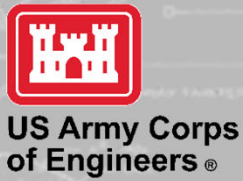


SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY

NEPA Early Scoping Meeting
September 2020





WELCOME! MEETING PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

- Introducing USACE & Port of SF Coastal Storm Risk Feasibility Study
- Complying with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Solicitation for public input – scoping
- Explaining Corps Planning Process
 - Aligning study with other Port activities
- Staying informed and engaged



We're better with your voice



PRESENTERS



Jessie Mizic, USACE
Co-lead Planner



Jessica Ludy, USACE
Co-lead Planner



Anne Baker, USACE
Environmental Lead



Lindy Lowe, Port of San Francisco
Resilience Officer



Ruzel Ednalino, USACE
Cultural Resources Lead

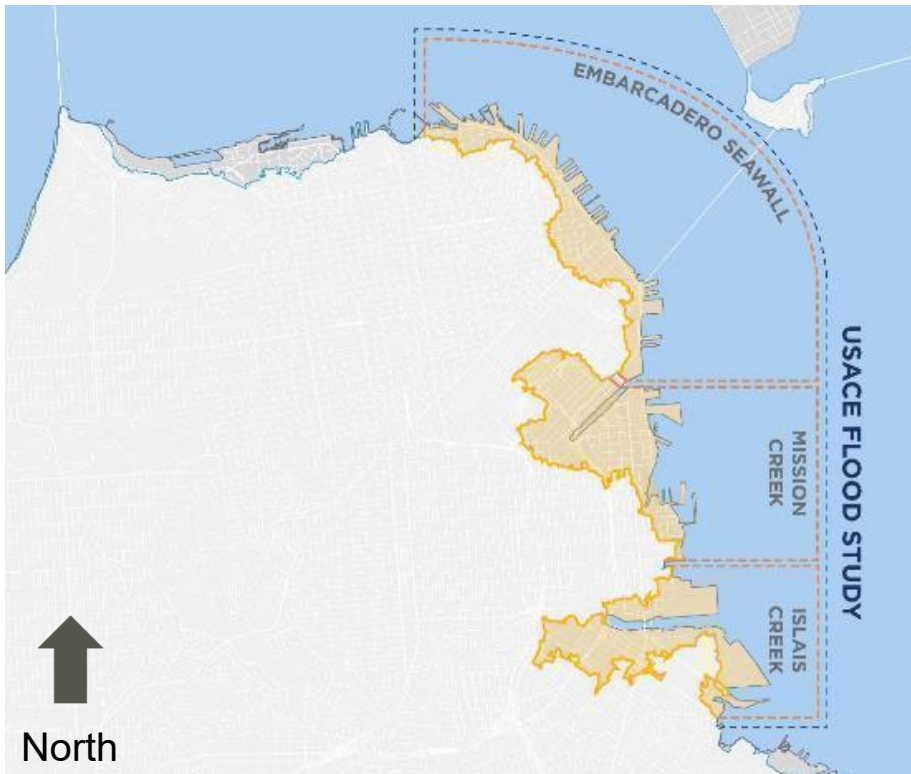


VIRTUAL MEETING PROCEDURES



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SF WATERFRONT FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY



