

# **BAY ADAPT**

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR A RISING BAY

# Permitting for a Resilient Shoreline

Rising Sea Levels Commissioner Working Group  
July 20, 2023

Ethan Lavine, Asst. Regulatory Director for Climate Adaptation

# Implementing Bay Adapt

**1**

Increasing  
Community  
Capacity

**2**

Regional  
Shoreline  
Adaptation Plan

**3**

Regulatory  
Improvements

**4**

Backbone  
Agency Strategy



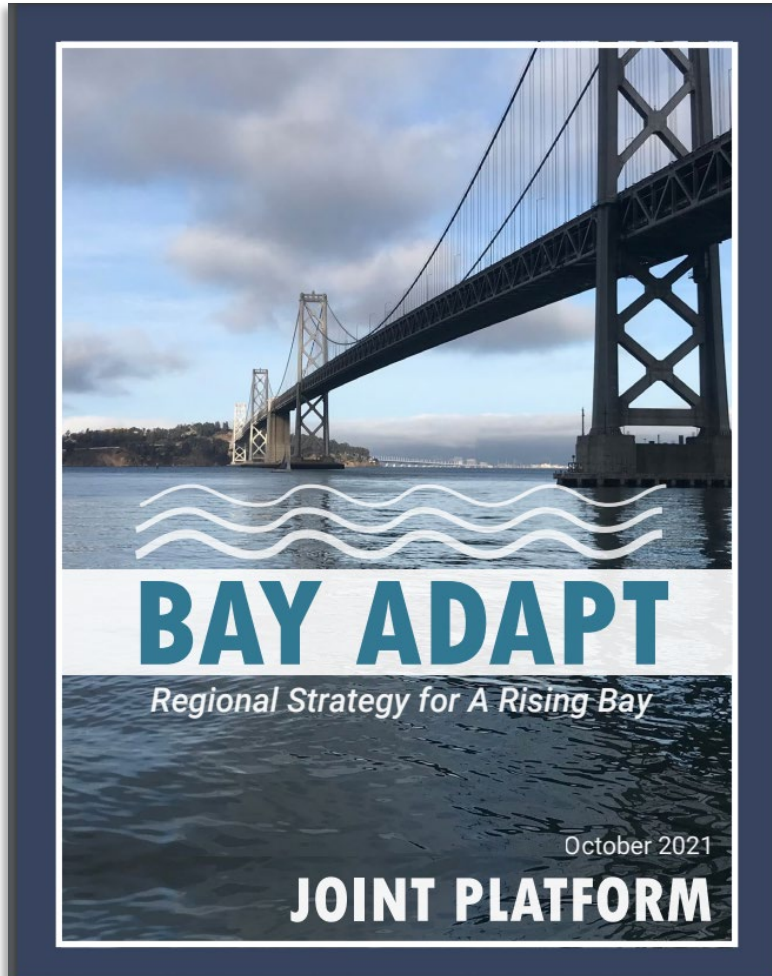
**OCEAN  
PROTECTION  
COUNCIL**



# Today's presentation

- 1. About this effort**
- 2. “Lessons learned” from our background research**

# How this fits in



*“Permitting and construction should accelerate, not hold back, resilient shoreline adaptation projects that...*

*... value ecosystems and people,  
... align with the region’s vision and funding priorities,  
... and apply innovative approaches.”*

