

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)

Sea Level Rise in the San Francisco Bay Area



Select Committee on Rising Sea Level and the Economy | October 10, 2025

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 Regional Shoreline
Adaptation Plan
An implementing project of BAY ADAPT



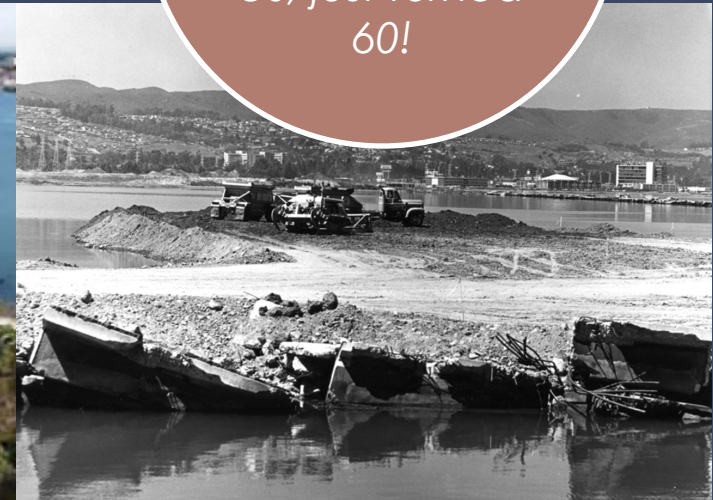
An evolving Bay shoreline

BCDC, the first coastal zone management agency in the US, just turned 60!

Bay or River?

