



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 24, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Jordan Klein, Director, Planning and Development Department

Subject: Accept Grant Funds from the California Ocean Protection Council's Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program and contract with Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their designee to accept the California Ocean Protection Council's Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program funding in the amount of \$223,151, and negotiate and execute a contract and any amendments, extensions, or change orders with the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership, for the East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning, for the duration of March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There is no match requirement required to receive this grant award. The total funding available to the City of Berkeley for this project is \$223,151, which will be deposited into Fund 336 (One-Time-Grant). The grant will fund time for City staff positions in the Planning & Development Department, Public Works Department, and Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront to provide information, coordination, and analysis for the East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has awarded the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)/San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), in partnership with the Cities of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville and Oakland, \$2,240,000 over two and a half years for the East Bay Crescent (EPC) Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning Project. Of the total grant amount, the City of Berkeley will receive \$223,151 over the grant period. ABAG/SFEP will serve as the prime recipient for this funding opportunity, and the City of Berkeley will be a subrecipient to ABAG/SFEP.

The EBC Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning will advance sea-level rise adaptation along the shorelines of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and a portion of Oakland, from the Bay Bridge/Radio Beach to Cerritos Creek. A unique collaboration will result in a coordinated approach to adaptation in the EBC. Key components include development of an EBC Working Group and Equity Committee that will result in a sub-regional vulnerability assessment, with sub-regionally coordinated, but distinct, shoreline adaptation plans for the City of Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville that adhere to the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) guidelines.

The work that will be completed under this grant supports the City's Strategic Plan goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 1 (Atkins, 2021)¹ into law. Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) directs the state to provide funding to local and regional governments to develop sea level rise (SLR) adaptation plans and implementation projects. OPC's SB 1 SLR Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) aims to provide funding for coastal communities to develop consistent SLR adaptation plans and projects to build resilience to SLR along the entire coast of California and San Francisco Bay.

In 2023, the California State Legislature passed SB 272 (Laird), Sea level rise: planning and adaptation. SB 272 addressed the need for coordinated standardized sea level rise adaptation by requiring local governments along the San Francisco Bay shoreline to develop Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans. Bay Area Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans are required to meet the Guidelines established by BCDC in the RSAP, ensuring effective and collaborative regional responses.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This funding will provide valuable technical information around the sea level rise vulnerabilities that exist in the regional East Bay Crescent area, which includes Berkeley, and will provide additional planning support and information to understand how the City and community can best plan for and mitigate these climate impacts.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting this grant funding would allow the City to advance necessary work to understand shoreline vulnerabilities and ensure that community priorities drive

¹ Senate Bill 1 (Atkins, 2021):
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1

Accept SB1 Sea Level Adaptation Grant Funds,
and contract with ABAG/SF Estuary Project

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February 24, 2026

development and coordination of climate adaptation plans in this complex area of the Bay. This funding will also result in the completion of a state-required Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan for the City of Berkeley, which the City would not otherwise have the funding or resources to complete at this time.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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Katie Van Dyke, Chief Resilience Officer, Planning and Development Department, (510) 981-7403

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Ocean Protection Council Staff Recommendation to disburse funds for SB1 SLR Adaptation Planning Grant Program, September 30, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL'S SB1 SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM, AND CONTRACT WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS/SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE EAST BAY CRESCENT SUB-REGIONAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND SHORELINE ADAPTATION PLANNING

WHEREAS, climate change is accelerating rising sea levels, increasing storm frequency and intensity, and moving groundwater toward the surface. The confluence of more intense winter storms, extreme high tides, and higher runoff, with higher sea levels, will increase the frequency and duration of shoreline flooding long before areas are permanently inundated by sea level rise alone; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area is a vibrant, diverse, ecologically unique, innovative, and pioneering region that will be deeply and deleteriously affected by climate change without tremendous effort and investments to adapt to a constantly changing shoreline. The San Francisco Bay shoreline constitutes approximately one-third of the California coastline, but the Bay Area is estimated to experience two-thirds of the negative economic impacts due to the flooding that would occur absent adequate measures to adapt and protect people, places, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area region's most socioeconomically vulnerable frontline communities are at the greatest risk of exposure to climate threats, and the impacts of historic and ongoing social and economic marginalization will compound the risks posed by flooding to those communities by reducing a community's or individual's ability to prepare for, respond to, and/or recover from a flood event; and