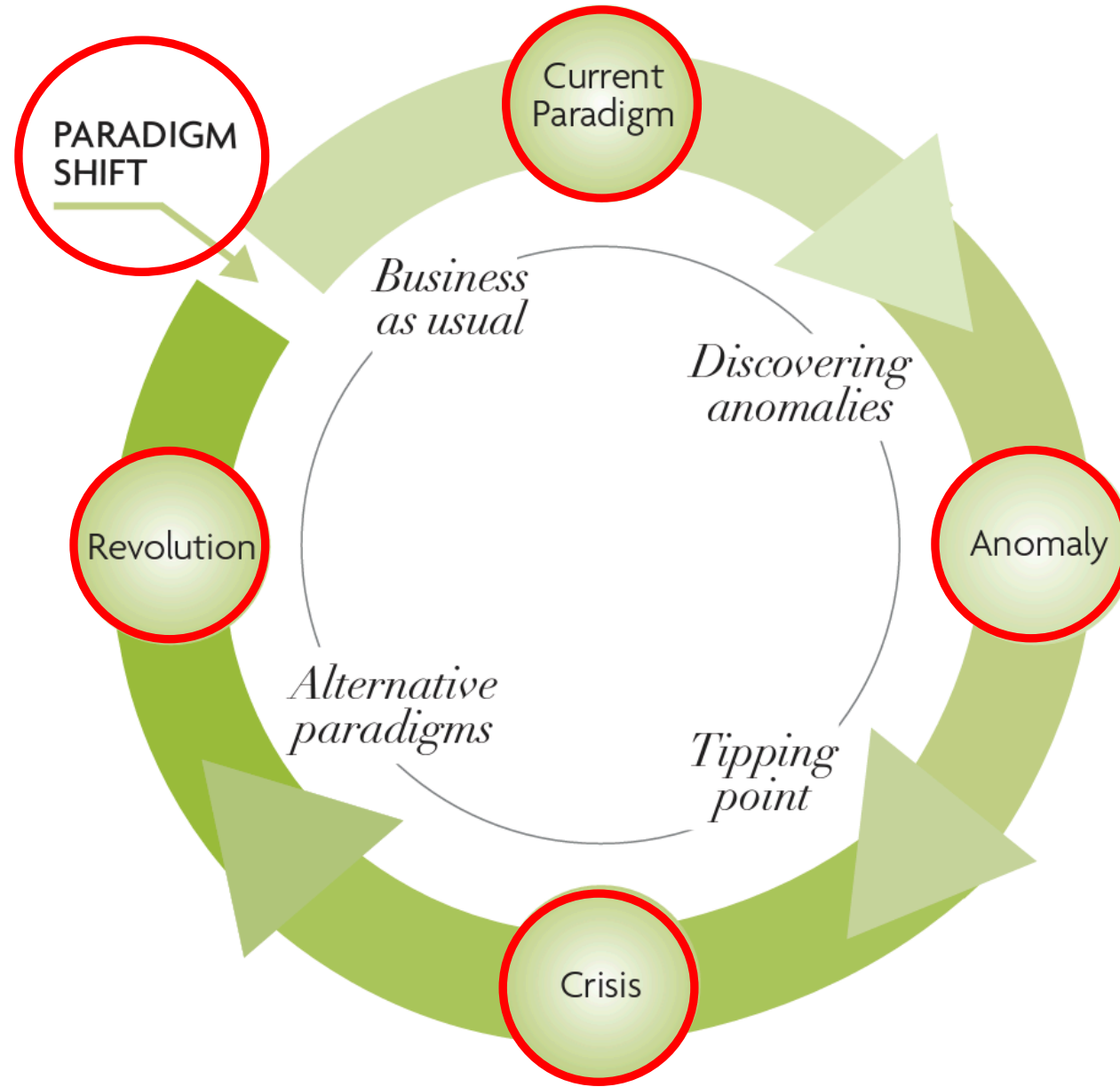
Bay Adapt Joint Platform

# How this fits in

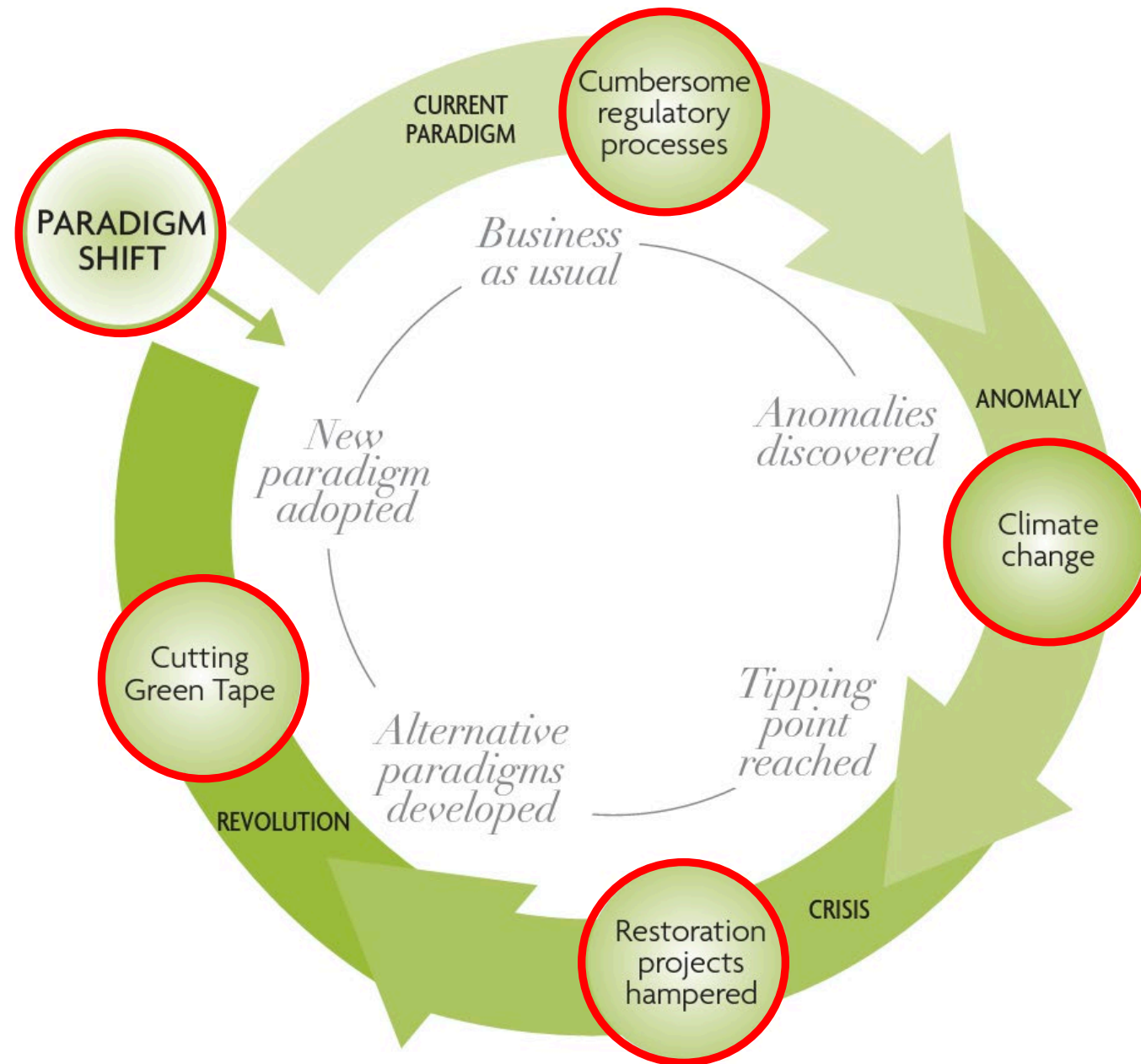


Mission-Based Review

**“Culture eats strategy  
for breakfast.”**



**FIGURE 1.** FIVE PHASES OF A PARADIGM SHIFT



**FIGURE 2.** FIVE PHASES OF A PARADIGM SHIFT AS APPLIED TO CGT



# Areas of focus

## 1. Make permitting faster and more efficient



# Areas of focus

## 2. Make our regulatory program easier to navigate



# Areas of focus

## 3. Remove roadblocks to effective nature-based adaptation



# Areas of focus

## 4. Work together with our regulatory partners



# Areas of focus

## 5. Reimagine BCDC's role in the region



# How we'll move forward

Now – Early 2024

Assess  
Challenges  
and Solutions

- Mission-based review
- Today's presentation on "lessons learned"

