



Mayor Mark Farrell, Mayor-Elect London Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, and Port of San Francisco Announce City to Receive Federal Funding To Support Embarcadero Seawall Program

United States Army Corps of Engineers Selects San Francisco to Receive \$500,000 to Study Flood Risk Management of the Embarcadero Seawall

San Francisco, CA - Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – Today Mayor Mark Farrell, Mayor-Elect London Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, and the Port of San Francisco announced the City of San Francisco will receive federal funding to support the Embarcadero Seawall Program.

“San Francisco is truly lucky to have its federal delegation in Washington,” said Mayor Farrell. “Leader Pelosi, Senator Feinstein, and Senator Harris all understand the City and its needs and they are experts in helping the City navigate the federal process.”

The City, led by the Port, is planning to make major improvements to the over 100-year-old Embarcadero Seawall for San Francisco to withstand the next major earthquake and protect the City from flooding and sea level rise. On Monday, June 11, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the FY18 Workplan (Workplan) for supplemental funding of civil works and other projects across the United States. Included in this year’s plan is a “new start” appropriation of \$500,000 to study flood risk management of San Francisco’s waterfront, with a focus on the Embarcadero Seawall.

“Right now our waterfront and downtown San Francisco would face major damage including increased flooding if the Embarcadero Seawall fails during a major earthquake, which we know is coming,” said Mayor-Elect London Breed. “We all saw the devastation that occurred in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina – devastation that we can and should prevent from occurring here in San Francisco. This federal funding is critical to our local efforts to ensure that San Francisco is ready for the next earthquake and sea level rise.”

The Embarcadero Seawall flood risk management was one of only two projects nationwide approved in the Workplan. The Workplan includes six “new start” programs, nationwide. Obtaining a “new start” is highly competitive, and is the gateway to substantial additional federal funding for the project.

“The Seawall Program is one of the single most important infrastructure and safety investments the City can make to protect our future,” said Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who also sits on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. “A project of this magnitude requires a dream team of committed stakeholders at every level of government, which is why engaging everyone from the Army Corps to the California Legislature and local voters is critical. This grant is a testament to the trust in the work of this team.”

USACE uses a rigorous process for evaluating potential new projects. The evaluation must find that federally funded work on the project provides greater economic benefits to the federal government than the cost of the project, which will lead to a federal interest finding. USACE has already found a federal interest finding in a smaller section of the San Francisco waterfront near the Ferry Building.

“After years of coordination with the federal government, we are pleased to receive funding to support the Embarcadero Seawall Program,” said San Francisco Port Commission President Kimberly Brandon.

“Although this is a huge milestone, our work is just beginning. We will ensure San Francisco residents have funding partners in every phase of the Program.”

The highly sought-after \$500,000 “new start” appropriation represents the crucial beginning to the USACE General Investigation process to study the San Francisco waterfront that will culminate in a recommendation to Congress regarding additional federal funding to support the Seawall Program.

“The Port is so grateful for the support from the City’s elected and civic leadership in finding funds to address the Seawall,” said Port of San Francisco Executive Director Elaine Forbes. “The Embarcadero Seawall will cost billions of dollars to rebuild and we are encouraged that our federal, state, local, and private funding sources will share the cost to rebuild this critical piece of San Francisco infrastructure to keep San Francisco safe.”

The Seawall underpins the Embarcadero Roadway and provides flood protection to over 500 acres of the City, including the BART and Muni Metro underground transit network. The Embarcadero Seawall, which stretches over three miles from Fisherman’s Wharf to Mission Creek, sits over unstable mud and is vulnerable to lateral spreading and settlement in a major earthquake, which could destroy or seriously damage critical utilities, transportation infrastructure and buildings along the Embarcadero, as well as create new vulnerabilities to flood events.

The Seawall Program, which will be completed in phases and over several decades, is led by the Port of San Francisco, in consultation with the Department of Emergency Management, Department of the Environment, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Public Works, the San Francisco Planning Department, San Francisco Airport, City Administrator’s Office, the Mayor’s Office, City Controller’s Office, and the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Peskin’s Office. In addition, stakeholders for the Program include Port of San Francisco tenants, the residents of San Francisco, and State and Federal partners.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://sfseawall.com/>

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