

# **BAY ADAPT**

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR A RISING BAY

Jessica Fain  
Director of Planning  
San Francisco Bay Conservation  
& Development Commission

# Agenda

1. Introduction - BCDC Chair Zack Wasserman
2. Overview of Bay Adapt and the Joint Platform - BCDC Planning Director Jessica Fain
3. Implementation & Leadership Challenges
4. Next Steps

**No matter  
where you  
live, shoreline  
flooding will  
impact  
everyone in  
the Bay Area**

What's at risk? (40-100 years)



**5 million**  
daily highway  
vehicle trips

**60,000** daily  
rail commuters



**13,000** existing  
housing units

**104,000**  
existing jobs

**70,000** new,  
planned housing  
units

**85,000** new,  
planned jobs



**28,000** socially  
vulnerable  
residents



**20,000** acres  
of depressional  
wetlands,  
lagoon and tidal  
marsh habitat

# A Rising Bay

## A regional problem requires regional solutions



Why?

- Flooding knows no boundaries
- Frontline communities: Most impacted and fewest resources
- Patchwork of protective actions
- Inconsistent application of science
- Competition not collaboration for limited funding
- Near-term loss of wetlands
- No way to measure collective progress

# What is Bay Adapt?



A regional, consensus-driven strategy that lays out the actions necessary to adapt the Bay Area to rising sea level to protect people and the natural and built environment

# Leadership Advisory Group



**Ana Alvarez**, East Bay Regional Parks  
**Tessa Beach**, Ph.D. US Army Corps of Engineers  
**David Behar**, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
**Allison Brooks**, Bay Area Regional Collaborative  
**Amanda Brown Stevens**, Greenbelt Alliance  
**Paul Campos**, Building Industry Association  
**Warner Chabot**, San Francisco Estuary Institute  
**John Coleman**, Bay Planning Coalition  
**Dina El Tawansy**, Caltrans  
**Tian Feng**, Bay Area Regional Transit (BART)  
**Julio Garcia**, EJ Advisor  
**Margaret Gordon**, West Oakland Indicators Project  
**Terrie Green**, Shore Up Marin City  
**Amy Hutzel**, State Coastal Conservancy  
**Alicia John-Baptiste**, SPUR  
**Melissa Jones**, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)  
**David Lewis**, Save the Bay

**Mark Lubell**, UC Davis  
**Therese McMillan**, MTC / ABAG  
**Mike Mielke**, Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
**Michael Montgomery**, SF Regional Water Quality Control Board  
**Barry Nelson**, BCDC  
**Sheridan Noelani Enomoto**, NorCal Resilience Network  
**David Pine**, San Mateo County/ San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority  
**John Bourgeois**, Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group (CHARG)  
**Bruce Riordan**, Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN)  
**Caitlin Sweeney**, San Francisco Estuary Partnership  
**Laura Tam** Resources Legacy Fund  
**Will Travis**, Independent Consultant  
**Jim Wunderman**, Bay Area Council  
**Zack Wasserman**, BCDC