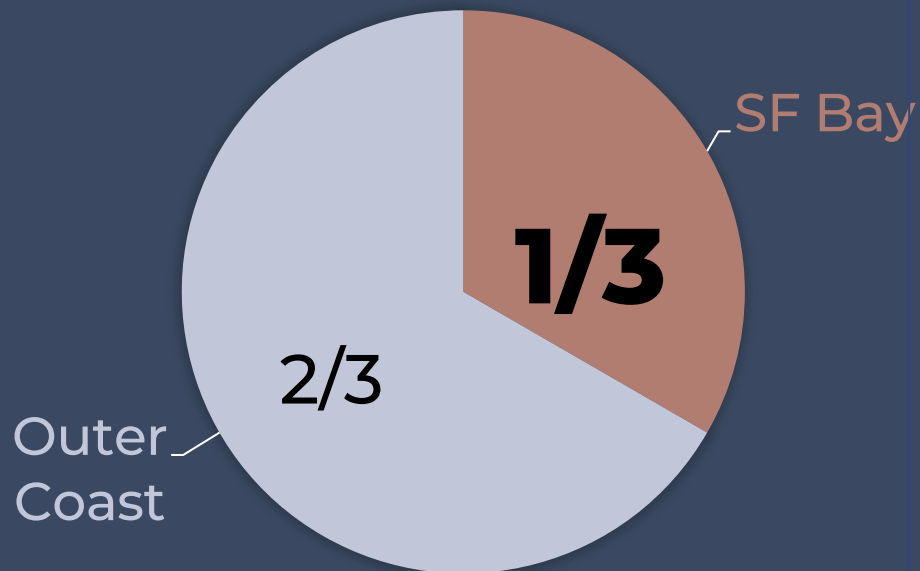


Courtesy Oakland Tribune

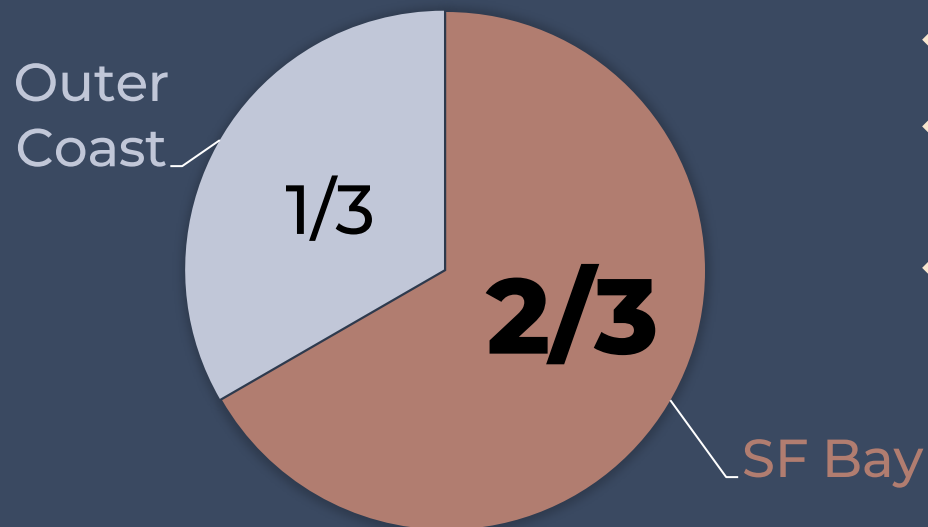


2/3 of California's sea level rise impacts will be felt in the Bay Area

SHARE OF THE CA COASTLINE



SHARE OF PROJECTED SEA LEVEL RISE DAMAGES



- ❖ Temporary Flooding
- ❖ Shoreline Erosion
- ❖ Permanent Inundation
- ❖ Groundwater Rise



SFO

Embarcadero

A vibrant scene at the San Francisco Embarcadero. In the foreground, a concrete seawall with vertical posts separates the turbulent, white-capped waves of the bay from a paved promenade. A person in a dark shirt is leaning over the wall, looking at the water. To the right, several people are walking along the promenade; a young girl in a bright pink jacket and a colorful beanie is walking towards the camera, while a group of people, including a man in a black shirt and a woman in a black jacket, are walking away. In the background, a large, multi-story building with a grid-like facade, likely the Ferry Building, spans the horizon. A red and white ferry boat is visible in the water near the building. The sky is clear and blue, and the overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

A photograph of Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. In the foreground, a large group of seals is resting on a wooden pier. Several seagulls are perched on wooden posts that rise from the pier. The background shows the water and the wooden structure of the wharf.

