



MEMORANDUM

September 13, 2024

TO: MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President
Hon. Gail Gilman, Vice President
Hon. Willie Adams
Hon. Stephen Engblom
Hon. Steven Lee

FROM: Elaine Forbes
Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Informational presentation on the Draft 2025 Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Information Only – No Action Required

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning (ORCP) presented the proposed draft Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan (HCR) to the Port Commission for review and comment. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved that plan in 2020. As the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, it is required to be updated every five years for the City to be eligible for critical Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding sources, such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants.

ORCP is now leading the effort to update the 2020 HCR. The Draft 2025 HCR is now available for review¹ and ORCP is requesting public comment by September 30, 2024, prior to submitting to the Final Draft to FEMA for their review.

¹ Link to the 2025 Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan Executive Summary:
https://onesanfrancisco.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2025_HCR_ES_PublicReviewDraft.pdf

Link to the complete 2025 Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan (7/29/24) – Public Review Draft:

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO. 13A

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The Port of San Francisco's (Port) Waterfront Resilience Program (WRP) and ORCP's HCR support the Port's Strategic Plan goals as follows:

Engagement:

By leading an inclusive stakeholder process to develop a shared vision, principles, and goals for the WRP and using multiple avenues for public involvement in the development and review of the ORCP HCR.

Resiliency:

By leading the City's efforts to develop waterfront resilience strategies that address threats from earthquakes, coastal flooding, and sea level rise.

Evolution:

By developing adaptation options with a long-term horizon as well as near-term actions, envisioning strategies to adapt the waterfront and its uses over time, and recognizing that decisions made today influence the options available to future generations who will be addressing different environmental and social conditions.

Sustainability:

By incorporating nature-based features into the Port's adaptation strategies to enhance the quality of the Bay water and habitat with the improvements and conducting an Environmental Quality analysis that considers environmental benefits and impacts in the evaluation of the Draft Strategies and development and selection of a Draft Plan.

Productivity and Economic Recovery:

Through the wise investment of Proposition A Seawall Earthquake Safety Bonds and other Port and public funding sources, and by developing strategies to defend or floodproof Port maritime and industrial facilities and leasable assets to extend their useful life and reduce their risk from coastal flooding and sea level rise.

BACKGROUND

The Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan (HCR) is an action plan for building a safer and more resilient future in San Francisco by reducing the impacts of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, and pandemics. The HCR also addresses how hazards like flooding, extreme heat, and wildfire smoke are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change. As the City's FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the HCR is required to be updated every five years for the City to be eligible for critical FEMA funding sources, such as BRIC grants. Reference and adoption of the HCR in the Safety and Resilience Element allows San Francisco to be compliant with SB 379 (2015) and considered for additional state cost-share on eligible FEMA Public Assistance projects per AB 2140 (2006).

https://onesanfrancisco.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2025_HCR_PublicReviewDraft_0.pdf

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the 2025 update was “right-sized” to reflect the comprehensive nature of the 2020 HCR assessment, limited changes in risk and development since 2020, and ongoing community engagement on resilience plans since 2020. The goals of the planning process are as follows:

- Build a greater understanding of San Francisco’s hazard and climate risks among City leaders, staff, and community stakeholders.
- Learn from community members, especially in Environmental Justice Communities, about their experiences with and concerns about hazards and incorporate their priorities for resilience into the Plan update.
- Provide strategic policy guidance and direction for ongoing and future citywide multi-hazard risk reduction efforts.
- Build the capacity of City staff and partners to develop hazard and climate resilience projects and programs.

Chapter 7 of the HCR details the City’s resilience strategy, which consists of 3 pillars, 17 objectives, and 74 actions (see Table 1). The 2020 strategy was updated based on an evaluation of progress made to date, emerging issues, and a prioritization process. The strategy strives to be comprehensive while also balancing actions that will be feasible to make progress on by 2030 and provide significant benefit, especially for those who are most likely to be adversely impacted by hazards. The Port is a lead agency on six resilience actions (see Table 2). The Port is included as a partnering agency on another nine actions (see Table 3).

