

SAN MATEO



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

455 COUNTY CENTER, 2ND FLOOR • REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063-1663 • PHONE (650) 363-4224 • FAX (650) 363-4849

March 14, 2018

To: LAFCo Commissioners
From: Martha Poyatos, Executive Officer
Subject: San Mateo County Office of Sustainability Announces Final Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment—**INFORMATION ONLY**

At the March 13 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board accepted the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. The following excerpt from the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability provides background on the Assessment and the attached map illustrates potentially affected communities. This information is provided for Commission information and to promote awareness of the challenges posed by sea level rise in San Mateo County. The Commission's Legislative and Policy Committee may also find it helpful in considering LAFCo policy updates.

The Office of Sustainability administers Sea Change SMC, the County's sea level rise initiative, and in June 2015 initiated a comprehensive assessment of flooding, erosion and sea level rise impacts on people, infrastructure and community functions. The assessment focuses on the entire eastern bayshore and along the western coast from Half Moon Bay north.¹

The assessment's key findings point to the need for:

- *Both near- and long-term actions to protect the county's networked infrastructure which contains roads and highways, levees, electric substations, transmission towers, wastewater treatment plants and pump stations;*
- *Actions at multiple geographic scales focused on emergency preparedness, policy, plan and procedure updates, and shoreline and site-specific protection measures;*
- *Strategies to support residents' mental and physical health when sea levels rise and prevent post-flood health hazards and social and economic disruption;*
- *Coordinated and collaborative action across multiple jurisdictions.*

¹ A separate assessment will be prepared for Coastal San Mateo County south of Half Moon Bay.

COMMISSIONERS: MIKE O'NEILL, CHAIR, City ▪ ANN DRAPER, VICE CHAIR, Public ▪ JOSHUA COSGROVE, Special District ▪ RICH GARBARINO, City
 DON HORSLEY, County ▪ JOE SHERIDAN, Special District ▪ WARREN SLOCUM, County

ALTERNATES: KATI MARTIN, Special District ▪ HARVEY RARBACK, City ▪ SEPI RICHARDSON, Public ▪ DAVE PINE, County

STAFF: MARTHA POYATOS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER ▪ REBECCA ARCHER, LEGAL COUNSEL ▪ JEAN BROOK, COMMISSION CLERK

The assessment not only evaluates the potential impacts but also suggests solutions to protect people and places. However, the work is far from done, said Board President Dave Pine who led two countywide convenings on sea level rise.

“This assessment is an important first step toward a coordinated effort throughout the county to prepare for sea level rise,” Pine said. “Every jurisdiction must understand its own areas of risk, but sea level rise crosses jurisdictional borders so we must work together to keep our communities safe.”

