

WORKING DRAFT

ONE BAY VISION

FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE SHORELINE



MARCH 2024

"Living in harmony with our evolving landscape."

- Jenny, Berkeley

(survey respondent)

Gathering values and visions from communities across the Bay Area

As waters in the Bay rise due to climate change, the Bay Area's communities and shorelines face an increased risk of flooding, which can damage critical infrastructure, lead to losses of natural shoreline habitats, and disrupt our daily ways of life. For more than a decade, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has been working to prepare our communities for the challenge ahead. **The One Bay Vision lays the foundation for what a more resilient future can look like.**

The One Bay Vision is an essential component of BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP). It describes what adaptation to sea level rise should look like for our communities, and outlines actions we can take across our region to achieve successful adaptation. The vision reflects our values today and acknowledges that the future Bay shoreline will look different as communities continuously adapt over time.

The One Bay Vision captures our communities' common priorities and goals, which add up to our collective shared future. This began with initial research on existing visions from previous planning efforts at BCDC and elsewhere, and we built upon it by talking to a wide range of communities across the Bay Area to learn what they valued today and for the future.



Photos from the One Bay Vision outreach process in Fall 2023. Clockwise from the top left: Richmond, Menlo Park, American Canyon, and Bayview.

In Fall 2023 the BCDC team participated in in-person pop-up events across the Bay Area to gather input from community members on their regional values, spread awareness of the RSAP effort, and direct attendees to take the longer-form vision and values survey. Pop-ups were held in Richmond, San Rafael, Newark, San Francisco, Oakland, American Canyon, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Suisun City, where participants engaged in dot voting, shoreline coloring book activities, and discussions about the shoreline with staff. Over 250 people participated in contributing their values during these events.

BCDC also hosted an online survey to gather Bay-wide input on why the public values the shoreline, their priorities for the future of the Bay, and their hopes and concerns for Bay-wide adaptation efforts. This survey was open August-November 2023, and gathered 246 responses from around the Bay Area.

Together, the myriad voices we heard drove the vision we hold for a more resilient future. Read on to discover our One Bay Vision for the bay!

"We have adapted to rising water and learned to shape our communities to defend where we can, and welcome the water in, where we can't."

*-Anonymous,
Menlo Park
(survey respondent)*



One Bay Vision for a Resilient Future Shoreline

As sea levels rise, the Bay Area's diverse communities come together to transform how we live, work, plan, and adapt along our changing shorelines.

In this future, communities are **healthy, safe**, and have greater **access** to the shoreline where they can feel connected to the Bay's edge and experience the beauty and wonder of thriving **habitats** we depend upon to sustain our quality of life. Our region remains **connected** so that networks of people and goods can move with ease and get to the places they need to go. The **services** we rely upon keep our communities and economies running and are designed for the long-term. Achieving this future will require **governments, the private sector, and communities** to make a commitment to equity, address past harms, and take on complex, interrelated challenges together. A resilient future for the San Francisco Bay Area starts now and continues for generations to come.



a. Community Health and Wellbeing



b. Critical Infrastructure and Services



c. Ecosystem Health and Resilience



d. Governance, Collaboration, and Finance

As sea levels rise...

Communities are healthy and vibrant.

To achieve this:

- Adapt Bay Area communities to safeguard all from the public health consequences of flooding and support healthy environments, public safety, and quality of life.
- Meaningfully engage and empower communities in adaptation decision-making processes, including language access.
- Address risks to essential community assets, services including Bay ecosystem services, and cultural resources.
- Prioritize economic opportunities from adaptation in disadvantaged communities through local hire, workforce development, and other community benefits.

Critical services are reliable.

To achieve this:

- Adapt existing local and regional critical infrastructure systems to maintain or improve service continuity for everyone, while minimizing vulnerabilities of new infrastructure networks to future flooding hazards and utilizing nature-based approaches where possible.
- Integrate flooding hazards into emergency management services planning and operations.
- Prioritize adaptations that address service deficiencies in underserved communities.

Healthy Baylands ecosystems thrive.

To achieve this:

- Protect, restore, and enhance Baylands ecosystems to improve their function, scale, biodiversity, and services.
- Prioritize nature-based solutions where possible and incorporate habitat connectivity, sediment management, and whole watershed approaches into shoreline planning and projects.
- Identify and facilitate opportunities for ecosystems to migrate landward to support and enhance natural adaptation processes.

Regional collaboration drives efficient and effective adaptation.

To achieve this:

- Ensure local and regional governments collaborate to address shared flooding risk, identify multi-benefit adaptation opportunities, including nature-based solutions, and avoid adverse flooding impacts to other jurisdictions.
- Identify and engage with Indigenous partners when planning, implementing, and managing shoreline adaptation projects.
- Promote formal and informal multi-stakeholder collaborations equipped to effectively plan, fund, implement, maintain, and adaptively manage adaptation strategies over time.
- Improve funding and regulatory processes to expedite innovative and transformative adaptation projects with regional benefits.



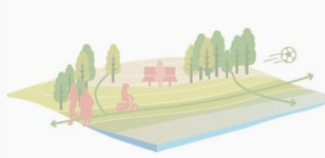
**e. Housing,
Development, and
Land Use**

As sea levels rise...

Places are designed for a changing shoreline.

To achieve this:

- Adapt existing development equitably and plan new and re-development projects to ensure community safety, equity, and Bay ecological health.
- Align land use planning with risk mitigation while considering long-term economic vitality for all.
- Support the region in creating affordable housing and meeting state-mandated housing goals while preserving public trust uses of the Bay and reducing populations at risk of flooding.



**f. Public Access and
Recreation**

The Bay Shoreline is accessible to all.

To achieve this:

- Expand and improve diverse varied public access, such as recreation opportunities and water-dependent or culturally significant waterfront uses, through adaptation.
- Prioritize connecting disadvantaged neighborhoods to a healthy Bay, creating equitable access for diverse communities.
- Balance the need for human enjoyment, sustenance, and cultural connection to the Bay with healthy ecosystems.



**g. Shoreline
Contamination**

People and ecosystems are safe from contamination

To achieve this:

- Collaborate with communities, scientists, industries, and government agencies to identify, adapt, and remediate contaminated shoreline sites.
- Prioritize remediation of contaminated sites in Environmental Justice communities, while minimizing transferring contamination burden.
- Integrate emerging science on shallow groundwater rise into planning and adaptation decisions, and identify innovative solutions.



**h. Transportation and
Transit**

Safe and reliable transportation connects the region.

To achieve this:

- Adapt local and regional transportation systems to ensure safe and reliable connectivity by air, land, and water.
- Ensure continuity and equitable service in transit dependent communities.
- Identify and integrate multi-benefit opportunities, such as improving ecological health, utilizing green infrastructure, and expanding public access, with transportation projects.
- Promote active, low emissions mobility options for environmental and economic benefit.

Stay involved in the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

This summary of the One Bay Vision provides information on how the One Bay Vision was developed. The vision will guide the remainder of the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) project throughout 2024.

The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.

You can stay involved in this process by visiting our project website at: <https://www.bayadapt.org/regional-shoreline-adaptation-plan/>

You can also sign up for the RSAP Project Email Updates here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/IICNWAb>

www.BayAdapt.org