RISING SEAS RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

2013-14 Report Title: Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

Response Required: Mayor, SFPUC, DEP, or Board of Supervisors

2014 Responses (implementation):

R1a. The City should prepare and adopt a risk assessment in preparation for developing its comprehensive plan regarding the rising sea level issue. (Mayor, DEP, Citywide

R1b. The City should adopt a citywide comprehensive plan for adaptation to rising sea levels, especially along its shores and in its floodplains. Said plan should include the provision that construction projects' approval should take into account the anticipated (worst of each project) and the risks faced as outlined in said plan. Special consideration should be given to those anticipated to survive for more than 30 years. Said plan should include a provision that the plan be reviewed and reassessed every 5 years.

R1c. The City should build infrastructure systems that are resilient and adaptable to rising sea levels. That the City, through its planning and building departments, require that any construction project vulnerable to future shoreline or floodplain flooding be designed to be resilient to sea level rise at the 2050 projection, e.g., 16 inches if the construction is not expected to last longer than 2050. For construction intended to last longer than 2050, that the City require that the project be designed to address sea level rise projections for the longer term.

R1d. That City departments that would necessarily be involved in adaptation to rising sea levels, such as Department of Public Works, Public Utilities Commission, Municipal Transportation Authority, the Port, coordinate their projects with each other and with utility companies, such as PG&E, Concave, and AT&T, to minimize inconveniences to the public and businesses, and to further avoid repetition of efforts and inefficient use of funds, labor, and time.

R1e. The City should adopt a citywide comprehensive plan for adaptation to rising sea levels, especially along its shores and in its floodplains. Said plan should include the provision that construction projects' approval should take into account the anticipated (worst of each project) and the risks faced as outlined in said plan. Special consideration should be given to those anticipated to survive for more than 30 years. Said plan should include a provision that the plan be reviewed and reassessed every 5 years.

R1f. The City should build infrastructure systems that are resilient and adaptable to rising sea levels. That the City, through its planning and building departments, require that any construction project vulnerable to future shoreline or floodplain flooding be designed to be resilient to sea level rise at the 2050 projection, e.g., 16 inches if the construction is not expected to last longer than 2050. For construction intended to last longer than 2050, that the City require that the project be designed to address sea level rise projections for the longer term.

Board of Supervisors has been implemented

R2a. The draft Guidance referenced in the response to Finding 1 provides for comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of City assets to sea level rise. In addition it provides a framework that can be used in assessing risk associated with development along San Francisco's shoreline and in addressing that risk, thereby providing a road map for preparation of a risk assessment

Recommendation has not been implemented but is underway

R2b. The draft Guidance currently under City-wide review provides a framework for development of a comprehensive plan to address adaptation for City assets to the potential effects of sea level rise and states that the Guidance, the science behind SLR projections, and the approach outlined will need to be revised periodically as new information becomes available. The Guidance requires consideration of asset life cycle in implementation. In addition, CEQA provides the Planning Department with authority to require that projects be designed to minimize and mitigate potential hazards related to sea level rise and takes into account the asset life cycle in its evaluation.

As reported by Mayor staff at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee meeting on December 11, 2014, as follows: On September 22, 2014, the Capital Planning Committee adopted the "Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise Into Capital Planning in San Francisco: Assessing Vulnerability, Risk to Support Adaptation."

R2c. The draft Guidance referenced in the response to Finding 1 provides for comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of City assets to sea level rise. In addition it provides a framework that can be used in assessing risk associated with development along San Francisco's shoreline and in addressing that risk, thereby providing a road map for preparation of a risk assessment

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R2g. The draft Guidance referenced in the response to Finding 1 provides for comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of City assets to sea level rise. In addition it provides a framework that can be used in assessing risk associated with development along San Francisco's shoreline and in addressing that risk, thereby providing a road map for preparation of a risk assessment

Recommendation has not been implemented but is underway

R2h. The draft Guidance currently under City-wide review provides a framework for development of a comprehensive plan to address adaptation for City assets to the potential effects of sea level rise and states that the Guidance, the science behind SLR projections, and the approach outlined will need to be revised periodically as new information becomes available. The Guidance requires consideration of asset life cycle in implementation. In addition, CEQA provides the Planning Department with authority to require that projects be designed to minimize and mitigate potential hazards related to sea level rise and takes into account the asset life cycle in its evaluation.

