

The Bay is Rising

The time to come together to *act* is now.

Sea level rise is no longer a distant threat and the San Francisco Bay Area stands to be one of the hardest hit in North America. It's past time for us to get ready.

As we walk the dog along our favorite waterfront, the waves don't seem any taller. As we wait in traffic at the Bay Bridge toll plaza, the water level looks the same as ever. But the Bay has already started spilling into our highways and street during storms. Another foot or two of rise will seriously affect our homes, jobs, habitats, and safety. San Francisco Bay Area has an enormous amount at stake—and an unprecedented opportunity to address these risks.



At risk of flooding by 2040

28,000 socially vulnerable residents

13,000 existing housing units and another **70,000** new housing units

104,000 existing jobs and another **85,000** new jobs

20,000 acres of wetlands, lagoon and tidal marsh habitat

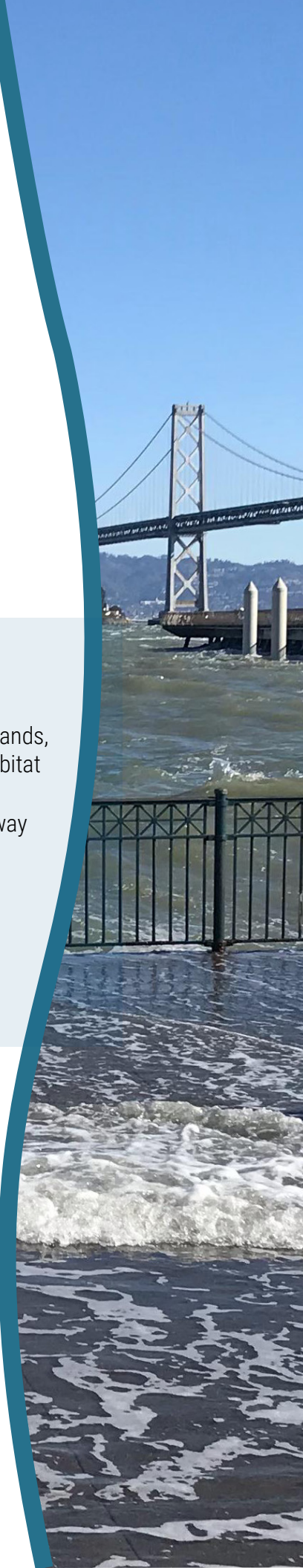
5 million daily highway vehicle trips

60,000 daily rail commuters

Impacts from flooding that could occur at 48" Total Water Level from the [ART Bay Area Regional Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Study](#).

Why *shared* solutions?

- ▶ Sea level rise will **impact everyone** in the Bay Area.
- ▶ A regional problem requires **regional solutions**.
- ▶ **Flooding know no boundaries** and doesn't care about jurisdictional lines.
- ▶ Solutions should **center on the most vulnerable people** and environments.
- ▶ Bay Adapt is building **regional consensus on a joint platform** of nine actions that address the region's strengths and weaknesses, enabling us to respond faster, better and together.
- ▶ Only with **strong local and regional actions** can we ensure the safety and welfare of all the Bay Area.



The Joint Platform

A regional strategy for a rising Bay

Bay Adapt has worked to establish regional agreement on the actions necessary to protect the Bay Area's people and natural and built environments from sea level rise.

Bay Adapt is convened by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a state agency, in partnership with a broad range of Bay Area leaders.

Through dozens of expert working groups, a public forum, ten community and stakeholder focus groups, over 50 presentations, an environmental justice caucus, and led by a Leadership Advisory Group—hundreds of people from across the Bay came together to achieve a consensus-driven strategy and regional agreement on a path forward.

Rather than calling for individual projects, the Joint Platform lays out guiding principles and region-wide goals, actions, and tasks to help the Bay Area achieve **faster, better, and more equitable adaptation** to a rising Bay.

- **Reduced flood risk** for communities, businesses, infrastructure, and habitats.
- **Protection of natural areas and wildlife.**
- Robust integration of adaptation into **community-focused local plans.**
- Recognition and **equitable support for low income communities.**
- Accelerated permitting and **project construction.**
- **Technical assistance** for local governments.
- **More funding** for adaptation.



Guiding Principles

- ▶ Support socially-vulnerable communities
- ▶ Put nature first whenever possible
- ▶ Solve interconnected problems at the same time
- ▶ Practice inclusive, community-led governance and decision-making
- ▶ Support existing efforts but plan for the long term
- ▶ Pick the right strategy for the right place at the right time

Working together as *one* region

Centering people and nature through a shared set of solutions

The Bay Area is one of the most culturally and geographically diverse places in the country. The risks of sea level rise, and resources necessary to address them, are unequal across the Bay Area. This is why all nine actions in the Joint Platform emphasize achieving equitable outcomes for the region. We also know our region's wetlands are essential to our wellbeing – and also first at risk.

We cannot solve these challenges alone. Bay Adapt has been working with partners across the region to integrate and embed Joint Platform actions into existing regional plans and practices. MTC-ABAG's Plan Bay Area 2050, set to be published in 2021, now incorporates multi-hazards, including sea level rise. The Estuary Blueprint, a map for regional actions on the health and resilience of Bay ecosystems, is also aligning Bay Adapt actions. We need everyone to come together to help us collectively create a resilient Bay Area region.

The Joint Platform

9 actions, 21 tasks, 1 region *moving forward together*

PEOPLE



Action 1: Collaborate on a “one Bay” vision to adapt to rising sea levels.

- Task 1.1: Create a long-term regional vision rooted in communities.
- Task 1.2: Lay the foundation for a proactive regional legislative agenda.

Action 2: Elevate communities to lead.

- Task 2.1: Improve how communities and public agencies learn from each other and work together.
- Task 2.2: Fund the participation and leadership of community-based organizations (CBOs) and frontline communities in adaptation planning.

INFORMATION



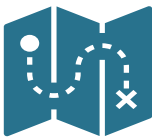
Action 3: Broaden public understanding of climate change science and impacts.

- Task 3.1: Tell local and regional stories about people and places adapting to climate change.
- Task 3.2: Weave climate literacy into school programs.

Action 4: Base plans and projects on the best science, data, and knowledge.

- Task 4.1: Align research and monitoring with information gaps.
- Task 4.2: Make scientific data, information, and guidance easier to use.
- Task 4.3: Increase access to technical consultants for local adaptation partners.

PLANS



Action 5: Align local and regional plans into a unified adaptation approach.

- Task 5.1: Provide incentives for robust, coordinated adaptation plans.
- Task 5.2: Align state-mandated planning processes around adaptation.

Action 6: Figure out how to fund adaptation.

- Task 6.1: Expand understanding of the financial costs and revenues associated with regional adaptation.
- Task 6.2: Establish a framework for funding plans and projects.
- Task 6.3: Help cities and counties expand ways to fund adaptation planning and projects.

PROJECTS



Action 7: Refine and accelerate regulatory approvals processes.

- Task 7.1: Accelerate permitting for equitable, multi-benefit projects.
- Task 7.2: Assess environmental regulations and policies that slow down progress on projects.

Action 8: Fund and facilitate faster adaptation projects.

- Task 8.1: Incentivize projects that meet regional guidelines.
- Task 8.2: Encourage collaboration among people doing projects in the same places.
- Task 8.3: Facilitate faster construction of nature-based projects.

PROGRESS



Action 9: Track and report progress to guide future actions.

- Task 9.1: Measure regional progress using metrics and share results.
- Task 9.2: Monitor and learn from pilot projects.



What can you do?

The Joint Platform is now ready to share! Examine the opportunities it may provide for help, support and guidance on what to do next. We're all in this together.

For local leaders

- ☑ Share the Joint Platform with your staff and colleagues **and identify which actions** you'd like support for implementation.
- ☑ Write a **letter of support** for the Bay Adapt Joint Platform to help us advocate for regional implementation.
- ☑ Seek **formal endorsement** from your City Council, County Board of Supervisors, or other elected body.

For the interested public

- ☑ Learn more and provide feedback on the **40-page, easy-to-read Joint Platform**. Where can the Joint Platform help?
- ☑ **Understand your community's vulnerability** by using online tools such as the [ART Shoreline Flood Explorer](#) (www.Explorer.AdaptingToRisingTides.org) for exploring risks of flooding in your area
- ☑ **Talk to your community** about resilience and preparing for climate change.

Leadership Advisory Group

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David Behar, SF Public Utilities Commission/ Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN)
John Bourgeois, Valley Water/ CHARG
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