WHEREAS, flood damage to vital shoreline development, public infrastructure, and facilities such as neighborhoods, commercial centers, airports, seaports, regional transportation facilities, landfills, contaminated lands, and wastewater treatment facilities absent adaptation will require costly repairs and likely will result in the interruption or loss of vital services, large-scale social dislocation, and degraded environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change in the Bay Area do not conform to jurisdictional boundaries or the planning and regulatory authorities of any one agency or organization; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership, in partnership with the City of Berkeley, submitted a proposal in response to the California Ocean Protection Council's Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program to fund the East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2025, the California Ocean Protection Council authorized approval of disbursement of funds to successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea

Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program including to the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership for “The East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning;” and

WHEREAS, the grant funding will lead to the creation of a Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment for the East Bay Crescent area and adaptation planning including a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan for the City of Berkeley.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or their designee is authorized to accept the California Ocean Protection Council’s Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program funding in the amount of \$223,151, and negotiate and execute a contract and any amendments, extensions, or change orders with the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership, for the East Bay Crescent (EBC) Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning, for the duration of March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.



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Staff Recommendation

September 30, 2025

Item 5b

Action Item:

**Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds for Senate Bill 1
Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program**

Megan Williams, Coastal Resilience Program Manager

Recommended Action: Authorization to disburse up to \$9,326,379 to various grantees who submitted successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) for sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning or implementation projects, as follows:

- 5b.1 Up to \$1,140,000 to the City of Alameda for the “Oakland-Alameda Shoreline Adaptation Planning”
- 5b.2 Up to \$2,240,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership for “The East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning”
- 5b.3 Up to \$144,900 to the City of Oakland for the “City of Oakland Oakland-Alameda Adaptation Committee and East Bay Crescent Regional Planning Effort”
- 5b.4 Up to \$2,631,383 to the County of Santa Clara for the “Santa Clara County Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan”
- 5b.5 Up to \$2,033,726 to the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District for the “San Mateo County Southern Bayside Cities Shoreline Resilience Plan”
- 5b.6 Up to \$736,370 to the City of Pinole for the “Pinole-Hercules Multi-Jurisdictional Shoreline Adaptation Plan”
- 5b.7 Up to \$400,000 to the City of Pittsburg for the “City of Pittsburg Shoreline Adaptation Plan”

Location: Statewide

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives: Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change; Objective 1.1: Build Resiliency to Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Storms, Erosion and Flooding

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The SB 1 Grant Program meets many of the strategies and actions outlined in Goal 1 of OPC’s [Equity Plan](#), which is to establish and implement more equitable and sustainable community engagement and funding methods to expand and enhance opportunities for ocean and coastal projects, policies, and research. According to the [SLR Adaptation Criteria](#), each project, regardless of phase, must include outreach, education, and community engagement, especially to environmental justice (EJ) communities and tribes, as part of the project’s scope. Equity and EJ benefits include community engagement, locally driven adaptation priorities, improved coastal habitat, and safer coastal access.

Findings and Resolution:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), OPC hereby finds that:

1. The proposed projects are consistent with the purposes of Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, the California Ocean Protection Act;
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the Budget Act of 2022 which included a \$37.5 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation for implementation of Chapter 236 of the Statutes of 2021 (SB 1); and
3. The proposed projects are not ‘legal projects’ that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations section 15378.”