As reported by Mayor staff at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee meeting on December 11, 2014, as follows: On September 22, 2014, the Capital Planning Committee adopted the "Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise Into Capital Planning in San Francisco: Assessing Vulnerability, Risk to Support Adaptation."
The SFPUC and Port have published maps depicting areas along San Francisco’s bay and ocean shorelines that are potentially vulnerable to future flooding due to sea level rise through 2100. The Planning Department considers these maps in evaluating potential flood hazards for projects located in affected areas under CEQA. CEQA provides the Planning Department with sufficient authority to require projects to be designed to minimize and mitigate potential hazards related to sea level rise, and because maps of areas that are vulnerable to impacts from sea level rise have already been developed, amendments to the Planning Code to include such maps or to enforce flood resilient building standards for development in the affected areas may not be warranted. However, the City is currently evaluating whether to develop new policies addressing sea level rise. Such policies may include amendment to the Planning Code. As such, the recommended planning code amendments require further analysis.

The City consults with BGDCC throughout the planning and environmental review process and projects located within BGDCC's regulatory jurisdiction.

The City considers implementation of the most pertinent recommendations set forth in the Ocean Beach Master Plan, SFPUC MTA, DPSC, and the Planning Department. City staff has been working with SFPUC, the California Coastal Commission, other state and federal agencies and community stakeholders to implement the Ocean Beach Master Plan recommendations concerning coastal erosion, and the work is ongoing.
2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The Public Utilities Commission should build larger sewer pumps, sewer pipes, and sewer transport storage boxes surrounding the city in the near future to accommodate king tides, sudden surges, and sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The PUCU has not been implemented but is underway.

**Implementation:** The PUCU has not been implemented but is underway.

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As an interim measure, the City should retrofit outfalls in the wastewater treatment system with backflow prevention devices to prevent salt water intrusion into the collection systems resulting from high tides, sudden surges, and rising sea level. Local pump stations should also be installed to raise the flow to sewer discharge structures in higher elevation.

**Recommendation:** The PUCU has not been implemented but is ongoing.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant should be retrofitted to accommodate future king tides, sudden surges, and sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The PUCU has not been implemented but is underway.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The Port of San Francisco should begin planning and creating a timeline for construction of flood control barriers in the low spots along the edges of the bay to determine how best to protect its wastewater treatment plant and other infrastructure in that section from future sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The Port of SF is recommending implementation.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The northern section of SF should be analyzed by airport engineers to determine how best to protect its wastewater treatment plant and other infrastructure in that section from future sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The Port of SF is recommending implementation.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The Port should begin planning and creating a timeline for construction of flood control barriers in the low spots along the edges of the bay to prevent waterfront flooding associated with sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The Port of SF is recommending implementation.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

To assist with the cost of protective measures to address sea level rise, the Port Corporation should establish a reserve fund as part of its operating policy whereby a surcharge is assessed as part of the rent or as a separate line item in each lease.

**Recommendation:** Not recommended because it is not warranted.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The City should start a reserve fund for adaptation for rising sea levels, a portion of which could be obtained from a surcharge on development plans for areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** Not recommended because it is not warranted.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

A shoreline protection feasibility study is being conducted by Moffatt and Nichol that will provide recommendations to SFO on immediate improvements needed to protect SFO from combined impacts of a 100-year flood and sea level rise. Immediate implementation including environmental review and permitting, design and construction will take place in the next 2-4 years to address a 100-year flood event and SFO is also planning on long-term improvements to the entire seawall system to address sea level rise. Long-term strategies, with implementation 10-15 years in duration, including upgrading of drainage pump stations to handle larger storm events and building seawalls with robust foundations that will allow future extensions to accommodate additional sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has been partially implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

SFO should increase the height of its existing seawalls along its runways to accommodate rising sea levels.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has not been implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

SFO should design and implement a levee to protect its outfalls from flooding. SFO believes the combination of upgrading our storm drain pump stations and fortifying the perimeter seawalls is the best way to protect the runways from sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has been partially implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

SFO should continue to improve measures to eliminate standing water on its runways to ensure they remain sufficiently above sea level.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has not been implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The Port of San Francisco is in the process of planning and implementing an earthquake vulnerability assessment as well as retrofit design concepts will be developed and funding secured.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has not been implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The City should start a reserve fund for adaptation for rising sea levels, a portion of which could be obtained from a surcharge on development plans for areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** Not recommended because it is not warranted.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

A feasibility study for on-sea basins to accommodate the increasing water volume due to rising sea level is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify whether the project is feasible.

**Recommendation:** The feasibility study is ongoing.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The City should start a reserve fund for adaptation for rising sea levels, a portion of which could be obtained from a surcharge on development plans for areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has not been implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The City should start a reserve fund for adaptation for rising sea levels, a portion of which could be obtained from a surcharge on development plans for areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

**Recommendation:** The recommendation has not been implemented.

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The recommendation has been partially implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The recommendation has not been implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The recommendation has not been implemented.