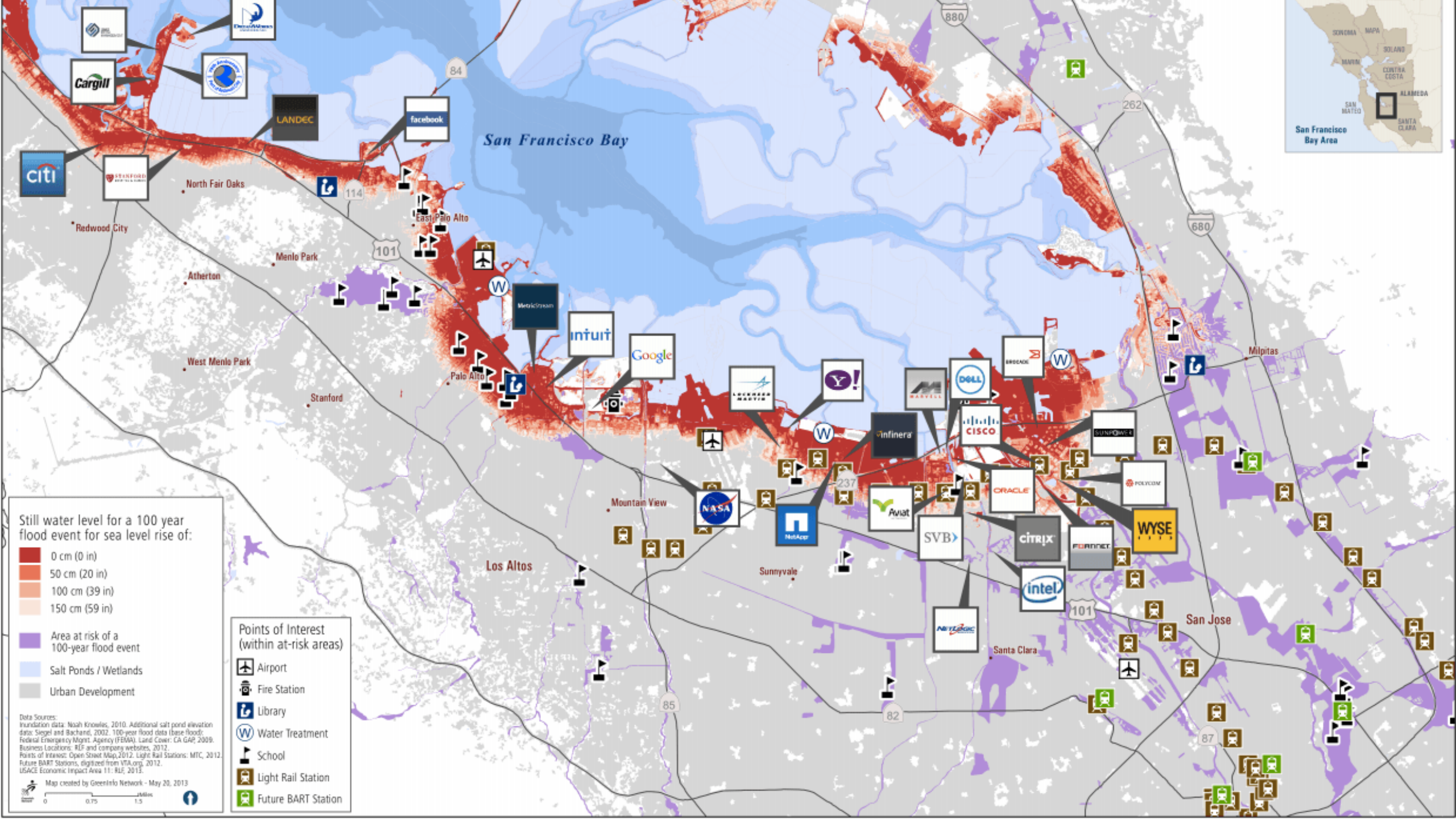
Fisherman's Wharf



Marin

An aerial photograph showing a multi-lane highway, SR 37, running vertically through the center of the frame. The highway is flanked by floodwaters on both sides. To the left, several high-voltage power line towers stand in the water. To the right, there is a large, rectangular area of land that appears to be a former agricultural field, now partially submerged and covered with brown, muddy water. The background shows a hilly landscape with some buildings and trees. The text "SR 37 to Napa" is overlaid in white, bold font across the middle of the image.

SR 37 to Napa



What will it cost to adapt?

