

San Leandro Bay/Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Working Group

Notes for Meeting on December 8, 2021

Location

Virtual meeting led by the City of Alameda and included 27 participants from 18 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)
 - Contact information included with notes to the Working Group.
2. Shoreline Organization Presentations: OneShoreline (Len Materman)
 - Slides posted on website
 - Danielle Mieler asked to explain to process of forming JPA. Response: A county supervisor – Kevin Mullen - was working with the C-CAG group and political support from Jackie Speir and it did take a few years. There were questions about who would be the lead. Every City Council agreed to put in monies for three years. It takes local champions from elected officials who have credibility to buy into early who have credibility to implement it. JPAs are easy yet have less authority compared to special districts yet JPAs are a reasonable approach.
 - Hoi-Fei Mok of the City of San Leandro asked a question about the scale is desired. Response: It is easier since it is all in Alameda County. He does not think that multiple counties need to resolve it and come together so it is better to stay within Alameda County. Daniel Hamilton responded: @Fei. Scale is the big question. SFEI and others are bay-wide. Easier to assemble local stakeholders. Billion-dollar question...
 - Erik Pearson asked about financial contributions and budget. Response: In 2019, the contributions are by population and three tiers were created totaling \$1.5 million and the County provided \$1 million and now the state contributions will help. A ballot measure is expected in 2022. On the project side, he described that they developed MOUs between the cities.
 - Brian Laczko, HARD asked about the ballot measure. Response: The Board has seven members, and a sub-committee is exploring it. The County would need to decide to place it on the November ballot and they are considering a parcel tax and not a bond because they do need to fund operations. They would divide it between wildfire and water issues, and the grant programs would align with these two issues.
 - Daniel Hamilton of the City of Oakland: Asked about the role of the regulatory agencies have played into it. Response: Need land, monies and permits, and permits do cause delays. They are in close working relationship with BCDC on construction and planning side. They will go with the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) process and in concept is a good approach.
 - Ms Margaret Gordon provided in chat: Update for SF Chronicle : <https://www.sfchronicle.com/climate/article/This-delta-wetland-restoration-will-help-16680372.php>

- Gail Payne asked how to formalize. Response: He recommended connecting with a law firm to help with the legal aspects of formalizing.
 - Erik Pearson asked about the difference between JPAs versus Special Districts. Response: A JPA is a joint power authority so if you have different types of agencies then need to be aware of all the authorities and what is joint among them. With a Special District then you are able to write the legislation and it is at the state level, and can write in what you want. Nevertheless, there may be a need to change it. There were negotiations on the bill at the state level and legislators did have changes and it is not necessary. For next steps, he would be glad to chat again about the OneShoreline authorities are and what they plan to do in the future for Special District. As for JPA, it is difficult to amend it and he expressed the need to have a solid document thinking about the future needs. They ultimately needed a coordination agency and the original JPA agreement did not envision it.
3. Shoreline Organization Presentations: Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (Erik Pearson)
- Slides posted on website
 - Ms. Margaret Gordon question in chat: Need to know the toxic sites of each area, is there TRI mapping and what planning design for clean-up. Response: Pump toxins from landfill to treatment facility. (Jessica provided: TRI is Toxics Release Inventory <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>)
 - Danielle Mieler: Asked about pooling monies and cooperative/joint project work. Response: Finances have been handled by the host agencies, and cities pay the bills. EBRPD will be doing it as of January 2022. Each project involves a different combination of agencies, and may have a different lead agency so the funding will probably be unique for each project. The Bachman channel included four agencies to do a benefit/cost analysis, and the sanitation district contributed more monies with an informal arrangement for the study. The sanitation district will take the lead with the grant application.
 - Joshua Polston asked if the grant is the HMGP. Response: yes
4. Working Group Organizational Structure (Danielle Mieler, City of Alameda)
- Slides posted on website
 - Adopt logo design: there were positive comments with several thumbs up reactions on Zoom.
 - Sign-ups for steering committee/subareas: Daniel Hamilton – City of Oakland; Joshua Polston – Port of Oakland will lead the effort to have a Port representative; Norman Wong – BART is interested in being part of the steering committee; Matt Graul – EBRPD is involved with HASPA and is interested in EBRPD having a role and expressed interest in various subareas. Joseph Huston – Alameda County may be interested in being involved in the steering committee.
 - Caitlin Sweeney mentioned in chat: I see the value of a smaller steering committee and would offer up the Estuary Partnership as an involved regional partner in whatever way that makes sense - Steering Committee or a larger, broader group
 - Camille Tsao of CCJPA mentioned in chat: I think a subcommittee is a good idea. Not sure if we have enough staff availability to join the subcommittee but will let you know, Danielle.
 - Ms. Margaret Gordon: Requested west Oakland as another circle based on the demographics and Port impacts. Oakland is going through a General Plan and how is this process being included in the General Plan.
 - Joseph Huston understands that the subareas are differentiated and the holistic is going to be key. He thinks the big picture is important. The impacts of a subarea project can spill over into the other subareas.
 - Dana Brechwald: I agree with Caitlin - you definitely have BCDC support but maybe we should spend some time separately brainstorming about the role of regional agencies in supporting you

5. Project and CBO Updates

- Joshua Polston of the Port: Reached a milestone and the elevations on a new dyke are completed. They will be following up with FEMA. He mentioned the HMGP letters deadline, and the Port plans to do additional studies on State Route 61 and will submit this project.
- Danielle Mieler of the City of Alameda announced that the City will be submitting projects to the HMGP deadline later this month. She noted that the California Resilience Challenge was not successful.
- Dana Brechwald of BCDC: Announced that BCDC adopted Bay Adapt, which include 21 tasks on sea level rise mitigation. One of the tasks is on setting up sub-regional groups similar to what this group is doing. BCDC is looking for support letters from local agencies, and expressed appreciation for the City of San Leandro support letter. She mentioned in chat that one of the first tasks we are working on is working with the state on ensuring that the Bay Area's fair share of resilience funding actually comes to us (and you); Email: dana.brechwald@bcdc.ca.gov
- Ms. Margaret Gordon mentioned a celebration this Saturday to see the projects developed by the Shoreline Academy. The event also is live streamed on Facebook through the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. Date: Saturday, December 11, 2021, Time: 2p-5pm, Place: Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero W, Oakland 94606; This will be an indoor event. Masks Required. There is limited seating so please RSVP by emailing phoenix.woeip@gmail.com

6. Future Agenda Items

- Ms. Margaret Gordon has a presentation on sea level rise.

7. Announcements and Next Steps

- Notice of Interest for FEMA HMGP grants due **December 31**
- Quarterly meetings with next meeting **Wednesday, March 9 at 10 a.m.**