



## **Oakland Alameda Adaptation Committee**

### **Meeting Notes**

March 20, 2024

10 – 11:30 am

#### **Location**

Virtual meeting led by the City of Alameda, included 59 participants from 39 organizations.

#### **Purpose**

The Oakland Alameda Adaptation Committee (OAAC) coordinates flood and adaptation projects to protect and restore water quality, habitat and adjacent community vitality in the Oakland-Alameda sub-region.

#### **Agenda**

##### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Danielle Mieler/City of Alameda gave welcoming remarks.

##### 2. Committee Updates

- Onboarded CMG consultant team and community partners in fall 2023.
- Completed Project Charter, Existing Conditions report, Community Engagement Strategy.
- Held King Tides Site Walk on Jan 11, 2024.
- Submitted \$55 million FEMA BRIC grant for BFI/Doolittle Dr/East Oakland areas.
- Requested federal funding for the Oakland-Alameda Estuary Project.
- Initiated discussion on governance next steps with Community Partners and agency stakeholders.
- OAAC next steps: long term plan shoreline typologies, first round of community outreach starting in May.

3. Presentation: Oyster Bed Wave Breaking Structures and Native Plant Erosion Control – Shy Walker, Ninth Root and Carolyn Yvellez, BayCAN (see attached presentation)

- National Coastal Resilience Fund restores and increases natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities and enhance wildlife habitats.
- Mar – Aug 2024 – will hold 2 NBS (nature-based solutions) trainings.
- Sep – Dec 2024: will develop and implement community driven NBS project plans and materials.
- NBS Project: Shell Haven: Olympia Oyster Habitat Restoration Initiative, which will be in Sacred Space areas along Damon Marsh.
- Project aims to enhance resilience of Oakland’s shorelines by combining oyster bed structures with strategic native planting programs for erosion control and mitigation of wave energy.
- Goals: to actively involve local community in planning and design, raise awareness of NBS, SLR, and foster a sense of ownership and collaboration.
- Phase 1- BayCAN/ Ninth Root: Community workshops- hands on oyster bed creation. Focus groups, community survey, cultural activities.
- Phase 2- Wild Oyster Project
- Project Team: Shy Walker, director. Shazia Sgeikh, Project Manager. Keta Price, Co-project manager and engagement consultant.
- Stakeholders: EBRPD, City of Oakland, Wild Oyster Project, REAP, Save the Bay, Coastal Conservancy (maps, studies, permitting), Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Sogorea Te Land Trust, Planting Justice.
- Opportunities to coordinate with OAAC: survey references, joint workshops, sharing project flyers at tabling/outreach events.
- Marilyn Latta, SCC in chat: What are the wetland restoration actions planned for Fan Marsh, Arrowhead Marsh and MLK New Marsh? Invasive Spartina and endangered species considerations are big challenges.
  - i. Kris May response: “At this time we are looking at thin layer sediment placement, working with USACE, to help these critical marshes keep pace with sea level rise. Right now this is a conceptual idea, with many details to work out if OAAC receives the FEMA BRIC grant. And you (and the Conservancy and BCDC and others) would absolutely be engaged in the further development of this concept.”
- Ofurhe OakDOT in chat: OakDOT has an office out at 7101 Edgewater that most of our street maintenance crews work out of. It would be great to coordinate some engagement with this group.

- Damian CASA in chat: Tamila “Shy: Please reach out to connect re: Wild Oyster Project and Grow Oyster Reefs llc via Evelyn Tickle and Chris Oakes of Reefgen llc”
- Carolyn: would like to tour REAP Climate Center and see the oyster initiative there.
- Kris May in chat: Awesome work. Would love to make sure this is coordinated into our long-term OAAC adaptation plan.
- Damian in chat: This is why we need shellmound middens at Depave Park and Jean Sweeney Open Space Park to upscale the shell curing.
- Sami Harper SF Water Board: I’m a rep for the Water Board and I will look into the question about oysters and permitting. It’s not my area of expertise, but I sent an email to our staff who would know. Shy, can you share your email or the best way to contact you with that info?
- Damian: REAP space nowhere near enough space for the amount of oysters that need curing – suggest DePave or other parks with larger land tracts.
- Marilyn: Oyster curing will depend on temperature, air conditions, and inclusion of mixing and turning oyster shells regularly. Subtidal goal website: SF Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report <https://www.sfbaysubtidal.org/>
- Chris Guillard in chat: “Damian – Hi I’m Chris Guillard with CMG landscape architecture, we are working on Depave Park and the OAAC. Can you please share your email so that our team can connect with you?”