2013-14 Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

The recommendation has been partially implemented.
### RISING SEAS RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

**Table 1: Summary of Local and Regional Responses**

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#### RISING SEAS INFORMATION

- **City** has identified both natural and man-made hazards facing the City as part of the 2014 San Francisco Hazard Mitigation Plan. Future versions will incorporate the most recent work of the Seaside Resilience Committee by updating the sea level rise hazard profile and including a vulnerability analysis for sea level rise.

- Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep

- The City's Sea Level Rise Committee reached out to a number of other jurisdictions, including those in the bay Area, to assess SLR strategies being pursued in other locations. Committee members are presenting the City’s draft Guidance in a number of regional forums and by including a vulnerability analysis for sea level rise. In May 2014, the Corps kicked off a Federal Interest Determination for a project under the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), Section 103 Shoreline Protection. This funding source is for smaller projects that result in implementation, not study. The federal spending limit is $3 million and the cost share is 65% Federal and 35% local. In 2010, the Port asked USACE for seawall assistance through the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) for maintenance and repair. Inlet barrier, hazard mitigation, and flood protection. While the request has yet to find any success, the Port continues to actively pursue this funding option.

- The City should create a local working group of community citizens and stakeholders to lead in the regional group.

- Board of Supervisors

- The City should request an insurance premium estimate from FEMA and then compare the estimate with the funding it could acquire from FEMA for mitigation and adaptation against future flooding.

- The City should explore applying for grants offered by Congress’ Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. Request of grants is based upon risk assessments that indicate that potential savings exceed the cost of implementation. The City should explore available matching funds from the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal sources.

- The City should request an insurance premium estimate from FEMA and then compare the estimate with the funding it could acquire from FEMA for mitigation and adaptation against future flooding.

- The City, through its Mayor and Board of Supervisors, should coordinate its efforts with other cities and organizations in the bay area by establishing a regional working group to address the impact of rising sea levels.

- The City should create a local working group of community citizens and stakeholders to lead into the regional group.

- Board of Supervisors

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- The City should create a local working group of community citizens and stakeholders to lead into the regional group.

- Board of Supervisors
Finding 1: The City does not have a citywide comprehensive plan that addresses the rising sea level issue.

Mayor
Dept. of Environment
Dept. of Emergency Management
Planning Department
Port of SF
SFPUC
Agree
The City has a draft comprehensive plan for addressing sea level rise for City assets. At the direction of the Mayor in the summer of 2013, a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Committee made up of representatives from seven City departments and two consulting firms, (Moffatt & Nichol and AECON) produced draft "Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise Into Capital Planning in SF: Assessing Vulnerability, Task and Adaptation." This draft Guidance was presented to the City Administrator, Department heads, and the Capital Planning Committee on May 12 and is currently undergoing review by City agencies. The draft Guidance includes finding on the state of the science, expected and possible sea level rise through 2100, and assessment of storm surge and wave action effecting water levels. It further provides a comprehensive approach for department to follow to ensure City assets and capital improvement programs are resilient to the anticipated effects of sea level rise.

Finding 2: The City’s Planning Code has no provisions addressing the impacts associated with rising sea levels. Without appropriate provisions within the City’s Planning Code, there are no effective means to control construction methods that would insure a project’s resistance to the impacts of rising sea levels.

Planning Department
Disagree in part
The City agrees with the statements that the Planning Code does not include provisions addressing impacts associated with sea level rise. However, the Planning Department evaluates whether proposed projects would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death due to flooding as a result of future sea level rise as part of the environmental review process required under CEQA. CEQA provides the City with an effective means to ensure that development in areas vulnerable to sea level rise is designed to address related flood hazards. As such, we disagree with the conclusion that without provisions in the Planning Code addressing sea level rise there are no effective means to ensure sustainable development on land vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Finding 3: The City’s Building Code and the Port’s Building Code have no provisions addressing the impacts associated with rising sea levels. Without appropriate provisions within the city’s Building Code and the Port’s Building Code, there are no effective means to control construction methods that would insure a project’s resistance to the impacts of rising sea levels.

DBI
Planning Department
Port of SF
Disagree in part
The City agrees with the statements that the City’s Building Code and the Port’s Building Code do not include provisions addressing impacts associated with sea level rise. However, the Planning Department evaluates whether proposed projects would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death due to flooding as a result of sea level rise as part of the environmental review process required under CEQA. CEQA provides the City with an effective means to ensure that development in areas vulnerable to sea level rise is designed to address related flood hazards. As such, we disagree with the conclusion that without provisions in the City’s and Port’s Building Codes addressing sea level rise there are no effective means to insure sustainable development on land vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Finding 4: BCDC has the final say on any permit within its jurisdiction.