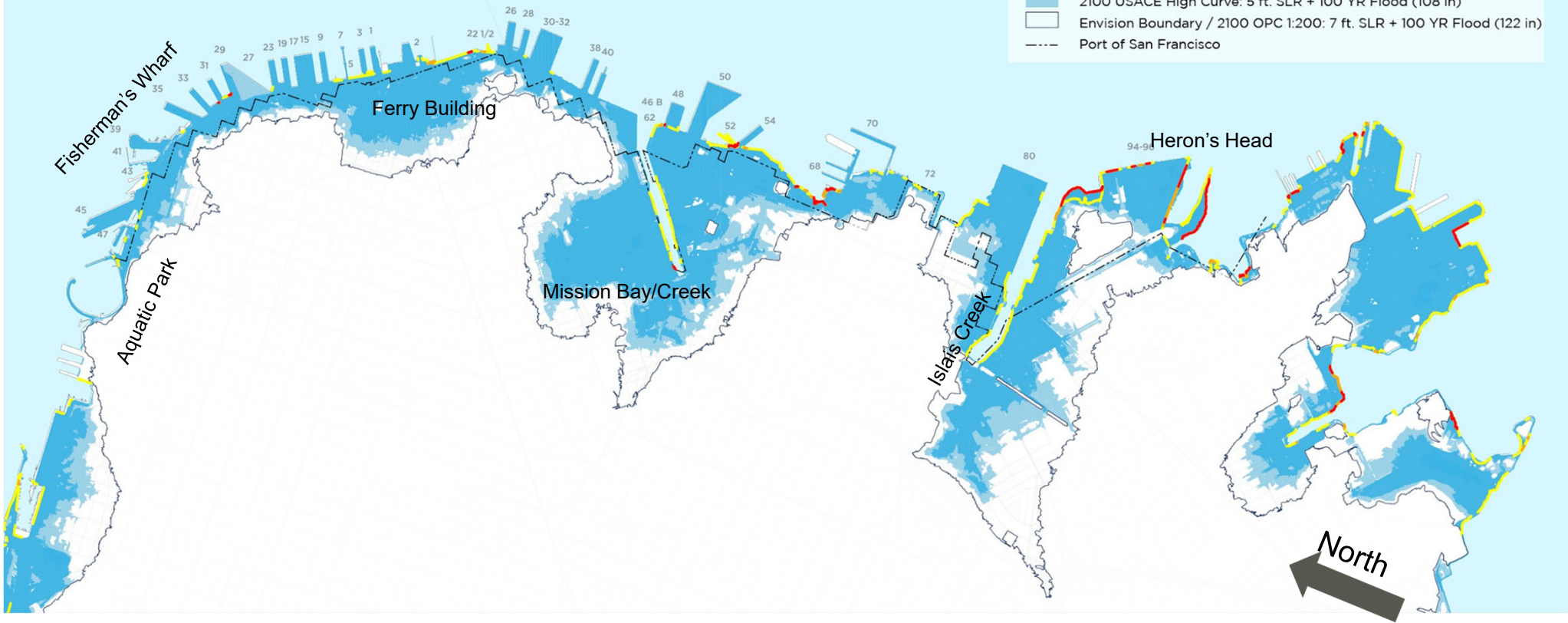
STUDY OVERVIEW & PROCESS

- Federal & local partnership between USACE and the Port of San Francisco
- ~3-5 years, 50/50 cost share
- Team evaluates coastal storm risk to study area, develops and assesses alternatives
- Team recommends a plan to Congress
- Design/construction of recommended plan cost shared 65% fed / 35% local

WHY ARE WE HERE?



