Policy Updates

Bay Area AQPI Update

Two new X-Band radars will be installed this summer, one in the East Bay and one in Santa Cruz County. These radars will be the latest X-band radars to be installed and, when operating, will tie into the San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) System. The AQPI system currently includes operating radars located at Sonoma Water in Sonoma County and at Valley Water in Santa Clara County. San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will be installing an X-band radar in San Mateo. The goal of the completed AQPI system will be to provide X-Band and C-Band radar information that will increase the accuracy of weather forecasting and response systems throughout the Bay Area. Improved forecasting will assist water managers, reservoir operators, wastewater plant managers, flood agencies, and emergency responders in responding to extreme weather events in a timely fashion.

The East Bay radar will be installed atop Rocky Ridge in the EBRPD Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Park. A partnership of East Bay agencies has worked with administering agency Sonoma Water, NOAA, and CIRA NOAA Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at CSU who designed the system and radars. This partnership includes East Bay Municipal Utility District, East Bay Dischargers Authority, Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Alameda County Water District, and Zone 7 Water Agency, which is the most recent member of the East Bay partnership.

Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will install an X-Band radar at the County building in Capitola. The district received separate funding for its radar through DWR’s Statewide Flood Emergency Response Grant program.

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The San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) System was funded in 2016 by a grant from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM) awarded to Sonoma Water and participating Bay Area agencies. Bay Planning Coalition is a proud member of the AQPI Team.

Learn more about AQPI

Air Emission Reductions from Phillips66's Rodeo Renewed

At the Air Quality Committee Meeting on May 25, Nik Weinberg-Lynn from Phillips66 presented on the redesigned Rodeo Refinery in Benicia, CA. The project, Rodeo Renewed, is under construction and aims to be running in early 2024. This new sustainability-driven refinery would have the ability to make renewable jet fuels. Their on-site solar power capability would also provide 15% of the site's energy requirements.

The anticipated reductions in air emissions from Rodeo Renewed are staggering. Phillips66 expects an 80% reduction in Sulfur Oxides, a 20% reduction in particulate matter, and a 33% reduction in Nitrogen Oxides. Furthermore, Rodeo Renewed will reduce lifecycle Carbon Dioxide by nearly 8.5 million metric tons per year, according to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) emission factors. The refinery is currently in the process of working with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) on obtaining air quality permits. BPC is thrilled to see industries implementing new projects that will both protect the environment and the region's economy.

If you would like to know more about Rodeo Renewed or BPC's Air Quality Committee, please contact BPC Staff.
Energy & Water Committee: A Discussion on the Energy and Water Nexus as Dry Conditions Persist

As California enters another dry and likely hot summer, BPC is looking forward to the timely discussion on the state’s energy and water resources on Thursday, June 9th, at 3:00 pm. Given the interconnected nature of energy and water resources, the continued drought conditions accentuate the need to further explore this nexus. To assist in the discussions, BPC will host Alvar Escriva-Bou with PPIC to review this resource nexus, how to limit negative outcomes and the future energy & water in the state. View PPIC’s report here.

Other topics of discussion include Governor Newsom’s executive order N-7-22 on water resources and drought, what the order means from both administrative and technical perspectives, and The California Coastal Commission’s recent decision against the Huntington Beach Desalination Plant.

Register Here

BPC’s Continued Collaboration on the Basin Plan Amendment

Since BPC’s April 18th workshop with the San Francisco Water Quality Control Board (SFWQCB) regarding the Basin Plan Amendment, BPC and several co-signing organizations have submitted a letter to SFWQCB. This letter addresses language concerns that we hope can be further discussed. You can read the letter here. We are continuing to work with member organizations on revising the language in the Amendment.

If you are a member and interested in becoming involved in this effort, please contact BPC Staff.

Legislative Update

California Bills to Watch
working to support the region in both state and federal legislative processes. Below you will find a brief summary and link to bills and letters that may be of interest.

**State Bills:**

**AB 1001** (Garcia): This bill would expand CEQA to include air quality mitigation requirements to include financial compensation to impacted disadvantaged communities. As such mitigation requirements are already included in CEQA, BPC believes this bill would further increase current litigation backlogs and slow development. BPC has submitted a letter of opposition. View the letter [here](https://t.e2ma.net/webview/bu3gt1/a498623ce198ac95641796aa9998b7dd).