#### 4. Adaptation Planning Principles (see attached pdf document), CMG

- BCDC is in the process of developing guidance and principles for subregional planning. We have based our principles to be consistently aligned with BCDC guidelines to fit OAAC ADAPT guiding principles and the OAAC project charter.
- We are looking at different time horizons for each project, following a phasing strategy that allows for future adaptations, and a multi-benefit approach that benefits community, health, nature, and infrastructure with an overarching focus on equity and environmental justice.
- We are looking to maintain or improve critical infrastructure and services, prioritize service deficiencies in underserved communities, and adequately adapt transportation and transit.
- Ms. Margaret Gordon: Exposure and proximity are important but are not included here. Prioritizing historical redlined land for transformation should also be included in principles.
  - i. Kris: we are looking at exposure and proximity which will feed into planning and adaptation framework. We're working on a document that has more info on exposure over time. It will be separate from the planning principles.

- ii. We could sharpen health and contamination guidelines to be more specific to OAAC.
- Arthur of Sierra Club: in both BCDC vision and SB 272, putting nature first was an emphasis. It should be a larger emphasis here – looking at what we can do naturally before reverting to grey infrastructure.

## 5. Summary of Data Gaps in the Existing Conditions Report, CMG

- One main gap is public and community assets. Additional assets to include if available: daycare facilities, youth centers, health clinics or medical facilities, places of worship, community gardens.
- The Port of Oakland recently completed a stormwater and tidal flooding study in 2023, this info was not readily available at the time of this report.
- Compound flooding – this effect is understudied.
- Terri - Oakland: we don't expect to complete deliverables on stormwater drainage master project until end of 2025. We do have more info on flooding now. We should schedule a meeting between your team and our stormwater drainage planning team. In future, there will be an updated GIS layer of stormwater drainage network (in process now).
- Jamie CMG: We would be most interested in data for the land from Jack London Square to Lake Merritt first.
- Marilyn: many jurisdictions use different criteria for NAVD 88 data, so be aware of that. We should make sure all these legends are very clear.
  - i. Kris May in chat: Absolutely agree on close attention to datums! We are paying close attention to that!

## 6. Long-term Adaptation Plan Shoreline Typologies, Pathways Climate Institute

- What are “Reaches”? A reach is a segment of shoreline defined to support adaptation planning (designated in different colors on the map). Our primary considerations are shoreline conditions, watersheds, adjacent land uses and jurisdictional boundaries, and concurrent projects and planning efforts.
  - i. Black outline- separate planning efforts (not OAAC) – Port of Oakland, Coast Guard Island managed by federal entity, landfill (contamination management strategies), Oyster Bay regional shoreline.
  - ii. Grey thicker lines – areas with pre-existing plans (Alameda Point Master Infrastructure Plan, Port of Oakland Turning Basin plan for example)
- Why did we develop reaches? To co-create draft long-term alternatives for each reach.

