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Alameda County Mayors' Conference

Alameda
Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Albany
Preston Jordan

January 19, 2022

Berkeley
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Zack Wasserman
Chair

Dublin
Melissa Hernandez

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
375 Beale St., Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Emeryville
John Bauters

Re: Support for Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay

Fremont
Lily Mei

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

Hayward
Barbara Halliday

At its regular meeting of January 12, 2022 the Alameda County Mayors' Conference participated in a presentation regarding "Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay." We understand that Bay Adapt Joint Platform is the result of a stakeholder-led process to determine the best ways for the San Francisco Bay Area to become regionally resilient to rising sea levels.

Livermore
Robert Woerner

Newark
Al Nagy

While the Bay's shoreline constitutes one-third of the California coastline, the Bay Area will likely experience two-thirds of the negative economic impacts due to the flooding caused by rising sea levels' absent adequate measures to adapt and protect people, places, and habitat. As sea levels rise at an accelerating rate, 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.

Oakland
Libby Schaaf

Piedmont
Teddy Gray King

Pleasanton
Karla Brown

In the face of this challenge, our members understand the Bay Area must protect and energize vulnerable and historically marginalized frontline communities, enhance and restore an ecosystem that is already deeply affected by human activities, and reduce flood risks for existing built infrastructure along the vast bay shoreline. Yet, the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change in the Bay Area do not conform to our government's jurisdictional boundaries or the planning and regulatory authorities of any one agency or organization. Bay Adapt begins to

San Leandro
Pauline Cutter

Union City
Carol Dutra-Vernaci

Executive Director
Steven Bocian

address these challenges by laying out a set of guiding principles, priority actions, and vital tasks that public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including local governments with land use authorities, can voluntarily implement in a coordinated and collaborative manner to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising San Francisco Bay.

It will take tremendous efforts and investments to adapt the San Francisco Bay Area to a constantly changing shoreline and continue to improve its vibrant, diverse, ecologically unique, innovative, and pioneering quality of life. Implementing Bay Adapt will reduce flood risks for communities, businesses, infrastructure, and habitat, increase technical assistance for local governments and funding for adaptation, protect natural areas and wildlife, recognize and equitably support low-income, frontline communities, robustly integrate adaptation into community-focused local plans, and accelerate permitting and project construction of local adaptation projects.

At its January 12, 2022 meeting, the Alameda County Mayors' Conference, with a unanimous vote, approved its support for the Bay Adapt Joint Platform and we look forward to working with BCDC and all of Bay Adapt's stakeholders to ensure that the entire Bay Area thrives in the face of rising sea levels.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need to follow-up regarding this appointment.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
President, Alameda County Mayors' Conference

MEA:mk

cc: Alameda County Mayors' Conference membership
Steven Bocian, Executive Director