Staff further recommends that OPC adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“OPC hereby approves the authorization to disburse up to \$9,326,379 to various grantees who submitted successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program for sea level rise adaptation planning or implementation projects, as follows:

- Up to \$1,140,000 to the City of Alameda

- Up to \$2,240,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- Up to \$144,900 to the City of Oakland
- Up to \$2,631,383 to the County of Santa Clara
- Up to \$2,033,726 to the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District
- Up to \$736,370 to the City of Pinole
- Up to \$400,000 to the City of Pittsburg

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, each grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Director of the OPC detailed work plans, schedules, staff requirements, budgets, and the names of any contractors intended to be used to complete the projects, as well as discrete deliverables that can be produced in intervals to ensure the projects are on target for successful completion. All projects will be developed under a shared understanding of process, management, and delivery.”

Executive Summary:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council approve the disbursement of up to \$9,326,379 to fund seven projects submitted by local and regional governments that successfully met the requirements of the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) and will result in sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning or implementation projects. In August of 2023, [OPC approved](#) the disbursement of up to \$95.9 million for the SB 1 Grant Program to fund SLR adaptation planning or implementation projects. The SB 1 Grant Program implements [Senate Bill 1 \(Atkins, 2021\)](#) and also supports local governments in meeting the requirements of [Senate Bill 272 \(Laird, 2023\)](#), which requires all coastal local governments to adopt SLR plans by 2034, integrated into Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) or San Francisco Bay Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans (SSAPs).

Building on this legislative direction, the overall goal of the SB 1 Grant Program is to provide funding for coastal communities to develop consistent SLR adaptation plans and projects to build resilience to SLR along the entire coast of California and San Francisco Bay. To achieve this goal, the SB 1 Grant Program offers two tracks of funding: one for pre-planning and planning phases (Track 1), and one for the project and implementation phase (Track 2). Track 1 opened for proposal submission in December of 2023, and accepts proposals on a non-competitive, rolling, quarterly basis, provided the proposals satisfy the program requirements.

The total amount recommended for funding across all seven projects is \$9,326,379. OPC received 14 applications in this round (12 Track 1 proposals and 2 Track 2 urgent LOIs), requesting a total of \$19.3 million. All proposals were reviewed by OPC staff, in collaboration with either California

Coastal Commission (CCC) or San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) staff, depending on the project area location. Proposals were reviewed for adherence to the [SLR Adaptation Criteria](#) and the evaluation criteria set forth within the solicitation.

This represents the sixth set of projects recommended for funding under the program, furthering the goal of equipping California’s coastal communities with robust and consistent SLR adaptation plans, while ensuring local and regional efforts are well-coordinated and advancing statewide resilience. To date, OPC has approved over \$20.4 million in SB 1 funding to local, regional, and tribal governments, across five rounds. If approved, this set of projects would bring the total investment to \$29.75 million statewide. To better communicate and assess progress, OPC has created an [interactive map](#) of SB 1-funded projects. The map illustrates how investments are distributed across the outer coast and San Francisco Bay, tracks progress toward the 2034 planning requirement under SB 272, and highlights where additional effort is needed to ensure statewide resilience to SLR.

Track 1 (Pre-Planning, Data Collection, and Planning) Project Summaries:

5b.1 Oakland-Alameda Shoreline Adaptation Planning

Project Summary:

The City of Alameda, in partnership with the Oakland-Alameda Adaptation Committee (OAAC), proposes to develop the Alameda Shoreline Resilience Plan, a single-jurisdiction Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (SSAP) that meets the requirements of SB 272 and BCDC’s [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Planning \(RSAP\) guidelines](#), which includes seven planning elements identified as Elements A through G. The project will fill gaps in existing conditions and vulnerability assessments (RSAP Elements B and C) for Alameda and portions of Oakland, and will complete adaptation strategies, an implementation plan, and a project list (RSAP Elements A, D-G) for Alameda. Work will include updated hazard and exposure analyses, community and tribal asset mapping, evaluation of nature-based and engineered alternatives, and preparation of land use, policy, and funding recommendations. Deliverables will culminate in a RSAP-compliant SSAP for Alameda to be adopted by City Council and submitted to BCDC, while coordinated deliverables for Oakland will provide the foundation for its future SSAP.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The project area includes frontline neighborhoods in East Oakland and an Environmental Justice community on Alameda’s west side, identified through [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#), BCDC’s Social Vulnerability Index, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Disaster Resilience Zones. Residents face overlapping risks from flooding, contamination, and limited

