



Bay Area Regional Collaborative

DATE: July 19, 2024
TO: BARC Governing Board
FROM: Allison Brooks, BARC Executive Director
RE: San Francisco Bay Area Interagency Flooding and Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of San Francisco Bay Area Interagency Flooding and Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and authorization of BARC Executive Director to enter into the MOU

BACKGROUND:

Building off years of increasing coordination to address climate change adaptation among the four voting members and three non-voting members of the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), the agency leaders worked together with BARC staff to develop the attached Interagency Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose of the MOU is to further align efforts, expertise, and core functions across the agencies to support the delivery of priority, multi-benefit, flood risk management projects across the Bay Area. The objectives are to accelerate project implementation, increase Bay Area's competitiveness for funding, establish interagency structures for coordination and project prioritization, support multi-jurisdictional partnerships, and help cities and counties expand their capacity to fund and implement adaptation projects.

The MOU includes additional objectives, principles of agreement, and essential functions and activities needed to help address the threats of flooding and sea level rise. It identifies the agencies best positioned to serve as the lead(s) and how activities will be coordinated among the following five functions:

1. Planning: Preparing for sea level rise and flooding risks
2. Fund Management: Securing and awarding federal, state, and regional funding
3. Technical Assistance: Supporting project development & delivery
4. Regulatory Alignment: Streamlining permitting for climate adaptation
5. Structures for collaborative decision-making

STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:

Preceding today's BARC Governing Board meeting on July 19, 2024, the following agencies have reviewed and approved their executive directors/officers to enter into an MOU:

- May 16, 2024 – Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) approval

- June 6, 2024 – California State Coastal Conservancy approval
- June 26, 2024 – Metropolitan Transportation Commission approval
- July 18, 2024 – Association of Bay Area Governments approval (pending)

The Executive Officers of Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Caltrans District 4, and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board have secured approval from their respective boards, commissions, and leadership.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting that the BARC Governing Board approve the San Francisco Bay Area Interagency Flooding and Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) previously signed by the Executive leaders of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), also host of San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP); the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD); the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC); the California State Coastal Conservancy (The Conservancy); the California Department of Transportation District 4 (Caltrans D4); the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC); and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (SF Bay Water Board) to coordinate efforts to address the threats of sea level rise and flooding in the San Francisco Bay Area.