

San Leandro Bay/Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Working Group

Notes for Meeting on March 9, 2022

Location

Virtual meeting led by the City of Alameda and included 32 participants from 22 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)

- Land acknowledgement
- Self introductions

2a. Working Group updates

- Danielle provided updates on the Working Group activities since the last meeting
 - Provided responses to questions for Alameda County Supervisor Brown's office for March 17 BCDC Commission meeting on greatest needs for adaptation and environmental justice.
 - City of Alameda and EBRPD provided letters of support to Caltrans for an adaptation project on Doolittle Drive
 - Submitted a proposal on behalf of the Working Group to the SF Estuary Partnership to formalize our organizational structure, develop a shared vision and action plan and fund community partners.
 - Formed steering committee and began to work on team charter.
- Danielle presented slides on steering committee formation, draft charter, subarea updates, and funding opportunities, which are enclosed with these notes.
 - Ms. Margaret Gordon: Stated that there is a need for a map of toxic site per focus area. Expressed concern that this group is behind in that toxins are not mapped.
 - Marilyn Latta: Requested to include the commitment to share to other colleagues within the organizations that participants represent.
 - Ms. Margaret Gordon: Stated the importance to ensure that vulnerable communities are prioritized. No funding from a government entity should do harm to impacted vulnerable communities.

3. Sea Level Rise and Environmental Justice, Ms. Margaret Gordon, WOEIP

- Ms. Margaret presented slides, which she will provide if you email her: margaret.woeip@gmail.com
- Ian Wren in chat: SF Baykeeper developed an interactive map of known toxic sites at risk of SLR for the region, based on Geotracker data and common SLR projections, which could serve as a starting point. <https://baykeeper.org/shoreview/pollution.html> and <https://baykeeper.org/shoreview/contaminated-slr.html>
- Ian Wren in chat: Great graphics and communication tools, Ms. Margaret. Thanks for sharing
- Michael Dyer: Expressed appreciation for the new development and the need to consider adaptation.
- Ms. Margaret: Stated that new development needs to consider new infrastructure for stormwater and EBMUD. She also mentioned illegal dumping and other questions that should be considered in future housing developments. Architecture is not being planned out for sea level rise, and there are not policies for healthy development.
- Terri Fashing: Shared a project in Oakland's stormwater unit to update the Storm Drain Master Plan and Oakland is looking at sea level rise to help Oakland determine what new flood control systems are needed in the future. Oakland wants to develop a capital improvement plan to figure out where to place green infrastructure and trash capture. Currently, no storm drainage fee exists, and it is a goal to use the master planning process to secure funding to make the storm drainage improvements. The process is beginning and Oakland is developing outreach materials.
- Michael Dyer in chat: Agreed. Along with sea level rise, there is also a need to incorporate community needs (childcare/healthcare/food access) within building development as well - linking all of these needs into the development of housing policies.
- Ms. Margaret: Community members do not have the engineering knowledge to know what currently exists and how these drainage systems impact the community. For example, Fifth and Mandela floods, and there is a need to remove the debris and some areas do not have drainage. There are other issues and concerns that are needed to understand block by block.
- Keta Price stated in chat: We have drainage issues in East Oakland or lack of infrastructure.
- Ian Wren: Asked if the Oakland plan will come up with a project list with price tag.
- Terri Fashing: Stated that Oakland would like to go to the voters to request funding to have a storm drainage fee. The capital improvement plan will come up with a prioritized list of projects.
- Vishal Ream-Rao: Seeing community engagement approaches other cities have leveraged was insightful. Hopefully we can replicate these strategies within this group and, more broadly, in the San Leandro OLU to address sea level rise comprehensively. Thank you for your presentation, Ms. Margaret.

4. Living Shorelines and Habitat Restoration, Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy

- Marilyn presented slides, which are enclosed with these notes.
- Keta in chat: Asked what is hardening?
- Marilyn responded that it is an urbanized edge that is non-living such as concrete levees.
- Cristina Bejarano in chat stated: Wanted to share our work with EBRPD on some adaptation approaches that focus on living shorelines in intertidal zones for Bay Trail adaptation in the East Bay: <https://www.ebparks.org/projects/risk-assessment-and-adaptation-prioritization-plan-raapp> // Love seeing this additional focus on subtidal opportunities, thank you Marilyn.
- Joshua Polston: Mentioned that it is challenging to create soft edges and it does require depth and space. Many coastlines do not have that space such as the airport that does not have much depth. It is great to see these soft edge options.
- Marilyn: Recognized the case-by-case needs, especially with bird strikes near airports. Mentioned that opportunities for small-scale enhancements do exist.
- Ms. Margaret Gordon: Would like to see more environmental justice included in the presentation.

- Marilyn: Recognized the need for more community engagement. Pilot programs are including underserved communities with nature-based adaptation work.
- Ms. Margaret Gordon: Stated that it should be more of a focus to include environmental justice and to include employment and funding for these adjacent communities as well as trust building.
- Marilyn: The Coastal Conservancy has developed community engagement guidance and more focus on equity and community engagement.

5. Project and CBO Updates

- John Gibbs: Estuary Park in Oakland at the mouth of Lake Merritt as a public park – Oakland is looking at nature-based solutions there.
- John Gibbs in chat: Compelling work Marilyn and the Coastal Conservancy. I appreciate how you prioritize more pilot projects, community engagement, and green economy in addition to the technical design. We need these partnerships to advance the good work ahead. Very interesting to hear about combining projects and permitting.
- Ian Wren: Gave an update on the San Leandro shoreline in that the Water Board issued a use permit so that the project can move forward.
- Josh Polston: Added that it allows the City to discharge to a wetland.
- Ian Wren: Stated that the construction is hoping to begin in 2023.

6. Announcements and Next Steps

- No comments.
- Next meeting: June 8, 2022