

# DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Citywide Community Meeting

October 25, 2022



Waterfront Resilience Program



# WELCOME

## What To Expect



- Intros
- 45 min Presentation with Polls – we want to hear from you!
- 30 min Q&A – through the Chat function or by raising your hand

# VIDEO TO INTRODUCE DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES



# FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Keep your device on mute unless you are speaking
- Use the Chat function for quick feedback or to comment
- Use the “Raise Your Hand” function to indicate a request to speak
- Try not to talk over others
- Give each other time to gather thoughts and comment before jumping in

# TODAY'S AGENDA

## Presentation Overview



- Understanding the Risks
  - *What we're facing*
- Waterfront Resilience Program
  - *What we're doing*
- Community Priorities
  - *What we've heard*
- Range of Possibilities
  - *What we're considering*
- Draft Waterfront Adaptation Strategies
- Next Steps
- Q&A

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



*The Port of San Francisco acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.*

*As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory.*

*As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland.*

*We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.*

# POLL QUESTION #1

What part of the waterfront do you visit most often?

# DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

## Presentation Overview



The Port of San Francisco has developed seven high-level Draft Waterfront Adaptation Strategies through a collaborative interagency process and over five years of public engagement.

The draft Strategies are ready for public feedback, with a goal of reaching a Draft Waterfront Adaptation Plan by Summer 2023.

# DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Port-led, City of San Francisco Agencies, and USACE Partnered in Development Process



# SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT COASTAL FLOOD STUDY



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

The Port and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are conducting a **waterfront coastal flood study** for San Francisco, which could result in **significant federal funding for flood risk reduction**.

This funding could also **improve shoreline stability** where USACE would fund coastal flood defenses and **provide other community benefits** that are part of a cost-effective plan. The Port and City have goals to further improve seismic resilience and provide other community benefits that will not be eligible for USACE funding.

# Understanding the Risks *What We're Facing*



Waterfront Resilience Program

# CLIMATE CHANGE HAS GLOBAL IMPACTS

Including Here In San Francisco



Puerto Rico, September 2022 / Alejandro Granadillo/AP



Alaska, September 2022 / adn.com



Florida, September 2022 / NYTimes.com



## San Francisco Chronicle

S.F.'s Embarcadero needs to be raised as much as 7 feet to prepare for sea level rise, city says

John King  
Nov. 3, 2011 | Updated: Nov. 11, 2011 6:32 p.m.



A car drives through floodwaters caused by surge water making its way up along the Embarcadero in San Francisco in 2010. The face of 2011 flooding that inspired a report suggesting parts of the area need to be raised seven feet in South Beach Building.

# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

## San Francisco Faces Urgent Seismic, Coastal, and Inland Flood Risks Today

### SEISMIC RISKS



San Francisco, 1906



Marina, 1989

### COASTAL FLOODING

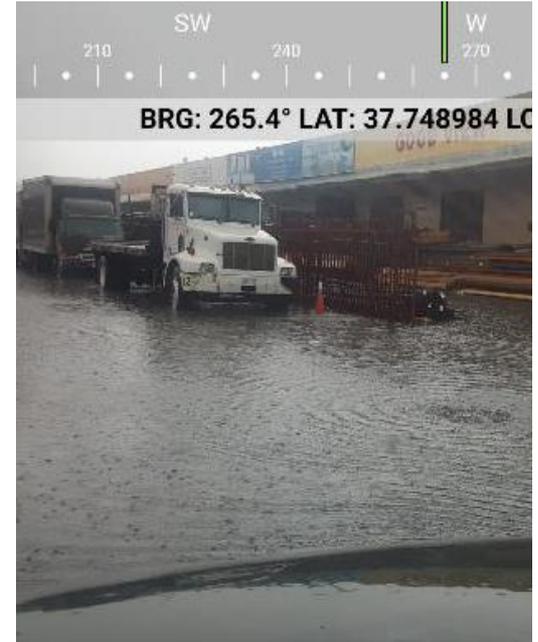


Recology



The Embarcadero

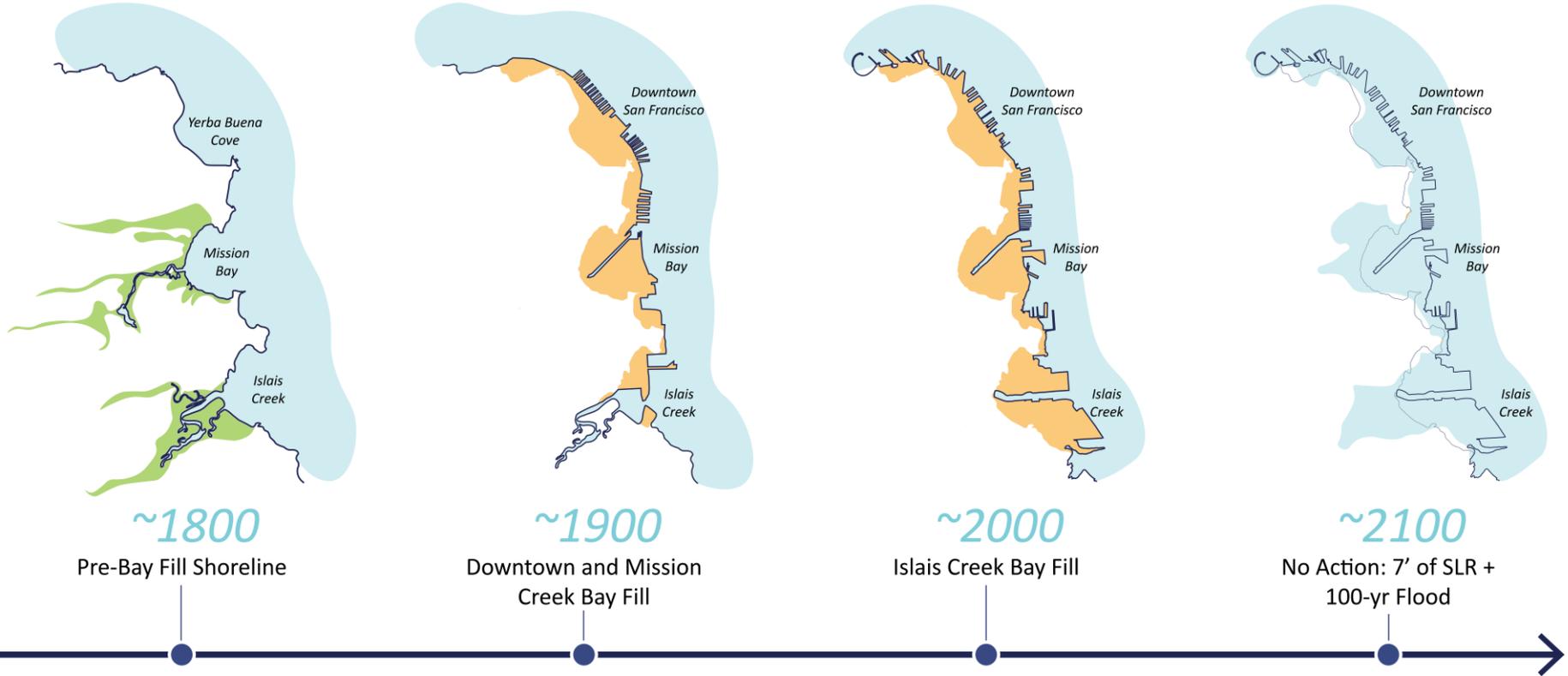
### INLAND FLOODING



Islais Creek outfall and Marin St.