COASTAL STORM RISK AND SEA LEVEL RISE

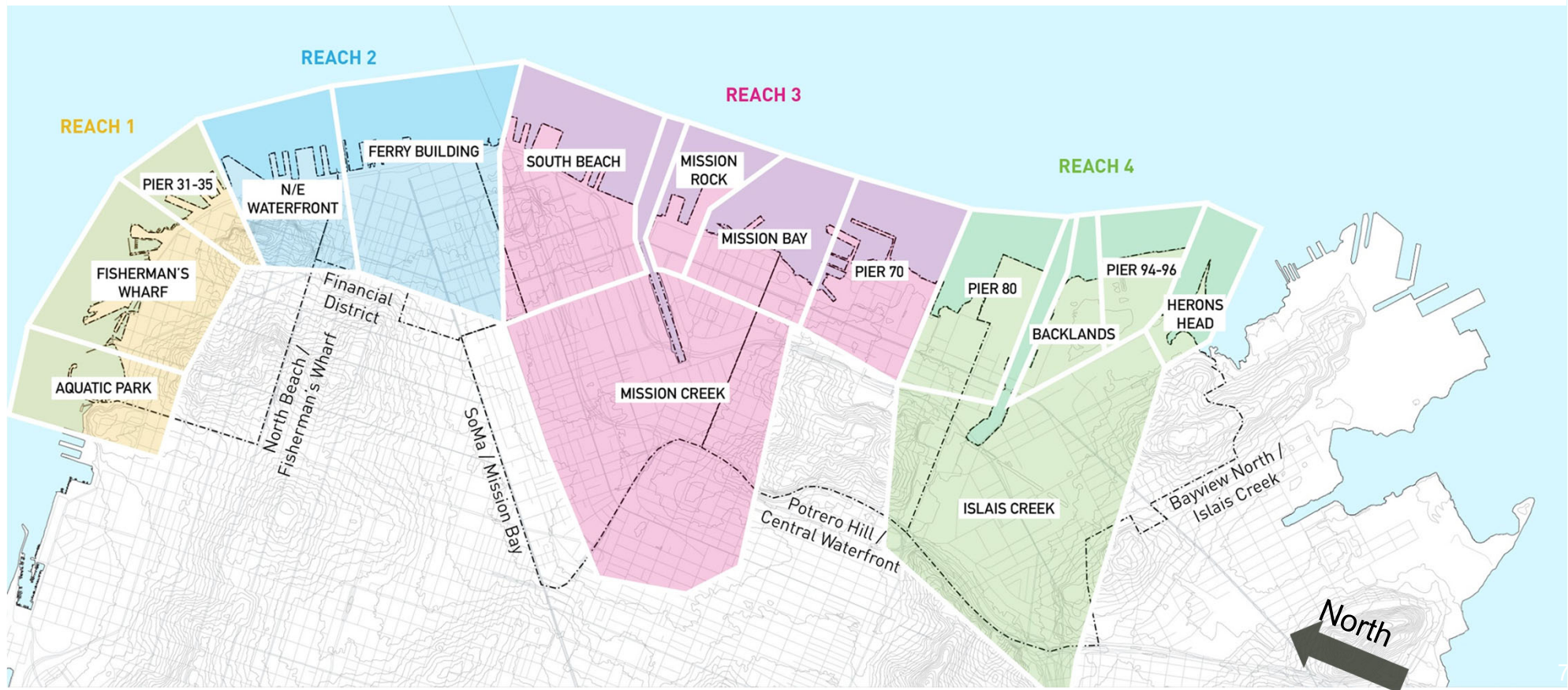


STUDY AREA

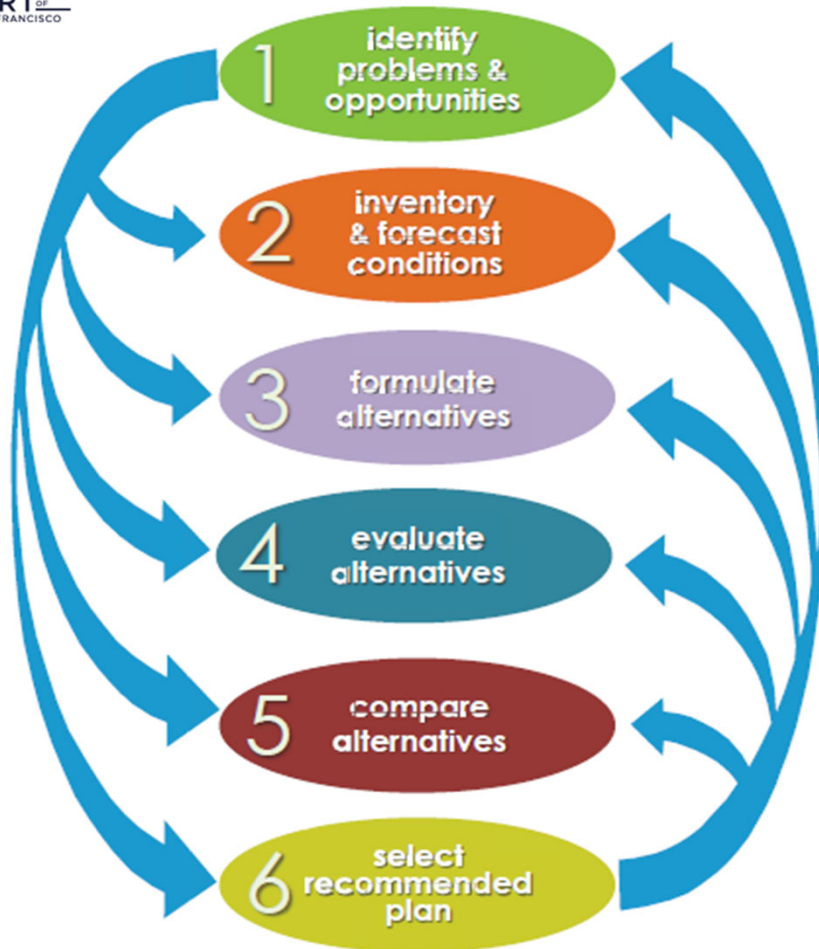
7.5 miles along the waterfront

Many neighborhoods

15 Subareas



CORPS PLANNING PROCESS



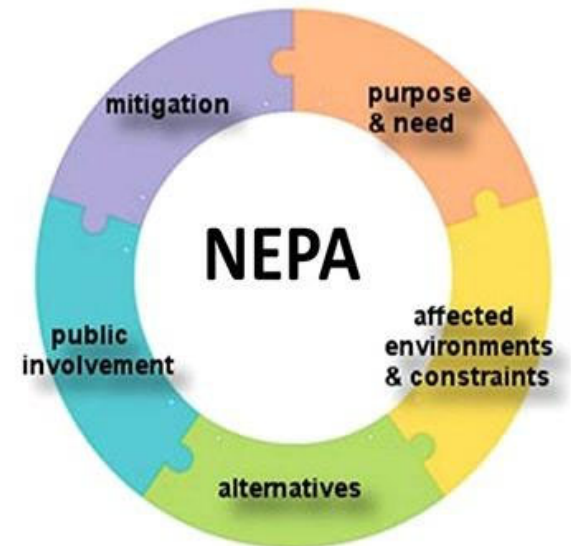
Goal: *Confirm **Federal Interest** in addressing the coastal storm risk problems or identify if it is best left to local interests*

