



San Leandro Bay
Oakland-Alameda Estuary
Adaptation Working Group

Notes for Meeting on April 19, 2023

Location

Virtual meeting led by the City of Alameda and included 47 participants from 30 organizations.

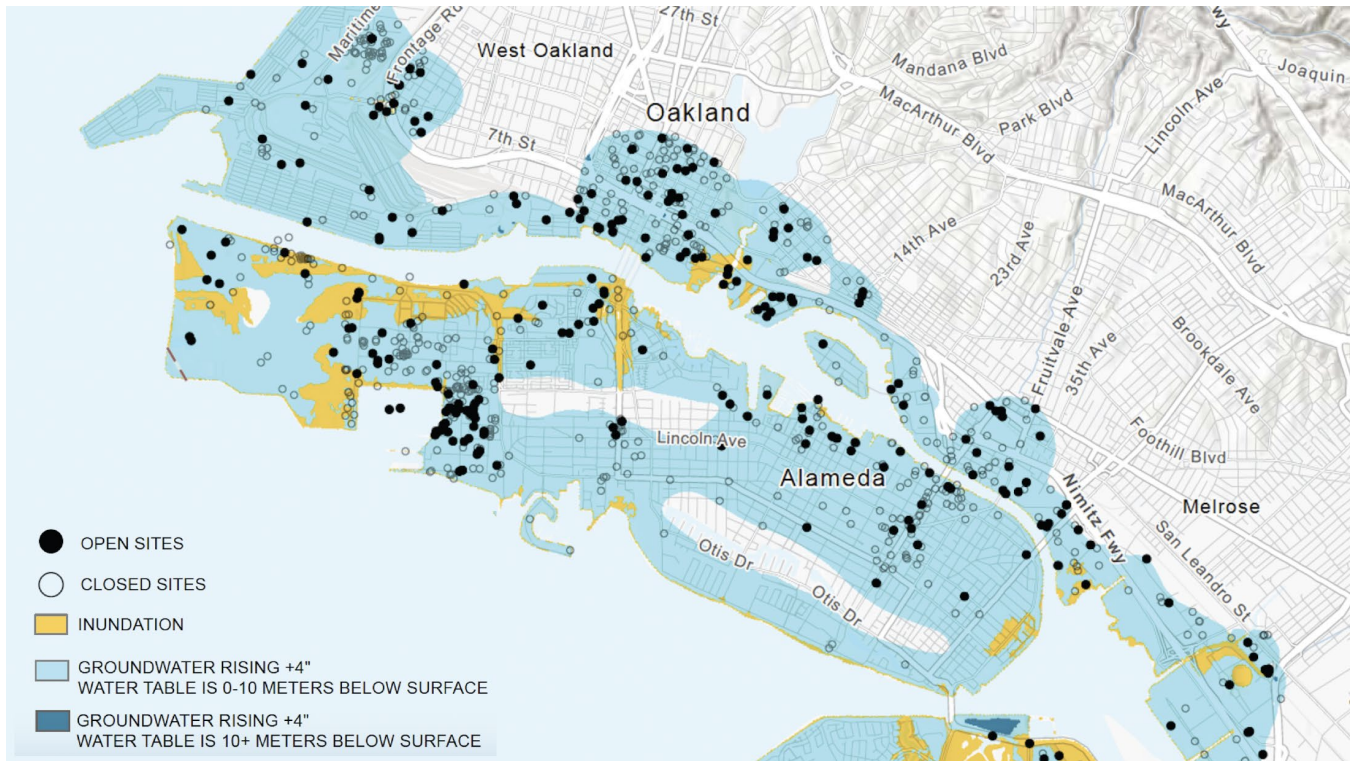
Purpose

The Working Group coordinates San Leandro Bay/Oakland-Alameda Estuary flood and adaptation projects to protect and restore water quality, habitat and adjacent community vitality.

Adaptation Working Group webpage: www.alamedaca.gov/AdaptationWorkingGroup

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions (All)
 - Danielle Mieler/City of Alameda gave a land acknowledgement
 - Self introductions
2. Presentation: Shallow Groundwater Response to Sea-Level Rise: Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties – Ellen Plane, SFEI and Kris May, Pathways Climate Institute
 - Shared the following link: <https://www.sfei.org/projects/shallow-groundwater-response-sea-level-rise>
 - Keta in chat: Thanks for the presentation
 - Kristina Hill of UC Berkeley: One quick note - my research group at UC Berkeley has a new map available of the 1800+ open contaminated sites around the SF Bay Area that are on top of rising groundwater. It'll be out at the end of this month, beginning of May. We do see more vulnerable, open sites in frontline communities. It will be linked from here: <https://ced.berkeley.edu/urbanism> - Here's a map that shows the contaminated sites over rising groundwater in most of Oakland and Alameda - this is what we're producing.



