



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
July 20, 2011**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Philip Vince, City Manager
SUBJECT: Proposed San Francisco Bay Plan Amendment 1-08
(Concerning Climate Change)
DATE: July13, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) proposed amendment to the San Francisco Bay Plan and transmit it to BCDC.

BACKGROUND:

A workshop regarding the effects of sea level rise and climate change on the City was conducted prior to the Council's last regular meeting, July . The first part of the workshop consisted of a presentation and four panelists who spoke on the topic. Following the presentation and panelists the Council asked a number of questions and discussed the topic. At the end of the workshop staff sought direction from the Council on how to proceed. The Council directed staff to prepare a resolution to be submitted to BCDC regarding the proposed Bay Plan amendment. The Council directed that the resolution, which is attached, include the following elements:

- Oppose a policy of retreat from existing urban areas;
- Encourage local and regional governments, the State, regulatory agencies, railroads, refineries, and other private interests affected to pursue policies of protecting existing urban areas; and
- Encourage economic development activity that takes into consideration adaptation and mitigations strategies in urban infill areas within the identified inundation zone.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ACTION:

Adopt a resolution regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) proposed amendment to the San Francisco Bay Plan and transmit it to BCDC.

Attachments

Draft Resolution to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission regarding the proposed Bay Plan Amendment 1-08

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Vucich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. -11

PROTECTING BAYSIDE COMMUNITIES,
OUR ECONOMY, AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, potential threats to the Bay Area posed by climate-change-induced sea-level rise are a prominent topic of potential debate and restrictive action by regulatory agencies; and

WHEREAS, currently accepted projections have sea levels rising 55 inches by the year 2100, potentially inundating 217,000 acres around the Bay, threatening 270,000 people, and tens of billions of dollars of existing facilities and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the potentially impacted class includes countless senior citizens, disabled persons, and low-income families living within the projected inundation zone that will be impacted by projected sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in economic activity, and a significant portion of the Bay Area economy lies within the projected inundation zone; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez has residents, businesses, public infrastructure, and economic development and environmental restoration opportunities in low-lying areas that would be exposed to predicted sea-level rise; and

WHEREAS, influential advocacy groups are now strongly pushing for new policies to be adopted by agencies such as the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission that would call on local government to "retreat" from existing urbanized areas in the face of rising seas, thus abandoning existing residents and businesses which operate in these areas; and

WHEREAS, such a policy of "urban retreat" will discourage new investment, new economic activity, as well as an expanded job base and technological innovations which could help fund protection and restoration measures and help boost the local economy; and

WHEREAS, some individuals and groups also are proposing additional taxes on homeowners to deal with bayside issues - without consideration of the need to preserve those sources to support fiscally threatened basic public services such as police, fire protection, and schools; and

WHEREAS, these same individuals and groups would propose these additional taxes on homeowners - without first pursuing new private investment to meet the economic and environmental needs of bayside communities in an era of climate change; and

WHEREAS, local governments face unprecedented fiscal challenges and working men and women in the Bay Area already confront crushing economic pressures and high unemployment, making policies that discourage investment and economic development especially ill advised and punitive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Martinez opposes a policy of "retreat" from existing urban areas in the face of rising seas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage local and regional governments, the State, regulatory agencies, railroads, refineries, and other private interests affected to pursue policies of protecting existing urban areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage economic development activity that takes into consideration adaptation and mitigations strategies in urban infill areas within the identified inundation zone.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 20th day, of July, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