# HISTORIC SHORELINE + BAY FILL

From the 1800s



~1800

Pre-Bay Fill Shoreline

~1900

Downtown and Mission  
Creek Bay Fill

~2000

Islais Creek Bay Fill

~2100

No Action: 7' of SLR +  
100-yr Flood



Marsh

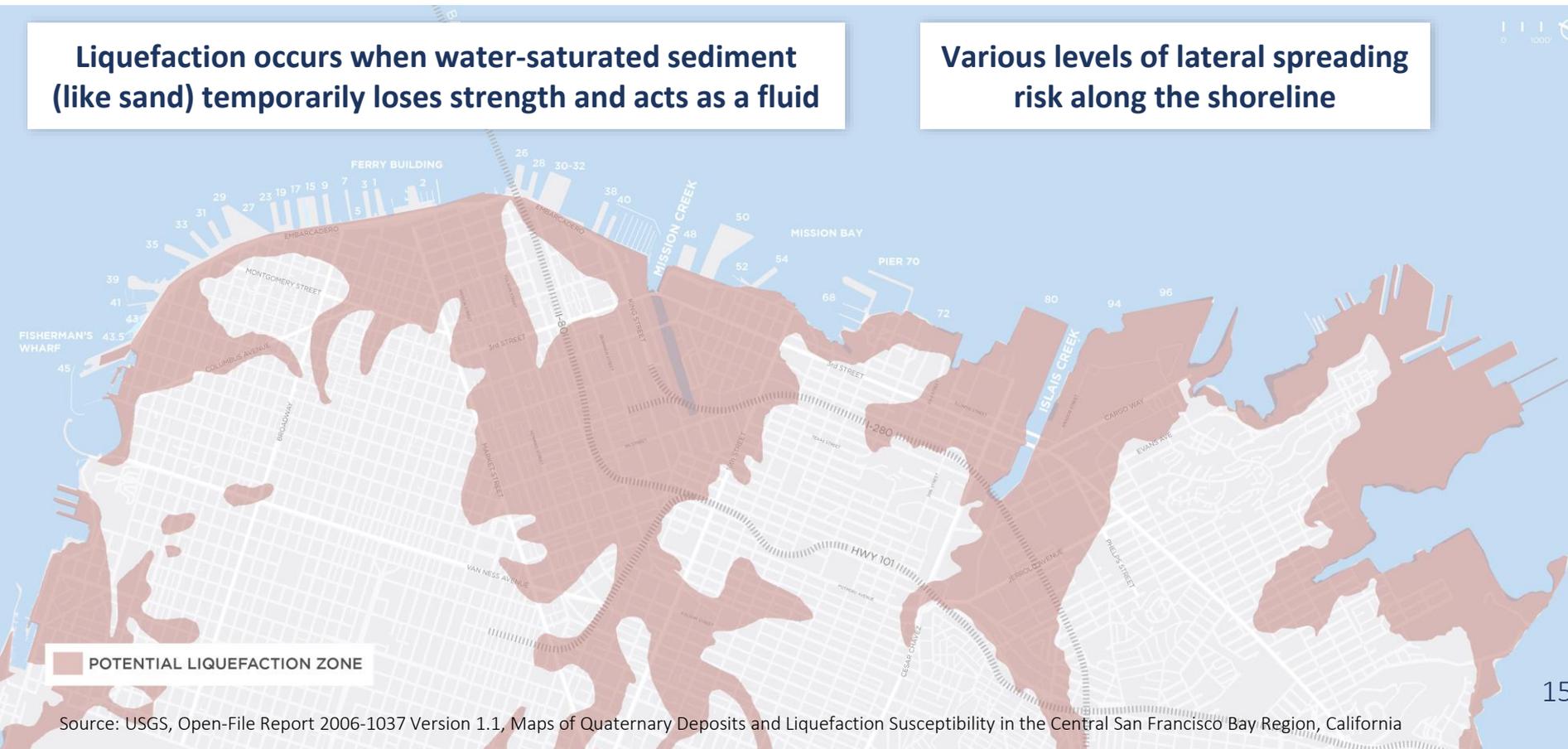
Bay Fill

# WATERFRONT WIDE EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

## Very High Earthquake “Liquefaction” Risk

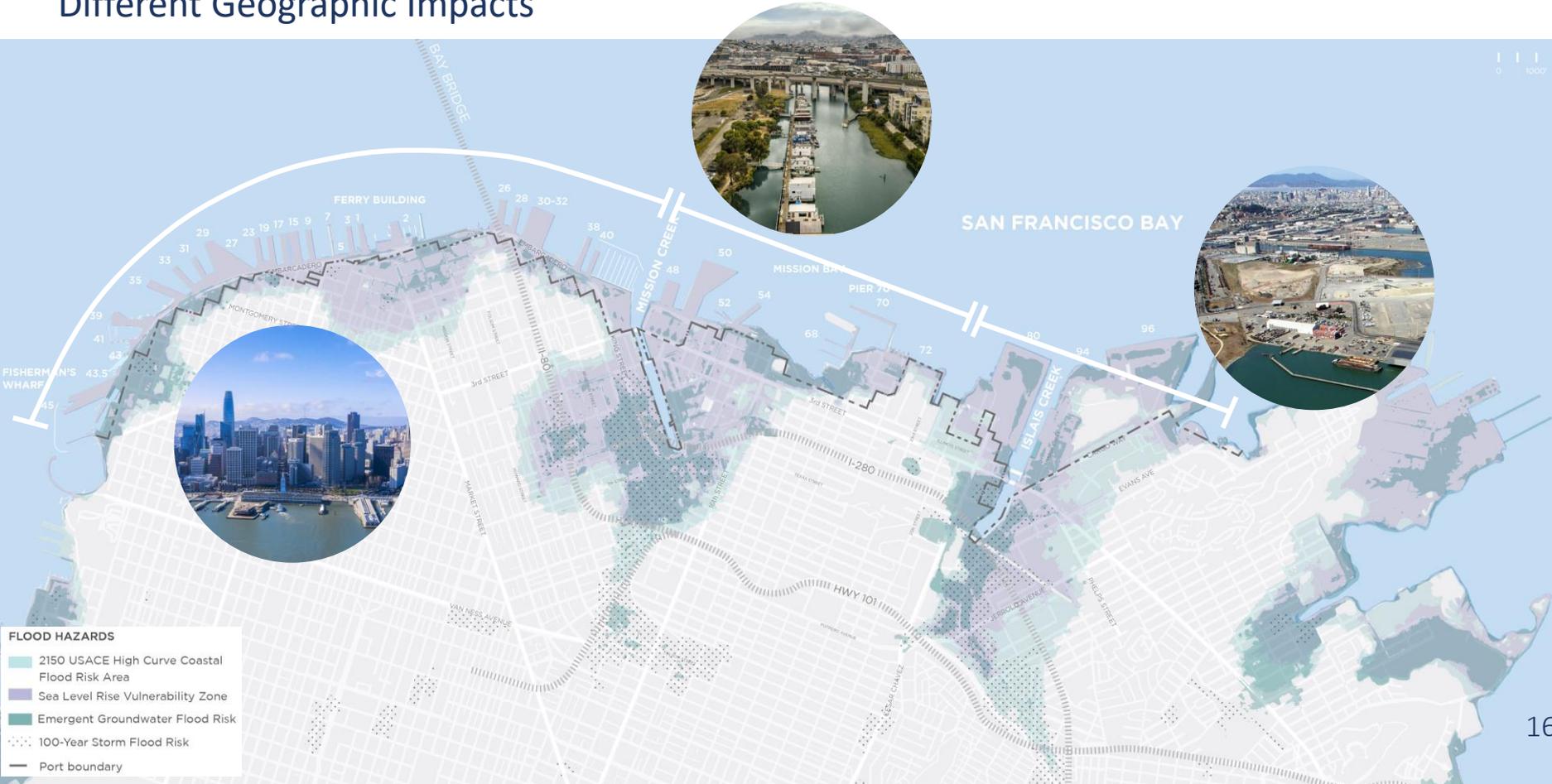
Liquefaction occurs when water-saturated sediment (like sand) temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid

