



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

14-0923

Agenda Date: 1/30/2015

2015 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

ESD 12-03

TITLE Impact of Sea Level Rise on Land Use

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Environmental Services Department
Support Department(s): Community Development

Sponsor(s):

Board/Commission: Sustainability Commission

History:

1 year ago: Deferred

2 years ago: Deferred

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

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.

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.

Planned Completion Year: 2015

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate to major

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$ unknown at this time

Funding Source: N/A

Explanation of Cost:

Staff support for this study may range from moderate to major. This study would require staff to review the current General Plan and other city policies against the BCDC vulnerability and adaptation report identifying anticipated sea level rise impacting Sunnyvale. No additional funding is proposed at this time as staff would first evaluate the progress and utility of regional efforts, namely the Silicon Valley 2.0 project, which aims to support cities with climate change impact assessment and adaptation strategies.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

Explanation of Cost: The study would educate 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.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: Yes

Reviewed by Commissions: Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Drop

Explanation: Staff recommends dropping this study. Staff supports the objectives of the proposed study and finds that it is substantially addressed by the Adaptation Strategies section of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in May 2014, namely Action A-3.1: Analyze and disclose possible impacts of climate change on the project or plan area with an emphasis on sea level rise. This action is included in the CAP Work Plan 2020. Progress will be reported as part of CAP updates to the Council. While this scope focuses on local impacts, it is envisioned to be implemented in the context of regional efforts to assess climate vulnerabilities and to develop and implement adaptive strategies.

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