

BAY ADAPT | Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay

Working Group Structure and Guiding Questions

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Three Working Groups will support the development of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform

- Working Group #1: Regional Consistency
- Working Group #2: Local Planning
- Working Group #3: Project Implementation

Working Group #1: Regional Consistency

What are the necessary steps to ensure that Bay Area jurisdictions plan together toward shared regional outcomes?

The Regional Consistency Working Group will focus on how best to marry local adaptation measures with regional goals to help avoid negative impacts across jurisdictions and promote rising sea level adaptation measures of greatest regional benefit. It will develop solutions about how to establish and implement regional priorities, how to minimize negative impacts across jurisdictions, and how to promote Bay-wide excellence and learning, such as multi-benefit solutions. It will develop recommendations primarily focused on institutional arrangements, planning and funding that require multi-level cooperation to accomplish successful adaptation taking into consideration the issues of equity and communities, natural environment, housing and jobs, and infrastructure.

Priorities:

- Regional priorities
- Regional coordination
- Bay-wide excellence

Key Questions:

- What actions are necessary to ensure that the projects and actions of greatest regional benefit, in alignment with regional adaptation guiding principles and other regional goals, will be prioritized, funded and implemented within an equitable and risk-based framework?
- What actions are necessary to address the potential negative impacts that adaptation actions (or inactions) taken by one jurisdiction or project might have on other jurisdictions around the Bay?
- What actions are necessary to promote multi-jurisdictional, multi-purpose adaptation solutions rooted in the best available science, in alignment with regional guiding principles?

Action Examples:

- Expand or adopt Plan Bay Area or new regional plans to include stronger regional adaptation guidance;

- Conduct or create region-wide studies, data, models, or measurement that help support adaptation planning;
- Identify, advocate for, or develop regional funding or financing to pay for adaptation;
- Expand or adapt existing or new regional permitting processes or land use plans;
- Convene regional groups or organizations;
- Identify regional priority projects; create consistency frameworks to ensure that local projects meet regional goals;
- Identify, initiate, or fund regionally significant projects;
- Identify changes to regulatory processes or policies to remove barriers to local planning and implementation.

Working Group #2: Local Planning

How can we support local adaptation planning in a way that is consistent and accessible to resource-constrained local jurisdictions?

The Local Planning Working Group will focus on supporting best practices to plan for local adaptation to rising sea levels. It will develop solutions that facilitate local adaptation planning that accounts for existing local plans and policies to minimize additional requirements or planning activities and ensure that adaptation is integrated into daily decision-making, and also address local engagement in planning to ensure accurate representation in decision-making for a shared future. It will develop recommendations primarily focused on technical assistance and best practices to accomplish adaptation that considers the issues of equity and communities, natural environment, housing and jobs, and infrastructure.

Priorities:

- Adaptation in local plans
- Capacity building
- Engaged community

Key Questions:

- What actions can ensure that adaptation to rising sea levels is integrated into local jurisdictional plans, including land use, emergency and capital planning; that planning is consistent with, but may voluntarily go above and beyond state planning requirements such as SB 379; that those plans consider impacts to other jurisdictions; that they consider the equity impacts and outcomes within the planning process; and that they are consistent with and advance local and regional goals?
- What actions can ensure that local governments, jurisdictions, and community-based organizations have the data, tools, training and staffing to develop local adaptation plans, in light of the best available science and regional and local goals?
- What actions can support robust and equitable community engagement in shaping the development of local adaptation planning that upholds environmental justice goals and principles?

Action Examples:

- Guidance, case studies, technical standards, or technical support for local vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, and detailed project plans;
- Model public policy such as zoning changes or financing districts;
- Best practices for community engagement;
- Consistent and accessible climate science or vulnerability data;
- Guidance on local governance best practices;
- Legal best practices;
- Best practices and model structures for stakeholder engagement.

Working Group #3: Project Implementation

How can we expedite the delivery of high-quality adaptation projects?

The Project Implementation Working Group will focus on actions that remove barriers to implementation and that accelerate shoreline projects. It will develop solutions that expedite and streamline project delivery, help communities deeply engage in projects in their own backyard, promote innovative testing of new techniques, track progress and successes and learn from projects to increase shared learning. It will develop recommendations primarily focused on financing, permitting, and project-based decision-making that considers the four areas of equity and communities, natural environment, housing & jobs, and infrastructure.

Priorities:

- Project delivery
- Equity and engagement
- Innovation
- Monitoring and tracking progress

Key Questions:

- What actions or mechanisms evaluate and set priorities amongst competing shoreline projects?
- What actions are necessary to ensure that shoreline projects are delivered efficiently and quickly, including how partners collaborate through new arrangements, permitting requirements and processes, and financing for all project phases?
- What actions support community engagement to ensure that community members are deeply involved in the project design, development, and monitoring phases? How can equitable project outcomes be prioritized on a project-by-project basis?
- What actions are necessary to incentivize pilot projects that test new techniques and support learning and best practices? This includes, but is not limited to, natural and nature-based infrastructure; new technologies and materials; community-based leadership and inclusion; and adaptive management approaches.
- How can we promote collective learning and track performance and risk reduction across the region?

Action Examples:

- Accessing or assembling funding and financing for planning, building, and maintaining projects;

- Identifying barriers and potential solutions to multi-agency permitting processes;
- New project-based organizational structures.

Working Group Deliverables

Each Working Group will identify and develop 3-5 Actions. Actions are specific recommendations that address one of the hurdles in Bay Area regional adaptation. 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. Each action must describe the following:

- **Outcome:** What would be the desired outcome of the action? (Quantify to the extent possible as a target “success metric”)
- **References and Models:** Examples of similar actions
- **Brief Summary:** 2-3 sentence description
- **Detailed Proposal** (~1 page) that addresses:
 - **Administration:** Who would be responsible for leading the action? What other supporting responsible parties and/or stakeholders would be necessary to ensure that the action can be implemented?
 - **Resources:** What resources would be required? What are potential funding sources?
 - **Legal/Legislative:** What legal changes would be required?
 - **Timing:** When would the action occur?
 - **Unlocking Steps:** What preliminary actions would have to occur to make this action feasible?

The compiled set of approximately 10-15 actions create the Joint Platform. Many constituents will help implement the Joint Platform’s proposals. The goal is for all members of the Leadership Advisory Group to commit to implementing the Joint Platform.