Table 1: Pillars and Objectives in the Draft 2025 HCR

(B) BUILDINGS	
B-1	Increase the resilience of existing seismically vulnerable buildings.
B-2	Increase climate and multi-hazard resilience of existing buildings.
B-3	Design and construct new buildings for high resilience performance for current and future hazards.
(C) COMMUNITIES	
C-1	Limit exposure and protect public health against hazards related to environmental health.
C-2	Support the growth of community resilience networks to empower all people.
C-3	Increase the City's capacity to improve resilience through collaboration among peer agencies, the private sector, and community-based organizations.
C-4	Support robust emergency response planning in partnership with communities most adversely impacted by hazards.
C-5	Prepare small businesses and workers to bounce back faster after a hazard.
C-6	Make housing more affordable to increase community adaptive capacity.

Table 1: Pillars and Objectives in the Draft 2025 HCR (cont.)

(IN) INFRASTRUCTURE	
IN-1	Increase the resilience of electric power systems and increase access to resilient backup power.
IN-2	Increase the resilience of critical communications systems.
IN-3	Support sustainable and resilient multi-modal mobility.
IN-4	Promote, design, and use nature-based solutions to mitigate current and future hazards.
IN-5	Protect waterfront assets and communities from near-term flooding and seismic hazards.
IN-6	Adapt the City’s bay and ocean shorelines to current and future climate flood hazards.
IN-7	Increase the resilience of local water and wastewater systems to natural hazards and climate change.

Table 2: Draft 2025 Actions with Port as a Lead Agency

Code	Action Title	Lead(s)
IN-4.5	Adapt shoreline parks to sea level rise and salt-water intrusion using nature-based solutions, where feasible.	RPD, Port
IN-5.1	Implement Embarcadero Early Projects to address areas of highest earthquake and flood risk along the Embarcadero waterfront.	Port
IN-5.2	Make under-deck pier structure utilities more resilient to flooding and seismic hazards.	Port
IN-5.3	Develop projects and seek funding to implement the Islais Creek Southeast Mobility Adaptation Strategy (ICSMAS).	Port, SFMTA, DPW
IN-6.2	Advance the Waterfront Resilience Program and San Francisco Waterfront Coastal Flood Study to reduce flooding and seismic risk along the 7.5 miles of Port jurisdiction.	Port
IN-6.6	Develop and support major development projects and public/private partnerships that deliver resilient waterfront infrastructure.	Port, TIDA, OCII

Table 3: Draft 2025 Actions with Port as a Partnering Agency

Code	Action Title	Lead(s)
B-1.1	Assess and seismically retrofit municipal buildings or secure new resilient facilities as needed.	ORCP
C-1.5	Conduct studies to better understand how sea level rise may interact with contaminated lands and potential health risks.	DPH
C-2.1	Continue to support neighborhood-level capacity building.	DEM, ORCP, DPH
C-3.1	Coordinate resilience engagement across departments and projects through ClimateSF.	ORCP
C-3.5	Develop citywide policy and proposed governance structure for flood resilience.	SFPUC
IN-3.2	Study, plan, design, and implement improvements to the multimodal transportation system that is vulnerable to coastal flooding.	SFMTA
IN-6.1	Develop a subregional shoreline resiliency plan by 2034 per SB 272 (2023).	Planning, ORCP
IN-6.3	Develop the Yosemite Slough Neighborhood Adaptation Plan.	Planning
IN-6.7	Develop comprehensive assessments of combined flood risks in each watershed.	SFPUC

Notes: RPD – Recreation and Parks Department; Port – Port of San Francisco; TIDA – Treasure Island Development Authority; OCII – Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

The community engagement process for updating the HCR is detailed in Chapter 02 of the Draft Plan. The approach involved working with a multi-departmental Planning Team, which included the Port, and departmental leadership, such as ClimateSF Deputies and Directors, to identify new risk assessments since 2020 and emerging priorities. Community engagement focused on attending existing community convenings hosted by community organizations rather than creating standalone workshops. This outreach emphasized receiving feedback from Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities and community-based organizations that were partners in the 2020 HCR. Lastly, ORCP leveraged other opportunities for engagement, such as tabling at the Waterfront Flood Study Public Workshops, hosting a workshop at the San Francisco Lifelines Council, and meeting with organizations by request.

SCHEDULE

The 2025 Draft HCR was published on July 29, 2024, and public comment will remain open until September 30, 2024. In October, ORCP will submit a Final Draft to FEMA for their review. Pending FEMA's approval, ORCP will submit the Final Plan to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor for adoption by July 2025.

SUMMARY

In summary, the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning is requesting any feedback from the Port Commission on the Draft 2025 Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan prior to submitting a Final Draft to FEMA.

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