Various levels of lateral spreading risk along the shoreline



# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK

## Different Geographic Impacts



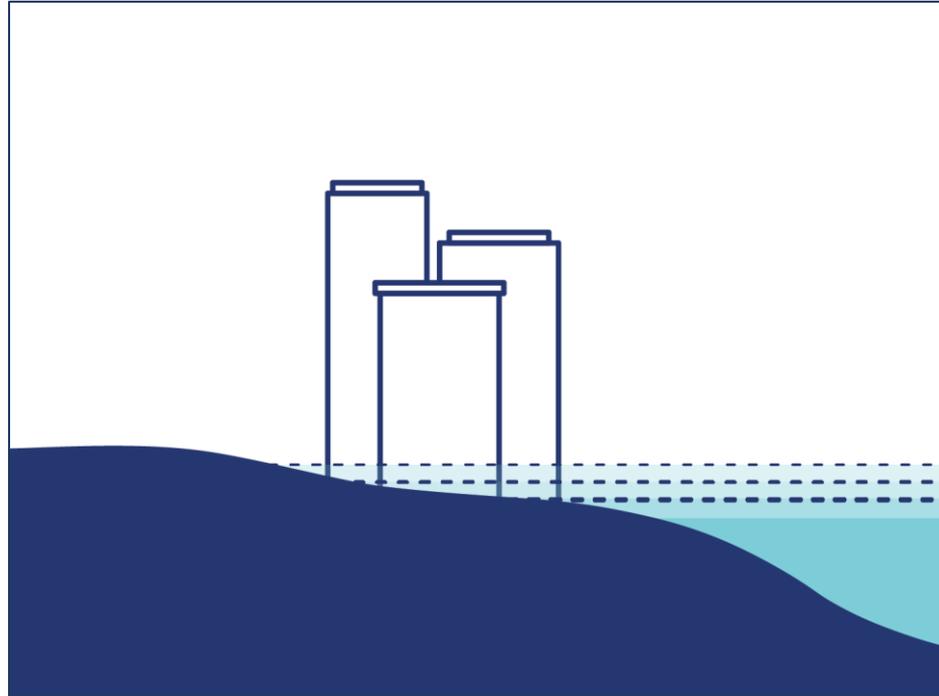
- FLOOD HAZARDS**
- 2150 USACE High Curve Coastal Flood Risk Area
  - Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Zone
  - Emergent Groundwater Flood Risk
  - 100-Year Storm Flood Risk
  - Port boundary