Mayor
Planning Department
Port of SF
Disagree in part
BCDC does not have the final say on any permit within its jurisdiction. BCDC has jurisdiction over the land lying between the Mean High Water Line of the Bay shoreline and a line drawn parallel to and 100 feet from the Bay shoreline. BCDC permits the following activities within its jurisdiction: 1) Placement of obstructions, building or repairing docks, pile-supported or cantilevered structure, disposing of material or mooring of a vessel for a long period in SF Bay or in certain tributaries that floe onto the Bay; 2) Dredging or extracting material from the Bay bottom; Substantially changing the use of any structure or area; 4) Constructing, remodeling or repairing a structure; or 5) Subdividing property or grading land.
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 5: A comprehensive risk assessment of Ocean Beach, with mitigation recommendations made to the City regarding rising sea levels, was completed by SPUR, with City, State of California and U.S Corps of Engineers involvement, resulting in the Ocean Beach Master Plan, dated May, 2012</td>
<td>Mayor or Mayor’s Designated Agency</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED.</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 5: A comprehensive risk assessment of Ocean Beach, with mitigation recommendations made to the City regarding rising sea levels, was completed by SPUR, with City, State of California and U.S Corps of Engineers involvement, resulting in the Ocean Beach Master Plan, dated May, 2012</td>
<td>Board of Supervisors</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 6: A number of measures can be taken now by the Public Utilities Commission to minimize the impact of sea level rise, especially when combined with future king tides and sudden surges.</td>
<td>SFPUC</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED.</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 7: Salt water backflows have already infiltrated the City’s wastewater treatment plants, both in the Bayside and Oceanside plants. Salt water kills organisms in the system that clean wastewater. Salt water also damages wastewater treatment equipment. As a result of sea level rise, bay and ocean saltwater backflow into the wastewater treatment systems will dramatically increase, causing serious problems for the wastewater treatment processes.</td>
<td>SFPUC</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED.</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 8: The Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant, built in 1952, is aging and needs restoration.</td>
<td>SFPUC</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 9: The San Francisco airport (SFO) is located slightly above sea level and therefore vulnerable to flooding from heavy rainfall, king tides, and rising sea levels. A number of measures can be taken now by SFO to minimize the impact of sea level rise, especially when combined with future king tides and sudden surges.</td>
<td>SFO</td>
<td>Disagree in part</td>
<td>SFO agrees that this is minimally vulnerable to flooding from future heavy rainfall and king tides. Currently, the Airport has a system of seawalls which protects Airport property from daily tidal fluctuations, including the highest tides of the year called King Tides; and seawalls also protect the property against regular storm events. There are some known minor deficiencies in the seawall system that we are addressing which could pose some risk during extreme storm events. In addition to the seawalls, the Airport has an internal drainage and pump station system to evacuate any rain or ground water which accumulates on the Airfield. The entire airfield operation system of runways, taxiways, lighting system and navigational aids is constructed with the understanding of operations occurring outdoors during inclement and wet weather. Therefore, SFO is not unduly vulnerable to today’s heavy rainfalls and king tides. SFO is currently taking measures to review and develop a plan to mitigate any outstanding deficiencies in the seawall system related to long-term sea level rise.</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 10: The Port of San Francisco is built on landfill, and its seawall lies beneath many buildings along the bay. Many piers are in poor condition. A number of measures can be taken now by the Port to minimize the impact of sea level rise, especially when combined with future king tides and sudden surges.</td>
<td>Port of SF</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED.</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep</td>
<td>Finding 11: The City has not set aside funds for the cost of adaptation to sea level rise.</td>
<td>Mayor City Administrator Controller</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>While the City has not specifically set aside funds for the cost of adaptation to sea level rise, that does not restrict the ability of the City to spend funds in the future. On an annual basis, the Mayor and the BOS have the ability to allocate funds towards sea level rise if they wish to do so. It should be noted that the City has been very strategic in planning and funding capital improvement projects. The Capital Planning Program regularly develops a ten-year capital expenditure plan for city-owned facilities and infrastructure and the draft Guidance referred to above will address SLR in the development of this Capital Plan. The Capital Plan allows the City to take a long-range view of all needed infrastructure improvements and prioritize funding for the most critical projects. The Mayor and the BOS allocate funding for the City's capital plan on an annual basis.</td>
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<td>Finding 12: Rising sea levels is a regional problem. What one community does to protect its shorelines may have a negative impact on a neighboring community. This has been successfully accomplished by four counties on the east coast of Florida, as an example.</td>
<td>Mayor Planning Department</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED.</td>
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<td>Board of Supervisors</td>
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