

# 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

April 15, 2011

**TO:** Commissioners and Alternates

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

**SUBJECT: Proposed Bay Plan Amendment No. 1-08 Concerning Climate Change,  
Comment Letters**  
(For Commission information only)

## Staff Report

Identical versions of the attached sample letter were submitted to the Commission by over 800 individuals prior to December 17, 2010, the last day written comments were accepted for the public hearing that opened on September 3, 2010. The Commission's staff has previously provided the names and addresses of 818 of these individuals, but overlooked letters from six individuals. The sample letter from Robert Kessler and the names and address of the six additional individuals are attached.

In addition, over 200 individuals and organizations sent unique comment letters during the public hearing period that extended from September 3, 2010 to December 17, 2010. The Commission's staff has previously provided all but six of these unique letters. The six remaining unique letters are also attached.



Making San Francisco Bay Better

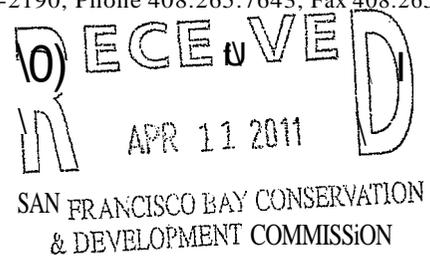
Additional Signatories to Identical Letter

Leslie	Adams	118 Nicholl Ave.	Pt. Richmond	CA	94801-3921
Clover	Catskill	1730 Glen Court	Pinole	CA	94564-2102
Jan	Cecil	2923 Ashby Ave.	Berkeley	CA	94705-2321
Geoffrey	Chandler	2440 Cedar St.	Berkeley	CA	94708-1823
Rita	Donovan	2606 Hastings Shore Lane	Redwood City	CA	94065
Denise	Larsen	12 Big Tree Way	Woodside	CA	94062-3775



Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

2102 Almaden Road Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95125-2190, Phone 408.265.7643, Fax 408.265.2080



Neil M. Struthers Chief Executive Officer

Josué Garda Deputy Executive Officer

Robert Baldini President

- List of trade organizations including Asbestos Workers, Boilermakers, Brick & Tile, etc.

Affiliated with: State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, etc.



April 8, 2011

Will Travis Executive Director Bay Conservation Development Commission 50 California Street, Suite 2600 San Francisco, California 94111

Re: Protection Against Projections of Rising Seas

Dear Mr. Travis,

Thank you for your letter of March 28. The Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council (Building Trades Council) is increasingly concerned with the issue of projected sea-level rise in the Bay area. We appreciate the work of the Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) in highlighting the issue and raising awareness around the Bay. The Building Trades Council's recent activities, however, are focused on ensuring that all efforts to respond and adapt to rising sea levels seek to strengthen the economic vitality of this region and do not compromise current and future opportunities for the members of the Building Trades Council. We believe efforts to protect against rising seas and a robust economy and workforce should be seen as wholly compatible.

We understand that BCDC is in the midst of considering amendments to its Bay Plan regarding climate change and have carefully reviewed the language within those proposed amendments; That, however, is not the focus of the Building Trades Council's efforts. Rather, we view the immediate consequences of sea level rise on Bay area communities to be a local concern that should then be coordinated regionally. Each city and county should be responsive to its residents by first exploring the specific threat posed by projected sea-level rise in their community and then by developing a plan to address those specific threats. We intend to strongly encourage local governments in our region to immediately begin these discussions in an inclusive and transparent manner.

Although our focus starts locally, we have been concerned with the broad and sweeping approach taken in the proposed Bay Plan amendment to address climate change and the impact this approach may have on our local communities. The proposed amendments specify only narrow circumstances under which it is recommended that efforts be taken to protect against sea-level rise and allows for the wholesale retreat from residential communities

Will Travis  
Executive Director, BCDC  
March 31, 2011  
Page 2

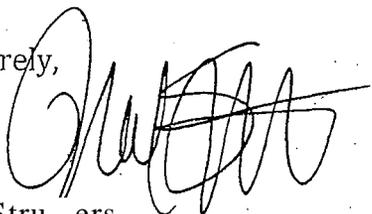
and business centers that do not meet these narrow guidelines. Though the proposed amendment notes the associated cost of abandoning developments vulnerable to sea-level rise, it says nothing about the obligation of local governments to develop strategies to protect all residents and businesses from this impending threat. To illustrate this point, we have been unable to locate one single proposal for specific protective action for existing communities or infrastructure in the many months BCDC has been considering the proposed Bay Plan amendments, nor have we seen any active proposal or debate as to how future protective actions will be funded or implemented.

In addition to our concern with strategies that allow for, and in many circumstances advocate for, the abandonment of established communities, we are equally concerned about the far-reaching restrictions the proposed Bay Plan amendments would place upon new developments within the projected inundation zone and the impacts those restrictions would have on our local economy, including our ability to create much needed jobs within the building and construction sector. The Building Trades Council firmly believes that any guidelines for future development must be part of a comprehensive plan driven initially by local land use authorities to protect against the threat of sea level rise. Furthermore, we believe that any effort to develop a regional plan to address sea-level rise must clearly outline the process through which it will achieve true collaboration with local governments.