shoreline access. Greenbelt Alliance, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda, and local community-based organizations (CBOs) will lead multilingual engagement – surveys, workshops, focus groups, and asset mapping – to ensure underserved residents shape priorities and strategies. Tribal partners, including the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation/Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, will be engaged and compensated. These actions fulfill the RSAP Equity Standard and center vulnerable communities in adaptation outcomes.

About the Grantee:

The City of Alameda is responsible for managing a highly vulnerable shoreline in central San Francisco Bay. Alameda has led climate resilience efforts including a 2019 Social Vulnerability Assessment and recent subregional existing conditions and vulnerability reports completed through the Oakland-Alameda Adaptation Committee (OAAC). The City convenes OAAC, which brings together Oakland, the Port of Oakland, Caltrans, East Bay Regional Park District, CBOs, tribal partners, and regional agencies.

This project will be delivered with a multidisciplinary team of confirmed partners: CMG Landscape Architecture (technical prime), East Bay Regional Park District (subregional coordination), Greenbelt Alliance and Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (community engagement), San Francisco Estuary Institute (science and nature-based solutions), and UC Berkeley (finance and policy). With this team and established interagency collaboration through OAAC, Alameda is well-positioned to deliver an RSAP-compliant SSAP.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$1,140,000 to the City of Alameda for the Oakland-Alameda Shoreline Adaptation Planning Project. This project includes leveraged non-state funds of \$840,000, comprised of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and a San Francisco Estuary Institute grant focused on the Oakland-Alameda subregion. The total project cost is \$1,980,000.

5b.2 The East Bay Crescent Subregional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning

Project Summary:

The Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), with Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland, will lead the East Bay Crescent (EBC) Subregional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning. The project will produce RSAP-compliant Existing Conditions (Element B) and Vulnerability Assessments (Element C) for the EBC shoreline (Bay Bridge/Radio Beach to Cerritos Creek) and develop coordinated, single-jurisdiction SSAPs for Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville (Elements D-G). Core tasks include convening an EBC Working Group and Equity Committee, community and tribal engagement, updated exposure analyses using recent LiDAR, evaluation of nature-based and engineered strategies, and preparation of implementation, monitoring, and funding plans. Oakland will participate in Elements B/C through the Working Group to align with its future SSAP.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The EBC shoreline includes frontline neighborhoods in Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, and West Oakland that face overlapping risks from flooding, contaminated fill, groundwater rise, and limited shoreline access. Many of these areas rank in the highest percentiles in [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#), with long histories of redlining and industrial land use. SFEP will convene an Equity Committee led by the firm co:census and up to six CBOs to ensure community voices guide the process. Engagement will include multilingual workshops, surveys, walking tours, and asset mapping to identify priority areas and shape strategies. Tribal partners, including the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation, will be engaged and compensated. This approach ensures adaptation plans reflect community priorities and meet the RSAP Equity Standard.

About the Grantee:

SFEP is a collaborative regional program of agencies, nonprofits, scientists, and community partners working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Housed within the Association of Bay Area Governments, SFEP has decades of experience managing multi-jurisdictional planning, grant administration, and community-based projects.

For this effort, SFEP will manage a multidisciplinary team that includes co:census (engagement lead), CMG Landscape Architecture and Pathways Climate Institute (technical co-leads), and the San Francisco Estuary Institute (science and nature-based solutions advisor), in partnership with the Cities of Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville (SSAP adoption leads) and the City of Oakland (Working Group participant for Elements B/C). With its established convening role and technical

bench, SFEP is well-positioned to deliver RSAP-compliant subregional analyses and coordinated city SSAPs.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over two and a half years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$2,240,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership for The East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning Project. This project includes leveraged non-state and state funds totaling \$2,004,904, comprised of contributions from the Bay Area Toll Authority, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Improvement Fund, and U.S. Department of Transportation PROTECT Planning Grant, as well as a state grant to the City of Berkeley from the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. The total project cost is \$4,244,904.

