

C/CAG

CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

*Atherton • Belmont • Brisbane • Burlingame • Colma • Daly City • East Palo Alto • Foster City • Half Moon Bay • Hillsborough • Menlo Park •
Millbrae • Pacifica • Portola Valley • Redwood City • San Bruno • San Carlos • San Mateo • San Mateo County • South San Francisco •
Woodside*

Date: May 10, 2019
To: Council members from San Mateo County Cities and Towns
From: Maryann Moise Derwin, C/CAG Chair
Subject: **SOLICITATION OF INTERESTED CITY AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE PROPOSED FLOOD AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

C/CAG is currently recruiting elected officials from cities and towns in San Mateo County to serve on the upcoming **Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Board of Directors**. The Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District's mission and role would be to address sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and large-scale stormwater infrastructure improvements through integrated regional planning, design, permitting, project implementation, and long-term operations and maintenance to create a resilient "one shoreline" San Mateo County by 2100.

The ***Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Board of Directors*** will have seven seats: five seats to be appointed by C/CAG for elected officials from among the twenty City and Town Councils in San Mateo County and two seats for the County Board of Supervisors that will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. One of the City and Town Council seats is at-large and the other four will represent specific geographic areas of the county, as detailed below (and on the attached map):

- At-large (all 20 cities and towns)
- North (Brisbane, Colma, South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame)
- Central (Hillsborough, San Mateo, Foster City, Belmont, San Carlos)
- South (Redwood City, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley)
- Coastside (Daly City, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay)

The Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District is being created through legislative revisions to the existing San Mateo County Flood Control District Act (through Assembly Bill 825, Mullin, attached). Therefore, the selected appointees to the new Board of Directors will initially serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors until the enacting legislation goes into effect (anticipated to be January 1, 2020). The proposed legislation calls for term limits for the Board of Director seats. The seats are proposed to have four-year term limits, however the initial terms for the At-Large, Central, and Coastal seats (and one of the two Supervisor seats) will have two-year terms to create staggered terms for the overall Board.

Individuals wishing to be considered for appointment to this new agency should send a letter of interest stating why you wish to be appointed and any particular experience, background, or qualities that you feel would bring value to the committee.

Letters of interest must be received by **5 PM on Friday, May 31, 2019**, and should be sent to:

Sandy Wong, C/CAG Executive Director
City/County Association of Governments
555 County Center, 5th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 599-1409
e-mail to slwong@smcgov.org

Candidate appointments will be considered by the C/CAG Board of Directors at the **June 13, 2019** meeting, and all potential candidates will be provided an opportunity to speak to the Board regarding their qualifications and interest in participating on the Board of Directors. The meeting is held at 6:30 pm in the 2nd floor auditorium of the SamTrans building at 1250 San Carlos Ave, San Carlos.