Planning process happens in parallel with environmental review process

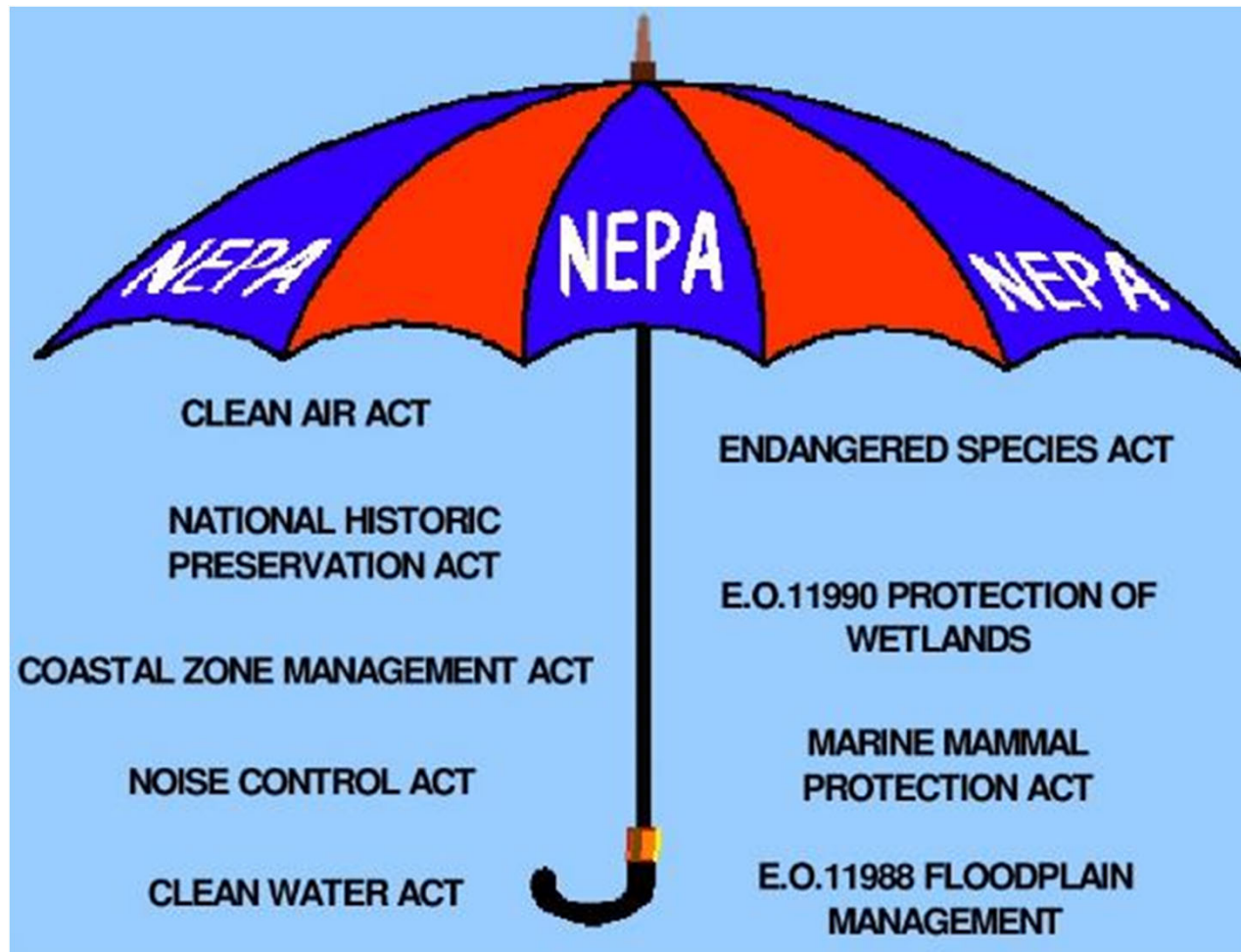


NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

- What are the existing conditions in the area?
- What alternatives are under consideration?
- What are the impacts of the alternatives?
 - Environmental? Human? Cultural/Historical?
- What are the benefits of the alternatives?
 - Public Safety? Other environmental conditions?
- How do you minimize or compensate for impacts of the alternatives?
- How are you complying with Federal Environmental Laws?
- Public involvement & disclosure



NEPA & FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS





PLANNING AND NEPA CROSSWALK

Planning steps	NEPA requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Scope for Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Scope for NEPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Specify Problems & Opportunities, Objectives & Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Describe Purpose & Need consistent with project scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inventory and Forecast Conditions (Future Without)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Describe existing conditions, trends, No Action alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Formulate alternative plans to address Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Include reasonable range of alternatives that address Purpose and Need
