

SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The County of San Mateo's Vulnerability Assessment aimed to understand how sea level rise will affect San Mateo County residents, businesses, and the community services and infrastructure we all rely on. The main project goals were to assess vulnerability and provide actionable results, while at the same time building awareness and facilitating collaboration around the issue of sea level rise.

Area Map

The assessment focuses on the entire eastern Bayshore and along the western coast from north of Half Moon Bay.



Timeline

PHASE I: CONTINUE TO ASSESS VULNERABILITY (2018-2019)

- Complete risk and impact assessment for the South Coast and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County
- Evaluate vulnerability of key County facilities, including health facilities and parks, and countywide infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants and pump stations. Support partners with evaluating sea level rise risks and impacts at the city level and by sector

PHASE II: DEVELOP ADAPTATION PLAN FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY (2018-2019)

- Establish guidelines to help cities and the County address sea level rise in existing plans, policies and operations
- Identify priority areas to implement sea level rise adaptation actions and develop a strategic action plan
- Develop a menu of adaptation strategies to initiate planning efforts in identified priority areas
- Continue to conduct outreach and educational programs to engage youth and other County residents
- Create sea level rise policy guidance and framework for cities and the County to adopt

PHASE III: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING (2019-2020)

- Update County plans and policies to address and plan for sea level rise
- Select adaptation strategies and develop project concepts for flood, erosion, and sea level rise preparedness
- Conduct a cost and benefit analysis on a range of project concepts to understand economic and development feasibility
- Develop a menu of funding strategies to pay for planning, building, and maintenance of future projects

Partners

The planning and design efforts were led by County Supervisor Dave Pine, the Office of Sustainability Sea Change SMC Initiative, Arcadis, AECOM, and CirclePoint.

Engagement efforts focused on collaboration with civic and elected leaders, municipal staff, and representatives from agencies, special districts, environmental groups, business, and community groups from the 20 cities in the county.

The Assessment was funded by a grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy, in-kind staff support from the Army Corps of Engineers Interagency Flood Risk Management Project, and funding from the County.

Funding

\$550,000

Results

The San Mateo County Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment provides a foundation for continued coordination between the County and its cities in climate change preparedness and adaptation planning. The assessment's key findings point to the need for both near- and long-term actions to protect the County's networked infrastructure; actions at multiple geographic scales focused on emergency preparedness, policy, planning, and procedure updates; strategies to support residents' mental and physical health when sea levels rise and prevent post-flood health hazards; and coordinated collaborative action across multiple jurisdictions.

The next steps involve implementing a Climate Change Preparedness Action Plan.

Website

<http://seachangesmc.com/>