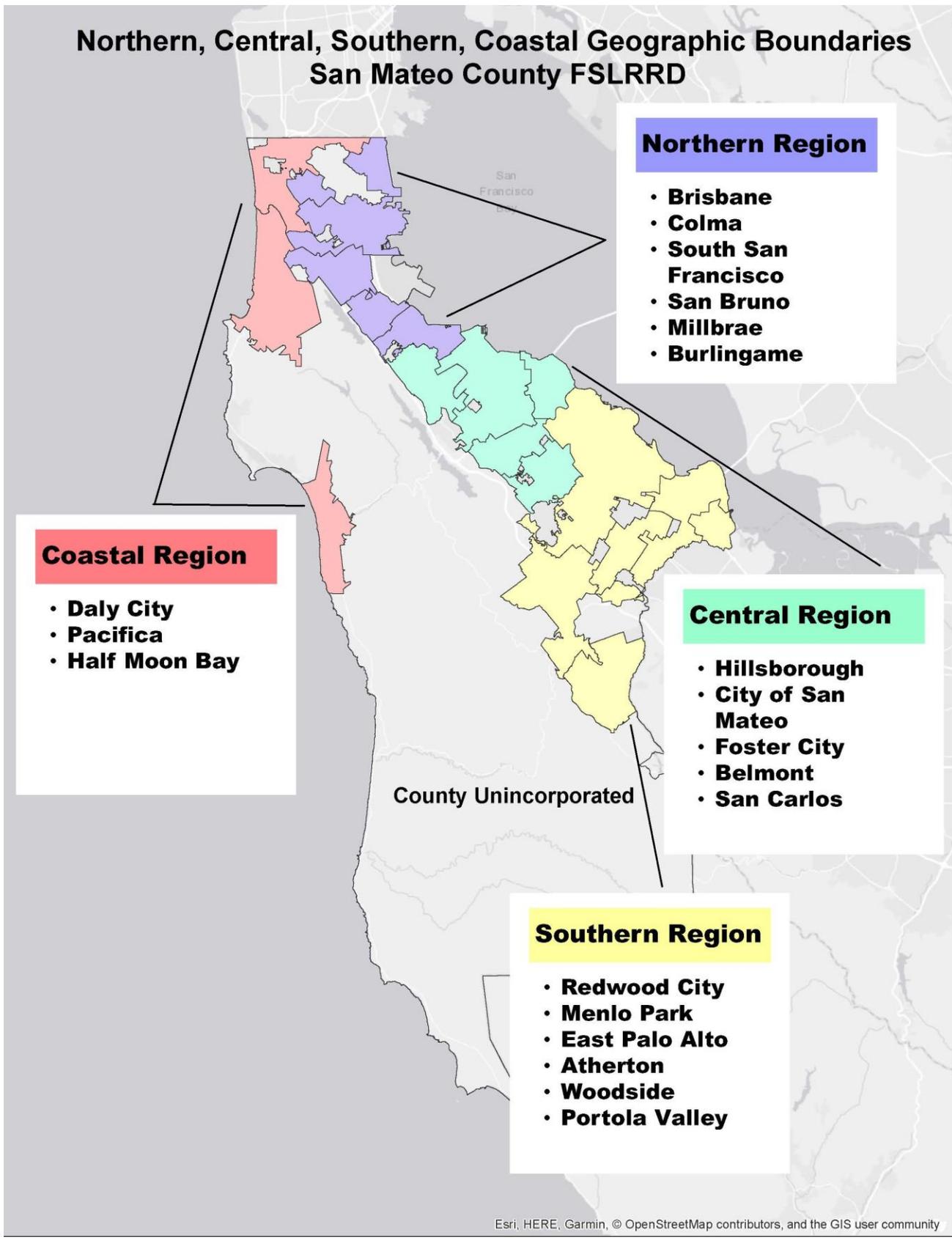
Sincerely,

Maryann Moise Derwin
C/CAG Chair

Attachments:

1. Map showing geographic areas for city/town council appointees
2. Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Background
3. Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Proposal (online at www.resilientsanmateo.org/resources)
4. Assembly Bill 825 (online at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB825)

Northern, Central, Southern, Coastal Geographic Boundaries San Mateo County FSLRRD



Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Background

Early Efforts

In December 2013, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Assemblymember Rich Gordon, and County Supervisor Dave Pine convened a conference titled “Meeting the Challenge of Sea Level Rise in San Mateo County” that initiated the County’s efforts to plan for sea level rise, including launching in 2015 its “Sea Change SMC” initiative and commencing a countywide sea level rise vulnerability assessment.

At the May 2015 C/CAG Board meeting, Supervisor Pine and County staff presented proposed plans for the County to begin addressing multi-jurisdictional flooding and sea level rise. To ensure all its member agencies were included in decisions on how best to address these challenging issues, C/CAG convened an ad-hoc group to evaluate options and make recommendations to the C/CAG Board.

C/CAG Ad-hoc Water Committee

In December 2015 C/CAG convened an ad-hoc Water Committee to discuss opportunities for better countywide coordination, communication, and collaboration on integrated water issues to improve efficiency and maximize funding opportunities, including for state and federal grants. The ad-hoc Water Committee met throughout 2016 and, after exploring various options for a more comprehensive approach to water management, including presentations by numerous agencies that are already doing integrated water management outside of San Mateo County, ultimately recommended C/CAG establish a standing committee as a first step toward greater levels of countywide collaboration and decision making. It also recommended the committee primarily focus on the “orphan” issues of stormwater, flooding, and sea level rise rather than water management issues related to groundwater, water supply, or wastewater since those are already being worked on by others, such as through the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, water purveyors, and sanitary agencies/special districts.

C/CAG Countywide Water Coordination Committee

The Countywide Water Coordination Committee (Committee) convened in May of 2017 with four city elected officials representing geographic areas in the county and one member of the Board of Supervisors. After establishing its focus on funding advocacy, information and education, and inter-agency collaboration, the Committee quickly began planning the March 30, 2018 water summit, “Floods, Droughts, Rising Seas, Oh My!” This summit, attended by over 300 people, closed with a video address by Congresswoman Speier urging San Mateo County and the 20 cities and towns to create a joint flood control agency to better compete for federal funds to address sea level rise. In response to this call to action, the Committee, over the subsequent months, began investigating options for taking more formal action to address integrated water management in the county, including creation of a new or modified agency to coordinate efforts on sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, and regional stormwater management. To support this effort, the C/CAG Board added three additional members to the Committee, including the C/CAG Chair, Vice-Chair and immediate past Chair.

The Committee ultimately decided to develop by the end of 2018 a proposal for a water management agency that could be considered by the C/CAG Board of Directors and County

Board of Supervisors. To achieve this goal, the Committee convened a Staff Advisory Team (SAT) comprised of 18 representatives (staff level) from C/CAG, the County, cities, and other water-related agencies and interests to help develop the draft proposal.

The SAT convened in July 2018 and met eight times, with numerous additional Executive Team calls to help shepherd the process. The SAT hosted a series of initial information gathering meetings with all 20 cities and towns in August and September 2018, the results of which informed the draft agency proposal. Two additional city meetings were hosted in November and December to present the draft agency proposal. At its December 13, 2018 meeting, the SAT endorsed a final version of the agency proposal (Proposal) for Committee consideration on December 20. At that meeting, the Committee recommended the C/CAG Board endorse the Proposal.