# Bay Adapt Components

**1. Develop  
Guiding Principles** +

*for Bay Area  
adaptation to rising  
sea levels*

**2. Develop a  
Joint Platform** +

*of shared  
priority actions*

**3. Adopt the  
Joint Platform**

*by committing  
to act and act  
together*

# Guiding Principles



Support socially vulnerable communities



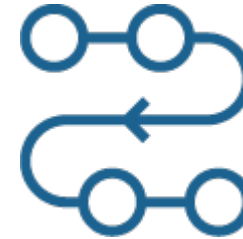
Put nature first whenever possible



Solve multiple problems together



Practice inclusive, community-led governance and decision-making



Support existing efforts but plan for the long term



Pick the right strategy for the right place at the right time



Sonoma County Planning Directors • **Dec 2020**

Jan 2021 • Napa Flood Control District

Marin SLR Executive Steering Committee • **May 2020**

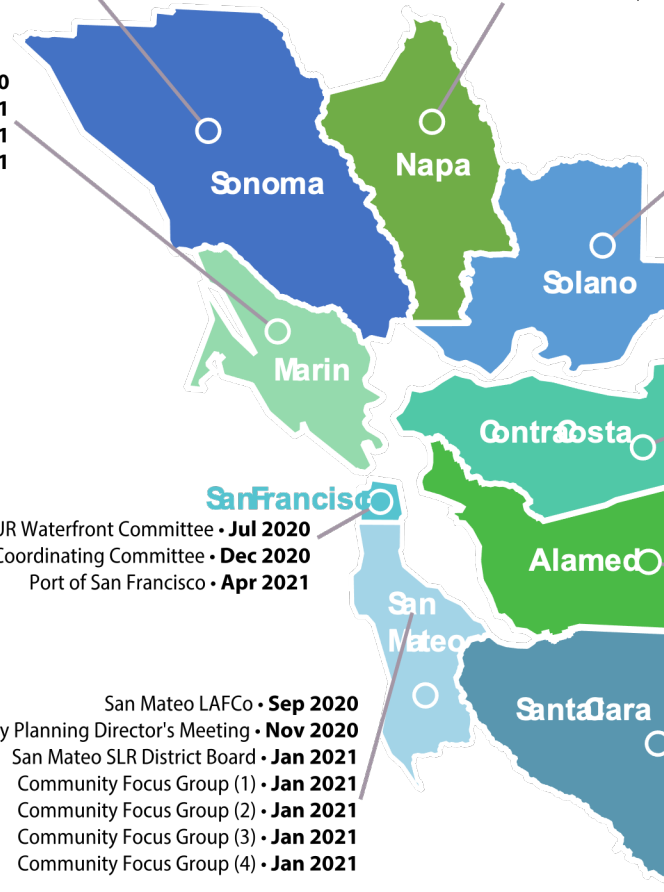
Marin County Planning Director's Meeting • **Jan 2021**

Marin County Bay Wave Steering Committee • **Jan 2021**

Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers • **Jan 2021**

Feb 2021 • Community Focus Group

Feb 2021 • Diablo Water District



Oct 2020 • Contra Costa Planning Director's Meeting

Nov 2020 • Alameda County Planning Director's Meeting

Dec 2020 • ACCMA

Dec 2020 • Alameda County Mayor's Office

Jan 2021 • Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency Board

SPUR Waterfront Committee • **Jul 2020**  
SLR Coordinating Committee • **Dec 2020**  
Port of San Francisco • **Apr 2021**

San Mateo LAFCo • **Sep 2020**  
County Planning Director's Meeting • **Nov 2020**  
San Mateo SLR District Board • **Jan 2021**  
Community Focus Group (1) • **Jan 2021**  
Community Focus Group (2) • **Jan 2021**  
Community Focus Group (3) • **Jan 2021**  
Community Focus Group (4) • **Jan 2021**

Nov 2020 • Cities Association of Santa Clara County  
Jan 2021 • SCCAPO

## Regional

- BayCAN Bay Adapt (1) • **Jul 2019**
- CHARG Forward Forum • **Oct 2019**
- State of the Estuary • **Oct 2019**
- BayCAN Bay Adapt (2) • **Feb 2020**
- CHARG Steering Committee • **Feb 2020**
- BCDC Commission (1) • **Mar 2020**
- Bay Planning Coalition Summit • **Jun 2020**
- BCDC Commission (2) • **Aug 2020**
- BARC (1) • **Sep 2020**
- Environmental Groups • **Nov 2020**
- SFEP Implementation Committee • **Nov 2020**
- MYN Apocalyptic Resilience Youth Conference • **Nov 2020**
- BCDC Commission (3) • **Nov 2020**
- NorCal Resilience Network Meeting • **Nov 2020**
- Business Focus Group • **Jan 2021**
- BayCAN Local Government Focus Group • **Jan 2021**
- Education Working Group • **Feb 2021**
- Environment Focus Group • **Feb 2021**
- BCDC Commission (4) • **Mar 2021**
- San Francisco Water Board • **Mar 2021**
- BPC Waterfront Sustainability Group • **Mar 2021**
- BARC Executive Director/Deputy Director Meeting • **May 2021**

## State/National

- BIPOC Climate Leaders • **Nov 2020**
- ULI National Resilience Summit • **Dec 2020**
- RAE Summit • **Oct 2020**
- UCI Conference • **Mar 2021**

# Outreach Around the Region

## What we Heard:

“Too much process... what are the outcomes?”