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOODING



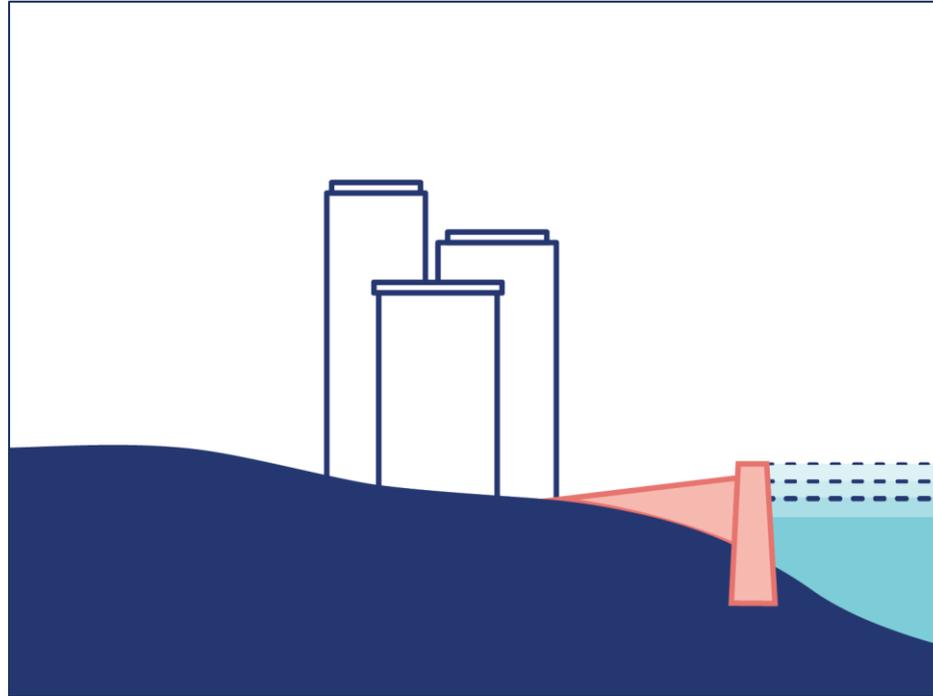
Existing conditions

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK



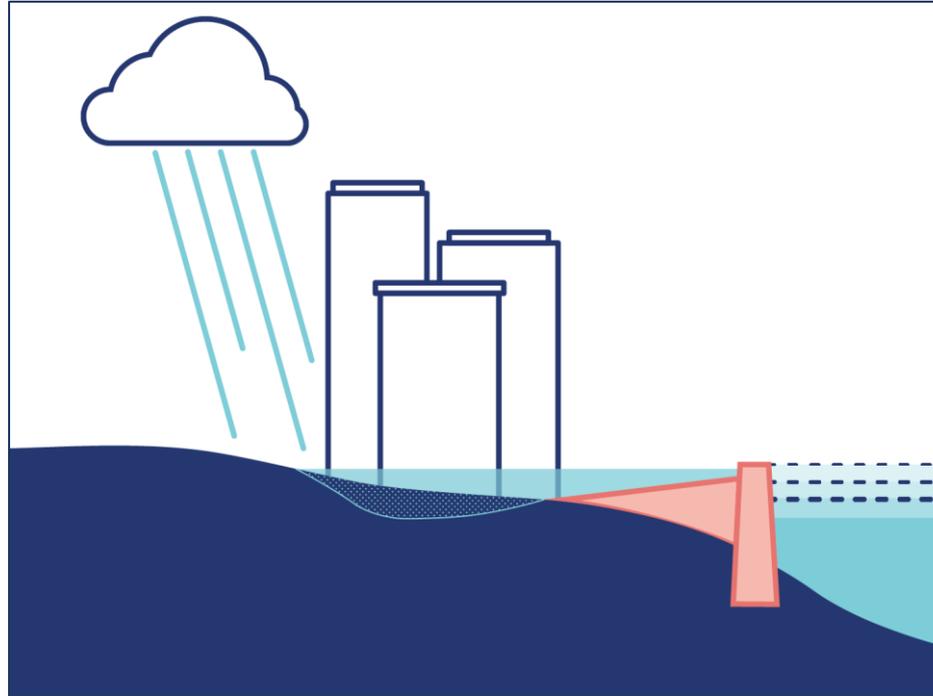
Sea levels rise

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK



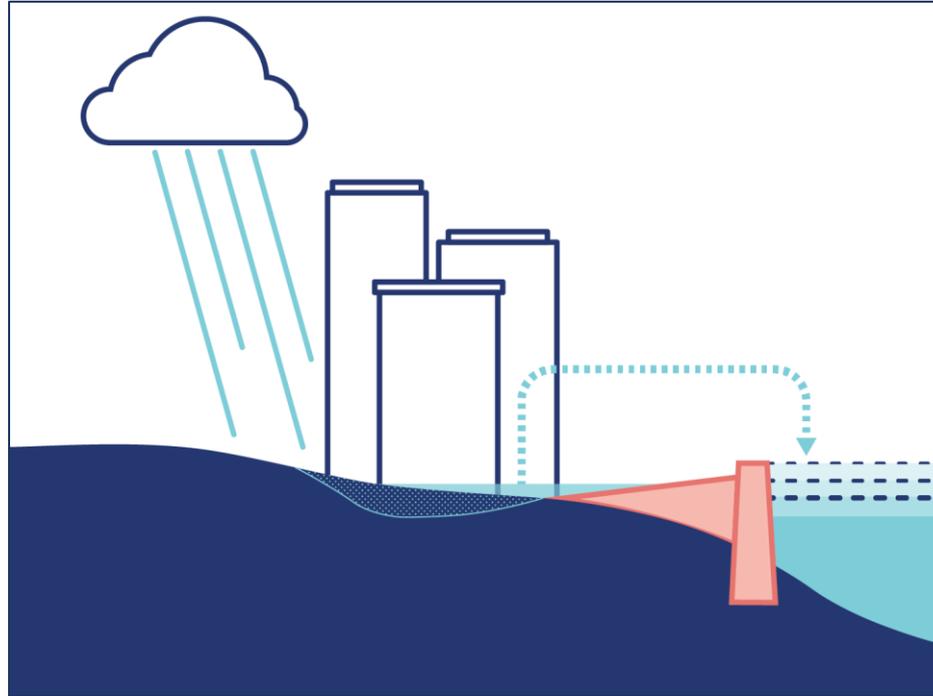
**Raise shoreline to defend  
against sea level rise**

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK



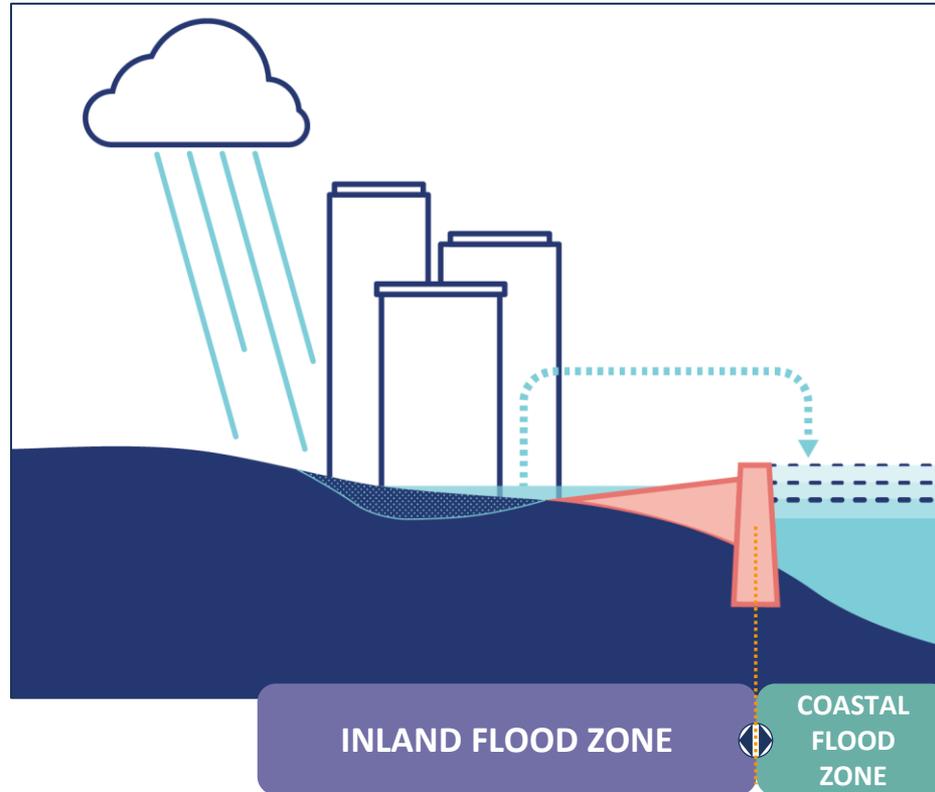
**Groundwater  
and stormwater  
flooding behind raised  
shoreline**

