

# A PREPARED AND STRONGER COMMUNITY

## The San Mateo County Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

### Program Overview:

The County of San Mateo launched Sea Change SMC in 2015 to facilitate coordinated countywide action on sea level rise by working with cities, state and federal agencies, special districts, businesses and community groups to build support for cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

### What's At Risk: People and Places

Our networked infrastructure and complex grid of services mean that **sea level rise affects us all**. We need to protect the infrastructure and services that enable us to work, access support systems, and meaningfully engage with our neighbors and communities. Acting now will protect the livelihoods and wellness of over 100,000 people.

*The project area focuses on the entire eastern bayshore and along the western coast from Half Moon Bay north. See the map for examples of infrastructure and areas that we must work together to protect.*

### Vulnerability Assessment Goals:

Understanding how sea level rise will affect San Mateo County is the first and most crucial step in building prepared, healthy and safe communities. **The San Mateo County Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment aims to do just that.**

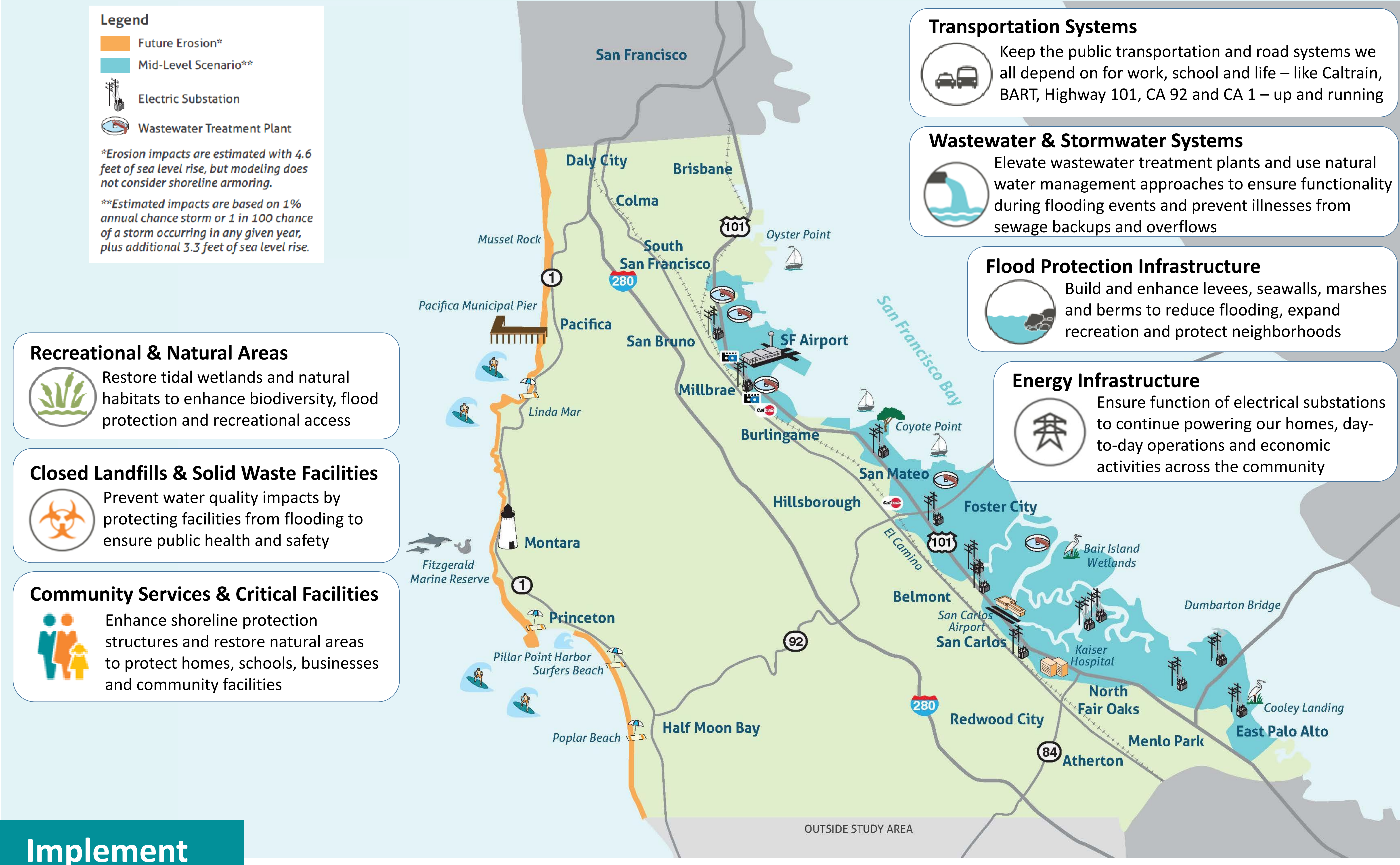
Map Assets and Future Risk Scenarios

Assess Vulnerability

Provide Actionable Results

Build Awareness

Facilitate Collaboration



### Climate Change Preparedness Action Plan:

Next steps will include continued work in partnership with cities and community stakeholders to facilitate planning and adaptation for sea level rise and other climate change impacts. The Climate Preparedness Action Plan includes three key phases:

Assess	Plan	Implement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vulnerability of South Coast and key County Facilities</li> <li>Support cities and partners with evaluating risk</li> <li>Other climate change impacts, including heat, wildfire and precipitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framework for local action on preparedness and adaptation</li> <li>Menu of adaptation strategies for at-risk areas</li> <li>Guidelines to help cities address sea level rise in existing plans and policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update plans and policies to address sea level rise</li> <li>Prioritize adaptation strategies and develop project concepts and funding plans</li> <li>Youth and public engagement programs</li> </ul>

### Assessment Key Findings Point to the Need For:

- Near- and long-term actions to protect the county's networked infrastructure;
- Actions at multiple geographic scales focused on emergency preparedness, policy, plan and procedure updates, and shoreline and site-specific protection measures;
- Strategies to support residents' mental and physical health when sea levels rise and prevent post-flood health hazards and social and economic disruption;
- Coordinated and collaborative action across multiple jurisdictions.