The Proposal: The San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency

After considering many different alternatives, the Proposal focuses on modifying an existing special district, the San Mateo County Flood Control District (District). The District, which is governed by the Board of Supervisors and utilizes county staff for its functions, has been in place since its creation via special legislation in 1959. Its activities are generally limited to three flood control zones in which it collects pre-Proposition 13 property taxes to fund flood control efforts (Colma Creek, San Bruno Creek, and San Francisquito Creek watersheds). It also imposes two countywide fees on the property taxes on C/CAG's behalf to fund its Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program. The District's annual zone-based property tax revenue is approximately \$3.8 million, the majority of which comes from the Colma Creek zone, and the two countywide fees for the C/CAG program generate approximately \$1.5 million annually. These funds would remain dedicated to their existing programs.

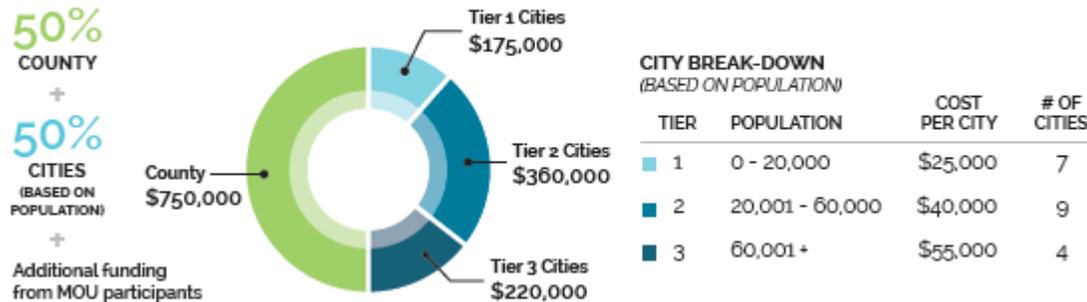
To address city concerns about a County-managed integrated water agency, the Proposal recommends revising (through special legislation) the 1959 San Mateo Flood Control District Act to change the governance from the Board of Supervisors to a seven-member board consisting of five city and two county elected officials. Legislative fixes, which could go into effect as early as July 1, 2019, would also enhance authorities related to sea level rise and coastal erosion, clarify funding/financing authorities to reflect current state regulations/constitutional restrictions, and change the name to the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency (Agency). The Agency's mission and role would be to address sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and large-scale stormwater infrastructure improvements through integrated regional planning, design, permitting, project implementation, and long-term operations and maintenance to create a resilient "one shoreline" San Mateo County by 2100.

Proposed Agency "Startup" funds:

The Proposal calls for \$1.5 million in annual funding contributions for three years, split equally between the County and the 20 cities and towns (\$750k each). Annual city/town contributions are proposed to fall into three population-based tiers, with seven small size cities/towns paying \$25k, nine medium size cities paying \$40k, and four large size cities paying \$55k (see chart on next page), for a cumulative city/town contribution of \$755k. A table listing each agency's proposed annual contributions is included in Attachment 3. All agencies have endorsed the Proposal and committed their share of funding for three years.

Of the \$750K County’s share, \$350K will go to supplement the cities/towns’ contribution, resulting in a grand total of \$1.1 million as “Start-up” funds. The remaining \$400k County contribution would be used to continue its current Flood Resilience Program under which the County is leading efforts with seven cities under three memoranda of understanding to address multi-jurisdictional flooding problems in three different watersheds. Additional city/town contributions for specific Flood Resilience Program projects are established under the terms of the memoranda of understanding.

Annual Funding



During this three-year period, the Agency’s activities would generally fall into two categories: continuing existing efforts and implementing new startup services. For the first, the Agency would continue implementing the District’s zone-based flood control activities (proposed initially through contracting with County Department of Public Works) and maintain the Flood Resilience Program that is working with the seven cities under three memoranda of understanding. For the startup services, the Agency would develop an Integrated Flood and Sea Level Rise Investment Strategy and, perhaps most importantly, work to secure long-term sustainable revenue, such as through an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, a Geological Hazard Abatement District, or targeted special tax, any of which will require significant community and stakeholder engagement and outreach.

In the event a long-term funding structure is not in place within this three-year period, the annual funding contributions of the County and the cities are proposed to be extended for up to two additional years provided that (1) the Agency is demonstrating sufficient progress toward meeting its objectives, and (2) the cities and the County agree to continue their respective funding contributions.

The Proposal calls for the new governing board of the Agency to hire an Executive Director and the two County staff currently working on the Flood Resiliency Program are anticipated to join the new Agency. Additional staff and consultants would be hired by the Agency, as needed, to achieve its goals during the three-year startup period and beyond. It would also need to contract with the County for ongoing management of the existing District activities, until it is able to manage such efforts on its own.