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK



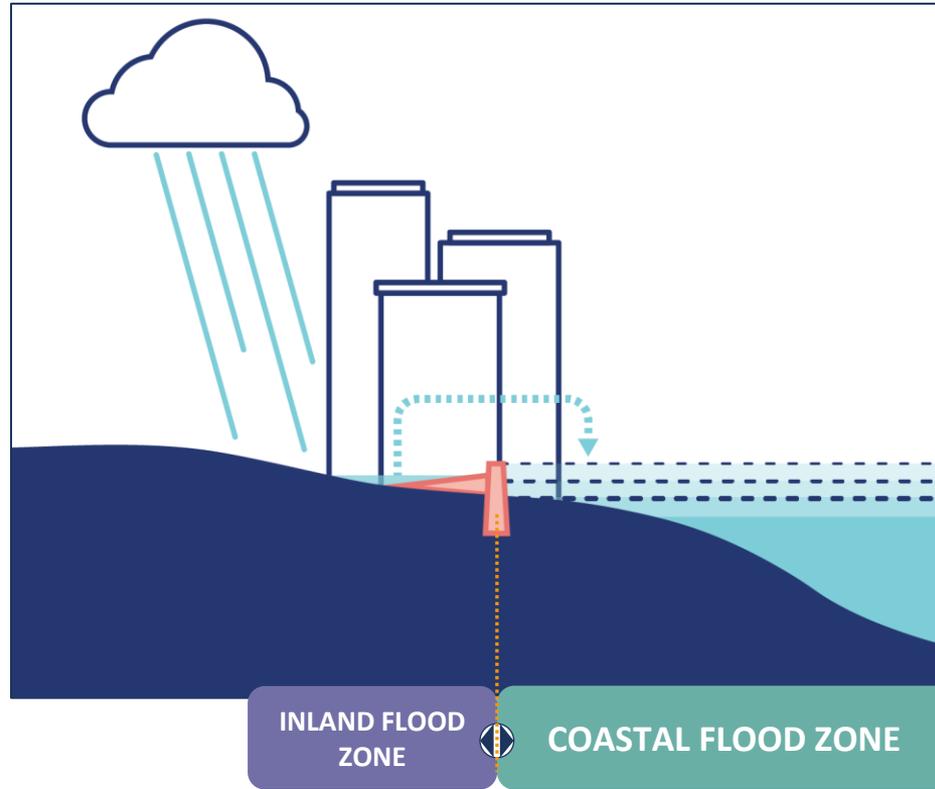
**Pumping reduces flooding  
behind raised shoreline**

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK



Two related forms of flooding

# COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISK



Shift based on the location of flood protection

Any solution endorsed by the City of San Francisco will aim to address **all three risks:**  
**seismic risks**, **coastal flooding** and **inland flooding**.