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Evaluate effects of alternative plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Evaluate alternatives' effects to resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Compare alternative plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Compare alternatives to No Action, ID the Environmental Alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Select a Tentative Selected Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify the Agency Preferred Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Release for Public Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Release for Public Review



STUDY PROBLEMS

Low-lying community assets are at risk of damage from coastal storms and extreme high tides

- Sea-level rise in SF Bay expected to increase frequency of coastal storm flooding along SF waterfront
- Access to critical infrastructure, emergency services, and evacuation could be limited or cut-off during storm flooding
- Century-old seawall has outlasted its design life and could fail due to age or earthquake



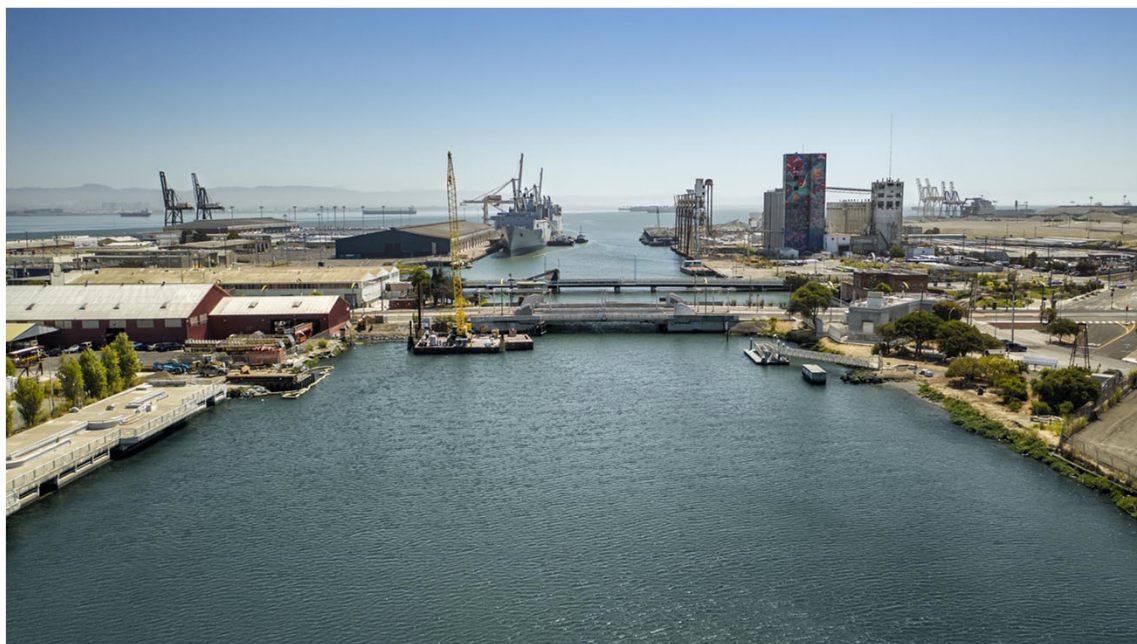


STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce **economic damages** from coastal storm risk to business, residents and infrastructure
2. Reduce risk to **human health and safety** from coastal storm impacts
3. Improve the **resiliency of the local economy** to impacts from coastal storms