- Chris Velasco – City of Oakland: Asked about funding opportunities and if it is a dynamic model (Ellen answered: Numeric modeling is a different process. USGS has done it through Our Coast Our Future web map.
- Ellen Plane in chat: Our Coast Our Future Flood Map: <https://ourcoastourfuture.org/hazard-map/>
- Ms. Margaret Gordon of West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP): West Oakland is the oldest industrial site in the Bay Area where the chemicals have saturated into the soil. Sea level rise will push up the chemicals in the community. There are 30+ sites in West Oakland that need to be remediated.
- Kristina Hill: Stated that there is a regional list for the whole region of sites that are vulnerable for overtopping.
- Ms. Margaret Gordon: Stated that regional does not help local. It needs to start locally.
- Jan Novak of the Port: Mentioned that the Port is applying for a grant to work with West Oakland to look at these groundwater intrusions.
- Robin Freeman of Brower Dellums Institute in chat: Is there any organizing to support homeowners and renters who have been or will be flooded?
- Kris May in chat: We (Pathways, SFEI, Kristina Hill, Kevin Befus, and others) are currently pursuing grant funding or other opportunities to develop a detailed MODFLOW model that can combine the impacts of rising seas, storm surge, groundwater, and precipitation -- including the swings from extreme drought to extreme wet years. We always welcome more people to help us get this work moving forward. There is a lot of work to do!
- Danielle Mieler: Mentioned the sub-regional efforts to look at these issues in more detail.
- Kristina Hill: The priority is for action in West Oakland. There are more open sites in frontline communities so these areas are the priority and certainly for funding remediation.

- Jan Novak: Asked Ellen/Kris for the modeling program that they used. (Kris responded: Used an empirical driven model using GIS compared in tandem with the MODFLOW model to make a more accurate three dimensional model on groundwater rise. It was funded under the Cosmos project.
- Kris May in chat: Here is the science behind the MODFLOW modeling: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0874-1>
- Jonathan DeLong of REAP: Asked about a timeline for local data layers and how they can be presented so local organizations can use them and be integrated into the decision making process.
- Danielle Mieler: Discussed the Working Group projects that will be looking at these details.
- Kris May: Discussed the interest to pursue grants to better understand the local knowledge and to use the information once it is created.

3. Working Group adaptation projects update

- Joshua Polston of the Port: Provided an update for the North Field assessment and is finalizing the study. The Port will be scheduling meetings with stakeholders, and plans to release the study soon.
- Jan Novak: Mentioned the Port's request for proposals for consultants and withdrew it partially because they are looking for grant funding. The contract needs to be compliant with federal funding. The Port will be re-releasing the RFP shortly. It includes the Environmental Justice Government to Government grant, and can include areas beyond the Port of Oakland and is scalable.
- Danielle Mieler: Provided an update on the three Working Group projects that the City of Alameda is leading: Long-term Plan, Oakland-Alameda Estuary Project, Bay Farm Island Project.
 - Next steps:
 - Onboard Community Partners - Alameda City Council approval, June 6
 - Issue RFP for Technical Consultant – May 2 with expected deadline June 20
 - Onboard Technical Consultant – Alameda City Council approval, September 5
 - Kick off projects – fall
- Marilyn Latta of Coastal Conservancy: Would like to know the metrics that are looking to achieve. Want to include nature-based solutions. It is not a standard science. She will share the latest best practices that are site specific.
- Ms. Margaret Gordon: Wants to hear about environmental justice and community outreach. She wants to hear about equity and inclusion in these projects. Wants to hear more specifics such as air and water as well as infrastructural barriers such as freeways.
- Arthur Feinstein of Sierra Club: Discussed the request for proposals for consultants, and wanting consultants with nature-based experience and social equity and justice issues.

4. Community partner and project updates

- Devan Reiff of EBRPD: Announced that the SF Bay Trail Doolittle Drive section is open and they will have a formal opening in the summer.
- Robin Freeman of Broward Dellums: Stated that they are working on the San Leandro Creek trail project and hoping to break ground this year and then complete it next year. This summer, they will have an educational program, and are looking for a project on the Ratto Farms.
- Keta Price, The Hood Planner: East Oakland Neighborhoods Initiative - Bay Trail Bike Ride on May 6 to ride the East Oakland segment – Webpage: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/east-oakland-neighborhoods-initiative>
- Jonathan DeLong of REAP Climate Center: Announced that they were approved for ten Climate Fellows from the Climate Corps.
- Keta Price: Announced the Sacred Spaces project that is underway and is funded.

- Shy Walker of Ninth Root: Announced a survey on wellness and will provide the link.
5. Announcements and close
- Marilyn Latta of Coastal Conservancy: Announced the Regionally Advancing Shorelines project, which is a project to learn from pilots, to develop guidelines and then to design living shorelines with key stakeholders around the bay. Wrote a NFWF grant for spartina control.
 - Jennifer Ku of EBMUD: Announced a 100th birthday celebration at Temescal:
<https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/who-we-are/centennial-celebration/100th-birthday-party-and-community-fair>

Next meetings:

- Field visit/meeting on Wednesday, June 21 at 1 p.m. – Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero, Oakland; Draft agenda: Community Partners presentations, Working Group projects and field visit of Estuary Park
- Zoom meeting: Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.