

Adapting to Rising Tides



CONTRA COSTA ADAPTING TO RISING TIDES PROJECT WORKING GROUP MEETING #2

May 28, 2015

Richmond City Council Chambers

Meeting Notes

1. Resilience Goals

Timeframe for completing project?

Spring 2016

What's the end product?

Refer to outcomes slide in presentation. In addition to the outcomes presented on a previous slide, it is important to note that it will mostly be in the form of a suite of materials rather than long reports. Based on our previous work, we have found that this is a more approachable way to present the information rather than in long reports that people have a hard time reading through. This material includes profile sheets for each of the assets/sectors/services, 2-pagers, issue papers, presentation slides, findings, adaptation approaches with actors, possible funding sources, etc. Once we have completed the assessment of vulnerabilities and consequences for the various assets we will knit them together into key planning issues. And we will see from this synthesis is that there are some focus areas (geographic, sector, system, or issue based) that need further assessment work. At that point we will most likely kick off focus-scale studies that following up on the county-scale findings. Also, at the end of the project, we will have developed adaptation responses that create a clear path for addressing, either individually or collectively, the planning issues identified during the assessment.

Doesn't the assessment result in an overwhelming amount of information?

What we find if we conduct a robust assessment is that the problems are actually not everywhere, that is, it is not the entire Bay shoreline that is vulnerable. We can then narrow down and focus our planning efforts and resources to the most critical problems and issues. This approach also helps in making the case for getting money because if all of the stakeholders have a clear and consistent understanding of the problems and issues that need to be resolved, then it is easier to make the case for funding and there is already buy in from multiple agencies that the focus is in the right place or on the right issue.

The project goals are pretty general – how much did you have to change the from Hayward Project

Examples of differences:

Oakland/Alameda project area has a number of critical assets close together that the working group wanted to protect in place, so the resilience goals focus on fixed assets rather than the function of those assets, that is their locations are important to maintain. In Hayward, the functions of the different assets are critical, but the working group did not necessarily feel that the assets have to stay in their current location as long as the function is protected or maintained. This difference resulted in a different focus for the resilience goals for each project.

Marsh restoration: Oakland could not have as much of an emphasis on habitat restoration because of the need for the airport to reduce the number of birds near the runways and a much smaller area available for restoration due to the urban nature of the focus area, so the focus is on environmental quality, whereas in Hayward habitat restoration and the enhancement of natural systems is much more prominent and focus of the project.

In Contra Costa, the desire for diverse employment opportunities more prominent compared to either Alameda County of the focus areas studies (Oakland/Alameda or Hayward).

Contra Costa County serves an important role in energy supply to the region and the state. For this reason we included a second Economic Resilience Goal.

Remember it is always important to consider project goals together! They are not intended to stand alone.

In previous projects, have the goals helped the working group converge on a specific strategy? Would a mixed goal make more sense?

Yes, the goals helped the Hayward working group evaluate four different visions for landscape scale action. In this case the goals were used together (not individually) and it was the case that not one vision was better able to achieve most aspects of each goal, and while some of the visions tended to emphasize one goal over the other.

Is there a role for Solano County because of its proximity across the Carquinez Strait?

It may be that once the strategies are identified we may see relationships between what the counties can do either individually or together. We presented the ART Program to Solano County at the end of February and the county is very interested in engaging in a similar process. Findings from Contra Costa might help them to focus and jump start an effort in Solano County. We also have engaged BCDC commissioners that we can engage as we progress.

What is connection of the Environment Goal which is for sea level rise to air quality?

We looked at possible adaptation actions and see that there are potential consequences to air and water quality.

****Add Water Supply to Environmental Goal**

****Society & Equity Goal: Protect all communities and what they rely on. Our list should be more expansive: parks, water treatment, etc. We do mean to include all of these in "goods and services". Add asterisk to explain or change this phrase to sound different than "shopping"**

****Governance goal: Add implementation, funding. Make a second (outcome-oriented) Gov goal for this.**

2. Preliminary Assessment Findings

Information from the assessment will be organized by asset category, but will you address relationships and geographies, vulnerabilities and consequences?

Yes!

3. Exercise

Understanding Vulnerability and Dependencies

The goal of this exercise is to understand how individual assets are vulnerable to current and future flooding through direct impacts to their facilities and how they are vulnerable through their connections to neighboring assets and other services like utilities and access roads. The map provided shows a hypothetical regional medical center located near the Bay shoreline and a river. This activity will help the working group understand vulnerability, relationships between assets, and consequences across different assets, sectors, and scales.

See handout and map for further details.

4. Next Steps

When can we start expecting to see assessment outcomes? End of June.