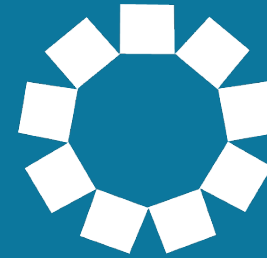


ABAG Resilience Technical Assistance

ABAG Executive Board
March 20, 2025



**ASSOCIATION
OF BAY AREA
GOVERNMENTS**

Natural and climate impacts are increasingly shaping the region.



Loma Prieta Earthquake (1989)
Photo credit: USGS, San Francisco

Tubbs Fire (2017)
Photo credit: Noah Berger, Santa Rosa

Annual King Tide (2024)
Photo credit: Noah Berger, Alameda

ABAG is uniquely positioned to lead the coordination of multi-hazard resilience technical assistance in the region

- ABAG Mission: *To advance shared local and regional priorities for transportation, housing and the environment.*
- ABAG programs deliver technical assistance across a range of topics: energy, equity, housing, land use, and resilience.



ABAG General Assembly on Resilience. June 21, 2024

Regional planning for sea level rise adaptation

- **Sea Level Rise MOU** advances a joint work program for BARC agencies to address flooding and sea level rise threats
- **SFEP's Estuary Blueprint** provides a roadmap for advancing and implementing nature-based shoreline adaptation solutions
- **BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan** requires coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions
- **Plan Bay Area 2050+** identified a \$95 billion dollar need to address the first few feet of sea level rise



Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP)

A region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals. It contains:

- One Bay Vision
- Strategic Regional Priorities
- Guidelines for Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans

Coordination is working

- BCDC will establish a technical assistance program to support jurisdictions through their RSAP.
- ABAG and BCDC are coordinating through BARC on TA.






ABAG's TA role in BARC Sea Level Rise MOU, 2024

The MOU identified ABAG/SFEP as the agency best positioned to lead on sea level rise technical assistance. Many other agencies also have technical assistance responsibilities.

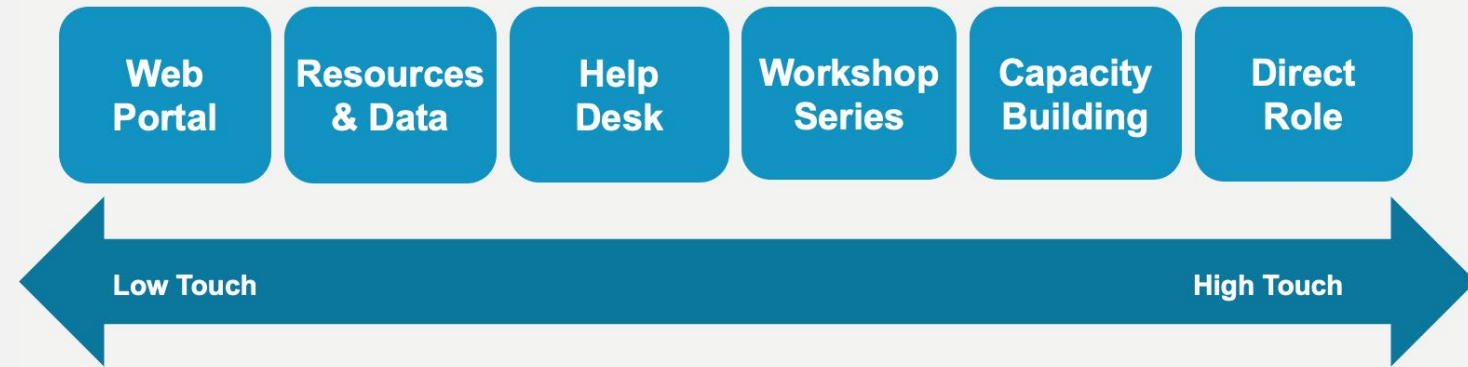
TABLE: Sea Level Rise Roles and Responsibilities

	ABAG/SFEP	BAAQMD	BARC	BCDC	Caltrans D4	MTC	SCC	Water Board
Planning	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Fund Management	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Technical Assistance	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Regulatory Alignment	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Coordination	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

 Prime
  Responsible
  Involved

Spectrum of Technical Assistance

BARC has developed an inventory of resilience technical assistance offerings across agencies and NGOs. They have organized offerings on this helpful spectrum.