“What’s in it for me? What does my jurisdiction get out of this?”

“Where are the bay ecosystems in all this? Good intentions will not stop bad projects.”

“... get to the point! Too much jargon, too long. Oh, but don’t be too generic.”

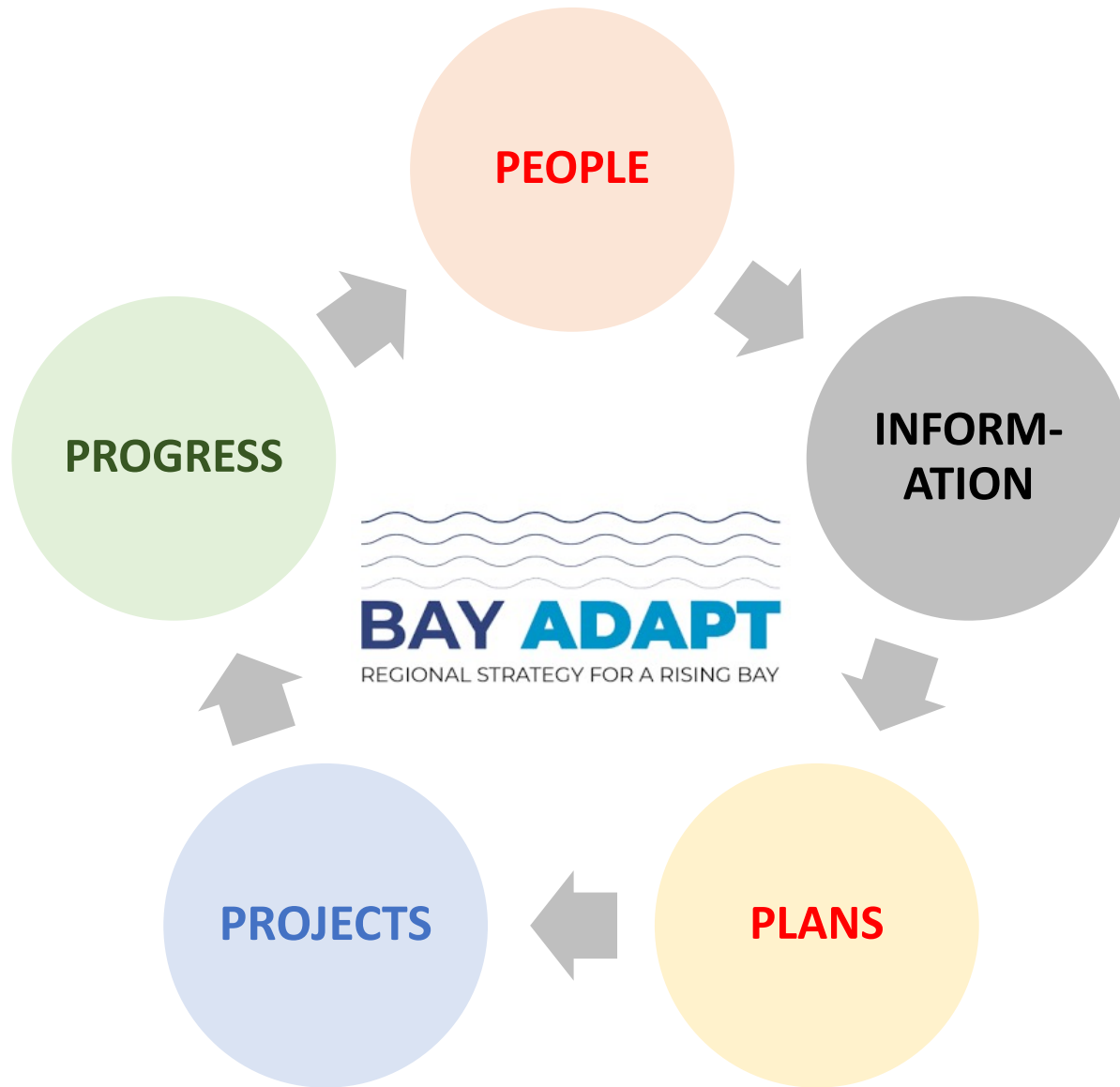
**“We need to act NOW on proposed legislation and funding!”**

“As a person of color, there are so many issues causing us harm. What do we focus our attention?”

