South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study

Palo Alto Sea Level Rise Adaptation Virtual Public Meeting - Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Project website: www.valleywater.org/shoreline
Outline

• South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project Background
  • Relationship to other projects in the region
• South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study Overview and Progress
  • Study Partners and objectives
  • Study Process and Milestones
  • Environmental Review and Permitting
  • Upcoming Public Meetings and Study Mailing List
Exploring options to protect Santa Clara County from coastal flooding and sea level rise as well as identifying opportunities for ecosystem restoration and expanded public access to San Francisco Bay.

South San Francisco Bay Shoreline (Shoreline) Project Background

2005-2015
Shoreline Phase I Feasibility Study
- Project Area – EIA 11 North San José
- Study Partners – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Coastal Conservancy, Valley Water
- Project aims to start construction in 2021.

2014-2017
Valley Water Preliminary Feasibility Report
- Project Area – EIAs 1-10
- Identified preliminary water surface elevations for a 1% coastal flood & preliminary coastal levee alignment with key stakeholder input.
Strategy to Advance Flood Protection, Ecosystems, and Recreation along San Francisco Bay (SAFER Bay)

Public Release of Draft Feasibility Report for the Palo Alto Area

• Prepared by a consultant on behalf of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA)
• Similar to Valley Water’s 2014 Preliminary Feasibility Report, the SAFER Report identified preliminary levee alignments along the Palo Alto shoreline and baylands that would protect the community from coastal flooding and sea level rise.
• Recommended three alternatives – the best low cost, environmental restoration, and recreation alternatives.
Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study

- Study Area – EIAs 1-4
- Currently in the scoping phase
- Picks up where the SAFER Bay study left off
- Will evaluate the SAFER levee alignments in more detail

Sept 2019 - Today
Graphic does not reflect planning efforts such as the Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan, or the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.

Vicinity Project Map
Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study Partners

Study Lead
The federal lead agency is the USACE San Francisco District.

Study Non-Federal Sponsors
Valley Water and the California State Coastal Conservancy are Non-Federal Sponsors of the Feasibility Study. Sponsors pay 50% of the study cost, while USACE pays for the other 50%.

Study Partner
The City of Palo Alto is a vital local partner for this study.
STUDY OBJECTIVES
Coastal Storm Risk Management

01. Reduce risk to human life, health, and safety, caused by coastal flooding and sea level rise along the South Bay shoreline.

02. Reduce economic damage from coastal flooding to businesses and communities, including critical infrastructure.

03. Reduce flood risks to the extent practicable in a manner that maintains or improves beneficial ecological functions of baylands by increasing the number of natural and nature-based features implemented.
STUDY OBJECTIVES

Ecosystem Restoration

01. Restore ecological function and habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity in the study area, for native plant and animal species, including special status species.

02. Reduce risk to baylands from coastal flooding and sea level rise.

03. To the extent practicable, implement measures that expand the opportunity for shoreline access to comply with local agency regulations.
Coastal Storm Risk Management solutions should not affect critical infrastructure or facilities or increase flood risk.

**PLANNING**

**Constraints**

The levee alignment and ecosystem restoration alternatives will be formulated within the listed constraints.

Design Coastal Storm Risk Management solution to avoid impacts to restoration projects in the bay.

Do not reduce recreational access opportunities and ensure that any proposed new recreational features do not preclude achievement of project objectives.
USACE Feasibility Study Process

ROAD MAP OF KEY DECISION AND PRODUCT MILESTONES

Scoping → Alternative Evaluation & Analysis → Feasibility Analysis of Selected Plan → Washington-Level Review

- **SEP 2019**: Feasibility Study Start
- **JAN 2020**: Alternatives Milestone
- **SPRING 2021**: Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
- **TBD**: Agency Decision Milestone

PUBLIC REVIEW
Draft Integrated Report (CEQA/NEPA/Feasibility)

FINAL Integrated Report

SIGNED Chief’s Report
Environmental Review & Permitting

- Joint NEPA/CEQA virtual public scoping meeting planned for this fall
- Resource Agency Working Group:
For more information or to sign up for email updates:
www.valleywater.org/shoreline

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QUESTIONS
Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection