



October 18, 2021

Zachary Wasserman
Chair
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
375 Beale St., Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Bay Adapt (Support)

Dear Chair Wasserman,

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, and as a member of BCDC's Leadership Advisory Group, I respectfully urge BCDC to approve the resolution in support of the Bay Adapt Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay. The Bay Adapt Joint Platform is a blueprint for strengthening regional resilience to sea level rise without sacrificing the region's ambitious jobs and economic growth projections.

The San Francisco Bay Area's \$838 billion economy is the 18th largest in the world—larger than the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, or Switzerland—making it one of the most important coastal regions on earth and an integral part of the American economy. However, the Bay Area has struggled to adapt in recent years to numerous crises, both natural and manmade. Our chronic housing shortage has spawned a tragic and dehumanizing homelessness crisis; millions of hours of productivity are lost in traffic congestion; increasingly severe wildfires threaten homes and businesses while undermining public health and quality of life.

Amidst these challenges, the Bay Area cannot afford to be caught off guard by extreme flooding and rising sea levels. In 2015, the Bay Area Council Economic Institute's Surviving the Storm report estimated a severe atmospheric river event could wreak approximately \$11 billion in economic damages from the Bay Area under present sea levels. The California Ocean Protection Council estimates the Bay Area will experience 13" of sea level rise between now and 2050. Without coordinated action, the Bay Area could find itself facing yet another preventable disaster. Which is why, from co-chairing the Measure AA campaign to helping establish the Bay Regional Restoration Integration Team, the Bay Area Council is dedicated to defending the Bay shoreline.

The San Francisco Bay is the defining geographic feature and namesake of our region. Given the numerous, sometimes conflicting, always passionate, visions for the future of the Bay shoreline, BCDC staff has our gratitude for skillfully bringing the Bay Adapt Joint Platform to this important stage. I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council