

February 8, 2022

Zack Wasserman, Chair  
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
375 Beale St., Suite 510  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Support for Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay

Dear Chair Wasserman:

I am pleased to let you know that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa supports “Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay.” The Bay Adapt Joint Platform is the result of a stakeholder-led process to determine the best ways for the Bay Area to become regionally resilient to rising sea levels.

While the Bay’s shoreline constitutes one-third of the California coastline, the Bay Area will likely experience two-thirds of the negative economic impacts due to the flooding caused by rising sea levels absent adequate measures to adapt and protect people, places, and habitat. As sea levels rise at an accelerating rate, the confluence of more intense winter storms, extreme high tides, and higher runoff, with higher sea levels, will increase the frequency and duration of shoreline flooding long before areas are permanently inundated by sea level rise alone.

In the face of this challenge, the Bay Area must protect and energize vulnerable and historically marginalized frontline communities – several of which are located in Contra Costa County – enhance and restore an ecosystem that is already deeply affected by human activities, and reduce flood risks for existing built infrastructure along the vast Bay shoreline. Yet, the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change in the Bay Area do not conform to our governments’ jurisdictional boundaries or the planning and regulatory authorities of any one agency or organization. Bay Adapt begins to address these challenges by laying out a set of guiding principles, priority actions, and vital tasks that public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including local governments with land use authorities, can voluntarily implement in a coordinated and collaborative manner to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising San Francisco Bay.

It will take tremendous efforts and investments to adapt the San Francisco Bay Area to a constantly changing shoreline and continue to improve its vibrant, diverse, ecologically unique, innovative, and pioneering quality of life. Implementing Bay Adapt will reduce flood risks for communities, businesses, infrastructure, and habitat, increase technical assistance for local governments and funding for adaptation, protect natural areas and wildlife, recognize and equitably support low-income, frontline communities, robustly integrate adaptation into community-focused local plans, and accelerate permitting and project construction of local adaptation projects.

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County supports the Bay Adapt Joint Platform and will support its implementation by concentrating on implementing policies and programs in our county that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to rising water levels, particularly in our frontline communities, and identifying opportunities to fund this work. Our Board believes that the Bay Adapt goals will be most

effectively achieved when there is a single government entity in the Bay Area with the regulatory authority to compel local action to address sea level rise; this should be the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). We look forward to working with BCDC and all of Bay Adapt's stakeholders to ensure that the entire Bay Area thrives in the face of rising sea levels.

Sincerely,

Name