



**Waterfront Plan Update  
Resilience Subcommittee**  
November 30, 2016 Meeting Notes

**Subcommittee Members Present:** Dilip Trivedi, Mike Buehler, Pia Hinkle, Aaron Hyland, Earl James, Peter Summerville, John Tobias, Sam Veloz (for Grant Ballard)

**Absent:** Jacquelyn Omotalade, Grant Ballard

**Other Working Group Members Present:** Alice Rogers, Jeffrey Congdon, Stewart Morton

**Advisory Team Members Present:** Max Lowenstein, Justin Semion, Keith Primdahl

**Port Staff:** Diane Oshima, Carol Bach, Anne Cook, Sidonie Sansome, Diana Bartram, Aaron Golbus, Byron Rhett

**Agency Staff:** Kevin Connolly (WETA), Diana Sokolove (SF Planning), Bryan Strong (SF Mayor's Office), Mark Palmer (SF Environment), Andrea Gaffney (BCDC), Lindy Lowe (BCDC)

**1. Welcome & Meeting Goals:**

- Chair Dilip Trivedi welcomed attendees, introductions were made, and meeting goals were discussed.

**2. Resilience Goal and Policies**

- Anne Cook provided a brief overview of the [Draft Outline for Waterfront Plan Resilience Goal and Policies](#), and explained that the Draft Outline will evolve over the course of the next few Subcommittee meetings based on input from the Subcommittee members, Advisory Team members, and public. Tonight's meeting will focus on the first two items on the Draft Outline: 1) emergency preparedness and disaster recovery; and 2) collaborations for successful resilience planning and finance. Subsequent meetings will focus on flood protection, the Seawall Resilience Project, and resilience planning for the Southern Waterfront, among other topics.
- Port staff recommends a new Waterfront Plan Resilience goal that covers these topics, as well as others identified as priorities by the Subcommittee and the public. The new Waterfront Plan goal for Resilience also should be consistent with the Port's Strategic Plan Resilience Goal. Like for the Environmental Sustainability goal discussed at the last Subcommittee meeting, Staff can develop proposed policy language based on comments received tonight, then bring it back for

review and further discussion by the Subcommittee and the public.

- Future Resilience Subcommittee meeting(s) will focus on the Port's Seawall Resilience Project, resilience planning for the Southern Waterfront, flood protection, etc.
- Staff anticipates holding a joint meeting with the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittees to address waterfront urban design and historic resource issues that should guide the development of new resilience policies and projects.
- Anne Cook introduced excerpts from the City of San Francisco's resilience plan, "Resilient SF", to demonstrate how the City [defines resilience](#), and where elements of the City's [Resilient SF plan](#) could be reflected in new and existing Waterfront Plan goals once the update is complete.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery**

#### **Presentations**

- Sidonie Sansome (Director of Homeland Security, Port) [presented an overview](#) of the Port's existing emergency response and disaster recovery plans and capabilities.
- Kevin Connolly (Director of Planning, Water Emergency Transit Authority) discussed WETA's role and collaboration with Port of San Francisco and other agencies in emergency response and disaster recovery planning and operations. Kevin discussed WETA's plans to increase landing and vessel capacity throughout the Bay Area, which will improve its ability to evacuate the public and move first responders after an emergency. He also discussed WETA's role in regional transportation and emergency response plans. [WETA's Strategic Plan](#) was provided as a handout and [WETA's Emergency Response Plan](#) is available on line.
- Kevin and Sidonie explained that it could take 48 hours of continuous ferry operations to clear the City of commuters and visitors after a disaster that renders the bridge and/or BART tunnel inoperable.

#### **Responses to Questions:**

- Most Port property is controlled by tenants; how does the Port communicate with tenants about emergency planning and disaster recovery? The Port's Real Estate and Maritime staff communicates directly with Port tenants. In the event of a disaster, there will be a Port-wide response. The Port also works closely with the City's Department of Emergency Management and other City and State emergency agencies to plan and implement disaster recovery operations.
- What other natural disasters, besides earthquakes, are of particular concern for the Port? The Port also plans for Tsunamis.
- Where else does WETA need facilities to support its emergency response function? The Mission Bay Ferry Landing will be a key location; this project is a good example of how agencies, in this case the Port and WETA, can collaborate to increase emergency response capacity.

## Discussion:

- The Port and Ocean Beach are the only two areas where City can be accessed by water for disaster recovery operations, and Ocean Beach is much less desirable due to wave action and lack of landing facilities.
- Port lands therefore are essential to disaster recovery for the entire City. FEMA plans to bring goods in by vessel, so the City and Port need to retain access for loading/unloading vessels and space to stage people and resources.
- Port open spaces such as parks, parking lots, and some maritime industrial lands also serve as possible sites for emergency response/disaster recovery operations. Although such properties aren't often needed for such operations, if their uses remain "flexible" they can play a key response and recovery role when disasters occur.
- The City/Port should not consider the Embarcadero as space for assembly or staging of emergency or evacuation operations because it will need to remain open for transportation.
- The Port should be thinking about critical access/egress locations and prioritize these for stabilization, if needed to ensure that they are functioning after an earthquake.
- Whatever is rebuilt after a disaster should be rebuilt in a sustainable way.

## Additional Collaborations for Successful Resilience Planning

### Presentations

Resilience Advisory Team Member Max Lowenstein [presented background information](#) about how San Francisco agencies plan for sea level rise, including estimates of sea level rise impacts used regionally and within the City for planning purposes.

Diana Sokolove from the City's Planning Department and Co-chair of the Mayor's Sea Level Rise Committee presented an update to the more detailed presentation of the City's Sea Level Rise Action Plan she gave to the full Working Group during Part 1 of the planning process; this time she emphasized regional collaborations to address sea level rise. She also pointed out that Byron Rhett, Port Deputy Director of Planning and Development, now is her Co-chair for the of the [Sea Level Rise Action Committee](#).

### Comments and Discussion

- It would be helpful to know what this Subcommittee's boundaries are on the broad topic of "resilience". Anne referred back to the key elements identified in Resilient SF, with reference to how existing plans or the developing Waterfront Plan Update might address them.
- Because understanding and predictions about sea level rise are evolving, resilience should be considered an on-going process of adaptive management.
- How do we ensure that we preserve historic resources both in planning for and responding to emergencies and sea level rise? This will be the subject of a joint meeting with the Land Use and

Transportation Subcommittees in February, as well as further discussion in the Resilience Subcommittee meetings

- The Port should focus first on what it and the public, City, and other stakeholders value, and then consider how to preserve those functions and values when planning for emergency response and sea level rise.
- The Port should also consider that different resilience goals (or policies within an over-arching resilience goal) might be appropriate for different sub-areas of the Port.

#### **4. Next meeting**

The next Resilience Subcommittee meeting will be on February 1, 2017, 6-8pm at Pier 1 (changed post meeting from January 18<sup>th</sup>). The agenda will be sent the week before the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.