5b.3 City of Oakland OAAC and EBC Regional Planning Effort**Project Summary:**

The City of Oakland will advance sea level rise planning for portions of its shoreline through participation in two coordinated efforts: the OAAC and the EBC Working Group. Together, these efforts will produce RSAP-compliant Existing Conditions (RSAP Element B) and Vulnerability Assessments (RSAP Element C) for the Oakland shoreline within the San Leandro and EBC Operational Landscape Units. This work will update and align prior studies with RSAP standards, identify priority areas and assets, and assess evolving risks over time. Oakland staff will contribute data, review deliverables, and coordinate across both projects to ensure consistency. Completion of Elements B and C will lay the groundwork for Oakland’s future SSAP, supporting development of adaptation strategies, implementation plans, and project lists in later phases.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

Oakland’s shoreline includes many frontline communities identified through the City’s Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#), and FEMA Community Disaster Resilience Zones. East Oakland and waterfront neighborhoods rank in the top 10-20% statewide for cumulative environmental burdens, facing overlapping risks from flooding, groundwater rise, contaminated fill, and limited shoreline access. Community engagement to date has included more than 90 meetings and surveys as part of Oakland’s General Plan update, with a racial equity framework guiding outreach to historically underserved neighborhoods. While this project focuses on technical RSAP Elements B and C, engagement data and community asset mapping from those

efforts will inform SSAP deliverables and ensure consistency with the Equity Standard. Future phases of Oakland’s SSAP will expand direct engagement, building on these foundations to ensure that vulnerable residents shape adaptation priorities and outcomes.

About the Grantee:

The City of Oakland manages an extensive and highly vulnerable shoreline along San Francisco Bay, San Leandro Bay, and the Oakland Estuary. Oakland has advanced resilience planning through its Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (2021), Equitable Climate Action Plan (2020), and recently adopted General Plan Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. The City participates in OAAC and the EBC Working Group, collaborating with Alameda, SFEP, regional agencies, CBOs, and tribal partners to coordinate shoreline planning across jurisdictions.

This project will be delivered in partnership with OAAC and SFEP-led efforts, supported by a consultant team led by CMG Landscape Architecture. Engagement experience from the General Plan update provides a strong foundation for integrating equity and community-identified assets into RSAP deliverables. With this track record and established partnerships, Oakland is well-positioned to complete RSAP-compliant Elements B and C and to advance a future SSAP.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over one and a half years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$144,900 to the City of Oakland for the City of Oakland OAAC and EBC Regional Planning Effort. This project includes leveraged non-state funds of \$840,000, comprised of a NFWF grant and a San Francisco Estuary Institute grant focused on the Oakland-Alameda subregion. The total project cost is \$984,900.

5b.4 Santa Clara County Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

Project Summary:

The County of Santa Clara proposes to develop the Santa Clara County Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (SCCSAP), a multi-jurisdictional effort that will align with BCDC’s RSAP guidelines. The SCCSAP will cover unincorporated County lands and six participating cities: Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, San José, Santa Clara, and Milpitas, in partnership with Valley Water and the Valley Transportation Authority.

Key outcomes include updating vulnerability assessments to meet RSAP Elements B and C and preparing RSAP Elements A-G for the County and its cities. The plan will identify priority action areas and adaptation pathways at the Operational Landscape Unit (OLU) scale, emphasizing nature-based solutions and cross-jurisdictional coordination. Each city will have an annex with tailored analysis, strategies, and project lists. By integrating programmatic CEQA review and securing local adoption, the SCCSAP will provide a clear framework for shoreline resilience, implementation, and monitoring across Santa Clara County.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

Santa Clara County’s shoreline communities include both affluent and highly vulnerable areas, with significant disparities in exposure and capacity to adapt. For example, the Alviso neighborhood of San José has a [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) score of 67, high social vulnerability indicators, and limited prior engagement on sea level rise. Across the project area, communities experience overlapping risks from flooding, land subsidence, groundwater rise, and historic contamination.