Early 2024

Plan and  
Prioritize  
Initiatives

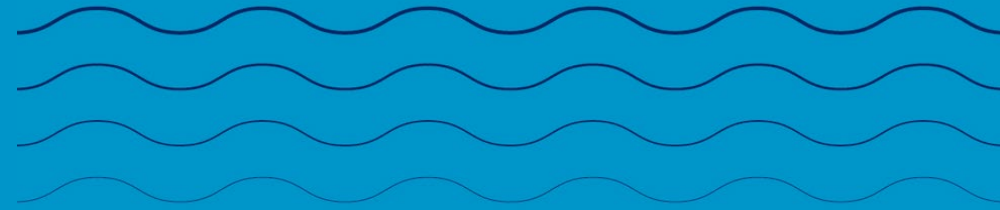
2024 - 2025

Implement  
Priority  
Projects

- Improve BCDC processes
- Coordinate with our partners

Questions or comments?  
[Ethan.Lavine@bcdc.ca.gov](mailto:Ethan.Lavine@bcdc.ca.gov)

v



# **BAY ADAPT**

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR A RISING BAY

## **Regulatory Improvements for Adaptation: Lessons Learned from Regional Stakeholders**

Rising Sea Levels Commissioner Working Group  
July 20, 2023

Dominic MacCormack, Climate Adaptation Policy Specialist

**Calls for improvements to Bay restoration and adaptation permitting go back to the early 2000s or earlier**



### Shoreline Restoration/Resiliency Projects in SF Bay: An Opportunity for Improving Regulatory Efficiency

November 21, 2017

Prepared by the Bay Planning Coalition, Sustainable Waterfronts Committee\*

The overarching goal of this paper is to facilitate a constructive dialogue among regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and other key interest groups as to the best means to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of permitting for shoreline restoration and resiliency projects around the San Francisco Bay. With greater emphasis on restoring ecosystems and improving the resiliency of our Bay watersheds, including the most-vulnerable, is the most effective way to ensure A.A. (Adaptation, Assessment, and Action) of the Proposition 1.3 Water Bond and its intended funding of project management and watershed protection, and advancing protection of the water. The need for a more expeditious yet effective permitting process for such priority, ecosystem restoration/resiliency projects is paramount. This paper explores permitting approaches in other regions for ideas for improvements in Section 1 and makes a number of recommendations for improvement in the Bay Area in Section 2.

1. Current State of Permitting for Restoration/Resiliency Projects Around the Bay

### Four Key Actions to Solve for Coastal Flooding and Sea Level Rise in the Bay Area: a Governance Proposal

By Larisa Tam, SPUR, and Julie Deagle, SFEI

February 20, 2020

The passage of Measure A provides restoration and resiliency projects along a coastline and provides environmental protection. It often takes more time to get the amount of time to reach the benefits to provide the the mechanisms that often take more time to improve fact can make them more effective.

By Planning Coalition November 21, 2017

A long tide at San Francisco's Embarcadero shows how future sea level rise would affect the Bay shoreline. Photo by Ursula Yu.

It's a physical fact that sea levels will continue rising into the 22nd century and beyond, with the pace of the accelerating each year. Over the past decade, California and the San Francisco Bay Area have steadily increased its understanding of the region's vulnerability to climate change impacts such as sea level rise and coastal flooding, evidenced in reports such as the Bay Area Sea Level Rise Action Plan and the Coastal Protection Council's sea level rise guidance. Like in the Bay Area, reports have shown that "even if we don't know the timing of their impacts, with legislation such as Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bill 375 and Senate Bill 600, the State of California has helped to forge a public consensus that governmental action on climate change is important and that the state can lead. Strong networks of local governments (including 100+ California regional agencies), public campaigns (Regional Measure A), Foster City Measure F and San Francisco Prop. A, policy organizations, business groups and multilateral efforts such as the Bay Area Design and 100 Resilient Cities have engaged the public and increased support and resources for action on resilience.