Certainly, regional agencies such as BCDC, ABAG, and MTC have vital roles to play in this debate, but local governments that are directly responsible for and accountable to their local residents and businesses must lead the effort in developing plans unique to the respective threat they face. It is for these reasons that the Building Trades Council is actively advocating for local governments to enter this debate in their own jurisdictions, assess the threat to their communities, and start to define proactive and protective strategies today to ensure that both the physical environment and the economic sustainability of our region continue to thrive well into the future.

I hope this provides you with a better understanding of our concerns and the focus of our activities. Should you have any further questions regarding the Building Trades Council or its efforts on behalf of its members, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Neil Struvers  
Chief Executive Officer  
Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

cc: Commission and Alternates'  
Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Local Governments



**From:** rksox04@yahoo.com  
**To:** info@bcdc.ca.gov  
**Date:** 11/27/2010 10:24 PM  
**Subject:** Pass the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy

Robert Kessler  
782 Calmar Ave  
Oakland, CA 94610-1729

November 28, 2010

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you now to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please reject the false claims and attacks of developers, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Robert Kessler  
5107035120

**Subject: Pass the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2011 6:38 PM

**From:** apereiraod@hotmail.com

**To:** <info@bcdc.ca.gov>

anita pereira  
5800 Burlingame Ave  
Richmond, CA 94804-5210

February 9, 2011

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you please to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas that are so vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please do what you can to reject the false claims and attacks of developers, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat. Your efforts in helping the bay are so crucial to so many living beings, human and non-human.

Sincerely,

anita pereira

**Subject: Pass the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy**

**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2010 1:04 PM

**From:** avila.lupe@gmail.com

**To:** <info@bcdcc.ca.gov>

Lupe Avila  
4615 Hessel Rd  
Sebastopol, CA 95472-6210

October 18, 2010

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

I urge you to do the right thing for the environment and for our children. There is no time to wait, please take right action on this critical issue. BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you now to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please reject the false claims and attacks of developers, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Lupe Avila

**Subject: Pass the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 8:24 AM

**From:** ddvannelli@yahoo.com

**To:** <info@bcdc.ca.gov>

Marsha Cohen  
746 7th Ave  
Redwood City, CA 94063-3921

October 19, 2010

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

I live in the North Fair Oaks unincorporated area adjacent to the proposed Cargill/DMB development. This project proposes to fill in over 1400 acres of fully restorable salt ponds. The Notice of Preparation recently released states, on page 51, that BCDC has permitting authority and BCDC's policies on salt ponds preservation is to "make every effort to buy these lands and restore, enhance or convert these areas to subtidal or wetland habitat. This type of purchase should have a high priority...." Further, the NOP states that the project will expose residents to flooding due to sea level rise.

The developer has already stated that BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you now to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please reject the false claims and attacks of developers, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Marsha Cohen

650-796-5390

**Subject: Pass the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy**

**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2010 12:59 PM

**From:** dmartinich@att.net

**To:** <info@bcdc.ca.gov>

Don Martinich  
533 G Street  
Davis, CA 95616-3820

October 18, 2010

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you now to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please reject the false claims and attacks of developers, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat.

We've got to stop building on the Bay's edge. The polar ice caps and the world's glaciers aren't melting into thin air. The ocean levels are rising and will continue to do so. We need to act now.

Sincerely,

Don Martinich

**Subject: Adopt the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 8:54 AM

**From:** sfdlong@ix.netcom.com

**To:** <info@bcdc.ca.gov>

David Long  
333 Lowell Ave  
Mill Valley, CA 94941-3845

October 19, 2010

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you now to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please reject the false claims and attacks of developers who ignore science in the pursuit of profits, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

David Long  
415-381-6327

**Subject: Please pass the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy**

**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2010 12:59 PM

**From:** theahenry@sbcglobal.net

**To:** <info@bcdc.ca.gov>

Thea Henry-Hamilton  
137 Hudson St.  
Redwood City, CA 94062-1919

October 18, 2010

Sean Randolph

Dear Sean Randolph:

BCDC has shown its leadership by educating the Bay Area about the challenges of sea level rise. I urge you now to promptly adopt the staff's proposal for the Bay Plan Climate Change Policy that gives cities guidance on how to protect infrastructure and crucial habitat in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

This policy has been carefully crafted through two years of extensive outreach, public hearings and BCDC workshops. It advances the California Climate Adaptation Strategy that Governor Schwarzenegger adopted in 2009 and it will help ensure a common and cautious approach to sea level rise planning, instead of allowing cities and developers to ignore risks.

Please reject the false claims and attacks of developers, and adopt these policies that will help guide the Bay Area's sea level rise planning to protect people and wildlife habitat.

We need to insure that our bay remains healthy for future generations, long after today's rich developers are dead and gone. PLEASE LEAD THE WAY TO A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR BAY.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thea Henry-Hamilton