## POLL QUESTION #2

**What impact from Sea Level Rise and inland flooding concerns you the most if you had to choose one?**



# Waterfront Resilience Program

## *What We're Doing*



# WATERFRONT RESILIENCE PROGRAM VISION STATEMENT

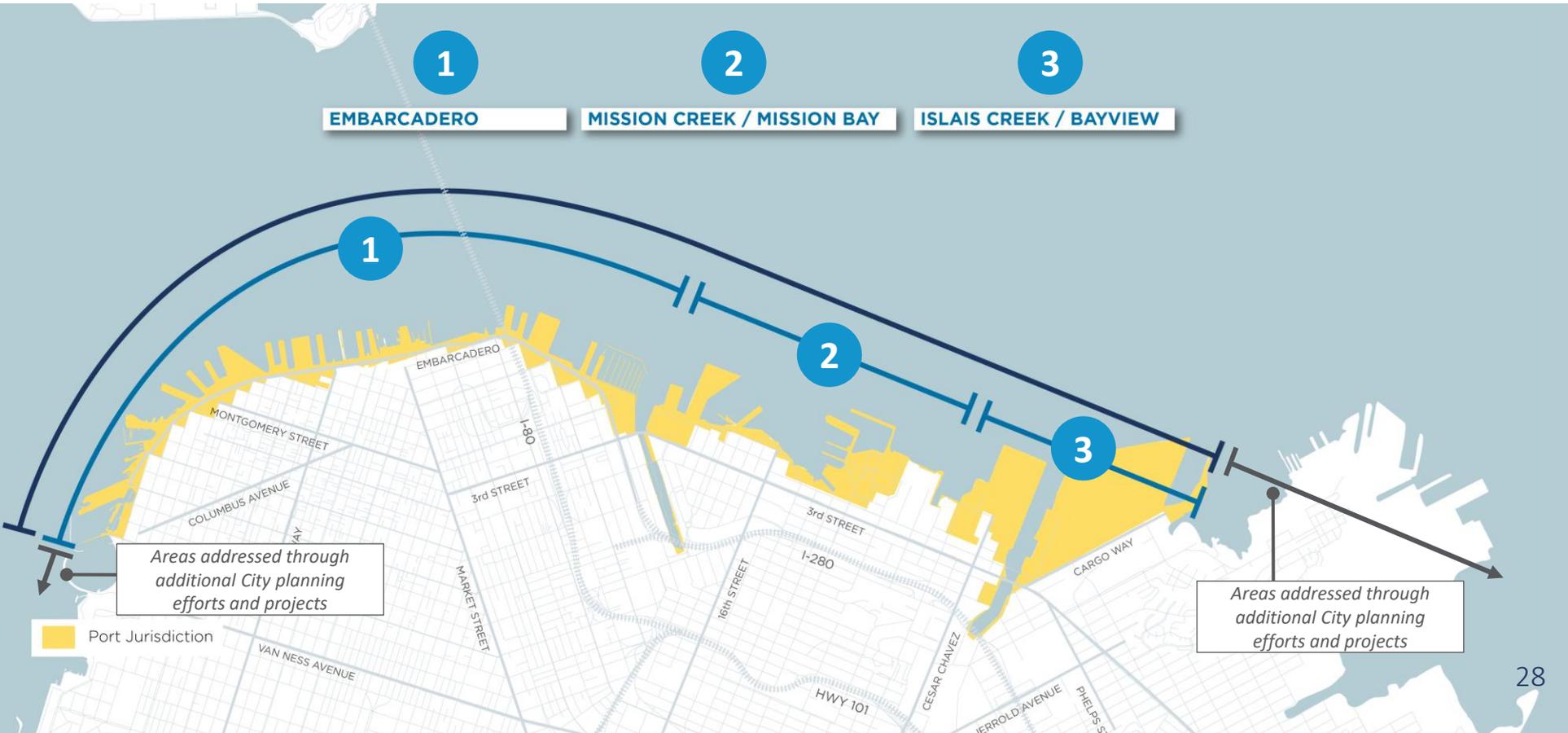
Affirmed through Robust Community Engagement

The Port's Waterfront Resilience Program will take actions to **reduce seismic and climate change risks** that support a safe, equitable, sustainable, and vibrant waterfront.