The project will meet the RSAP Equity Assessment Standard by embedding at least one CBO partner in each OLU to co-lead outreach. Engagement will include multilingual workshops, surveys, and focus groups, ensuring frontline communities identify critical assets, shape local visions and goals, and evaluate adaptation strategies. Tribes with ancestral ties to the shoreline will be engaged in early, ongoing consultation, with attention to cultural resources and reciprocal knowledge sharing. These efforts will ensure that adaptation pathways reduce risks while improving resilience, access, and equity for vulnerable residents.

About the Grantee:

The County of Santa Clara is the sixth most populous county in California, with approximately 20 miles of shoreline along San Francisco Bay. The County has a strong history of regional collaboration through the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, which convenes agencies, CBOs, and technical experts on climate resilience. The County has also advanced local planning through its Safety and Resiliency policies, while partner cities have prepared or are updating climate and vulnerability assessments.

For this project, the County will lead a multi-jurisdictional partnership with six shoreline cities – Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, San José, Santa Clara, and Milpitas – alongside Valley Water and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. Participating cities are providing dedicated staff capacity and data support, with the four cities under BCDC jurisdiction committing substantial staff time to ensure compliance with RSAP standards. A consultant team, including technical experts and CBO partners, will prepare RSAP deliverables under County management. This

structure ensures coordinated planning across jurisdictions, while building on each city’s prior work and commitment to local adoption of the SCCSAP.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over three and a half years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$2,631,383 to the County of Santa Clara for the Santa Clara County Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

5b.5 San Mateo County Southern Bayside Cities Shoreline Resilience Plan**Project Summary:**

The San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (OneShoreline), in partnership with Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto, will develop the San Mateo County Southern Bayside Cities Shoreline Resilience Plan – a multi-jurisdictional SSAP consistent with BCDC’s RSAP guidelines. The plan will update existing conditions and vulnerability analyses, identify priority action areas, and develop coordinated adaptation strategies, pathways, and implementation steps for this hydraulically connected shoreline reach spanning the Belmont-Redwood and San Francisquito OLU. Core benefits include regionally aligned flood risk reduction, funding readiness, equity-centered planning, and prioritization of nature-based solutions.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The planning area includes frontline communities in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park (Belle Haven), North Fair Oaks, and parts of Redwood City with elevated [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) scores and displacement risk. Equity is embedded throughout the process: Nuestra Casa will lead culturally responsive, multilingual engagement (workshops, intercept surveys, site walks, focus groups), and the project will complete RSAP equity assessments at key milestones. Community-identified assets and priorities will directly inform selection of strategies and pathways, with attention to groundwater/contamination risks, public access, and anti-displacement considerations.

About the Grantee:

The San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (OneShoreline) was established in 2020 as a joint powers authority to address sea level rise, flooding, and stormwater challenges across jurisdictional boundaries. OneShoreline leads the development and implementation of multi-benefit shoreline resilience projects throughout San Mateo County and is coordinating

similar efforts in other Bayshore cities. With a mission to advance regional climate resilience, OneShoreline brings expertise in shoreline engineering, community engagement, and land use policy. The agency recently developed and adopted resilience planning guidance for private development and initiated work on public infrastructure resilience standards.

