

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

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SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract with the Exploratorium to Serve as an Academy Manager for the Shoreline Leadership Academies
(For Commission consideration on December 5, 2024)

Summary and Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into an up to \$180,000 contract with the Exploratorium to serve as the Academy Management for two Shoreline Leadership Academies. 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 change the amount more than ten percent or involve substantial changes to the services provided.

Staff Report

Economically disadvantaged communities are on the frontline when it comes to sea level rise, flooding, toxic and hazardous waste, and other issues affecting the San Francisco Bay shoreline. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) is leading the region's sea level rise adaptation planning efforts through its Bay Adapt program (www.bayadapt.org). Action 2 in BCDC's Bay Adapt Joint Platform is to "elevate communities to lead", which is critical to the region's ability to adapt better, faster, and equitably. The primary objective of Task 2 is to advance an initiative called the Bay Adapt Shoreline Leadership Academies, which will increase community participation and build capacity for sea level rise adaptation in Bay Area Disadvantaged Communities.

The Bay Adapt Shoreline Leadership Academies will build community capacity by providing cohorts of residents from economically disadvantaged communities around the Bay with information, training and skill development to enable them to meaningfully engage in local, regional, and sub-regional shoreline adaptation planning. Based on the success of the [Oakland Shoreline Leadership Academy](#), the Bay Area Shoreline Leadership Academies will engage two cohorts of residents in disadvantaged communities in a six-month process in which they will be trained by experts in sea level rise, shoreline adaptation, nature-based solutions, shoreline contamination remediation, etc. The goal of the program is to create a cohort of next-generation shoreline experts from historically underrepresented communities that can advise their local jurisdictions on sea level rise planning.



Participants in the Bay Area Shoreline Leadership Academies will engage in a virtual and in-person experience where they will learn about issues related to the shoreline. Topics include sea level rise, flooding, beneficial reuse of sediment, contaminated sites, economic development, and more. The program will run every other Saturday for six months and participants will use that time to build their capacity and understanding of shoreline issues. By the time they graduate from the program, participants will be prepared to engage in a large range of policy, planning, and projects related to shoreline adaptation.

BCDC's Environmental Justice unit will conduct two Shoreline Leadership Academies in Contra Costa County and San Francisco. Approval of this contract will allow the Exploratorium to support BCDC's implementation of this program by acting as the Academy Manager. The Exploratorium will be responsible for administering funds, assisting with curriculum development, education tools, and trainings for the overall implementation of these projects. Subawards will include contracts with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and local governments to plan and implement the Academies.

The Academy Manager will be responsible for the following activities for each cohort:

1. Payments to curriculum consultants, trainers, and participant stipends
2. Academy materials and needs, including food, supplies, transportation and translation services
3. Assistance with curriculum development and trainings, including development of evergreen materials (worksheets, online resource, recordings of trainings, etc)
4. Project management and coordination

Funding for this contract is provided through NOAA's California's Coastal Zone Management Program's Inflation Reduction Act Non-Competitive Award, which is aimed at bolstering the CA CZM Program's ability to build climate resilience. BCDC received approval for this contract from the CA Department of General Services as a Non-Competitive Bid. The contract period is from January 1, 2025 (or upon approval) through April 1, 2029, although BCDC anticipates the two Shoreline Leadership Academies being completed in 2025/2026.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into an up to \$180,000 contract with the Exploratorium to provide Academy Management of two Shoreline Leadership Academies beginning from January 1, 2025 (or upon approval). 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 change the amount more than ten percent or involve substantial changes to the services provided.

