foot of flooding, impacting the commutes of hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors daily. With two feet of flooding, communities will start feeling serious impacts to their homes and jobs. Sea level rise will fundamentally change our relationship with the Bay, and will threaten our public access to the shoreline and our enjoyment of shoreline recreation and habitats. For more on the risks we face, read the [Adapting to Rising Tides \(ART\) Bay Area](#) report.

Much of the responsibility to adapt to rising sea levels lies at the local city or county level. However, local initiatives alone will not be able to solve the problem and could result in:

- Disproportionate impacts to disadvantaged communities
- Unintended flood impacts to neighbors in a closed Bay system
- Delay due to other, more pressing concerns like housing and transportation
- Near-term loss of wetlands -- the ecosystems most at risk of flooding
- Impacts to jobs and businesses
- Lack of incentives to work across jurisdictions to solve common problems
- Lack of incentives to create multi-benefit, nature-based solutions
- No way to measure collective progress

Regional action to reduce impacts due to climate change requires collective will, regionwide implementation, and broad leadership – no one agency, jurisdiction or community can or should do it alone. Bay Adapt will build a new type of regional collaboration among agencies

and stakeholders based on a strong foundation of climate science, creative planning and local and regional needs.

How will it work?

The Joint Platform, will be shaped by, and vetted against, a set of Guiding Principles developed by the Leadership Advisory Group. Several Working Groups, comprised of Leadership Advisory Group members and others, will identify, prioritize, and refine action ideas. The Working Groups, supported by BCDC staff and others, will identify and analyze possible actions to determine their feasibility and potential tradeoffs. Elected officials from cities and counties will help shape and provide feedback on the Joint Platform, and members of the public will have the opportunity to provide input through Public Workshops and other venues. Once finalized, approximately 10-15 priority actions will be compiled into a single document – the Joint Platform – that the Leadership Advisory Group, BCDC and other entities throughout the Region involved in adapting to rising sea levels will consider adopting and implementing.

Roles and Responsibilities

BCDC - Convener

BCDC has convened the planning process. BCDC will engage stakeholders and the public and provide staff to support the effort and bring it to fruition.

Leadership Advisory Group (LAG)

A diverse group of Bay Area leaders from public agencies, interest groups, community-based organizations, and academia that provides direction, vets proposals, and, ultimately, makes a commitment to implement the Joint Platform across their organizations. See the list below for LAG members.

Local Government Coordinating Committee

Elected leaders from around the Bay Area will provide input and act as a sounding board to ensure that the Joint Platform will support local governments' efforts to manage the adaptation to rising sea levels. Briefing will be provided to regional agencies, such as ABAG, MTC, and BARC as well.

Working Groups

Three Working Groups will develop and refine proposals in detail:

