

2014 Council Study Issue

ESD 12-03 Impact of Sea Level Rise on Land Use

Lead Department Environmental Services Department

Sponsor(s) Sustainability Commission

History 1 year ago: 2 years ago:

1. **Scope of the Study**

a. What are the key elements of the study?

This study issue was initiated by the Sustainability Commission. The Commission recommended a study to evaluate the potential environmental and economic impacts surrounding land use in Sunnyvale based on existing City Policy and General Plan statements in light of vulnerabilities associated with projected sea level rise. The outcome of this study is the creation of a whitepaper that may support a future study issue for recommendations of adaptation strategies.

b. What precipitated this study?

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has developed a background report titled "Living with a Rising Bay: Vulnerability and Adaptation in San Francisco Bay and on the Shoreline" (April 7, 2009). The report identifies vulnerabilities in the Bay Area's economic and environmental systems, as well as the potential impacts of climate change on public health and safety. This background report provides the basis for all versions of the proposed findings and policies concerning climate change.

c. Is this a multiple year project? No Planned Completion Year: 2014

2. **Fiscal Impact**

a. Cost to Conduct Study

i. Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost)

Major Moderate Minor

ii. Amount of funding above current budget required \$ N/A

Will seek budget supplement Will seek grant funding

iii. Explanation of Cost: No capital or operating costs would result from this study; anticipate study to be completed by staff. The study has the potential to inform the City by identifying vulnerabilities to Sunnyvale as a result of anticipated sea level rise. The study may provide information that allows the City to make General Plan and policy decisions based on the study results.

b. Costs to Implement Study Results

No cost to implement.

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

Some cost to implement. Explanation:

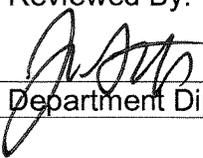
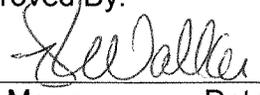
3. **Expected participation in the process**

- Council-approved work plan
- Council Study Session
- Board/Commission Review by Planning Commission, Sustainability Commission

4. **Staff Recommendation**

a. Position: Defer

b. Explanation: Staff recommends deferral of this study. Staff believes that this study may be a worthy exercise when a regional framework has been identified. Additionally, the City is currently revising the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) of the General Plan in which many policies may be changed and new policies added. To initiate this study at this time would be premature given the changes that are expected from the completion of the Horizon 2035 Committee's work on the LUTE and the Climate Action Plan

Reviewed By:	Approved By:
	
10-31-13	11-4-13
Department Director	Date
	City Manager
	Date