

December 9th, 2021



Protecting Marin Since 1934

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

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

Dear Chair Wasserman:

Marin Conservation League (MCL) is a Marin County-based environmental advocacy organization. As a non-profit formed in 1934, our members volunteer many hours in advocating the MCL mission, which is “to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin in a changing environment.” Our vision is to achieve an ecologically diverse and resilient natural environment that is valued and cared for by a thriving, engaged community. MCL places a large focus of its efforts on the tracking and advocating for combatting the effects of climate change. Specific attention has been given to the topic of sea level rise, as many areas of Marin County are at great risk to this threat. MCL has been forthright in its involvement in Marin County-led projects such as C-SMART and BayWave, which provide a comprehensive assessment of vulnerabilities along the Pacific Ocean coastline and bayfront, respectively.

MCL is pleased to support “Bay Adapt: Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay.” Our organization has had an opportunity to review “The Bay Adapt Joint Platform.” We applaud this effort as a stakeholder-led process, and we recognize that is a valuable tool in determining the best ways for the Bay Area to become regionally resilient to rising sea levels. Our support is based on and reinforced by the following elements of Bay Adapt:

1. Bay Adapt recognizes that sea level rise is a regional problem that requires regional solutions that are cohesive and consistent, with greatest focus on the most vulnerable people and the Bay environment.
2. Bay Adapt presents guiding principles that can be applied and followed locally to ensure consistency and cohesiveness in adaptation planning and implementation. We are pleased to see that one of the key guiding principles is to protect natural areas and wildlife, which is critical to ensure that the ecology of the Bay is considered one of the highest priorities in adaptation planning.
3. Bay Adapt presents nine key actions and 21 tasks to achieve these actions. All actions support a “One Bay” vision to adapt, which is to ensure that: a) local and regional plans are aligned to achieve a unified adaptation approach; b) adaptation plans and projects are based

175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135, San Rafael, CA 94903 | 415.485.6257 |  
mcl@marinconservationleague.org

Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.

on the best science, data, and knowledge; and c) funding for adaptation planning and implementation is actively pursued.

It will take tremendous efforts and investments to adapt the San Francisco Bay Area to a constantly changing shoreline and continue to improve its vibrant, diverse, ecologically unique, innovative, and pioneering quality of life. Implementing Bay Adapt will reduce flood risks for communities, businesses, infrastructure, and habitat, increase technical assistance for local governments and funding for adaptation, protect natural areas and wildlife, recognize, and equitably support low-income, frontline communities, robustly integrate adaptation into community-focused local plans, and accelerate permitting and project construction of local adaptation projects.

In closing, MCL reiterates its support of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform and will support its implementation by concentrating on efforts to protect the natural environment and communities at risk through best practices such as nature-based adaptation measures. We look forward to working with BCDC and all of Bay Adapt's stakeholders to ensure that the entire Bay Area thrives in the face of rising sea levels.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller  
President



Paul A. Jensen, AICP  
Land Use, Transportation, & Water Committee

cc: Marin County Board of Supervisors, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329, San Rafael, CA 94903 via email: [BOS@marincounty.org](mailto:BOS@marincounty.org)  
Dana Brechwald, Adapting to Rising Tides Program Manager, BCDC via email: [dana.brechwald@bcdca.gov](mailto:dana.brechwald@bcdca.gov)  
Chris Choo, Marin County Department of Public Works, via email: [cchoo@marincounty.org](mailto:cchoo@marincounty.org)