

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

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TO: Commissioners, Alternates and Interested Parties

FROM: Will Travis, Executive Director (415/352-3653 travis@bcdc.ca.gov)
Joe LaClair, Chief Planner (415/352-3656 joel@bcdc.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation on Additional Hearings and Workshops
on Proposed Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08 Dealing with Climate Change
(For Commission consideration on November 4, 2010)**

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission endorse the public outreach process described below to encourage additional public input on proposed Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08 dealing with climate change.

Staff Report

On September 3, 2010 the staff mailed, emailed and web-posted its third preliminary recommendation on Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08 and a notice for a October 7, 2010 public hearing on the proposed amendment. The Commission kept the public hearing open until its October 21, 2010 meeting and at that meeting the staff proposed providing additional opportunities for public input by means of the following:

- A staff hosted **public workshop on October 29, 2010** to provide local governments and the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed amendments and to provide recommendations for changes to the proposed language.
- A **special Commission public meeting on November 2, 2010** on the proposed amendment where, in addition to accepting testimony from members of the public, key stakeholders will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendment with members of the Commission.
- A **continued public hearing on November 4, 2010** on the proposed amendment at the Commission's regularly-scheduled meeting.

While these additional opportunities for public input should prove beneficial, the staff believes it is imperative that the Commission engage in even more public outreach because the Bay Area faces a somewhat unique dilemma when dealing with climate change. Some of the areas that are vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise also contain transportation facilities and have infill opportunities that make them ideal for the type of compact, mixed-use development needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as required by AB 32 and meet the region's obligations to formulate a sustainable communities strategy that is required by SB 375. The Bay Area does not have the choice of either cutting greenhouse gases or adapting to sea level rise. The region must do both. Therefore, the proposed Bay Plan amendments must be reconciled with the region's initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To achieve this goal, the staff believes the end product of the Bay Plan amendment process should not be simply amending the Bay Plan. Rather the process should help generate a broader recognition that sea level rise will have significant impacts on Bay Area communities and resources and a shared regional commitment to address these impacts in a responsible fashion through an effective adaptation strategy that is integrated with the region's greenhouse gas reduction strategy. To accom-



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plish this the staff recommends that the Commission endorse an augmented public outreach process made up of the following elements:

- **Continuing the public hearing on the proposed Bay Plan amendment** at least until the Commission's November 18, 2010 meeting and even to the December 2, 2010 meeting if there are still people who want to comment but have not had an opportunity to do so.
- During November and December, the staff will work with local officials on the Commission to hold **special workshops in all nine Bay Area counties** so that local government staff and members of the public can become more familiar with the issue of sea level rise, better understand how the Commission is approaching this issue and give us input on their views.
- At the Commission meetings in December, the staff will seek **direction from the Commission** on preferred amendment language.
- The staff will then use the public input and Commission policy direction to prepare a fourth preliminary recommendation, which will be released in January or February 2011 for yet **another public hearing in February or March** and a possible vote thereafter.

While this process is long and laborious, the staff believes it more than responds to the requests to slow the Bay Plan amendment process and provide for more public input and ultimately will better serve the citizens of the Bay Area.