“I can’t commit to this without knowing the details”

“How can we balance adaptation with job and housing growth?”

# Joint Platform Actions



## PEOPLE

Action 1: Collaborate on a "one Bay" vision to adapt to rising sea levels.

---

Task 1.1: Create a long-term regional vision rooted in communities.

Task 1.2: Lay the foundation for a proactive regional legislative agenda.

## INFORMATION

Action 3: Broaden public understanding of climate change science and impacts.

---

Task 3.1: Tell local and regional stories about people and places adapting to climate change.

TASK 3.2: Weave climate adaptation literacy into school programs.

## PLANS

Action 5: Align local and regional plans into a unified adaptation approach.

---

Task 5.1: Provide incentives for robust, coordinated adaptation plans.

Task 5.2: Align state-mandated planning processes around adaptation.

Action 2: Elevate communities to lead.

---

Task 2.1: Improve how communities and public agencies learn from each other and work together.

Task 2.2: Fund the participation and leadership of CBOs and frontline communities in adaptation planning.

Action 4: Base plans and projects on the best science, data, and knowledge.

---

Task 4.1: Align research and monitoring with information gaps.

Task 4.2: Make scientific data, information, and guidance easier to use.

Task 4.3: Increase access to technical consultants for local adaptation partners.

Action 6: Figure out how to fund adaptation.

---

Task 6.1: Expand understanding of the financial costs and revenues associated with regional adaptation.

Task 6.2: Establish a framework for funding plans and projects.

Task 6.3: Help cities and counties expand ways to fund adaptation planning and projects.

## PROJECTS

Action 7: Refine and accelerate regulatory approvals processes.

---

Task 7.1: Accelerate permitting for equitable, multi-benefit projects.

Task 7.2: Tackle environmental regulations and policies that slow down progress on projects.

## PROGRESS

Action 9: Track and report progress to guide future actions.

---

Task 9.1: Measure regional progress using metrics and share results.

Task 9.2: Monitor and learn from pilot projects.

Action 8: Fund and facilitate faster adaptation projects.

---

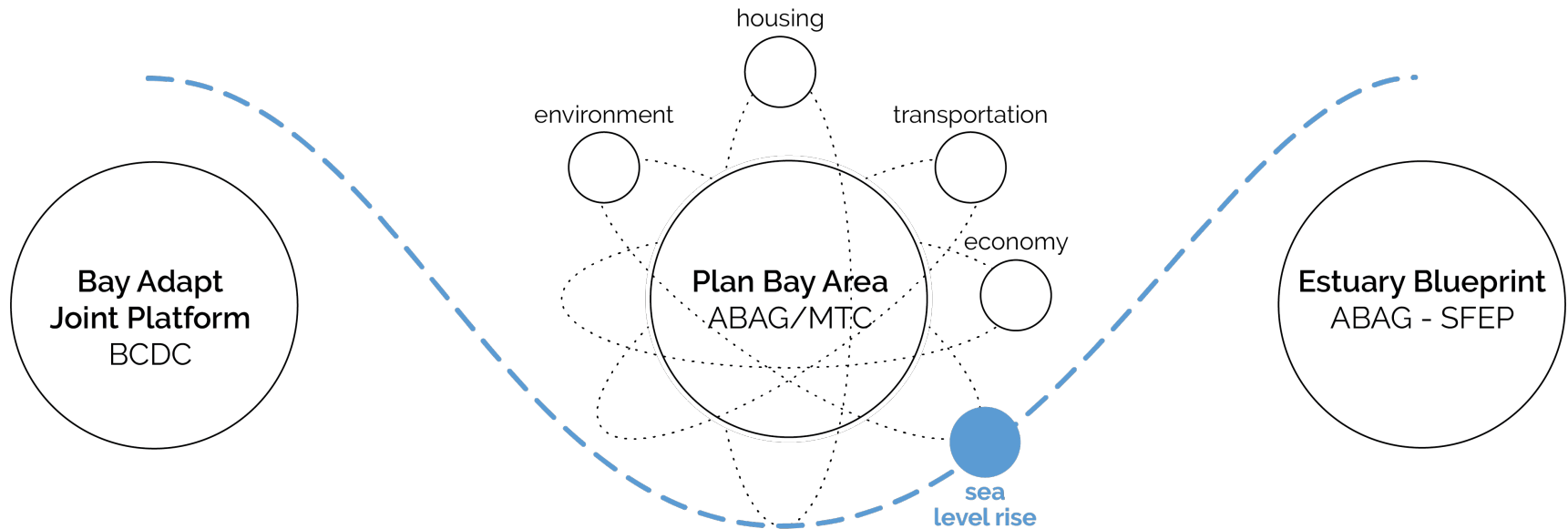
Task 8.1: Incentivize projects that meet regional guidelines.

