



OAAC ADAPT: Oakland-Alameda Adaptation Projects

Planning Principles

The OAAC ADAPT Planning Principles have been developed in support of the vision and goals established by the Oakland-Alameda Adaptation Committee (OAAC) and the OAAC ADAPT Project Charter.

OAAC Mission Statement

A coalition of shoreline communities and stakeholders coordinating the Oakland Alameda sub-region to accelerate sea level rise adaptation, protect and restore water quality, recreation, and habitat, and promote community resilience.

The equity goals and principles defined in the OAAC and OAAC Adapt Project Charter provide the overarching framework for all the planning and decision making. These planning principles supplement the Charter documents and will guide the physical and policy-based adaptation strategies and evaluation criteria as the project progresses.

The principles are organized into categories consistent with the principles defined in the **BCDC Draft One Bay Vision**, with the intention of ensuring alignment between OAAC planning and BCDC guidance. It is anticipated that these principles may be revisited and revised through future phases of the planning process.

General

- **Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Criteria** – Refer to SLR Adaptation Planning Criteria Memo.
- **Pathways Approach** - Utilize a Pathways approach to adaptation planning that is site specific and includes measures for monitoring, clearly defined triggers, and a phasing strategy that allows for future adaptations.
- **Multi-benefit** - Embrace a multi-benefit approach that ensures public health and safety, respects natural systems, reduces risk to people, places, and capital through multipurpose design and green infrastructure planning.
- **Equity and Environmental Justice** - Prioritize equity and environmental justice outcomes for vulnerable communities.

Community Health and Wellbeing

- Ensure that adaptation measures **safeguard communities** from the public health consequences of flooding and support healthy environments, public safety, and quality of life (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision).
- Meaningfully engage and **empower communities** in adaptation decision-making processes. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Prioritize planning to **address risks** to essential community assets, services including Bay ecosystem services, and cultural resources. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Prioritize **economic opportunities** from adaptation in disadvantaged communities through local hire, workforce development, and other community benefits. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)

Critical Infrastructure and Services

- Maintain or improve **service continuity** for everyone, by protecting or relocating critical infrastructure while minimizing vulnerabilities of new infrastructure networks to future flooding hazards. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Prioritize adaptations that address service deficiencies in **underserved communities**. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)

Transportation and Transit

- Adapt local and regional **transportation** systems to ensure safe and reliable connectivity by air, land, and water. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Ensure continuity and equitable service in **transit dependent communities**. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Promote active, **low emissions mobility** options for environmental and economic benefit. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)

Ecosystem Health and Resilience

- Prioritize **nature-based** solutions wherever possible
- Incorporate **habitat connectivity**, sediment management, and whole watershed approaches into shoreline planning and projects. Improve subtidal, intertidal, transitional, and upland ecosystems, to the greatest extent possible.
- Identify and facilitate opportunities for ecosystems to **migrate** landward and seaward to support and enhance natural adaptation processes. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Evaluate the environmental benefits and impacts of the adaptation measures as part of the **cost/benefit evaluation** of each.

Public Access, Recreation, and Urban Design

- Provide contiguous and equitable **access** along the waterfront and to the water in support of the San Francisco Bay Trail, the San Francisco Bay Water Trail and other active transportation corridors.
- Prioritize **connecting disadvantaged neighborhoods** to a healthy Bay, creating equitable access for diverse communities. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Expand and improve **diverse** varied public access, such as recreation opportunities and water-dependent or culturally significant waterfront uses, through adaptation. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Maintain the **physical and visual** relationship between landside communities and the San Francisco Bay, parks, ecological features, and maritime facilities by minimizing the use of tall, vertical walls at the water's edge; and using available landside elevation for gradual adaptation.
- Where appropriate, provide a high-quality **public realm** while adapting the shoreline to address sea level rise, including pedestrian spaces that are accessible for all ages and abilities, active edges, regular access to open space, views of the water and waterfront activities, and clear wayfinding.
- Prioritize adaptation strategies that avoid demolition and maintain the integrity of and access to **historical resources** (districts, buildings, structures, sites, objects listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources), including those associated with local maritime history.
- **Balance** the need for human enjoyment, sustenance, and cultural connection to the Bay with healthy ecosystems. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)

Governance, Collaboration, and Finance

- Continue the governance commitments established by OAAC ADAPT to date and consider more formal **governance options** for future project phases.
- Ensure local and regional governments **collaborate** to address shared flooding risk, identify multi-benefit adaptation opportunities, including nature-based solutions, and avoid adverse flooding impacts to other jurisdictions. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Engage with indigenous partners and **community partners** at each step in the planning, implementation, and management of shoreline adaptation projects. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Incorporate **multi-benefit design solutions** into projects to best meet community needs and maximize grant funding potential.
- Incorporate **near-term benefits** into long-term planning and design strategies for the communities that will vote on funding the local share of cost.
- Minimize the potential future local share tax impact on the local community, by incorporating project features that benefit stakeholders at **multiple scales**, particularly those on a regional, statewide, or national basis.

Housing, Development, and Land Use

- Adapt existing development **equitably** and plan new and re-development projects to ensure community safety, equity, and Bay ecological health. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Align land use planning with risk mitigation while considering **long-term economic vitality** for all. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)

Groundwater and Shoreline Contamination

- Integrate emerging science on shallow **groundwater rise** into planning and adaptation decisions and identify innovative solutions. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)
- Prioritize remediation of contaminated sites in **Environmental Justice communities**, while minimizing transferring contamination burden. (BCDC Draft One Bay Vision)