



## CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: December 2, 2024  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Support – San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s East Bay Crescent Community Engagement and Climate Adaptation Grant Application to the California Ocean Protection Council

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### **SUMMARY**

The action before the City Council is to authorize the Mayor to submit a letter of support to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, supporting a grant application to prepare a sea level adaptation plan for the portion of the Bay shoreline from Albany to the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt Resolution 2024-83, authorizing the Mayor to submit a letter in support of the City of Albany’s participation in the San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s East Bay Crescent Community Engagement and Climate Adaptation grant application to the California Ocean Protection Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay***

Bay Adapt (<https://www.bayadapt.org/>) is a Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) initiative to establish a regional agreement on the actions necessary to protect people and the natural and built environment from rising sea levels. Key to BCDC’s planning is the preparation of a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan, which is nearing completion. More information on the regional plan is available at <https://www.bayadapt.org/regional-shoreline-adaptation-plan/>. State law requires local governments along the San Francisco Bay shoreline to develop by January 2034 subregional shoreline adaptation plans, which tier off the BCDC regional plan. Projects and strategies contained within the approved plans will be prioritized for State funding.

### ***San Francisco Estuary Project***

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (<https://www.sfestuary.org/>) is part of the National Estuary Program, a non-regulatory program of the EPA created through the Clean Water Act. It is governed by a Council of Federal, State and regional government representatives. The Partnership coordinates federal, state and local funds for Bay Area regional-scale restoration, water quality improvement, and resilience-building projects.

### ***Ocean Protection Council***

The Ocean Protection Council (<https://opc.ca.gov/>) is a Cabinet-level state government office that works with state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, tribes and the public to ensure a healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystem in California. Created by the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004, the seven-member Council is chaired by the Secretary for Natural Resources and includes the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Chair of the State Lands Commission, two public members, and two members of the Legislature.

## **DISCUSSION**

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership grant application to the Ocean Protection Council would cover the Bay shoreline from Albany south to the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (Attachment 3). The cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland are joining in supporting the grant application. The preparation of the sub-regional adaptation plan is a multi-phase project to be prepared over a number of years. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership grant application to OPC is for the first initial phases, consisting of community visioning, vulnerability assessments, and data/information gathering. The ultimate adaptation plan will be built off the foundation of the work proposed in the grant application and would require future grant funding.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

Not applicable at this time.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The City's approved Climate Action and Adaptation Plan includes four overarching strategies, including "Accelerate Resilience," which calls for the City to manage, restore, and partner to foster resilient natural landscapes. Action 4.3.3, entitled, "Partner regionally to address coastal flooding impacts to the Albany waterfront and freeway entrance." states:

*The City should partner with an appropriate entity such as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to address sea level rise through living shoreline principles to address coastal flooding, where appropriate.*

## **SOCIAL EQUITY & INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

A key element of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership proposal is to allocate resources for community engagement in the study area to ensure that the sub-regional planning effort meets the requirement to incorporate equitable practices, principles, and outcomes.

## **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES**

- GOAL 1: Advance Climate Action & Adaptation – Guiding City Plan: Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (See Sustainability Considerations above)

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The preparation of the grant application, and the planning process itself, is not expected to require City funding.

## **NEXT STEPS**

If the grant application is approved, City staff and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership will update the City Council and the appropriate advisory bodies on the details of the planning process and engagement opportunities.

## **Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2024-83
2. Draft Support Letter
3. Map of Proposed Study Area