

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
MTC Planning Committee

June 14, 2024

Agenda Item 7a

Interagency Flooding and Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding

Subject:

Authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the four voting member agencies and the three non-voting partner agencies of the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) to coordinate efforts to address the threats of flooding and sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Background:

BARC is a consortium of regional and regionally-oriented state agencies working together to address significant issues facing the San Francisco Bay Area that can better be addressed through strategic alignment and collaboration between two or more agencies. BARC member agencies include: the *Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)*; the *Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)*; the *Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)*; and the *San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)*. These four member agencies support the BARC budget through annual dues assessments and vote on BARC's budget, workplan and policies. Other agencies that participate in BARC's work are the *California State Coastal Conservancy (The Conservancy)*; the *California Department of Transportation District 4 (Caltrans D4)*; and the *California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (SF Bay Water Board)*. For the purposes of this MOU, however, each of the seven agencies listed above has committed staff and resources to addressing the region's major challenges related to flooding, sea level rise and climate resilience. Building off years of increasing coordination among the agencies to address climate change adaptation, leaders from the agencies worked together to develop the Draft Interagency Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding (see Attachment A). 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: Permitting for climate adaptation
5. Structures for collaborative decision-making

Next Steps:

The goal is to have each agency complete their review and approval of the MOU by July 18, 2024, with a final review and approval by the BARC Governing Board on July 19, 2024. The agencies are developing a joint work plan to operationalize the MOU, which will launch in July. The activities included in the work plan will be based on the resources in hand.

Issues:


None identified.

Recommendations:

Refer the recommended Interagency Flooding and Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding to the Commission and ABAG Executive Board for approval as described above.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Memorandum of Understanding
- Attachment B: Presentation



Andrew B. Fremier