



**Contra Costa County
Sustainability Commission**

March 14, 2022

Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
1025 Escobar St.
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Rising Water Levels in Contra Costa County

Dear Members of the Board,

In its role to advise the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (Board) and staff on successful implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan, the Sustainability Commission recommends the Board form a cross-sector working group to review vulnerabilities from rising tides, share information, coordinate policies, and develop a long-term vision regarding adapting to rising tides.

The Sustainability Commission has periodically reviewed the current status of studies of rising water levels in Contra Costa County, most recently receiving reports at its December 13, 2021, meeting from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC). At its February 28, 2022, meeting the Sustainability Commission unanimously supported a recommendation from a member who reviewed the current data and recommended that the County implement the May 2019 UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy Report entitled "Implementing the ART Study".¹ The Report reviewed various governance structures and funding options to implement the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) assessments being made by BCDC.

BCDC has made two assessment studies on the potentiality of floods within Contra Costa County due to Sea Level Rise (SLR) caused by climate change. The West County assessment was completed in March 2017² and covered the shoreline from the Alameda County line to Bay Point. The East County assessment was completed in April 2020 and covered the area from Pittsburg to the Contra Costa-Alameda County border at Clifton Court.³ The East County Study was also partially funded by the DSC. Both reports look at impacts in a range of sectors and impacts from various flooding scenarios.

In October 2021, BCDC published the Bay Adapt Joint Platform (Bay Adapt).⁴ It included 9 Actions and 21 Tasks that the 9 County Bay Area should focus on to combat Sea Level Rise. On February 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 2022/52 RESOLUTION OF THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR A RISING BAY, KNOWN AS "BAY

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1. The Goldman School Report can be found at [Climate-Resilience-in-Contra-Costa-County---Implementing-the-ART-Study-PDF \(ca.gov\)](#)
 2. The West County ART study can be found at <http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/project/contra-costa-county-adapting-to-risingtides-project/>
 3. The East County ART study can be found at <http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/project/eastern-contra-costa-county/>
 4. The Bay Adapt Joint Platform can be found at <https://www.bayadapt.org/jointplatform/>

ADAPT”.⁵ In it, The Board of Supervisors supported the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, a regional strategy for a rising Bay, including the guiding principles, actions, and tasks contained within.

Although the Goldman School Report was published prior to Bay Adapt and the BOS Resolution in support of it, it contains recommendations for governance and funding strategies in Contra Costa County that are necessary to support Bay Adapt. On September 10, 2019, the Board of Supervisors accepted the Goldman School Report and referred it to the Sustainability Committee.⁶ The Sustainability Committee at its September 23, 2019, meeting decided to consider implementing the Goldman School Report once the East County Study had been completed.⁷ 7 There has been no action on the Goldman Report since that time. With the passage of the BOS Resolution 2022/52, it is now time to fully implement the recommendations of the Goldman Report.

Climate change is a current and on-going challenge to Contra Costa County. With warmer temperatures and more extreme weather, we can also expect that the County’s seashore to be subject to more flooding. Those floods will be higher and more frequent than we have previously experienced. Due to increased scientific knowledge, we have better knowledge where the flooding will occur and how often we can expect it to happen.

It is important that we plan for those eventualities now in the form of a cross-sector working group as recommended by the Goldman School Report. Reducing the risks of flooding due to rising tides caused by climate change is a matter that cannot wait.

Respectfully,

/s/

Mike Moore

Chair, Sustainability Commission

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5. Board of Supervisors February 8, 2022 Resolution 2022/52 can be found at http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL&get_month=2&get_year=2022&dsp=min&seq=1932
 6. Board of Supervisors action on September 10, 2019 can be found at http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL&get_month=9&get_year=2019&dsp=min&seq=1333
 7. Sustainability Committee September 23, 2019 action can be found at http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=SUSTAIN&get_month=9&get_year=2019&dsp=min&seq=1416