Task 8.2: Encourage collaboration among people doing projects in the same places.

Task 8.3: Facilitate faster construction of nature-based projects.



# Regional Alignment



## Challenge

## Possible Solutions

Regional agencies must be accountable and coordinated on Bay Adapt implementation

- Assign **lead agencies for climate adaptation** based on expertise (i.e. BCDC for SLR/Bay Adapt, MTC/ABAG for multi-hazard, Air District on Fire/Heat, BARC as convenor.)
- Proactively agree to collaborate as a **multi-hazard Climate Adaptation Collaborative or Joint Powers Authority** in advance of State legislation.
- Ask **Regional Boards to adopt** the Bay Adapt Joint Platform and commit to its implementation
- Maximize alignment with **Plan Bay Area Implementation Plan**

Frontline communities must have leadership roles at all levels

- Fund and establish/support existing **Regional Climate Equity Consortium** comprised of frontline communities to work on range of regional climate efforts.
- Ensure diverse representation & frontline voices **throughout**.
- Seek private (**philanthropic**) resources in the near term.

Local governments need to engage and lead, locally and regionally

- A **regionwide Call to Action** via Mayors & City Manager, League of Cities.
- Establish or repurpose an existing group as a **Local Elected Official Climate Adaptation Committee** comprised of local elected officials representing diverse places

Multi-sector leadership must guide next steps

- Refine and evolve the diverse, multi-sector **Bay Adapt Leadership Advisory Group** (LAG 2.0) to serve as primary guidance forum on Bay Adapt implementation.
- Convene flexible **Working Groups** to shape action development
- Expand on pilot **Legislative Working Group** to proactively advocate for Bay Area adaptation priorities and funding.

# Next Steps

- Public Forum & Comment Period (August)
- Implementation & Governance Plan Development
- Leadership Advisory Group final approval
- Local Jurisdiction Outreach



# Discussion Questions

- Did we miss anything?
- What stands out for you?



[ABOUT ↓](#)

[BAY ADAPT ↓](#)

[RESOURCES ↓](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

**THE BAY IS RISING.**  
THE TIME TO COME  
TOGETHER TO ACT IS NOW



[What is Bay Adapt?](#)



[A Rising Bay](#)



[News & Events](#)

[www.bayadapt.org](http://www.bayadapt.org)

## Discussion Questions for BARC Governing Board

1. **How do we use BARC to support efforts such as Bay Adapt?**
  - *How do we model what true collaboration looks like?*
  - *How do we best use resources and expertise across organizational boundaries to deliver shared outcomes?*
2. **What could be included in a resolution by the BARC Governing Board to support Bay Adapt and future climate adaptation efforts? What would the resolution include?**

*For example:*

  - *Outline climate adaptation principles*
  - *Establish metrics for tracking progress on outcomes, including equity measures*
  - *Commit to specific actions, resources and shared work plan*
3. **How as regional agencies do we best support action at the local level?**

*For example: Regional Early Action Planning program (REAP/LEAP)*