1. Regional Consistency
2. Local Planning
3. Project Implementation

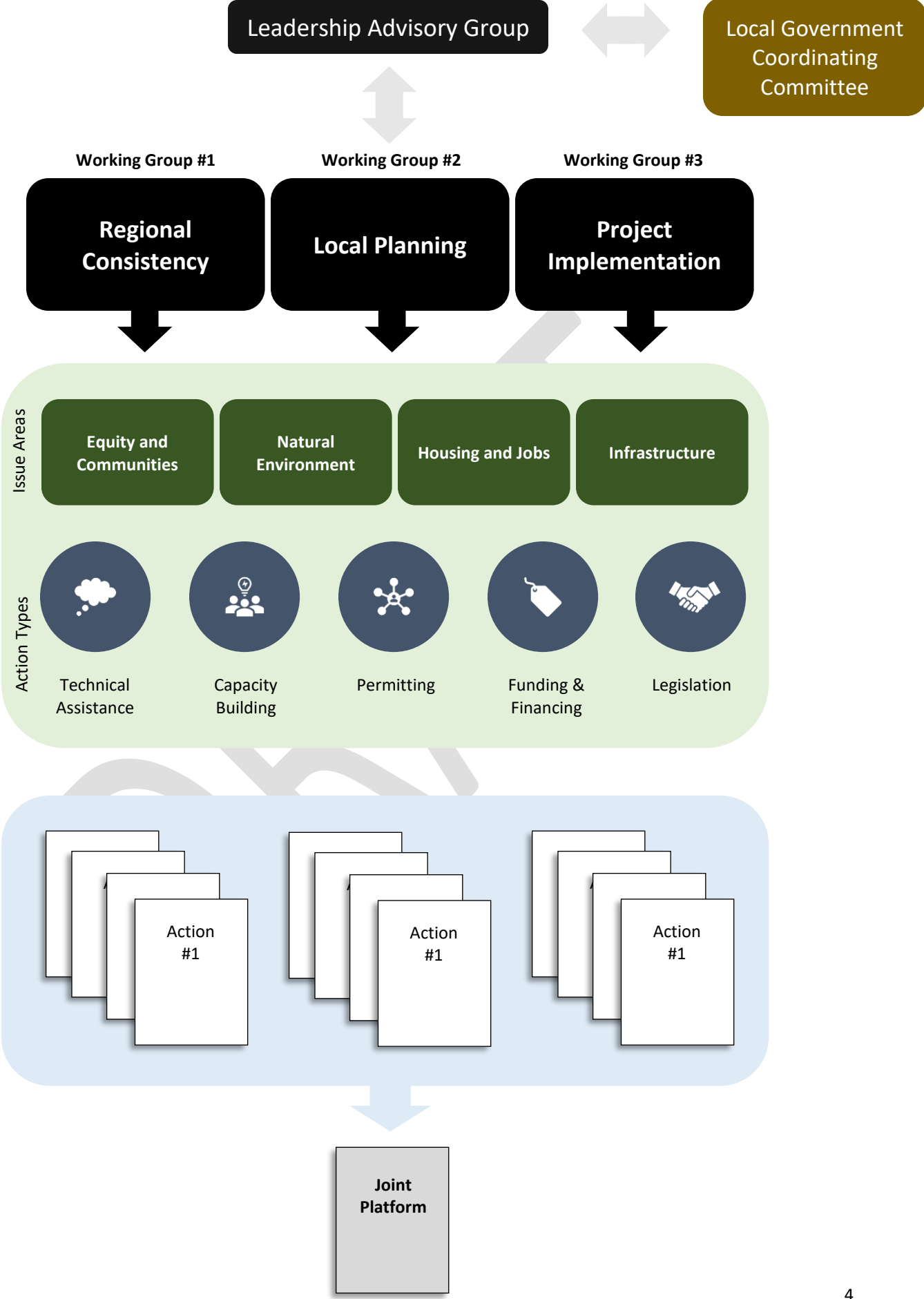
Each Working Group will be co-chaired by two leaders involved in Bay Area adaptation with staffing support from BCDC and other agencies and non-profit organizations. Working Groups will present their ideas to the Leadership Advisory Group. Each Working Group will follow roughly the same process to develop recommended actions to be included in the Joint Platform. Given the overlap between topics and groups, there will be opportunities for the Working Groups to “cross-walk” ideas at several points.

Working Groups will include various subject matter experts and perspectives, striving for interdisciplinary expertise and, yet maintaining a manageable size. Groups will recommend consensus-based actions for the Joint Platform. If Working Group members do not agree on a particular element, the co-chairs and staff will document potential options and forward to the Leadership Advisory Group and ultimately BCDC for consideration.

Public Forums and Community Engagement

Public workshops will occur at least twice during the development of the Joint Platform. BCDC will also conduct interactive outreach meetings in each of the nine Bay Area counties and with targeted groups to share information and solicit input on potential actions and the utility of the Joint Platform. Working Groups will incorporate feedback from these public forums and county outreach meetings into its work products. Staff and the facilitator will also share insights generated via public forums and county outreach meetings with the Leadership Advisory Group to inform its thinking. BCDC is developing a Communications and Engagement Plan with more detail. A website will also allow the public and interested parties to learn more about Bay Adapt, sign up for email alerts and updates, contact staff, and view final products.

DRAFT



Decision-Making

Bay Adapt will only succeed if the participating agencies and organizations commit to implementing the actions adopted in the Joint Platform. Each affected agency and organization active in this effort will decide, consistent with its own governance structure, on implementing elements of the Joint Platform.

