

Frequently Asked Questions

Waterfront Resilience Program Draft Plan and San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study

What is the San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in collaboration with the Port of San Francisco, are conducting a Flood Study to analyze the coastal flood risk and effects of sea level rise for the 7.5 miles of waterfront within the Port of San Francisco's jurisdiction, from Aquatic Park to Heron's Head Park.

What is the Draft Plan?

Reflecting more than six years of community engagement and public input, the Draft Plan proposes actions to defend the shoreline within the Port's jurisdiction against rising sea levels and presents an environmental analysis of those actions.

The proposed solutions are estimated to cost \$13.5 billion, and, if approved by Congress, the Federal government may pay up to 65% of the construction cost. Cost estimates are preliminary, high-level, and subject to change.

The Draft Plan was released to the public on January 26, 2024, starting a 60-day formal public comment period under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The 60-day comment period ran from January 26 through March 29, 2024. During this period, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of San Francisco conducted robust public outreach and engagement activities to get feedback on the Draft Plan. [Learn more about NEPA and the Environmental Impact Statement process.](#)

What is and is not included in the Draft Plan?

The Draft Plan indicates where to build flood defenses, how high to build flood defenses, and how much space to use. It identifies a combination of different flood defenses, such as floodproofing, seawalls, berms, floodwalls and nature-based features.

The Draft Plan does not include detailed designs for flood defenses; designs for waterfront streets, open spaces, and infrastructure; timing and sequencing of construction; or a funding plan. These elements will be developed during later phases with the public, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and City agencies.

What types of comments did you hear from the public about the Draft Plan?

Overall, we heard:

- Strong desire for nature-based solutions.
- Desire to preserve and expand recreational uses of the waterfront.
- Request for opportunities for local workers and businesses.

- Concerns about public health impacts from contamination and groundwater flooding.
- Concerns about the jurisdiction of the Draft Plan and its implications for waterfront areas not under the Port's jurisdiction, particularly in the southeast.
- Most questions focused on funding, phasing, and construction impacts, including business and Port tenant disruption, tenant relocation, and economic impacts.

[Learn more about public feedback on the Draft Plan.](#)

I submitted a comment on the Draft Plan, what happens next?

After the Draft Plan is updated based on public feedback and technical review, it will become the **Recommended Plan**.

The Port of San Francisco and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working on a Final Report to complete the San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study.

The Final Report will include the **Recommended Plan**, public comments, responses to public comments, and a Final Environmental Impact Statement. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will present the Recommended Plan to Congress in 2026, timeline subject to change. The public will have an opportunity review the Final Report and Recommended Plan, including public comments and responses, prior to congressional authorization.



Note: dates are estimates and subject to change.

What happens after congressional approval?

If Congress approves the Recommended Plan and authorizes funding, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of San Francisco will begin the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design phase (or PED phase).

The PED phase will provide **many opportunities for the public to engage in design of the future waterfront**, including streets, transportation, open space, nature-based features, and more.

Additionally, when announced, the public will have an opportunity to **provide input on the environmental review process under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**. [Learn about the CEQA process here.](#)

The progress achieved so far is the result of over six years of public engagement. This work will be implemented gradually over several decades. Implementation will occur in phases, allowing for careful planning and ongoing community input. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the public, the Community-Based Organizations, and City agencies throughout this extended process.