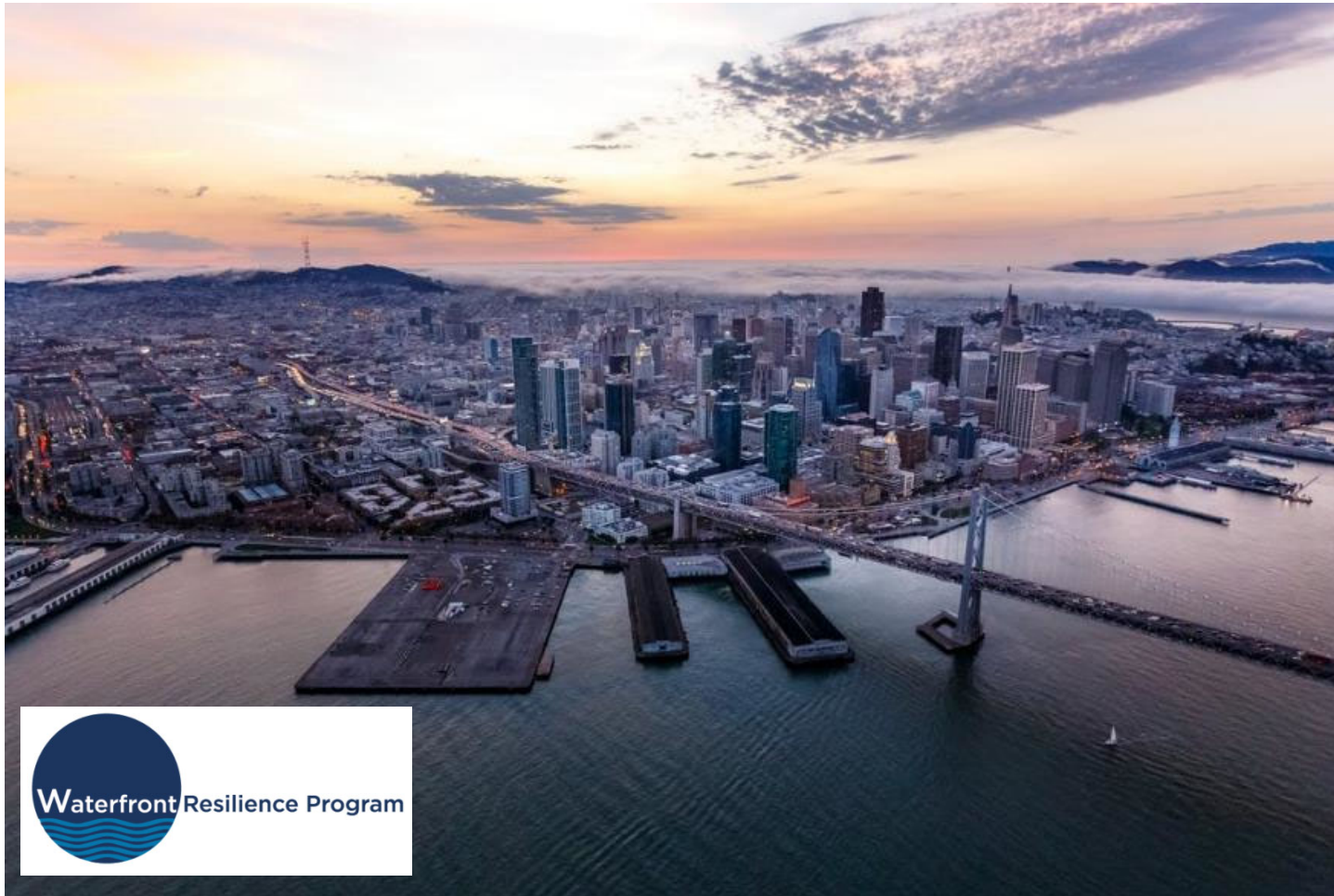
STUDY CONSTRAINTS



- Maintain, preserve **maritime facilities & function**; avoid impacts on Port **infrastructure & operations**
- Avoid actions that violate authority of the Port Commission to fulfill **public trust responsibilities** (Burton Act)
- Maintain required **public access and regional and citywide mobility corridors** such as the Embarcadero Roadway and the SF Bay Trail
- Maintain SF Bay **ecological function**



THIS STUDY IS PART OF THE WATERFRONT RESILIENCE PROGRAM





Agency collaboration

The Port continues to build close partnerships with city, regional, and federal agencies to ensure accuracy and innovation in the program.