For the purpose of developing the Joint Platform, all the planning groups or committees involved in this effort will strive for consensus. The definition of consensus spans the range from strong support to neutrality, to abstention, to “I can live with it.” A participant can even “stand aside” and let a recommendation move forward. These all represent consensus agreement.

If the Local Government Coordinating Committee or Working Groups are unable to reach consensus on recommended work products, the chairs and staff will work together to document the options and area of disagreement and forward these to the Leadership Advisory Group for consideration and recommendation.

If unable to reach consensus on a particular proposal, the Leadership Advisory Group will attempt to resolve the identified issues and concerns, including the option of requesting that the Working Group continue working. After thorough discussion and exploration of the issues if the Leadership Advisory Group is still unable to reach consensus as defined above, BDC Chair Zack Wasserman may decide to set this issue aside or to call a vote.

For a vote, members of the Leadership Advisory Group present at the meeting will be asked to vote on the proposal. Two-thirds of the members present during the meeting will be necessary to approve a proposal. If a proposal does not achieve a two-thirds vote, it will not be adopted as part of the Joint Platform, but may be considered by BCDC or other agencies or groups.

Key Terms

Actions: Actions are specific recommendations that address one of the hurdles in Bay Area regional adaptation to rising sea levels. Actions are short (1-2 pages in length) and lay out a brief summary, desired effect, references/models, responsibility entity, timeframe, pathway to implementation, and a more detailed proposal.

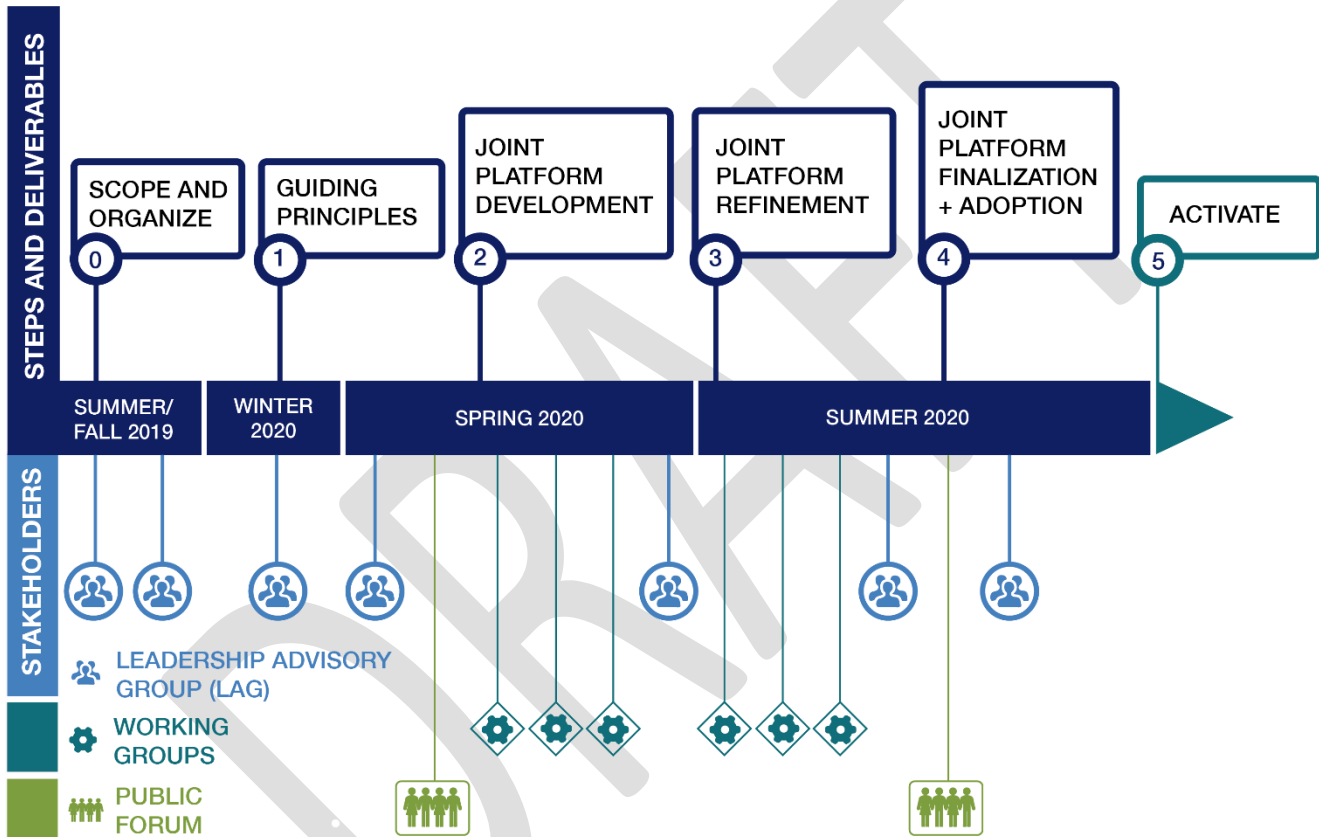
Action Types: The main categories of “levers” available to influence Bay Area adaptation including technical assistance, capacity building, permitting, funding & financing, and legislation.