For this project, OneShoreline will lead a partnership with the Cities of Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto; agency partners including Caltrans District 4, San Mateo County, Port of Redwood City, SamTrans, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, Silicon Valley Clean Water; and community partner Nuestra Casa, serving as the equity-based engagement lead. Governance includes a Project Management Team (OneShoreline and cities), a Technical Advisory Committee of regional and state partners, and city interdepartmental working groups to ensure technical rigor, alignment with local priorities, and streamlined adoption.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over three years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$2,033,726 to the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District for the San Mateo County Southern Bayside Cities Shoreline Resilience Plan. This project includes \$642,050 in non-state leveraged funds (\$73,050 from OneShoreline via San Mateo County Measure K and \$569,000 in in-kind staff time contributions from Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto). The total project cost is \$2,675,776.

5b.6 Pinole-Hercules Multi-Jurisdictional Shoreline Adaptation Plan**Project Summary:**

The Cities of Pinole and Hercules propose to jointly develop a multi-jurisdictional shoreline adaptation plan for their shared San Pablo Bay shoreline. The plan will follow BCDC's RSAP guidelines and build on recent local planning efforts, while closely coordinating with Contra Costa County's [OPC-funded](#) shoreline adaptation planning project. Together, these efforts will create a cohesive subregional strategy that addresses shared risks such as flooding, groundwater emergence, and erosion, while identifying nature-based adaptation strategies. The project will focus on critical assets including the Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant, Bayfront Park, and the Hercules Hub transit-oriented development, alongside shoreline neighborhoods and open spaces.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

Both Pinole and Hercules include socially and economically diverse shoreline communities that are highly exposed to flooding, sea level rise, and groundwater emergence. In Pinole, northwestern shoreline neighborhoods rank in the 81st-90th percentile in [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) for diesel particulate matter, toxic releases, and lead contamination, and face high displacement risks. In Hercules, shoreline-adjacent residents include low-income households (23% below 150% of poverty level), cost-burdened renters, and a diverse population. Both cities have built a foundation of equitable outreach through their Climate Action, Hazard Mitigation, and General Plan processes. This project builds on that foundation by partnering with trusted community-based organizations such as Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed, Rotary clubs, and Pinole Earth Team to lead outreach through workshops, surveys, pop-ups, and senior center engagement. The Nations of Lisjan will participate on the Technical Advisory Committee to ensure tribal knowledge and stewardship practices inform the plan. By centering community perspectives and Indigenous leadership, the project ensures that adaptation strategies are both equitable and culturally grounded.

About the Grantee:

The Cities of Pinole and Hercules are partnering to advance a joint shoreline adaptation plan that addresses shared climate risks and supports regional coordination. Pinole recently adopted its first Climate Action and Adaptation Plan following a climate emergency declaration, while Hercules has identified sea level rise as a priority in its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and General Plan Safety Element. Together, the cities manage the Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant, a critical facility serving more than 40,000 residents that is directly threatened by flooding and sea level rise.

This project will be closely coordinated with Contra Costa County's OPC-funded shoreline adaptation planning effort, ensuring consistency across jurisdictions and efficient use of state resources. Community-based partners will provide local outreach and engagement, while the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Nations of Lisjan will contribute technical and cultural expertise through a Technical Advisory Committee. A consultant team, procured by the cities, will prepare RSAP-compliant deliverables. This structure ensures technical rigor, strong alignment with county and regional planning, and robust community input.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$736,370 to the City of Pinole for the Pinole-Hercules Multi-Jurisdictional Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

5b.7 City of Pittsburg Shoreline Adaptation Plan**Project Summary:**

The City of Pittsburg proposes to develop a single-jurisdiction Shoreline Adaptation Plan that complements and builds upon Contra Costa County’s ongoing Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan, [already funded by OPC](#) under SB 1. While the Countywide Vulnerability Assessment will provide important baseline data, it will not fully satisfy RSAP requirements for Pittsburg. This project will fill those gaps and complete RSAP Elements A-G specific to the City’s shoreline, including updated vulnerability analysis, identification of priority action areas, and development of locally tailored adaptation strategies, policies, and project lists. By integrating programmatic CEQA review, the plan will be ready for City Council adoption and implementation. This effort ensures Pittsburg can align with regional planning while addressing its unique shoreline conditions and community priorities.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

Most of Pittsburg’s shoreline tracts rank in the 90th percentile on [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) and are identified as disadvantaged communities in the City’s Environmental Justice Element. Residents face high poverty rates, health disparities, and housing cost burdens, with many households speaking languages other than English at home. These communities also live adjacent to industrial lands and reclaimed shoreline areas vulnerable to flooding, groundwater rise, and contamination.