**AB 1832** (Garcia): This bill would limit the hard mineral extraction, and given the vague language that may hinder the extraction of oyster shells, a vital commodity for calcium in agricultural products. BPC originally submitted a letter of support if amended, which can be viewed [here](https://t.e2ma.net/webview/bu3gt1/a498623ce198ac95641796aa9998b7dd). Upon amendment of the bill on May 4th, BPC submitted a letter of support, which can be viewed [here](https://t.e2ma.net/webview/bu3gt1/a498623ce198ac95641796aa9998b7dd).

**Federal Funding Opportunities**

*Bay Planning Coalition continues to support in-bay disposal when appropriate for economic and environmental needs to address the impacts of climate change.*

BPC drafted a coalition letter to support the beneficial use of dredged material with support from the following organizations: BPC, BCDC, the California Coastal Conservancy, the Port of Oakland, and Save the Bay. View a copy of the letter sent to Bay Area Delegation representatives and senators [here](https://t.e2ma.net/webview/bu3gt1/a498623ce198ac95641796aa9998b7dd).

**Grants**

To learn more about the Marine Highway Transportation Grant, please view the Federal Registry information [here](https://t.e2ma.net/webview/bu3gt1/a498623ce198ac95641796aa9998b7dd). Please note that applications are due to the Maritime Administration ("MARAD") by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on June 17, 2022.

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**Spring Summit Recap**

On May 13th, BPC hosted its annual Spring Summit via Zoom. The theme of this year's summit was Funding Resiliency and included two panels and four informative speakers. We invite you to view the Spring Summit Program. If you were unable to attend the summit, you can view the recording below, or scroll down for a quick summary of what was discussed.

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The Summit kicked off with welcomes from Laura Kennedy, President of BPC and Business Development Leader at Woodard & Curran, and Jaclyn Gnusti, BPC’s Vice President and Senior Managing Engineer at Anchor QEA. Our first speaker, Congressman John Garamendi, emphasized the extensive opportunities that the Bay Area can access to be a nationwide leader in resiliency. Our next speaker, Eric Sapirstein, President at ENS Resources, provided attendees with an in-depth look at the current status of resiliency and climate-focused federal funding moving through Congress. Mark Northcross, Principal at NHA Advisors, followed up with detailed information on sea level rise-prevention funding and the barriers to accessing those funds. Finally, Warner Chabot, Executive Director at the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), discussed our at-risk infrastructure due to sea-level rise, and programs and projects proposed or in place to attempt to remedy this threat. You can see each speaker’s slides below.

Eric Sapirstein  Mark Northcross  Warner Chabot

Our first panel focused on Planning Strategies and was moderated by Allison Brooks, with Roger Leventhal, Len Materman, Virginia Calkins, and Amy Worth participating as panelists. Each panelist had unique perspectives on strategies to prepare the Bay Area for increased threats of sea-level rise and other climate-related dangers. To view the comprehensive slide deck from the first panel, click here.

Jessica Fain, Director of Planning at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), followed with an extraordinary presentation on environmental justice and equity and the steps that we can take to create meaningful policy addressing the discrepancies. View Jessica’s presentation here.

Finally, our second panel focused on Funding and was moderated by Dilip Trivedi, with Amy Hutzel, Brad Benson, Nuin-Tara Key, and Coral Abbott participating as panelists. Strategies to secure funding through regional, state and federal sources were discussed. To view the comprehensive slide deck from the second panel, click here.

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Thank you, Sponsors!

Thank you to all of our 2022 Spring Summit sponsors. This event would not have been possible without their generous support and commitment.

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Bay Planning Coalition Survey

For those who attended the Spring Summit, a survey was sent out this week to collect feedback on BPC and the Summit. If you did not receive the survey and would like to participate, please reach out to Sophie at sophie@bayplanningcoalition.org.

Upcoming Events

BPC Dredging & Beneficial Reuse Committee Meeting
Friday, June 3rd | 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Zoom | Details/Register

BPC Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7th | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Zoom | Details/Register

BPC Energy & Water Committee Meeting

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BPC Joint Committee Meeting - BAAQMD CEQA Thresholds
Wednesday, June 22nd | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Zoom | Details/Register

BPC Sustainable Waterfronts Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 23rd | 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Zoom | Details/Register

BPC Resilient Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday, June 27th | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Zoom | Details/Register

BPC Energy & Water Nexus Summit
September, TBD | More information to come

BPC Mini-Summit
Friday, September 30th | More information to come

If you are a member and would like to receive updates on upcoming committee meetings and events, please click the button below!

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