

## MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2018

**TO:** MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION  
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President  
Hon. Willie Adams, Vice President  
Hon. Gail Gilman  
Hon. Victor Makras  
Hon. Doreen Woo Ho

**FROM:** Elaine Forbes  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Informational presentation on Citywide Resilience Efforts

**DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Informational Only; No Action Required

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City and County of San Francisco has been working on efforts to advance resilience including the adoption of the Lifelines Interdependency Study in 2014, Resilient San Francisco in 2016 and the San Francisco Sea Level Rise Action Plan in 2016. These initiatives have set the stage for further actions taken by the City collectively, as well as by individual departments. For example, initiating work to improve the seismic and flood resilience of the Embarcadero Seawall was a recommendation of both the Lifelines Interdependency Study and Resilient San Francisco. Work underway by the Sea Level Rise (SLR) Coordinating Committee is being led by the San Francisco Planning Department (SF Planning) to advance understanding of City sea level rise risks and advance priorities that were set by the San Francisco Sea Level Rise Action Plan. Additionally, San Francisco is also in process of updating its 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan which will include both emergency preparedness and response and climate adaptation in the update, which is being led by the Office of Resilience under the City Administrator.

The Port has been working closely with the other City departments on these efforts to align the SLR Coordinating Committee's Vulnerability and Consequences project and the Hazard and Climate Resilience with those being led by the Port, including the Seawall Program and the Army Corps Flood Study. Maggie Wenger from SF Planning, who leads the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Consequences work, will provide an update on the efforts completed to date. Melissa Higbee, the Office of Resilience Project Manager for the Hazard and Climate Resilience Plan, will provide an overview of that effort.

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## **PORT'S STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE**

This project supports the goals of the Port's Strategic Plan as follows:

### Resilience:

- Study and plan for Seawall repairs to address seismic and flood risk.
- Assess all pending and new projects for the effects of rising sea level and ensure appropriate adaptation measures can be implemented.
- Participate in local and state regulatory rule-making related to climate adaptation.
- Work with City leadership to develop resilience and adaptation strategies that support needed seismic repairs to the Port's Seawall and protect the Port and City from flood risk due to climate change and rising sea levels.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City has undertaken a number of initiatives to advance Citywide resilience over the last five years, including the Lifelines Interdependency Study, the San Francisco Sea Level Rise Action Plan and Resilient San Francisco. The recommendations of these plans have served to guide the work of the City and the Port to reduce the risks to communities, businesses, the environment from the effects of hazards and climate change. The City and the Port are leading and coordinating on a number of efforts to increase resilience, including the *Seawall Program* and *Army Corps Flood Study* that the Port is leading, the *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Consequences Report* that the Planning Department is leading and the *Hazard and Climate Resilience Plan* that the Office of Resilience is leading. While these projects are at different scales and have different areas of focus, the City departments are closely coordinating with each other on the planning, engagement and implementation. The Port has played a significant role in the SLR Coordinating Committee, with Byron Rhett serving in the past as a co-chair of that committee. Port staff continues to sit on the SLR Coordinating Committee and is an active participant. The Port is also closely engaged in the Hazard and Climate Resilience Plan, serving on the subcommittee to develop the public engagement plan for the effort, as well as participating in the planning committee.

Due to its geographic location, its management of the shoreline for seven and a half miles of San Francisco Waterfront, its critical role in emergency response, the significant vulnerability of its assets and services, and its lead role on two significant resilience efforts for the City, the Port Commission and staff need to stay closely engaged in efforts that are occurring at the Citywide and regional scales to ensure that the Port efforts are consistent and aligned, and that the Citywide and regional efforts are taking Port issues into account.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

The Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Consequences work is an assessment that is part of the implementation of the Sea Level Rise Action Plan. The vision of the Sea Level Rise Action Plan is to "Make San Francisco a more resilient city in the face of immediate and long-term threats of sea level rise to the Bayshore and Pacific Ocean, by taking measures to protect and enhance public and private assets, natural resources and quality of life for all". The current work includes an assessment of exposure to current

and future flooding, an evaluation of the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of City assets and a determination of the consequences of flooding on those assets and to the communities and businesses who rely on them. The exposure analysis includes water levels representing today's flood risks to future flood risks to 2100, with 10 water levels representing a variety of conditions from current high tides and El Nino events to future sea level rise. A draft of this phase of the work will be ready for review in March of 2019 and the final report will be completed in July of 2019, with recommendations for next steps.

The Hazard and Climate Resilience (HCR) Plan is San Francisco's update to its 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The change in the Plan's title is due to an expanded scope to include climate adaptation. The other requirements that will be met by the HCR Plan include the Disaster Management Act of 2000, the ability to maintain eligibility for FEMA funding, maintaining San Francisco's commitment to C40 Cities and meeting Senate Bill 379 requirements that require cities to incorporate climate adaptation into the Safety Element of their General Plans. The HCR will assess a variety of natural and human-made hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, coastal and stormwater flooding, terrorism, hazardous material spills and a number of sector categories including people, emergency response, public and community services, business and industry and assets including maritime, shoreline protection infrastructure, municipal buildings and water transportation. The assessment phase of the project is occurring now and will wrap up at the end of December 2018. The strategy phase will be conducted from January to March 2019 and the HCR will be drafted by the Fall of 2019. Community engagement will begin early next year and meetings will be held throughout the city to ensure diverse engagement in the process and buy-in for the outcomes and recommendations.

### **COORDINATION AND NEXT STEPS**

The City and the Port will continue to work closely together to advance these critical resilience initiatives and ensure consistency and coordination of findings, outcomes and recommendations. The Office of Resilience, SF Planning, the Department of the Environment and Port staff have been meeting regularly to ensure that we are working toward a comprehensive and integrated vision for how we advance the resilience of San Francisco's communities, businesses, environment and ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the City's assets and services. Port staff will schedule updates for the Port Commission as the initiatives, projects and plans advance.

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for

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