But scientists have handed a harsh reality check to those who look at San Francisco Bay restoration and resiliency. For sea-level-based restoration projects such as tidal wetlands to be effective against rising seas, they will need to be in place within the coming decade, meaning the region must now improve shoreline projects with unprecedented speed.

### California Coastal Management with a Changing Climate

Ellen Hanak and Georgina Moreno

with research support from Sarah Swarick

Supported with funding from Conservancy

This report is part of a series in this collection and was published in November 2008

### CUTTING GREEN TAPE REGULATORY EFFICIENCIES FOR A RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT

November 2020

### Changing Government for a Changing Climate

A Concept for Discussion by Will Travis

Executive Director of BCCDC for 16 years: 1999-2015

The only thing any of us can do completely on our own is to live the rest of a good life.

Michael Egan

Summary: Global climate change will profoundly impact the San Francisco Bay region. These impacts will likely include more severe and longer droughts and more frequent and more intense rain storms, extreme heat events, more wildfires and higher sea level rise. Funding and projects to be the most successful climate change program in the Bay is supported by a set system of transportation infrastructure, urban development and environmental resources located on the edge of the Bay.

Transferring to a post-carbon society that does rely on fossil fuels to its predominant source of energy provides the Bay Area with the best opportunity to intelligently contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time adapting to those impacts that cannot be avoided. Because the Bay Area is existing regime government system was established during an era when those climate conditions were about to be completely expected that the same system of government will not be fully effective in a new era with unique climate conditions. Therefore, a new approach to regime government is needed to facilitate the region's transformation to a post-carbon society which is more resilient and effective in an era dominated by climate change.

Two middle government reform would mutually improve regional coordination and enhance regional policy cooperation. First, the regional government agencies in the Bay Area should be reorganized to have authority under current law to the decisions that are approved would be:

- Sea Level and Civilization. Over one hundred of them in public works but not their needed post-carbon supply was thrown into the air. In the next 100 years, the cost of the amount 400 feet.
- Species Perspective. Permits for a single protected species to all other agencies, in an effort to reduce a range of habitat improvement that is currently being lost or degraded in certain areas, and of habitat connectivity.

Being

and changes increasing requirements, the specific needs, resulting in both specific and difficult to fund. Funding sets to the minimum required for the job. Jobs projects to invest more in a least monitoring programs on their.

PPIC

### Advancing Ecosystem Restoration with Smarter Permitting

Case Studies from California

Letitia Grenier, Stephanie Pantagalis, Crissy Pickett, and Golec Senca

Supported with funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the funders of the PPIC Coastal Ecosystem Fellowship

### San Francisco Bay Multi-Benefit Wetlands Restoration Common Challenges in Permitting: 'Sand in the Gears'

April 27, 2018

Following the 10 January 2018 meeting of the federal and state agencies working to develop a coordinated permitting approach for multi-benefit wetlands restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay, John Bourgoin of the South Bay San Francisco Bay Restoration Project, at the request of Larry Goldstein of BCCDC, put together a brief description of some of the common policy conflicts between agencies that have resulted in a slow-down in the permitting process.

1. Type Conversion
2. Public Access
3. Bay Fill

The creation of Habitat Transition Zones is in effect with Bay fill policies, which call for fill to be used to achieve the project purpose to the transition zone. With fill to be used, the agencies are beginning to address:

- Species Perspective

Permits for a single protected species to all other agencies, in an effort to reduce a range of habitat improvement that is currently being lost or degraded in certain areas, and of habitat connectivity.

Being

and changes increasing requirements, the specific needs, resulting in both specific and difficult to fund. Funding sets to the minimum required for the job. Jobs projects to invest more in a least monitoring programs on their.

