“Sea Level Rise is Coming: What Do We Do About It?”

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
Larry Goldzband, Executive Director

Before the: Decision Makers Conference of the Bay Planning Coalition
May 16, 2014
Who Are These Women?
Who Are These (Mostly) Men?
55 inches of Sea Level Rise
THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS

• *Sea Level Rise Isn’t Just Coming – It’s Here!*  

• *55” in Height Fundamentally Alters the Bay Area:*  
  
  • 333 square miles of Bay shoreline, 250,000 people, $62 billion of shoreline development at risk (plus transportation infrastructure)  
  
  • “Slow moving emergency”  
  
  • *We Don’t Know How to Communicate This Stuff*  
  
  • What does 55” mean? Or 3’?  
  
  • How to create and implement a *shoreline resilience strategy* to preserve those assets if we don’t yet have public support to do so?
GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS, AND AN ANSWER

• **Good News**: Bay Area/California appears to be ahead in how we view/react to/adapt to rising sea levels (better here than in South Carolina or Orange County)

• **Bad News**: California appears to be ahead in how we view/react to/adapt to rising sea levels (we really can’t copy anybody else’s program)

• **The Answer**: As it is less expensive to plan now for a foreseen event than it is to recover from such an event, let’s build the plane as we fly it
HOW TO MEET THE BIG CHALLENGE (1)

• **ADAPT: Plan, build both hard and soft protection, and retreat to provide regional benefits!**

• Bay “productivity”: environmental and economic

• Commissioner Working Group

• Coordinate, collaborate, partner w/ governments, NGOs, neighborhood and community groups, and permit applicants, e.g.:
  - JPC; BCDC/ABAG/Coastal Conservancy
  - Bay Planning Coalition/Save the Bay/Bay Institute/Conservancy
  - Kresge Foundation
  - SB 1184

• **2017 Sustainable Communities Strategy**
CONCLUSION

• Lots of Work
• Lots of Organizations
• Lots of People
• Get Your Nose Bloodied...
• LOTS OF POTENTIAL!