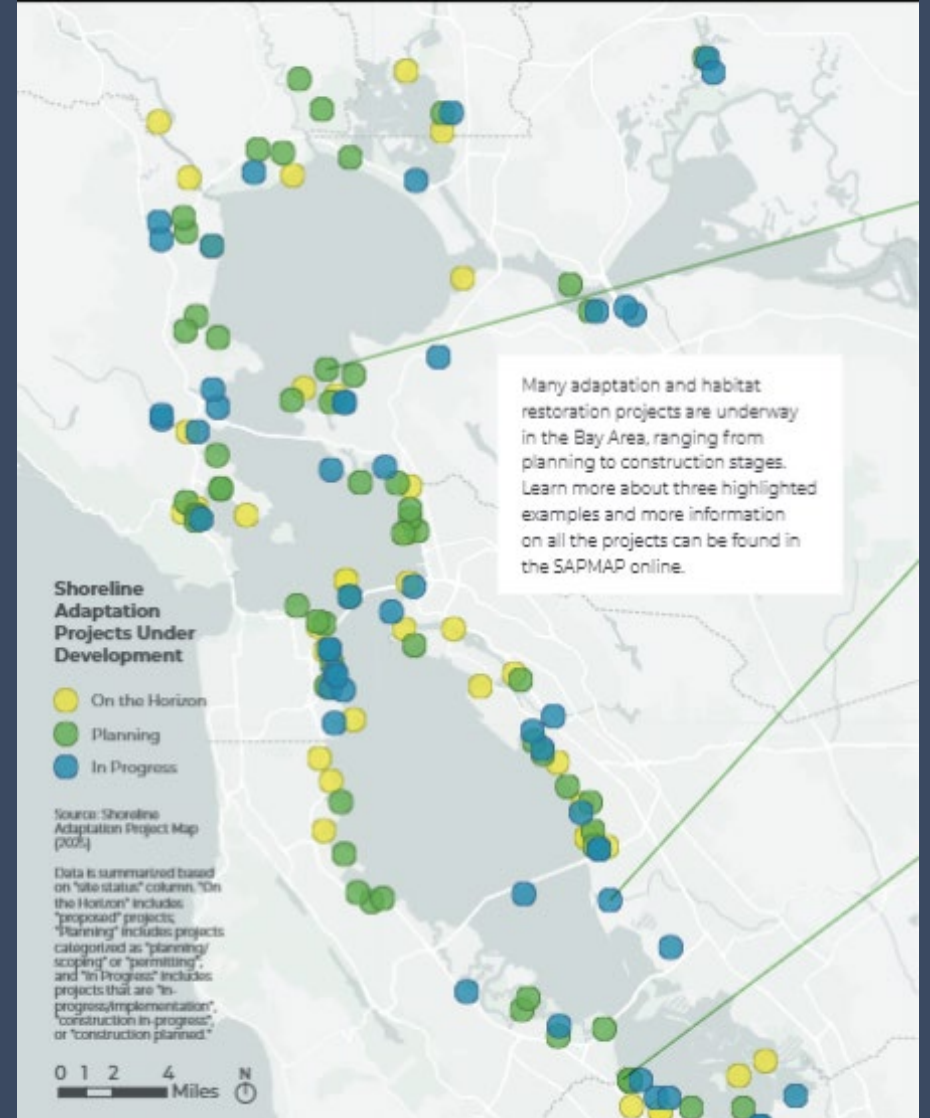
\$96 billion

Estimated cost of flooding & sea level rise adaptation through 2050

\$230+ billion

Estimated value of a subset of assets at risk through 2050

We stand to lose much more if we do not act.





Adopted
December
2024!

Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan:

One Bay Vision,
Strategic Regional Priorities,
and Subregional Shoreline
Adaptation Plan Guidelines

December 2024



San Francisco
Bay Conservation
and Development
Commission (BCDC)

Planning as a Region

- ✓ SB 272: A new mandate
- ✓ RSAP: Vision, Strategic Regional Priorities, and Guidelines for Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans
- ✓ Assistance to 50+ cities & counties



OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL



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SBI GRANTS ARE CATALYZING PROGRESS

Funding to date will result in 15 SF Bay Subregional Plans - 51% of jurisdictions

Funded Subregional Plans:

- Contra Costa County
- City of Richmond
- Town of Mill Valley \$965K
- City and County of San Francisco
- Solano County, Vallejo, Fairfield, Suisun City and Benicia
- City of Brisbane
- Town of Tiburon
- City of Alameda
- City of Oakland
- Cities of Emeryville, Berkeley, and Albany
- Santa Clara County and the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, San Jose, Santa Clara, and Milpitas
- Cities of Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto
- Cities of Hercules and Pinole
- City of Pittsburg



Regulatory Innovation

- Accelerating adaptation, including nature-based solutions
- Improving our services
- Interagency coordination





“Y’all have built a large enough table to hold all the people that need to be here doing this work.”

- *Alexis Madrigal,*
KQED



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Rising Together Summit
September 15, 2025
Photo Credit: Ida Høyrup.

Partnership is Key to Driving Momentum

Together, we can deliver resilience but this requires:

- Sustained funding
- Science support
- Climate leadership



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Photo by Karl Nielson