

ICG's Community Principles

As leaders in the Bay Area, we recognize the urgent need to address the challenges posed by sea level rise. We acknowledge that proactive adaptation planning is crucial to safeguarding our community's well-being, infrastructure, and natural resources. This agreement outlines our commitment to collaboratively implement sea level rise adaptation plans, working together to protect our community's future. As a committee, we commit to the following principles:

1. Equity, Environmental, and Climate Justice

- a. We commit to approaching our work with the intention of considering equity, diversity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles in both processes and outcomes.
- b. We will agree on shared definitions of environmental justice and equity.
- c. We commit to applying a common "Equity Checklist" to all initiatives and projects resulting from the tasks and actions in the Bay Adapt Joint Platform.

2. Respectful and Inclusive Dialogue:

- a. We commit to maintaining a respectful and inclusive environment where everyone's voice is heard and valued.
- b. We will listen actively to others, seeking to understand different perspectives and experiences.

3. Open-Mindedness and Flexibility:

- a. We will approach discussions and decisions with an open mind, willing to consider new ideas and approaches.
- b. We will strive to find common ground while respecting diverse viewpoints.
- c. We will remain open to adapting our strategies and actions based on emerging information and evolving circumstances.

4. Collaboration and Engagement:

- a. We will work collaboratively, recognizing that collective efforts lead to more effective outcomes.

- b. We will keep the community informed about sea level rise adaptation efforts, progress, and challenges.
- c. We will solicit feedback, suggestions, and concerns from community members regarding sea level rise adaptation plans.
- d. When necessary, we will utilize the “gradients of agreement” tool for finalizing decisions where there is a spread in consensus.

5. Transparency and Accountability:

- a. We will be transparent in our decision-making processes, sharing information and rationale behind our choices.
- b. We take responsibility for our individual and collective actions.
- c. We will communicate openly and proactively about challenges, concerns, and progress.

6. Confidentiality and Trust:

- a. We will respect the confidentiality of sensitive information shared within the group, ensuring trust among members.
- b. We will use discretion when discussing group matters outside of the meetings, being mindful of the potential impact on the group's effectiveness.
- c. We will prioritize building trusting relationships and maintaining a safe space for open dialogue.

7. Action-Oriented Adaptation Planning:

- a. We will agree to use our own agency's resources to help advance implementation of the tasks and actions in the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, recognizing that they were developed through regional consensus and support and cannot be implemented by any entity alone.
- b. We will actively identify and embody each entity's unique role in adaptation planning, leveraging each entity's strengths and relying on collaboration and partnerships with entities whose strengths enhance our own to maximize our collective impact.

- c. We will develop implementing projects that strive to be multi-benefit, advancing multiple regional and local priorities alongside increasing sea level rise resilience.
- d. We will focus on practical solutions with measurable impact, aiming to make tangible progress in sea level adaptation efforts.

8. Funding and Resource Allocation:

- a. We will actively seek and leverage financial resources from local, regional, national, and international sources to support sea level rise adaptation efforts and acknowledge each entity's unique role in this space.
- b. We will explore innovative financing mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and grant opportunities to secure the necessary funds for adaptation projects.
- c. We will recommend allocating resources effectively and efficiently, prioritizing adaptation measures based on their urgency, potential impact, and cost-effectiveness.

9. Provide Guidance for Monitoring and Evaluation:

- a. BCDC will establish monitoring systems to track the progress, effectiveness, and outcomes of sea level rise adaptation measures and the Joint Platform and will look towards the ICG to review and provide guidance.
- b. The ICG will provide guidance on metrics based on new scientific findings, changing circumstances, and lessons learned from implemented projects.

10. Advocacy and Collaboration Beyond Our Community:

- a. We will actively engage with leaders outside this committee to promote collaboration, information sharing, and joint adaptation efforts.
- b. We will advocate for supportive policies, legislation, and funding at higher levels of government to facilitate and strengthen sea level rise adaptation initiatives.
- c. We will contribute to knowledge sharing and collaboration networks, both nationally and internationally, to exchange best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions for sea level rise adaptation.



We agree to work together to implement sea level rise adaptation in the Bay Area, in accordance with ICG's purpose and community principles.