

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

50 California Street • Suite 2600 • San Francisco, California 94111 • (415) 352-3600 • Fax: (415) 352-3606 • www.bcdc.ca.gov

January 6, 2012

TO: Commissioners and Alternates
FROM: Steve Goldbeck, Acting Executive Director (415/352-3611 steveg@bcdc.ca.gov)
SUBJECT: **Joint Policy Committee Consideration of a Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy and Consultant**
(For Commission information only)

Summary

At its December 2, 2011 meeting, the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) considered the Commission's request for it to lead the preparation of a sea level rise adaptation strategy for the Bay Area and also to hire a consultant that would, among other things, facilitate developing the strategy, if the JPC undertakes it.

Report

Background. The JPC is composed of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and BCDC. BCDC representatives on the JPC are Chair Sean Randolph and Commissioners Geoffrey Gibbs, John Gioia, Kathrin Sears, and Brad Wagenknecht. Commissioners Tom Bates and Gayle B. Uilkema represent the Air District on the JPC. The JPC was established to coordinate policy initiatives of the member agencies. Major coordination initiatives of the JPC include One Bay Area, the Focus program, and Plan Bay Area that will be a sustainable communities strategy to meet the requirements of AB 375.

At its December 2, 2011 meeting, the four executive directors of the JPC agencies recommended that the JPC take the lead on facilitating preparation of a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy for the region, as requested by BCDC. The JPC members also discussed what the proper role of the JPC should be as a regional body, from coordinating policies brought forward from the member agencies, to taking the lead role on policy development—including the regional sea level rise adaptation strategy. They further discussed whether it was appropriate to bring proposals to the JPC first for consideration, or to the member organizations. While there is interest that the JPC should take the lead on facilitating the regional climate strategy, the JPC decided that this determination should be discussed by MTC, Air District, and ABAG, and then brought back to the January 20, 2012 meeting of the JPC.

The JPC also considered a proposal by the executive directors of the MTC, Air District and ABAG to hire Will Travis as a consultant. His role would be to:

1. Serve as the lead coordinator to deliver the JPC's work program, develop recommendations on future work program activities, and coordinate JPC Board and Executive staff meetings. In this role, Mr. Travis would work with Bruce Riordan on the JPC's Climate Program and with Sean Randolph on the regional Economic Development Strategy.



Making San Francisco Bay Better

2. In concert with the JPC, advance the concept of One Bay Area to address the current and emerging challenges of integrating the relevant policies and work programs of the four JPC member agencies.
3. Coordinate the JPC's engagement of government agencies, business, and institutional interests, as well as the general public.
4. Create a strategy for the advancement of a Plan Bay Area (after completion of the initial Sustainable Communities Strategy in 2013) that includes regional climate and economic development strategies, and serve as the principal spokesperson for that strategy once approved by JPC.
5. Advise the JPC agencies' executive directors on strategic measures that will advance the JPC's most effective role in achieving the objectives of One Bay Area.

Mr. Travis would be retained by MTC as a consultant at an annual contract amount of \$150,000. The prior JPC coordinator had been paid annual salary and benefits of \$210,00. Consistent with past practice, funding for this contract would be shared by the four JPC agencies subject to availability of funds (to date, BCDC has not had funds to contribute and likely will not have available funds at least through the next state fiscal year). The JPC members discussed the process to hire a JPC consultant and determined that the member agencies should take up this matter along with the issue of JPC leadership on a regional climate change adaptation strategy.

BCDC staff intends to continue to press for JPC leadership of the regional sea level rise adaptation strategy, and to support hiring of Mr. Travis as senior consultant to the JPC, unless directed otherwise by the Commission.