ABAG TA SNAPSHOT

Resilient Housing TA

ABAG has delivered seismic, wildfire, and other resilient housing TA to support local planning and action.

- Model ordinance and guidebook for seismic retrofit programs.
 - Multi-family soft-story model ordinance.
 - Single-family crawl space model retrofit plan set.
- Guidance on the incorporation of wildfire in Housing Element updates.
- Multi-hazard local hazard mitigation planning support.



San Francisco Estuary Partnership

A National Estuary Program hosted by ABAG



Photo Credit: Ellen Baker

The Estuary Partnership is a collaborative, non-regulatory program that leverages federal, state, and regional resources to advance the Estuary Blueprint, which addresses sea level rise among other climate impacts. The program is fully grant funded.

- Estuary Partnership delivers:
- Direct planning assistance across the region
- Project delivery
- Regional technical planning support through convenings, special studies and coordination



SFEP TA SNAPSHOT
Local Project Assistance

Novato Creek Baylands
capacity building, funding

Oro Loma Horizontal Levee
research, monitoring, coordination

First Mile Horizontal Levee
direct planning support, community engagement, grant partner

Palo Alto Horizontal Levee
manage design, permitting and construction

Fairfield Suisun
grant partner

North Richmond Living Levee
direct engagement, convening partners, direct partnership with CBOs and Tribes

Emeryville Crescent Adaptation
capacity building, convening partners, leveraging funding resources

Oakland Alameda Adaptation Project
capacity building, direct funding

San Leandro Treatment Wetland
direct funding

Hayward Treatment Ponds
direct planning support, grant partner

SFEP TA SNAPSHOT

East Bay Crescent

Bringing it all together

The Estuary Partnership is working with the Cities of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and Caltrans. Estuary Partnership is:

- Convening partners
- Leading fundraising efforts
- Bringing resources, subject matter experts, and relationships with community members to the planning table.
- Supporting discussions and identifying funding on an approach for an RSAP
- Planning early-stage innovative projects



Delivering Multi-Agency Resilience Technical Assistance

Key Partner Agency TA Roles

- **RSAP Planning Guidance** – The Bay Conservation and Development Commission will deliver RSAP guidance and support TA.
- **Coordination** – The Bay Area Regional Collaborative is identifying and ensuring alignment of regional agency partner and NGO TA.

ABAG's Current TA Role (Resource Constrained)

- **SFEP - Direct Planning Assistance** for sea level rise adaptation and nature-based solutions.
- **SFEP – Convenings**, workshops and subregional working groups
- **SFEP - Guidance and technical reports** on nature-based sea level rise solutions.
- **ABAG – Update resilient housing guidance** on seismic and wildfire.



ABAG TA SNAPSHOT

Regional Housing Technical Assistance (RHTA)

ABAG can deliver more robust TA with larger, more regular funding sources.

RHTA was established in 2020 with \$24 million for the Bay Area from Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding. TA included:

- **local grants** to offset Housing Element costs,
- **data tools**,
- **regional trainings** and **working groups**,
- guidance and template **resources**,
- **county planning collaboratives**.

[RHTA Technical Assistance Index](#) outlines all the resources developed through January 2025.



87% of cities used RHTA TA, and 84% shared the resources were easy to use. RHTA received the Award of Excellence from the American Planning Association.



Photo Credit: Karl Nielsen



An illustration of several hands in various colors (red, green, white, blue) reaching towards the center, holding a globe. The background is light blue with white dashed lines.

SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO **Bolster ABAG Resilience TA Offerings**

If funding is secured, ABAG could expand assistance in the following ways:

- **Staff a resilience help desk to connect** local jurisdictions to ABAG and other's resources.
- **Expand SFEP's direct assistance and regional convenings** for sea level rise adaptation in more Bay Area communities, including planning, coordination and project delivery.
- **Launch local seismic and wildfire retrofit programs** to address risks to existing housing. Secure funding for local staff as well as homeowner/building owner grants.

New regular funding would diversify ABAG's existing funding portfolio and provide increased stability that would enable ongoing TA initiatives rather than one-time initiatives.

ABAG Resilience Technical Assistance

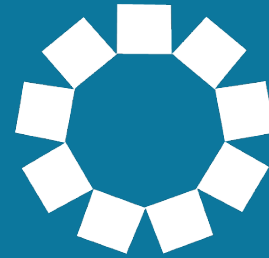
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