

CHAPTER 2

How We Developed the Plan

September 2021 DRAFT

Plan Development Process

Key steps in the Plan development process included the following:

- Step 1: Reviewing previous plan and new information.
- Step 2: Scope and organize the Planning Team.
- Step 3: Identify assets and assess hazards.
- Step 4: Conduct risk assessment and analysis.
- Step 5: Develop and prioritize hazard mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Step 6: Conduct stakeholder engagement and community outreach.
- Step 7: Draft and finalize the plan. The City developed a draft Plan, which was revised to incorporate community input during the review process in Step 6, and then produced a final Plan.

Incorporation of Existing Plans, Studies, Reports, and Technical Information

The plan update included the review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information to inform the hazard and risk assessment and development of strategies.

- **City of Alameda 2040 General Plan (Draft, 2021).** The General Plan is a statement of goals, objectives, policies and actions that describe the community's priorities for the next 20 years. California State law requires that every city adopt and maintain an up to date, internally consistent general plan. The City's current General Plan has not been comprehensively updated since 1990, and many new and important challenges are facing the Alameda community. The draft General Plan addresses climate change, affordable housing, equity and inclusiveness, safe streets, open space and park funding priorities, and disaster preparation.
- **Plan Bay Area 2050 (Draft, 2021).** Plan Bay Area 2050 focuses on four key issues: the economy, the environment, housing and transportation. This new regional plan outlines strategies for growth and investment through the year 2050, while simultaneously striving to meet and exceed federal and state requirements. The plan will identify a path to make the Bay Area more equitable for all residents and more resilient in the face of unexpected challenges. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments are expected to adopt Plan Bay Area 2050 in fall 2021.
- **The Response of the Shallow Groundwater Layer and Contaminants to Sea Level Rise (2020).** The study developed an estimate of the existing groundwater surface and analyzed the response of the shallow groundwater table to a suite of sea level rise scenarios. Areas with emergent groundwater flooding and existing contaminant concentrations above human health benchmarks were identified as potential areas of concern.

- **Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (2019):** The Climate Action and Resiliency Plan is a long-term plan to reduce Alameda’s Greenhouse Gas emissions that cause climate change through equitable improvements to transportation, buildings, energy use, and waste management and adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as rising seas and increasing extreme heat and smoke days.
- **USGS HayWired Scenario (2018).** The HayWired project models the impacts on housing, infrastructure, the economy and community in the San Francisco Bay area from a magnitude 7 earthquake and associated aftershocks on the Hayward Fault.
- **BCDC Adaptation to Rising Tides, Oakland-Alameda Resilience Study (2016).** The Oakland-Alameda Resilience Study assessed resilience of the Oakland International Airport, the Oakland Coliseum, the East Oakland neighborhoods around the Coliseum and Bay Farm Island. The project included and assessment of vulnerabilities, risks and mitigation opportunities for multiple hazards – earthquakes, sea level rise, and flooding – that threaten the people, facilities, infrastructure, and community services. The study was led by the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Program and conducted in partnership with the Association of Bay Area Governments Resilience Program
- **ABAG Stronger Housing Safer Communities (2015).** The project was designed to better understand the challenges Bay Area housing and communities face from earthquakes. The project engaged local stakeholders and topical experts to identify the housing and communities that are particularly vulnerable, and to develop locally relevant strategies to address the specific vulnerabilities and consequences identified. The project was led by the ART Program and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Resilience Program
- **BCDC Adapting to Rising Tides, Alameda County Vulnerability and Risk Report (2012).** The project assessed the vulnerability and risk to the Alameda County shoreline and community resources from sea level rise and storm events. The project led to strategies to help communicate and resolve these complex issues, as well as processes to integrate adaptation into local and regional planning and decision-making. The project was led by the ART Program.

Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach

An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan. As demonstrated below, community members were provided multiple opportunities for public comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval. In addition, the City also engaged neighboring communities and jurisdictions on the plan development.

Green Team

The City’s Green Team meets monthly and is comprised of department heads and oversees implementation of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) and ensures that key milestones are met. The Green Team served as the Executive Review Team for this effort to ensure the effort was aligned with CARP implementation priorities.

Planning Team

The City convened an interdepartmental planning team to guide development of the Plan and had its first meeting in May 2021. The planning team met monthly throughout the plan development process to oversee and guide the Plan update process. The planning team was specifically responsible for:

- Developing and participating in community and key partner engagement strategy
- Providing updates to plan sections as needed
- Reviewing and providing input on draft plan
- Identifying new mitigation strategies (goals, actions, prioritization of actions, implementation plan)
- Ensuring integration with other citywide plans (two-way exchange)

Agendas for the planning team meetings and a list of participants are included in **Appendix A**.

Community Engagement

Website

The planning team established a dedicated webpage for the plan update on the City website. The site can be found at: <https://www.alamedaca.gov/hazardmitigationplan>.

Community Survey

In July 2021, a community survey was shared to provide the opportunity for community members to identify their natural hazards of concern and actions that they have taken to prepare for natural hazards. A link to the survey was included on the city's website and was shared via the city's social media account and the Parks Department's social media. An invitation to complete the survey was also included in a Parks Department newsletter in July. The Alameda Real Estate Association included a link to the survey in its August newsletter. Postcards with a link to the survey and information about the virtual open houses were also printed and distributed to each of the branch libraries and in city hall to make them available to members of the public. CASA members placed flyers on doorsteps on residents in the neighborhood around Woodstock Park the weekend of September 11-12.

The survey responses were reviewed and analyzed for incorporation into the draft plan at the end of August, but the survey was kept open to provide additional opportunities for public input throughout the engagement process. 519 responses were received to the community survey as of August 23, 2021. A copy of the survey questions and a summary of responses is included in **Appendix B**.

Online Input

Survey respondents were asked to provide their email address to receive updates on the Plan and the email list was used to advertise dates for the virtual open houses and to share a link to the draft plan for public comment.

Virtual Open Houses

Virtual open houses are planned for the community to provide input on the draft plan on the following dates:

- Thursday, September 16, 6-7 pm
- Wednesday, September 22, 12-1 pm
- Tuesday, September 28, 7-8 pm

Incorporation of Public Comment

Responses from the community survey were considered in the development of the draft plan. Comments on the plan after the draft plan was released were received by email or verbally during public comments at board and commission meetings and from virtual open houses and were documented and incorporated into the draft plan.

Key Partner and Neighboring Jurisdiction Outreach

Key partners and neighboring jurisdictions were invited to comment on the draft plan during the public review period. Specific agencies were also contacted during the drafting of the plan to provide input to the plan. Agencies that were contacted during the development of the Plan include:

- Caltrans
- EBMUD
- Alameda County
- City of Oakland
- City of San Leandro
- City of San Francisco
- Port of Oakland
- BCDC
- PG&E
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
- Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Boards and Commissions

The draft plan was presented at publicly noticed meetings of the following boards and commissions:

- Historical Advisory Board, October 7, 2021
- Persons with Disabilities, October 13, 2021
- Transportation, October 27, 2021
- Social Service and Human Relations, October 28, 2021
- Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and their Families, October 28, 2021
- Public Utility Board, TBD

Plan Adoption Process

The final Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to CalOES for review and ultimate approval by FEMA. Once FEMA issues the Approval Pending Adoption, the City will present the approved Plan to City Council for adoption by resolution.

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