PPIC

### Save the Bay Position Paper

February 2023

### San Francisco Bay Sea Level Rise & Flood Strategy

### Shifting the Regulatory Paradigm Toward Bold Immediate Action for a Resilient California

Jim Robins, Alissa Ecological, Kelly Nelson, San Mateo Resource Commission District, Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Paradigm

Wildfire, Drought, Flooding, Sea Level Rise, Climate Change, California faces grave threats that require bold, immediate action. An essential part of any solution is to restore and proactively manage California's lands and natural resources in a safe and secure fashion to result in meaningful benefits.

The purpose of this paper is to help catalyze new conversations and strategies to reduce permitting barriers to environmental stewardship, conservation and restoration of California's lands that are considered consequences of essential environmental regulations. It summarizes and assesses key advances in addressing those barriers-including legislative and policy approaches as well as approaches based on coordination, collaboration, and trust building-and includes recommended next steps.

This white paper includes a problem statement, key findings, 10 statements of recent efforts (p. 10), inside outside that field of conservation (p. 13), and conclusions and recommended next steps (p. 16).

Allow Statement

current topography of environmental stewardship and conservation legislation from the past 10 years also creates significant environmental permitting in a wide range of environmental and regulatory cost.

regime requires to climate change adaptation patterns and other public resource conservation, mitigation and risk management for a wide range of agencies for managing our lands.

UC DAVIS

UC DAVIS

### Toward improved sediment management and coastal resiliency through efficient permitting in California

Kristen A. Goodrich, Nicola Kilburn, Richard Mathews, Eric D. Sain, Matthew Bond, Brent I. Sander

Received 20 April 2022; Accepted 10 February 2023

Abstract: Sediment management is a key component of coastal resiliency. However, the current regulatory environment in California is often inefficient and costly, leading to sub-optimal sediment management and coastal resiliency. This paper explores permitting approaches in other regions for ideas for improvements in Section 1 and makes a number of recommendations for improvement in the Bay Area in Section 2.

Introduction

In the US and globally, coastal communities, infrastructure and ecosystems are vulnerable to sea level rise, and the resulting impacts. This paper explores permitting approaches in other regions for ideas for improvements in Section 1 and makes a number of recommendations for improvement in the Bay Area in Section 2.