- How will we use them for adaptation planning?
  - i. 3 Steering Committee workshops from April to June.
  - ii. Workshops will consist of reach-by-reach discussions on about 30 reaches.
  - iii. Develop high-level long-term concepts incorporating short and midterm adaptation.
  - iv. Focus primarily on coastal flood risk as opposed to stormwater or inland flooding.
  - v. Iterative process – we will go back to these alternatives and adjust when needed.
- Next steps after this will be high-level feasibility assessments, prioritization framework (which solutions should happen at what points in time), implementation approach.
- Ellen Plane asked in chat: How will you ensure each reach ties in with the next?
- Kris May in chat: Reach 12 and 13 were included in the BRIC grant, which is why we did not make them black. We want to advance the concepts in the BRIC grant that the OAAC collaborated on very quickly, so if we get the grant, we will be more ready. We are leveraging a lot of great work along Reach 12 completed by the Port and others.
- Lauren Eisele: If anyone is interested, I have lots of pictures of High/Low tides along the 26, 27 reaches, and have uploaded occupant contacts in this area into the outreach list.
- Dane: ESA is in the process of researching and listing out what might work for each site, we will introduce this to the wider group soon. We're looking at a whole range of potential living shoreline techniques.
- As we go through these workshops, these reaches might change as we discuss more.
- Carolyn: Are there specific teams designated to each Reach?
  - i. Maryellen: no, other than the fact there are some teams working on Bay Farm vs Estuary. But for long-term planning, we're working on it altogether.
- Jamie: We're planning to use April, May, and June Steering Committee meetings to work on these reaches and come back to the June quarterly meeting with an update.
- Drake EBRPD: 10- 13 and 30-32 are specific to EBRPD – we have stewardship and park operations people already working in these areas... Can we have one group that specifically talks about these reaches? I can get some of the adaptation experts in EBRPD to join.
  - i. Response: yes, we can consider an EBRPD meeting, but cross-communication is also important. We'd love to get as many people involved as possible.
- Marilyn in chat: Exciting to see this planning! Invasive oyster drills (snails) are present in this area, as well as invasive Spartina and other species that can cause failed restoration

efforts. I'd be happy to discuss and share more info on these topics, and connect you with reports and data.

- i. Dane Behrens: we've been in contact with Jeff B and Chela Z about where they've found drills. But would love to see information you also have about presence (and for invasive spartina)
  - ii. Marilyn: I will share info with you and Gail, I think a convo might be helpful as well to summarize key considerations native and non-native Spartina and bmp's in design planning.
- Kris: there is also interest in looking at tidal gates that would really impact the Estuary and affect all of the reaches, lots of factors to consider.
- Ms. Margaret: Shoreline will be affected by Port dredging for turning basin, and this will lead to more pollution and contamination.
  - i. Kris May: turning basin project was a factor in considering these reaches. Also, the Port has been involved in our efforts.
  - ii. Jan - Port: We're starting SLR/groundwater intrusion study ourselves. That area will mainly be grey infrastructure because it's an industrial area. The goal of project is to accommodate larger ships. Dredging material will be reused for wetland habitats.
- Damian in chat: Dredge materials can be used in biophilic oyster reef block creation for tiles, tangles to integrate in and near rip rap or other beneficial reuse.

#### 7. OAAC projects first round of community outreach May – July, Greenbelt Alliance

- We'll be starting in May with higher level outreach with a lot of tabling at existing events, aligning with Sacred Spaces work, and at East Oakland Futures Fest and shoreline cleanups in Alameda.
- Towards the end of the first round, we'll be supporting the project team with more detailed workshops focused on getting feedback from the plans.
- We will send out a monthly newsletter to the broader network.
- Greenbelt is developing a basic website based off the City's project webpages to be more visual and understandable/accessible to the public.
- Two surveys in this period – one focused on awareness, one focused on deeper feedback.
- Workshop with BCDC to solicit feedback from community members about our guidelines and how to align them with community priorities and values.
- CASA will be tabling at Spring Shindig for this outreach.
- Zoe: we will have survey and flyers to distribute in late April before May engagement period.

- Gail – Alameda: Requested that the survey include Ms. Margaret’s exposure question to ask about exposures to air quality in that the adaptation projects will include inland green infrastructure solutions to mitigate air pollution.

8. Announcements and Close

- Next OAAC meeting: June 12<sup>th</sup>, virtual
- Word cloud at the end of the meeting is shown as follows:

