



Implementation Coordination Group (ICG) Updates

Prepared for ICG Meeting #6 February 5th 2025

ICG's Purpose

The Implementation Coordinating Group (ICG) consists of executive leaders of organizations committed to regional **collective action** and **transformative solutions** for sea level rise adaptation. The purpose of ICG is to **advance policy, funding, and governance that accelerates the implementation of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform priority tasks.**

Introduction

Much progress has been made on the Bay Area sea level rise adaptation and the advancement of the Bay Adapt [Joint Platform](#) since our last meeting in September 2024! In November, California voters passed Proposition 4, the Climate Bond, a \$10B bond that includes \$1.2B for coastal resilience statewide. We're thankful to various ICG members who've been connecting the various public funding agencies to one another and to project needs, identifying avenues for funding advocacy, and exploring the private sector's role in SLR adaptation. In addition, ICG members were instrumental in helping pass the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024, which includes a USACE-led SF Bay Study focused on sea level rise and flooding,

nature-based solutions, and disadvantaged communities. A special thanks to **Allison Brooks, Amy Hutzell, Rigel Robinson, Eric Olson, and Tessa Beach**, who will provide more details at the February 5 meeting.

BCDC is also pleased to share that the [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan](#) was adopted by its Commission on December 5. The RSAP is a pivotal milestone in regional climate change policy, and the result of two years of public engagement with local communities and many others, including the ICG. It also starts to fulfill the requirements of SB 272 for cities and counties to prepare their own subregional plans. BCDC staff are shifting their attention to developing a Technical Assistance program to help support these plans, as well as a Metrics Dashboard to track progress and outcomes.

From the fires in LA to the new Trump administration, 2025 is undoubtedly bringing a lot of change and uncertainty with respect to climate adaptation. We look forward to the ICG's guidance on how best to navigate these new challenges and keep our collective work moving forward. Below we have highlighted some key projects underway and present opportunities and challenges in moving Joint Platform tasks forward. This report is not comprehensive but highlights areas that ICG members may be interested in engaging with or can assist with. Please feel free to share additional updates that can be added to the report and shared later. The detailed status of each Joint Platform task can be tracked in the [Joint Platform Tasks Status Tracker](#).

Task Progress Highlights

Action 2: Elevate communities to lead

- **Overview:** BCDC's Shoreline Leadership Academies aim to increase community capacity in underrepresented communities to participate in shoreline adaptation planning processes. Starting in 2025 are two Academies, funded through NOAA: a youth academy in San Francisco in the winter/spring of 2025 in partnership with the Port of SF, and an adult academy in Contra Costa County starting in the summer/fall of 2025.
- **Status:** The San Francisco Shoreline Leadership Academy kicked off in January and will run through May 2025.
- **Highlights/Challenges/Synergies:** The Shoreline Leadership Academies will increase community capacity by training community members in the 8 topic

areas of the RSAP. Participants will learn from subject matter experts and be prepared to serve as advisors to their local jurisdiction's Regional Shoreline Planning Process. Each participant will prepare a final presentation on a topic of their choosing for the last session of their academy. BCDC is partnering with the Exploratorium, the Port of San Francisco, and Contra Costa County to implement these academies. As a grant-funded initiative, a challenge will be sustaining the program over the long term.

- **Next Steps:** The SF Shoreline Leadership Academy is meeting every Wednesday from January 15-May 7th. Planning for the Contra Costa County Shoreline Leadership Academy begins in the Spring of 2025.

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

- **Overview:** BCDC is developing a Technical Assistance (TA) program to assist cities and counties in developing Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans. The TA program will be focused around 5 core program areas: 1) RSAP/Subregional Plan 101, 2) Subregional Plan Resourcing, 3) Jurisdiction/Agency Coordination, 4) Best Available Science, Data & Modeling Guidance, and 5) Benchmarking (setting targets and milestones to track progress on plans). In addition, the BARC agencies are scoping a multi-agency Regional SLR Technical Assistance Program.
- **Status:** The RSAP TA work plan is under development. An interactive Regional Mapping Platform is undergoing user testing and will be available in the Spring. BCDC anticipates rolling out TA functions beginning in March/April and ramping up throughout 2025.
- **Highlights/Challenges/Synergies:** The RSAP TA program will rely on partner expertise and capacity to support various issues and topic areas. BCDC has been coordinating with the BARC agencies and partners developing the multi-agency regional SLR TA program, to ensure that the programs are complementary.
- **Next Steps:** Continue scoping BARC TA alongside the launch of the BCDC TA program to be compatible and leverage one another's scope and capacity.

Action 6: Figure out how to fund adaptation

- **Overview:** As described in the Intro, several efforts are moving forward amongst public agencies, advocates, and the private sector – all geared toward answering the same question: how to address the nearly \$100 B funding SLR adaptation shortfall anticipated through 2050. BCDC, in partnership with MTC/ABAG, is developing a SLR Investment Strategy that will develop a tool to support project evaluation to help the region identify adaptation projects, evaluate them, prioritize them, and fund them in an effective and equitable manner.
- **Status:** In 2024, BCDC staff conducted interviews with more than a dozen representatives from across the country to investigate other investment strategies and learn from them. This was developed into a background report and the project is now moving to launch tool development in 2025.
- **Highlights/Synergies/Challenges:** The project will require significant regional buy-in and engagement. There will be limits to our ability to consistently evaluate adaptation projects across numerous geographies and project goals. The investment strategy should connect to SB 272 goals, the RSAP regional priorities, and other ongoing work to support investment in the region. The project should synergize with existing funding programs where feasible.
- **Next Steps:** BCDC and MTC/ABAG will launch a Steering Committee in February to help develop the methodology and outcomes throughout 2025. In addition to the Steering Committee, there will also be technical workshops that help ensure project methods are valid and produce meaningful results. The tool itself will be developed between 2025 and 2026.

Action 7: Refine and improve regulatory processes

- **Overview:** Action 7 of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform calls on agencies to refine and accelerate regulatory approvals processes. BCDC is working to improve its permitting program with the goal of enhancing its efficiency, efficacy, and transparency, while simultaneously building capacity to meet the challenge of accelerating the permitting of major regionally significant adaptation projects.
- **Status:** In 2024, BCDC completed a year-long evaluation of its permitting program, and identified projects to systematically improve the program over the next several years. Priorities include 1) establishing a more robust and systematic pre-application process, 2) updating the BCDC permit application and bringing

it to an online platform, 3) implementing new project management techniques to accelerate decision-making, 4) speeding up approvals of nature-based solutions, and other related efforts.

- **Highlights/Challenges/Synergies:** Beyond improving its own permitting program, BCDC is seeking to expand the degree of interagency coordination on permitting for projects that involve approvals from multiple local, state, and federal agencies.
- **Next Steps:** In the first part of 2025, BCDC staff will propose for the Commission to consider an overhaul of the rules that guide its Region-wide Permit program, which is a tool to accelerate the permitting process for many common activities that occur in the Bay and on the shoreline. Staff will also be approaching partners at other regulatory agencies to identify opportunities to enhance coordinated review of permitting projects.

Action 8: Fund and facilitate faster adaptation projects.

- **Overview:** In November, California voters passed Proposition 4, the Climate Bond, a \$10B bond that includes \$1.2B for coastal resilience statewide. The bond is intended to increase coastal and ocean resiliency and to protect coastal lands, waters, communities, natural resources, and urban waterfronts from sea level rise and other climate impacts. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, projects to restore coastal wetlands and address sea level rise, and includes additional funds that support OPC's SB1 grant program, SCC's Climate Ready Program, and the SF Bay Restoration Authority, among others.
- **Status:** Funds are anticipated to begin being distributed in FY 25/26.
- **Highlights/Challenges/Synergies:** CNRA is the lead entity tasked with administering and coordinating the Climate Bond across the state, which includes allocations for Coastal Conservancy, Ocean Protection Council, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others. Bond fund amounts will be budgeted annually. Bond funds support existing and possibly new programs, centered around a shared set of principles set forth by Secretary Crowfoot: 1) Strategic, 2) Multi Benefit, 3) Coordinated, 4) Accessible, and 5) Accountable.
- **Next Steps:** Through the State budgeting process, the administration and legislature will further define avenues for getting the funds out for their intended purposes. SCC, OPC, BCDC, and CCC will host public webinars in the spring,

including a Bay Area-focused webinar, to 1) share info about the multiple sources of public funds available for SLR adaptation and how to access these funds, and 2) how to be competitive for public funding, which includes completion/adoption of plans.

Action 9: Track and report progress to guide future actions

- **Overview:** Bay Adapt *Currents* is a compelling and informative online dashboard that tracks metrics associated with Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks.
- **Status:** The metrics dashboard is undergoing external user testing and will be released in early March. The dashboard will be dynamic and continue to be updated, added to, and improved over time.
- **Highlights/Challenges/Synergies:** As SB272 Subregional Plans are developed, the dashboard intends to use information from those plans to report progress in the region. Additionally, the metrics are intended to help guide priorities in future implementation of tasks depending on whether the performance of metrics is improving or not. BCDC also seeks to highlight and leverage other metrics tracked by other agencies to complete a more comprehensive picture of progress.
- **Next Steps:** Launch on Bay Adapt website in early March.

ICG Member Updates



Laura Tam has joined the ICG! Laura is the Chief Executive Officer of Bay Planning Coalition, a network of over 150 organizations that advocate for effective policy, funding, and regulation for San Francisco Bay and its surrounding communities. Laura has over 25 years of experience building partnerships to advance natural

resources policy, climate resilience, and healthy places. A thought leader on Bay planning issues, she has written numerous white papers and policy studies covering water, energy, and climate in the region, has contributed chapters to two books focused on planning for sea level rise, and is a co-author of the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Climate Central, the San Francisco Chronicle, and KQED to cite a few. Laura has significant experience working with diverse organizations to build consensus and develop shared agreements around some of society's most daunting environmental and infrastructural challenges. We welcome Laura to the ICG and look forward to her sharing her expertise!

About Bay Adapt

The Bay Adapt Joint Platform, adopted in 2021, was collaboratively developed with regional leaders and the input of hundreds of stakeholders. It has been endorsed by 55 cities and counties, regional, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and more. Implementing the Joint Platform requires coordinated collective action to overcome the major challenges to adaptation in the Bay Area. **Sustained leadership, sufficient resources, distributed ownership** of the various actions, and **navigating complex organizational structures** are needed for successful execution and outcomes. Learn more at www.bayadapt.org

How ICG Works

ICG advances its purpose and priorities through:

- Working towards an annual priority task through coordination and collective action with each member taking responsibility for advancing specific actions
- Identifying challenges and opportunities in implementing the Joint Platform Priority Tasks
- Building a collective body of knowledge about projects and progress
- Ensuring that equity is embedded in all Bay Adapt actions
- Following our [Community Principles](#)

A list of ICG Members can be found here: [Implementation Coordinating Group – Bay Adapt](#)