

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

FROM: Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653; larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov)
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SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract for Bay Adapt Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan - Planning Contract

(For Commission consideration on January 19, 2023)

Summary and Recommendations

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into an *up to* \$480,000 contract with Mithun provide the Commission planning, communications, and outreach support for the Bay Adapt Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan over a period from January 20, 2023 (or upon approval) through June 30, 2024. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, including revising the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes to the services provided.

Staff Report

Coastal adaptation to rising sea level is a state priority to avoid devastating impacts to people, the economy, and natural habitats. Despite having only one-third of the state’s coastline, two-thirds of California’s economic losses due to rising sea level are forecast to occur in the nine-county Bay Area, absent adaptation actions. The San Francisco Bay is a state-protected resource that is the largest estuary on the West Coast of North and South America, a key part of the Pacific Flyway for migrating waterfowl, and a critical economic driver of the State’s economy.

With the assistance and leadership of BCDC, significant progress has been made in the Bay Area by cities and counties to plan for a changing shoreline and establish shoreline ecosystem restoration and other flood protection projects. Yet many of the adaptation plans and projects already occurring within the Bay Area are disconnected and disjointed. Absent regional collaboration and a shared vision, we risk: disproportionate impacts to less affluent, disadvantaged communities; a patchwork of protective actions with varying levels of protection; inconsistent interpretation and application of the best statewide science; competition, not collaboration, for limited funding; near-term loss of wetlands; and, no way to measure collective progress.

To protect people, property, and habitat and prevent this “tragedy of the commons,” BCDC created and has dedicated the last three years to leading Bay Adapt — a voluntary, diverse, and collaborative regional initiative to develop a consensus-driven strategy to protect people and the built and natural environments from a rising Bay. The Bay Adapt Joint Platform lays out guiding principles, nine priority actions, and 21 tasks whose implementation will enable the region to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising Bay.



On October 20, 2022, the Commission approved two resolutions to authorize up to \$2,084,427 to BCDC via grants from the Ocean Protection Council and the State Coastal Conservancy to advance key actions of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform. BCDC sought the services of two consultants or consultant teams to 1) support the development of a collaboratively and equitably driven Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and 2) support BCDC in its role as Bay Adapt’s “backbone agency” to provide the Bay Area region with ongoing strategic leadership, communication, tracking, convening, metrics, and organizing around regional sea level rise adaptation.

Bay Adapt Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan – Planning Contract

The Regional Shoreline Plan consists of a) a region-wide vision of how, when, and where adaptation should occur along the shoreline to ensure long-term equity, protection, and prosperity (shoreline vision and goals), and b) guidelines that lay out regionally consistent standards and practices for Subregional Implementation Plans and projects (guidelines). The guidelines will be used by local jurisdictions for developing Subregional Implementation Plans that effectively address local and regional climate risks. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan will advance the Bay Adapt Joint Platform – a consensus-driven strategy to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising San Francisco Bay.

The services in this contract will take place over an 18-month time period, beginning in January 2023. The tasks must be completed by BCDC by June 30, 2024. BCDC’s Planning Division will oversee the consultant services. The task’s details may need to be adjusted based on progress, need and resources available.

Mithun is an integrated design practice of landscape architects, architects, and urban designers bringing their wide range of skills to bear on projects in a highly collaborative process with clients and communities. Mithun is partnering with ESA, ERG, and Greenbelt Alliance to bring an impressive set of technical, project management, planning, governance, communications, and outreach skills to the project. This team pairs significant experience designing resilient shorelines with strategic and creative thinking for reaching stakeholders and communities to envision a resilient future shoreline.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into an up to \$480,000 contract with Mithun provide the Commission planning, communications, and outreach support to support the Bay Adapt Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan over a period from January 20, 2023 (or upon approval) through June 30, 2024. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, including revising the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes to the services provided.

To ensure that the contract fully complies with all the state’s legal and procedural requirements, it would not go into effect until it has been approved by the Department of General Services.

