



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



DATE: January 12, 2015
BOARD MEETING DATE: January 27, 2015
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Eggemeyer, Director, Office of Sustainability

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the acceptance of California State Coastal Conservancy Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing:

- A) The County of San Mateo to accept a grant in anticipation of funding up to \$500,000 from the California State Coastal Conservancy for the purpose of preparing a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and developing an adaptation strategy framework; and
- B) The County Manager or his designee to execute an agreement with the California State Coastal Conservancy to receive this grant.

BACKGROUND:

The economic value of property located in San Mateo County at risk from sea level rise exceeds that of any other county in California. Of particular concern is SFO, Foster City, and Redwood Shores; all of these areas face a substantial risk of being submerged in several feet of water in the event of a 100 year storm and/or projected sea level rise.

The California State Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy)'s Climate Ready grants are intended to encourage local governments and non-governmental organizations to act now to prepare for a changing climate by advancing planning and implementation of on-the-ground actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change on California's coastal communities and natural resources.

DISCUSSION:

At a public hearing on January 29, 2015, the Coastal Conservancy will consider awarding a grant of up to \$500,000 to the County for the purpose of studying the impacts of sea level rise due to climate change on the San Francisco Bay shoreline and Pacific Ocean coastline from Half Moon Bay north.

The study area contains many different land uses, including residential neighborhoods that have been subject to severe flooding, habitat for threatened and endangered species, and substantial public infrastructure including two major highways, Caltrain and BART lines, the San Francisco Bay Trail, sanitary sewage treatment plants, and multiple flood control channels and pump stations. The County will convene a multi-agency working group to study the vulnerability (the degree to which a natural or social system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes) of this shoreline and coastline area to sea level rise and prepare an adaptation strategy (actions in response to potential or experienced impacts of climate change that lead to a reduction in risks or a realization of benefits) framework. The study will complement another vulnerability assessment currently underway in the SFO/Colma Creek area, which is also funded by a Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready grant.

The Coastal Conservancy has agreed to be the fiscal agent for the grant funds and will be responsible for contracting with consultants to prepare the study. No matching funds are required from the County in connection with the receipt of the grant funds.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Acceptance of this resolution contributes to the County's Shared Vision 2025 of being a Collaborative Community by convening county-wide stakeholders to develop solutions to sea level rise.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no Net County Cost.