

Begin forwarded message:

From: Feinstein Arthur <> **Subject:** Bay Plan proposed Amendments re Habitat and Environmental Justice and Social Equity

Date: July 20, 2017 at 9:54:39 AM PDT

To: "Goldzband, Larry@BCDC" <larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov>, lindy.lowe@bcdc.ca.gov

Dear Larry and Lindy:

Due to a health issue (a bad knee) I won't be able to attend today's Commission meeting but I did want to let you, and the Commission, know that I strongly support the proposal to amend the Bay Plan to address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise both from a habitat protection and restoration perspective and the impacts on disadvantaged communities that are the least able to address those impacts.

These are issues that are easy to support in general but that will, no doubt, raise many questions when it comes to the particulars. I look forward to that process and do hope that the public is adequately brought into these discussions. I would hope that there will be several opportunities for discussion before the Commission votes.

Good luck today,
yours,
Arthur Feinstein



July 20, 2017

BCDC Commissioners
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Changes to the Bay Plan to address Bay fill in habitat projects and social equity and environmental justice

Dear BCDC Commissioners,

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, I'd like thank you for the opportunity to comment on the two considerations before the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC): updating policies regarding fill for habitat projects, and the inclusion of social justice into the Bay Plan, and potentially, to the McAteer-Petris Act. While the Bay Area Council supports the proposed action for BCDC staff to begin a public process to explore policy changes in these areas, we caution the Commission that the exigencies of climate change require any action taken by BCDC to be in the service of speeding project approvals, not delaying them.

A 2015 study from the Bay Area Council Economic Institute estimates the Bay Area could suffer more than \$10 billion in damages during an extreme storm event occurring under current sea levels. While wetland habitats are among the most cost-effective ways to improve the health and safety of the San Francisco Bay shoreline, the Fall 2016 update to the Baylands Goals Report, compiled by the Coastal Conservancy and 20 other management agencies including BCDC, warned that restoring such habitats will become increasingly cost-prohibitive beyond 2030 due to rising sea levels. This past April, the Ocean Protection Council updated its sea level rise projections, which now predict a 67% chance that the San Francisco Bay will rise additional 6 inches to 1.1 feet by 2050.

These new findings highlight the urgency in addressing sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay. That's why the Bay Area Council, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Save the Bay, and other organizations worked to pass Measure AA in 2016, a \$12 parcel tax which will raise \$500 million over 20 years for wetland restoration and flood protection projects in the San Francisco Bay. That's also why the Bay Area Council and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group are leading an effort involving 13 Bay permitting and permittee agencies, including BCDC, to work on ways to better coordinate the permitting of beneficial projects.

In short, time is not on our side. The paramount goal of any considered changes to the San Francisco Bay Plan and/or the McAteer-Petris Act, must be the reduction of project timelines and costs. Proposed policy changes on bay fill for habitat or social justice should meet this constraint. As stated at one BCDC workshop: we can spend valuable years studying the tangential effects of adaptation strategies, or we can be nimble and innovative. We urge BCDC to commit to the latter. Any processes or policies that complicate, delay, or materially increase project costs will leave residents and businesses vulnerable to the harms of sea level rise and our next mega storm.

Thank you for your leadership, and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Covert'.

Adrian Covert
Vice President, Public Policy
Bay Area Council

July 19, 2017

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102-7019

To the BCDC Commission Members,

We, the undersigned community and environmental justice organizations, call on you to adopt the staff recommendation for social equity and environmental justice in the proposed amendments.

We support Bay Conservation and Development Commission's efforts to protect the San Francisco Bay. Climate change, impacts of flooding, and sea level rise will affect communities differently; especially disadvantaged communities.

We urge you to consider these communities when developing the San Francisco Bay Plan.

For health and environmental justice,

Leaotis Martin, Co-Coordinator

Bayview Hunters Point Mothers and Fathers Committee

Carl Anthony, Co-Founder

Breakthrough Communities

Paloma Pavel, Executive Director

Earth House

Bradley Angel, Executive Director

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

Wafaa Aborashed, Director

Healthy 880 Communities

Anthony Khalil, Community Programs Director

Literacy for Environmental Justice

Colin Miller

Oakland Climate Action Coalition

Phoenix Armenta

Resilient Communities Initiative

Hannah Doress, Co-Director
Shore Up Marin

Colin Bailey, Executive Director and Managing Attorney
The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Janice Schroeder, Core Member
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs

Dr. Henry Clark
West County Toxics Coalition

Brian Beveridge, Co-Director
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project