San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
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TO: Bay Fill Policies Working Group Members

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SUBJECT: February 19, 2015 Commission Fill Policies Working Group Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES: Commissioners: Barry Nelson, Chair, Jane Hicks (remotely), Jim McGrath, and Sean Randolph. Public attendees included John Coleman of the Bay Planning Coalition.

1. **Roll Call, Introductions and Approval of Agenda.** Bay Fill Policies Working Group Chair, Barry Nelson, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 am.

2. **Comments on the January 8, 2015 Meeting Summary.** The Working Group agreed that future meeting summaries should contain a sufficient level of information to characterize what was discussed, but in a highlighted style. The Working Group also asked staff to include a list of meeting attendees and their summarized comments in future meeting summaries.

3. **Presentation: Summary of Commission Practice Implementing Bay Fill Policies.** Joe LaClair of BCDC made a presentation on the historical context of the Commission's Bay Fill policies. The presentation's highlights were:

   a. How much fill the Commission has authorized over the years and how much the Bay has expanded due to mitigation and restoration.

   b. In the 1970s, authorized fill was primarily for ports, recreational piers, boat ramps/launches, and marinas.

   c. After mitigation policies went into effect (1986), the overall amount of fill approved by the Commission dropped.

   d. In the late-1980's, the Commission established shoreline protection as a water-oriented use for which fill could be authorized.

   e. Recent large fills were authorized for transportation uses the Bay, San Mateo, Carquinez, and Benicia Bridges and the Port of Oakland Project.

4. **Policy Pivot and the Role of the Bay Fill Policies Working Group.** BCDC staff suggested that Commission was confronting a policy pivot due to a number of challenges facing the Bay region. Issues like sea level rise may encourage the Commission to approve more Bay fill in order to

promote greater shoreline resilience. The Committee recommended staff develop a different approach to characterize the policy change rather than a "pivot", such as BCDC 2.0, clarifying that many existing policies will remain relevant, despite the need to develop new policies and that any new language should inspire the Commission and the public. Other points included:

a. Approval of more Bay fill to promote shoreline resilience must not harm the Bay for future generations.

b. A communications strategy is needed to effectively discuss adaptation with the public. This should be an ongoing theme to think through with the Bay Fill Policies and Rising Sea Level Working Groups.

c. Co-equal goals when reviewing future projects, e.g., how we handle development cannot undermine environmental goals, and vice versa; and projects that should provide "multiple benefits".

5. **Policies for a Rising Bay Project.** Miriam Torres of BCDC provided an overview of the NOAA-funded Policies for a Rising Bay project. Staff made the following points:

a. The project is currently scoping the policy issues to be considered based on interviews with BCDC staff members and select members of the steering committee.

b. The project Steering Committee will meet on March 13, 2015 for its initial meeting, followed by a technical workshop in May. The first Steering Committee meeting will include a summary of issues identified and an opportunity for committee members to broaden the list. At the technical workshop, key partners will help identify areas for potential case studies for different shoreline geographies around the Bay, including challenging areas around the Bay and both developed and open shorelines within and beyond BCDC's jurisdiction.

Working group members suggested that staff integrate lessons learned from other projects that address shoreline vulnerabilities and economic impacts and tradeoffs of adaptation, including the ART Project, Flood Control 2.0, SFEI's Flood Control 2.0 and IRWMP-funded shoreline analysis, and the Nature Conservancy's *Reducing Climate Risk with Natural Infrastructure*.

6. **New Business.** The Working Group members requested that staff prepare the following for its next meeting:

a. Selection of a new name for the working group;

b. Recap of the NOAA-funded *Policies for a Rising Bay* Project steering committee meeting; and

c. A historical context regarding Bay Fill policies, as well as the new challenges the Bay faces in regards to fill.

7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.