Guiding Principles: A set of shared beliefs and values that can document joint interests, act as a reminder of commitment, provide shared accountability and act as evaluation criteria for regional decision-making. A series of statements that articulate clearly and concisely shared beliefs and values that should guide regional adaptation decisions. As actions are identified for inclusion in the Joint Platform, they should align with the Guiding Principles.

Joint Platform: The compiled set of approximately 10-15 actions create the Joint Platform. Many constituent agencies and organizations will help implement the Joint Platform’s proposals. The goal is for all members of the Leadership Advisory Group and other local and regional agencies and organizations to commit to implementing the Joint Platform.

Issue Areas: Actions will address one or more of the following issue areas: equity and community; natural environment; housing & jobs; and infrastructure (including, but not limited to, transportation).

Proposed Timeline



DRAFT

Leadership Advisory Group		
NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Alicia John-Baptiste (alt. Teresa Alvarado)	Executive Director	SPUR
Allison Brooks	Executive Director	Bay Area Regional Collaborative
Amanda Brown-Stevens	Executive Director	Greenbelt Alliance
Ana Alvarez	Deputy General Manager	East Bay Regional Parks
Anne Halstead	Vice Chair	BCDC
Barry Nelson	Commissioner	BCDC
Bruce Riordan	Director	Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN)
Caitlin Sweeney	Executive Director	San Francisco Estuary Partnership
David Behar	Climate Program Director	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
David Pine	Chair	San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
David Lewis	Executive Director	Save the Bay
Debra Gore-Mann - invited	Executive Director	Greenlining Institute
Ellen Cross (alt. John Bourgeois)	Facilitator, Strategy Driver	Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group (CHARG)
Erika Powell (alt. Rohin Saleh)	Chair	Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group (CHARG)
Jim Wunderman (alt. Adrian Covert)	President / CEO	Bay Area Council
John Coleman (alt. Emily Loper)	CEO	Bay Planning Coalition
Julio Garcia	Program Manager	Nuestra Casa
Laura Tam	Program Officer	Resources Legacy Fund
Margaret Gordon (alt. Brian Beveridge)	Executive Director	West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP)
Mark Lubell	Professor	UC Davis
Melissa Jones (alt. Matt Vander Sluis)	Executive Director	Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)
Michael Montgomery (alt. Lisa McCann)	Executive Officer	SF Water Board
Mike Mielke	Sr. Vice President	Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Paul Campos	Sr. Vice President	Building Industry Association
Sam Schuchat	Executive Director	State Coastal Conservancy & SF Bay Restoration Authority
Sheridan Noelani Enomoto	Climate + Environmental Justice Community Organizer	Greenaction
Terrie Green	Co-Director	Shore Up Marin City
Therese McMillan (alt. Brad Paul)	Executive Director	MTC / ABAG

Tony Tavares	District 4 Director	CalTrans
Warner Chabot	Executive Director	San Francisco Estuary Institute
Will Travis	Independent Consultant	
Zack Wasserman	Chair	BCDC

DRAFT