



January 27, 2022

Zack Wasserman, Chair
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission
375 Beale St., Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Support for Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay

Dear Chair Wasserman:

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) supports “Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay” (Bay Adapt), a joint platform formed to determine the best ways for the Bay Area to become regionally resilient to rising sea levels. Bay Adapt lays out guiding principles, priority actions, and vital tasks that public, private, and nonprofit organizations can voluntarily implement in a coordinated and collaborative manner to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to the climate change challenges facing San Francisco Bay.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 charged the Council with furthering the State’s coequal goals for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, to be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. (Wat. Code § 85054). A major part of this includes

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long-term planning for climate change, which is why the Council supports Bay Adapt.

The Council's climate initiative, [Delta Adapts](#), and its recently launched [environmental justice \(EJ\) issue paper](#), closely align with Bay Adapt's focus on protecting and energizing vulnerable and historically marginalized frontline communities, restoring the Delta ecosystem, and reducing flood risk. Delta Adapts consists of the first-ever comprehensive climate change vulnerability assessment (VA) and adaptation strategy (AS) for the Delta. Delta Adapts aims to inform Delta Plan implementation, help the State prioritize future actions and investments, provide a toolkit of information for local governments, and serve as a framework for the Council and others to build upon in future work.

The success of the Delta Adapts initiative relies heavily on collaboration with agency partners and stakeholder engagement in a variety of forums ranging from technical advisory committee (TAC) meetings to community-based organization-led workshops. Staff of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) participated in the TAC for the VA and the stakeholder work group for the VA and the AS. In addition to helping make the Delta region more climate resilient, the Council also seeks to build a network of community leaders and organizations to inform the Council through the development of an EJ issue paper that will identify EJ issues and options to address those issues within the Delta watershed.

It will take tremendous efforts and investments to adapt the Bay-Delta and continue to improve its vibrant, diverse, ecologically unique, innovative, and pioneering quality of life. Implementing Bay Adapt alongside Delta Adapts will better prepare the region for the impacts of climate change. Because the impacts of climate change do not conform to governmental jurisdictional boundaries nor the planning or regulatory authorities of any one agency or organization, the Council and BCDC are closely coordinating adaptation planning for Suisun Marsh where both agencies have regulatory jurisdiction.

Council staff participated in the Bay Adapt Leadership Advisory Group, the Regional Consistency Working Group, and the LR.2 Action Team. Council staff have also engaged in several related ongoing regional climate efforts alongside BCDC,

including the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's development of resilience metrics, led by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and the Estuary Blueprint update, led by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, which includes metrics used for Bay Adapt. We look forward to continuing to work with BCDC and other Bay Adapt stakeholders to ensure that the entire Bay-Delta thrives in the face of climate change.

Sincerely,

Susan Tatayon, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council