Community and advisory engagement

Port led 100+ events waterfront-wide, including over 115 presentations to community members and advisory groups. The goal was to solicit community input, concerns, and preferences for defining a vision and solutions for waterfront resilience.





1

Community ideas on an “**inspiring an adaptable waterfront**” highlight key considerations for evaluating alternatives:

- Do they connect us to the shoreline?
- Is the waterfront accessible?
- Do some measures preserve and promote jobs, housing, seniors & youth more than others?

2

Community feedback on **priority assets most loved by the community** help the study team:

- Understand consequences of taking no action
- Select projects that responsibly use tax dollars
- Consider alternatives that preserve and protect community character

3

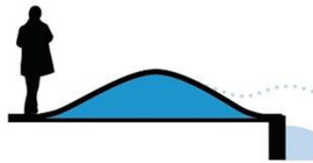
Community feedback on evaluation criteria affirmed the team should prioritize life safety and disaster response, and to “**put people first**”, with special attention to:

- housing, disaster recovery facilities, utilities, and businesses
- transportation assets and waterfront mobility

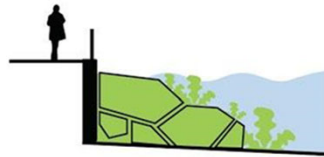
COMMUNITY INPUT WILL INFORM MEASURES AND ALTERNATIVES



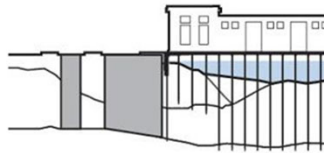
Measures are a plan or course of action to achieve a particular purpose



Physical Measures



Ecological Measures



Earthquake-resilient Measures



Emergency Response, Land Use

Alternatives are sets of measures intended to reduce coastal storm risk and respond to the problems and objectives in the study area



NEPA DOCUMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



Human Environment

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Waste
- Land Use
- Noise
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Utilities



NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



Ecological Environment

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Vegetation
- Water Quality
- Wildlife



Heron's Head Park in southern San Francisco—a bit of wild in the city (photo by Cris Benton)



HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND STRUCTURES



10 built-environment resources identified

NRHP Historic Properties:

- **6 Historic Districts**
 - 2 that are also National Historic Landmarks
- **4 Historic Structures**
 - Including underground contributing components for a historic water supply system (piping, cisterns, pumping station)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- The study team is consulting with tribal bands identified by the Native American Heritage Commission
- Documented historical and prehistoric archaeological sites are located further landward where the historic shoreline once existed
- Deposits that underlie Reach 1 and 2 consists of landfill
- Alternatives formulated will guide the need for additional archaeological/tribal monitoring, subsurface testing, and any other planning efforts



Archeologist and construction crews diligently combing through dirt at a site along San Francisco's waterfront.
Photo from: <https://abc7news.com/san-francisco-shipwreck-buried-ships-wharf-pier/5273325/>



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Port presentations, collaboration, and seeking input from Agency partners and the Community for the Port's Waterfront Resilience Program (2018- 2020)

- Perspectives on study problems, objectives, and constraints of Coastal Storm Risk Feasibility Study
- Ideas for measures and alternatives
- Assets or resources that are particularly important or of concern
- Comments about the NEPA or Corps Planning processes



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Scoping comments due by October 21, 2020:

Relevant Chat Box comments provided today will be considered as written comments.

Or, **submit emails** to: *SFWFRS@usace.army.mil*

Or, **send mail** to:

Ms. Anne Baker
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94102

Webpage for study information:

<https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-and-Programs/Projects-A-Z/San-Francisco-Waterfront-Storm-Damage-Reduction/>

Public Review of Draft Report and NEPA Document:

- 45 day public review and comment timeframe
- Includes public meeting and concurrent agency and other reviews

Contact the Port of San Francisco:

Lindy Lowe
Port Resilience Officer
Port of San Francisco
lindy.lowe@sfport.com
sfportresilience.com