

# Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy for the Bay Area

## Statement of Purpose

The **Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy (RSAS)** is a joint initiative to lay out the actions necessary to adapt the Bay Area to rising sea level to protect people and the natural and built environment. This 6-month, collaborative action-setting process to address rising sea level will bring together Bay Area regional leadership and communities to enable us to:

### Adapt Better

- Reduce risk
- Elevate local adaptation
- Prioritize and act regionally

### Adapt Faster

- Fast-track implementation
- Remove barriers
- Unlock and align funding + financing

The result of this initiative will be a shared **Joint Platform**, based on a set of **Guiding Principles** for adaptation in the Bay Area. This Joint Platform will include 10 – 15 priority actions that the region must take (planning, funding, permitting, policy, etc.). At the end of this process, all members of the Leadership Advisory Group will consider **making a commitment** to adopt and endorse the Joint Platform in their various roles and play a leadership role in implementation.



## Why a regional strategy?

We all know that rising sea level will dramatically affect our way of life in the Bay Area, from our daily commute, 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. Much of the responsibility to adapt to rising sea level lies at the local level. However, local initiatives alone will lead to suboptimal regional and local outcomes, such as:

- Disproportionate impacts to disadvantaged communities
- Unintended flood impacts in a closed Bay system
- Other more pressing crises taking precedent
- Near-term loss of wetlands, as the ecosystems on the frontlines
- Economic hardship, with a lack of financial tools and resources to meet the needs
- Lack of incentive to work across jurisdictions to solve joint problems
- Lack of incentives for multi-benefit solutions
- No way to measure progress

Regional action on climate change requires collective will, regionwide implementation and broad leadership – no one agency or entity can or should do it alone. The RSAS will build a new type of regional collaboration among agencies and stakeholders based on a strong foundation of climate science, 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 have the opportunity to identify action ideas, prioritize them, and refine them. The Working Groups, supported by BCDC staff and others, will research and analyze them for feasibility and potential tradeoffs. Once finalized, the actions will be compiled into a single document – the Joint Platform – which then will be adopted by the Leadership Advisory Group and other entities throughout the Region involved in adapting to rising sea level.

## Decision-Making Framework: Striving for Consensus

The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy will only succeed if the participating agencies and organizations commit to implementing the strategy. The group will explore and then refine a prioritized set of recommended actions and 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.

## Roles and Responsibilities

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b><i>Leadership Advisory Group</i></b>  | A diverse group of Bay Area leaders that provide direction, vet proposals, and, ultimately, make a commitment to implement the Joint Platform across their organizations.  |
| <b><i>Working Groups</i></b>             | Working Groups will develop and refine proposals in detail. Each Working Group will be co-chaired by two Leadership Advisory Group members and staffed by BCDC staff and others. Working Groups will present their ideas to the Leadership Advisory Group. |
| <b><i>Public Forum</i></b>               | Workshops open to the public will occur periodically throughout the process.   |
| <b><i>Guiding Principles for RSL</i></b> | 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.  |

## Key Terms

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Guiding Principles</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Action Areas</b>       | The main categories of “levers” available to influence Bay Area adaptation including technical assistance, regional guidance, local capacity, permitting, funding, and legislation. Proposals will be developed for each Action Area.  |
| <b>Actions</b>            | 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. |
| <b>Joint Platform</b>     | The compiled set of 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   |

