

Draft Summary of Sea Level Rise interviews with County Departments and others – 7/23/21

Department of Conservation and Development

1) John Cunningham, DCD, Transportation Planning

- Based on updates from the process to rethink the Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program (CRIPP) not aware of any efforts to evaluate existing roads vulnerability to SLR. The CRIPP (link) is a programming document that details funding for capital road improvement projects within Unincorporated Contra Costa County. It is prepared by the Public Works Department and adopted by the Board of Supervisors every two years.
- They use the Transportation Analysis Guidelines (TAG) to evaluate new housing and commercial applications for impacts on traffic, but nothing in there about SLR (TAG was subsequently amended to include a step to check for SLR issues)
- Not aware of any efforts by Contra Costa Transportation Authority to address SLR relative to resilience/adaptation of existing and new infrastructure.

2) Aruna Bhat, Ruben Hernandez, DCD, Current Planning, CEQA and Permitting

- DCD's permit application process and CEQA require applicants to consider the impacts of flooding, but not specifically SLR.
- However, they gave examples of a number of projects that did address the impacts of SLR in their EIR or permit application. Most consultants are aware of the need to do this.
- Other agencies, such as BCDC, are given a chance to review draft EIRs, or are co-lead agencies, and can request that SLR be addressed. For example, BCDC did so with the EIR for the Lower Walnut Creek flood control project.

3) Will Nelson, DCD, Advanced Planning, General Plan

- The updated County General Plan will include several policies and actions related to SLR. This plan should be adopted in early 2023.
- State law requires the Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program (CRIPP) to be reviewed annually by the Planning Commission to ensure that projects planned for construction during the upcoming year are consistent with the General Plan. Once the updated General Plan is adopted, CRIPP projects will be reviewed for consistency with goals, policies, and actions related to SLR.

4) Jody London, DCD, Sustainability Coordinator

- The County is in the process of updating its Climate Action Plan. The update will address climate adaptation and resilience, including SLR, but it has not been completed yet. It should be done at the same time as the update to the General Plan.

- She sponsored a study by graduate students at the Goldman School at UC Berkeley that made recommendations about governance issues related to addressing the impacts of SLR.
- She would like to ensure coordination/consistency in the future with work that may be done by the ongoing study "Delta Adapts" by the Delta Stewardship Council. SLR is part of their vulnerability assessment for the Delta.
- She has developed a list of agencies at the local, state, and federal level that have permitting and/or decision authority.
- The Department of Conservation and Development is requesting funds from Measure X, the recently approved sales tax, to support work on sea level rise, among other things.

Public Works Department

- 5) Paul Detjens, Senior Civil Engineer, Public Works Flood Control District
 - Could use Restoration Authority money to address "Pinch Points" in Commodity Flow study
 - All permitting projects involving hazardous materials could take advantage of the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration team to streamline permits, they address SLR in their process
 - Could use SLR resilience as a criteria to rank projects for funding in the Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program.
 - Make sure all resiliency projects are in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan so that they can be eligible for FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program.
 - Make sure SLR is considered in the Facilities Improvement Plan
 - He was aware of several non-county efforts that solicited stakeholder opinion about SRL – San Francisco Estuary Project did a North Richmond Visioning exercise, the North Richmond Resilient by Design project solicited community input, and the Department of Water Resources sponsored a local effort that solicited community input by the Watershed project in West County and the Resource Conservation District in East County.
- 6) Have an appointment with Jerry Fahy and Nancy Wein, Public Works, Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program on August 17th.
- 7) Still need to set appointment with Ramesh Kanzaria, Public Works, Facilities

Health Services Department

- 8) Dave Runt, Chief Operating Officer, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 - Have not addressed SLR in their planning
- 9) Geniffer Mountain, Facilities Manager, Contra Costa Health Services

- Is not aware of any analysis that has been done of the impacts of SLR on facilities or operations.

10) Gerald Tamayo, Public Health Emergency Planning

- Has not addressed SLR in his program. They would work with the Office of Emergency Services during a flooding event to aid vulnerable populations.
- Participated in drill a few years ago that focused on evacuation strategies during a flooding event.

Other Agencies

11) Dana Brechwald, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Adapting to Rising Tides
Program Manager

- Developing Joint Platform for Regional SLR adaptation w/ Advisory Board of 30
- Regional framework for local implementation
- 2 public workshops in August, adoption in September, transition to implementation after
- Main Questions – who leads, how to fund, how to use existing structures to avoid silos
- MTC is looking at funding plan, developing funding paper and survey
- Developing a funding roadmap, due to be completed this fall

12) Matt Kelly, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Senior Transportation Planner

- They really haven't done any independent planning for sea-level rise to-date, but did reference it as a challenge for maintaining the system in their 2017 County-wide Transportation Plan (CTP).
- Their upcoming CTP update will include updating the subregional Action Plans for Routes of Regional Significance, and they have added a new non-modal topic of climate change. So the Plans would have to look at impacts that cause, or will be affected by SLR. That is the opportunity to address SLR by developing supportive mitigations for affected facilities in the Action Plans