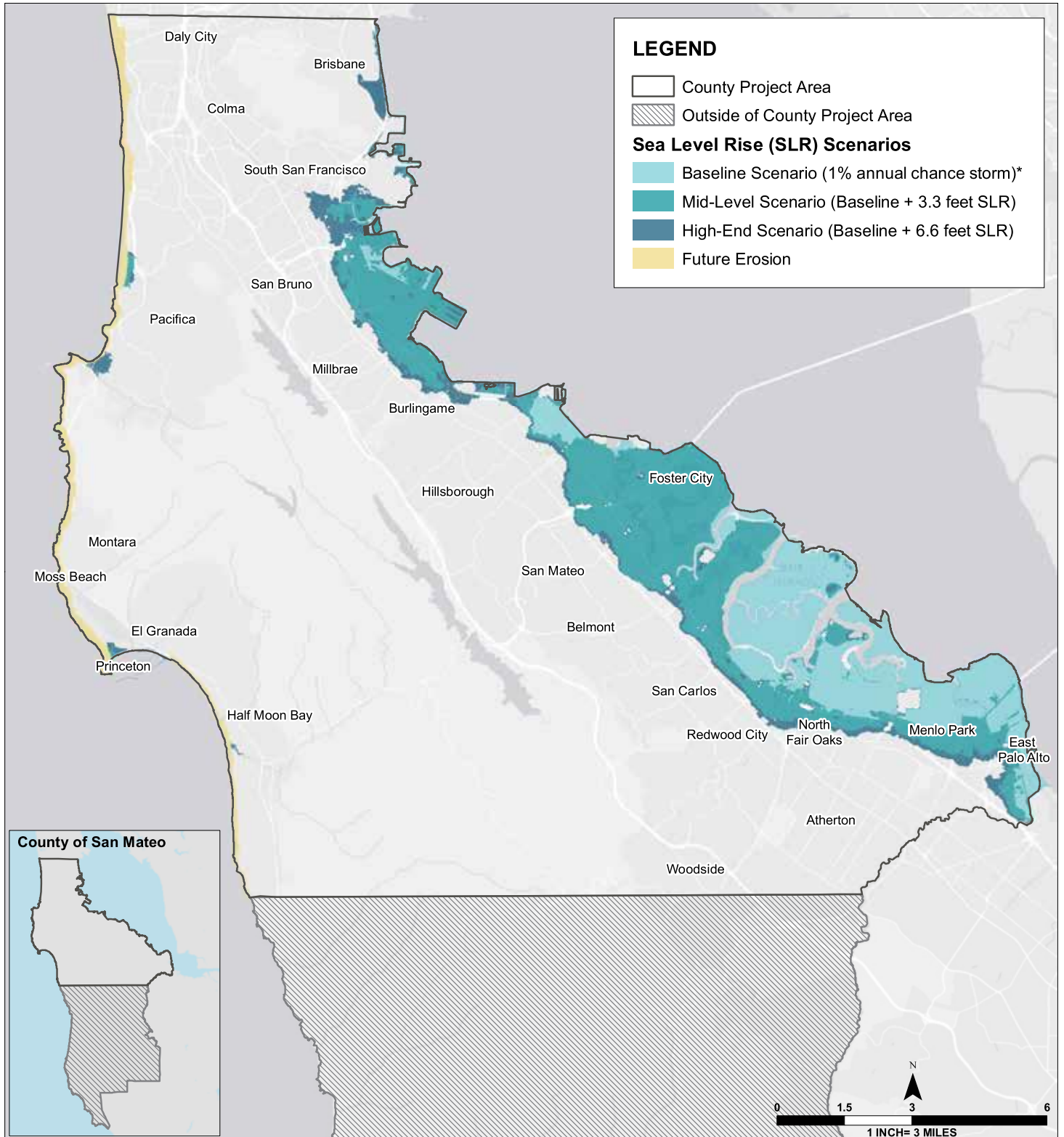
The Office of Sustainability via Sea Change SMC will expand its adaptation planning for sea level rise while simultaneously implementing an overall Climate Change Preparedness Action Plan. The plan will assess sea level rise vulnerability for the south coast of the county and major facilities while also identifying other climate change impacts. The plan will assess sea level rise vulnerability for the south coast of the county and major facilities while also identifying other climate change impacts, including heat, wildfire, storms and precipitation, at-risk transportation and communities and potential adaptation strategies.

“Understanding climate change risks is crucial in building a prepared and stronger county,” [Office of Sustainability Director Jim] Eggemeyer said.

The Climate Change Preparedness Action Plan will raise awareness and build support for collaboration on climate change. The plan includes creating a menu of policies and strategies to integrate climate change adaptation into County and city planning and operations and partnering with cities to develop Community Resilience Plans for vulnerable communities.

View the complete Final Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment along with highlights and summary findings at <http://seachangesmc.com>.

Figure 3A.1 Sea Level Rise and Erosion Scenarios in Project Area



Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Data source: Our Coast, Our Future 2016; Point Blue Conservation Science 2016; USGS; Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; Coravai LCC; U.S. States Geological Survey; San Mateo County 2015.

This map is intended to improve sea level rise awareness and preparedness by providing a regional-scale illustration of inundation and coastal flooding due to specific sea level rise and storm surge scenarios. This map is not detailed to the parcel-scale and should not be used for navigation, permitting, regulatory, or other legal uses.

*1% annual chance storm is a storm that has a 1 in 100 chance of occurring in any given year, and on the Bayside generally results in about a 42 inch increase of total water levels. On the Coastside, the water level increase could be greater due to wave action.

Note on erosion modeling: Erosion modeling used in this study does not consider shoreline armoring due to a lack of information on the condition and life expectancy of existing structures. The 2009 Philip Williams and Associates study recognizes that future shoreline protection is likely in general but could not predict where and how these would appear. In this case, developing predictive erosional models is impractical and exceedingly difficult.