UC DAVIS

UC DAVIS

### San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas

Working with Nature to Plan for Sea Level Rise Using Operational Landscape Units

SFEI San Francisco Estuary Institute

SPUR

UC DAVIS

UC DAVIS

15

Papers Reviewed

31

Recommendations Drawn

**Business as usual is not  
enough to deliver a  
resilient shoreline in time**

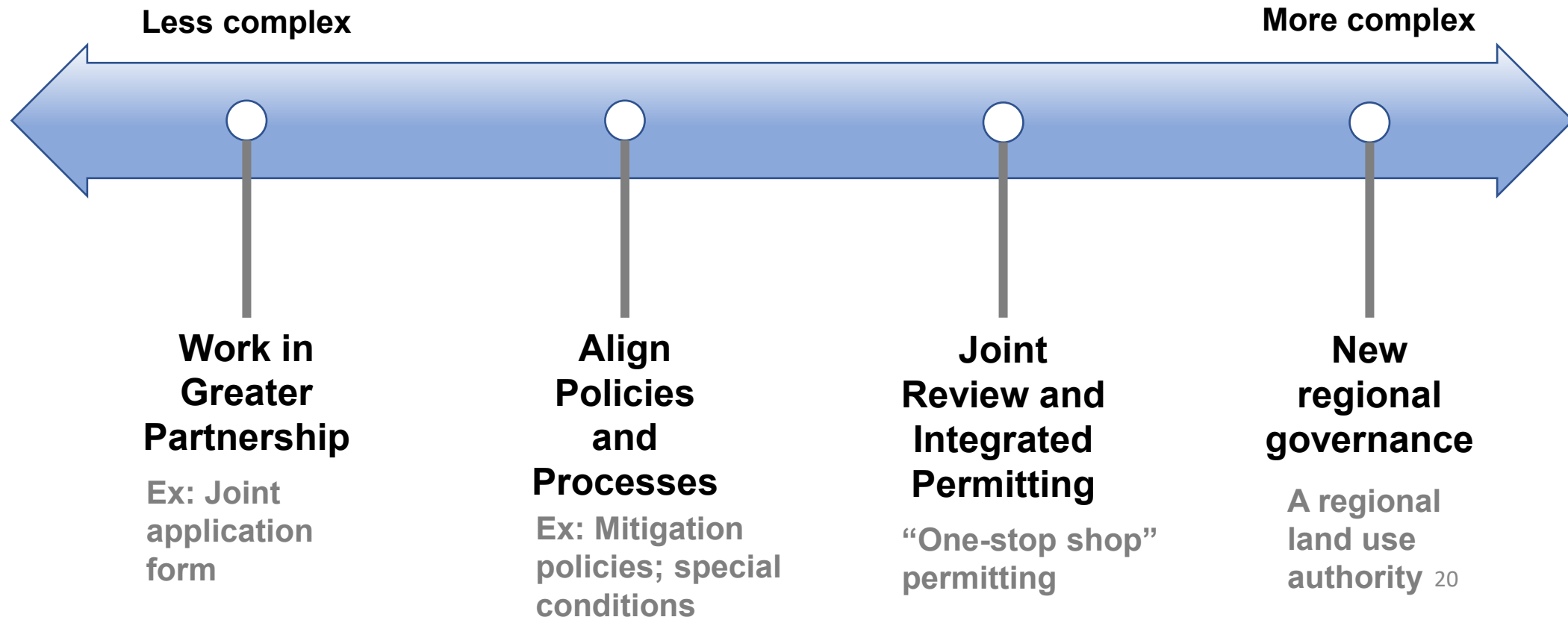
# Four Key Lessons Learned

- 1. Coordination is possible and necessary**
- 2. Achieving desired adaptation outcomes requires action outside BCDC's jurisdiction**
- 3. Permitting could incentivize regional adaptation goals**
- 4. To expand and expedite deployment of nature-based solutions, resolve conflicts and develop new permitting strategies**

## Lesson 1

# Coordination is possible and necessary

It can happen at various scales



## Lesson 2

# **Achieving desired adaptation outcomes requires action outside BCDC's jurisdiction**

**Important adaptation-related decisions happen beyond the 100-foot shoreline band and upstream of the Commission's jurisdiction**

## Lesson 3

# Permitting could incentivize regional adaptation goals

**That could mean giving priority to projects that align with a regional vision**

## Lesson 4

**To expand and expedite deployment of nature-based solutions, resolve conflicts and develop new permitting strategies**

**Make further progress around agency approaches to common issues**

**Regional programmatic permits and guidance on nature-based solutions would help**

# How we'll move forward

Now – Early 2024

Assess  
Challenges  
and Solutions

- Mission-based review
- Today's presentation on "lessons learned"

Early 2024

Plan and  
Prioritize  
Initiatives

2024 - 2025

Implement  
Priority  
Projects

- Improve BCDC processes
- Coordinate with our partners



# Key Lessons Learned

- 1. Coordination is possible and necessary**
- 2. Achieving desired adaptation outcomes requires action outside BCDC's jurisdiction**
- 3. Permitting could incentivize regional adaptation goals**
- 4. To expand and expedite deployment of nature-based solutions, resolve conflicts and develop new permitting strategies**

# Questions for Commissioners

- Is anything you'd expect missing?**
- How do you recommend we prioritize?**

Questions or comments?  
[Dominic.MacCormack@bcdcc.ca.gov](mailto:Dominic.MacCormack@bcdcc.ca.gov)