The project includes a Technical Advisory Committee composed of residents, community leaders, and advisory commissions to guide plan development. Engagement will include multilingual workshops, surveys, focus groups, and pop-ups, ensuring historically underserved communities shape the City’s adaptation strategies. By integrating equity standards throughout, the plan will prioritize projects that reduce flood risk, protect cultural and recreational shoreline assets, and improve resilience for frontline neighborhoods. Tribal consultation will also be initiated to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and cultural resource protection.

About the Grantee:

The City of Pittsburg is a shoreline city in Contra Costa County with a highly vulnerable waterfront along Suisun Bay. Pittsburg has advanced climate planning through its 2040 General Plan, which includes a Safety and Resiliency Element addressing sea level rise and flooding. The City has

experience delivering community-driven planning processes, including its Smart Growth Plan and Sustainability Plan, and participates as a partner in Contra Costa County’s Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

For this project, Pittsburg will select an adaptation planning consultant through an RFP process to support technical analysis, engagement, and plan preparation. City staff will oversee project management, CEQA review, and coordination with the County’s SB 1 effort to ensure consistency across jurisdictions. With this structure, Pittsburg is well positioned to deliver a comprehensive, locally responsive SSAP.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$400,000 to the City of Pittsburg for the City of Pittsburg Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council authorize encumbrance of up to \$9,326,379 to the following:

Recommended SB 1 Grant Program Projects	OPC	Non-OPC
Track 1 (Pre-Planning, Data Collection, and Planning) Projects		
5b.1 City of Alameda	\$1,140,000	\$840,000 ¹
5b.2 Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership	\$144,900	\$2,004,904
5b.3 City of Oakland	\$2,240,000	
5b.4 County of Santa Clara	\$2,631,383	
5b.5 San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District	\$2,033,726	\$642,050
5b.6 City of Pinole	\$736,370	
5b.7 City of Pittsburg	\$400,000	
TOTAL	\$9,326,379	\$3,486,954

The anticipated source of funds will be from the Budget Act of 2022, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation (Fiscal Year 2022/2023) to OPC for implementation of Chapter 236 of Statutes of 2021 (SB 1, Atkins). Pursuant to SB 1, funding is designated “for the purpose of making grants to

¹ This amount reflects a shared \$840,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant supporting Projects 5b.1 and 5b.3. To avoid duplication, this leveraged funding is fully reflected under Project 5b.1.

local and regional governments to update local and regional land use plans to take into account sea level rise and for directly related investments to implement those plans.” Consequently, all projects under the SB 1 Grant Program will focus on SLR adaptation and fall within the pre-planning, planning, or implementation project phases. These projects will follow the SLR Adaptation Criteria, developed in accordance with SB 1 and in consultation with the SLR Collaborative.

Consistency with California Ocean Protection Act:

The proposed project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Act, Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, because it is consistent with trust-fund allowable projects, defined in Public Resources Code Section 35650(b)(2) as projects which:

- Eliminate or reduce threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems, habitats, and species.
- Allow for increased public access to, and enjoyment of, ocean and coastal resources, consistent with sustainable, long-term protection and conservation of those resources.
- Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
- Provide funding for adaptive management, planning coordination, monitoring, research, and other necessary activities to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on California's ocean ecosystem.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

The various proposed projects under Track 1 (Pre-Planning, Data Collection, and Planning) are not ‘legal projects’ that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations section 15378. If a project were determined to be a ‘legal project’ under CEQA, the proposed projects are statutorily exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations section 15262 as feasibility and planning studies.