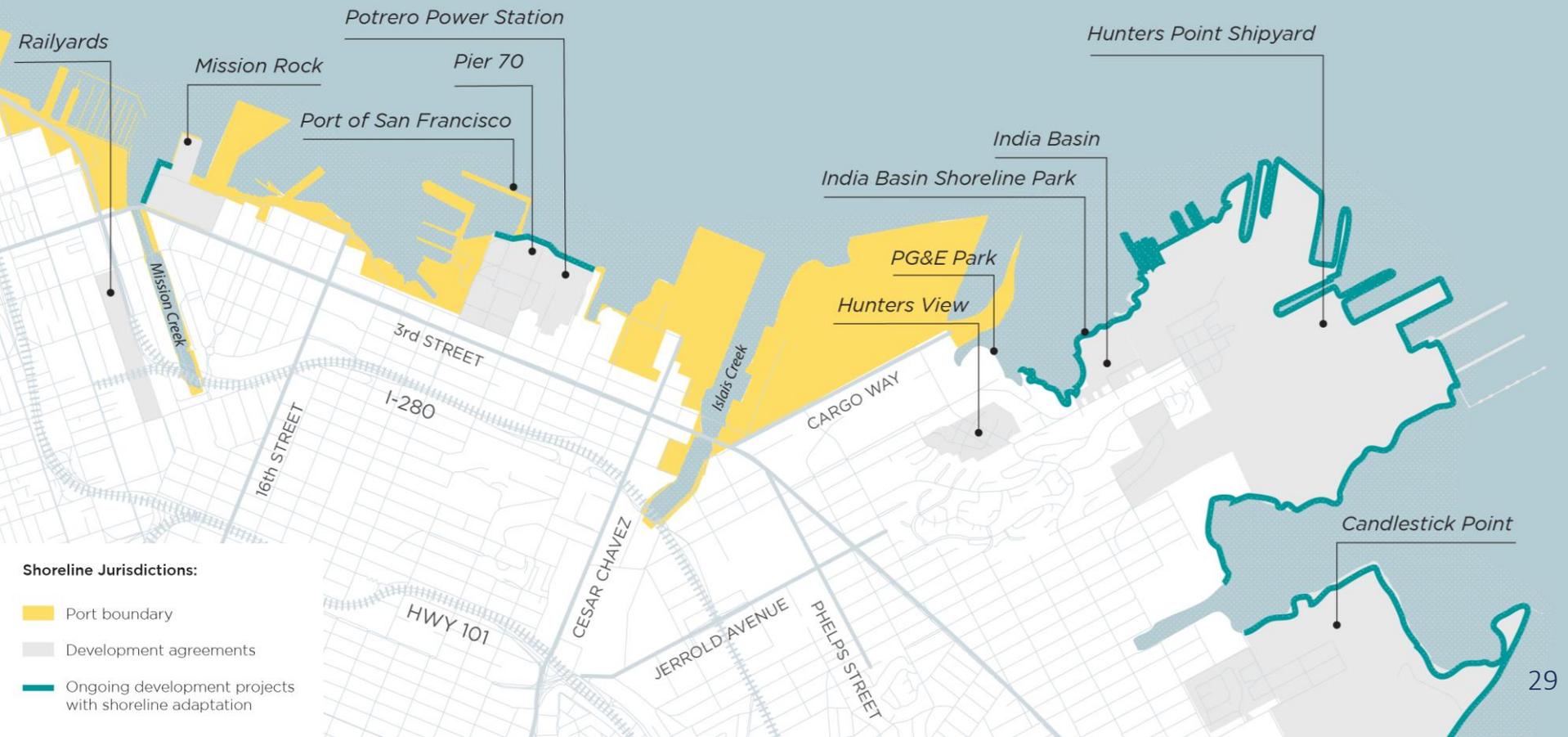
# PROGRAM AREA

Focus is Conceptual-Level Strategies Within the Port's Jurisdiction



# OTHER CITY ADAPTATION PROJECTS

## Outside Port jurisdiction





# Community Priorities

## *What We've Heard*



# DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Community Input Helped Define the WRP

1

Focus on life safety & emergency response

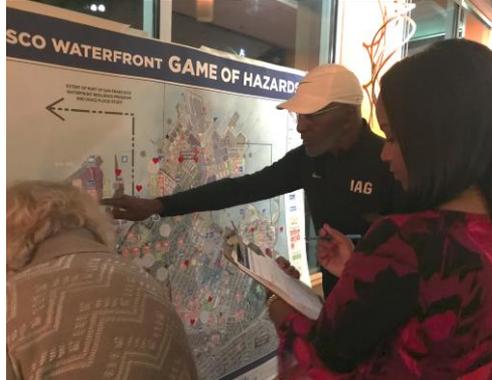
2

Prioritize assets most loved by the community and most important to the city

3

Put people first

Assets and services most prioritized: housing, disaster recovery facilities, utilities, transportation and businesses



# NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

## Prioritize Nature and Healing the Bay



# PUBLIC SPACES

## Expand Open Spaces and the City's Connection to the Waterfront



# EQUITY

## Center Racial and Social Equity and Environmental Justice

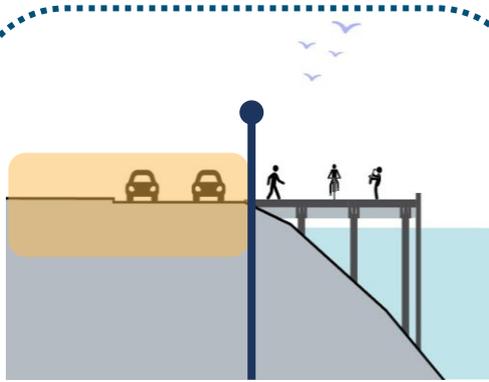




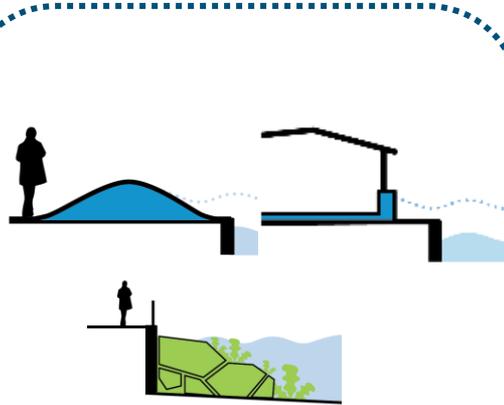
Range of Possible Solutions  
*What We're Considering*

# DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

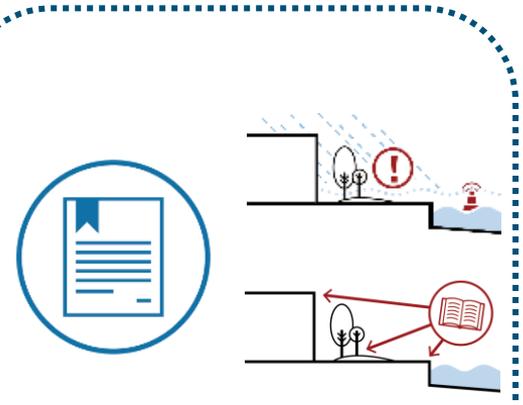
## Key Components



**Coastal Flood Defense  
Location + Height**  
*And area of elevation  
change*



**Physical Changes**  
*Such as earthquake-  
resilient berms,  
floodproofing, and  
nature-based features*



**Policy Changes**  
*Such as resilient codes,  
warning systems, and land  
use changes*

# USACE SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT COASTAL FLOOD STUDY

## Driving Questions

***What if...***  
we **did not adapt**  
to mitigate the  
risks?

***What if...***  
we adapted by  
**floodproofing**  
and **moving**  
buildings and assets,  
*without* coastal flood  
structures?

***What if...***  
we address flooding  
at a **lower rate** of  
sea level rise?

***What if...***  
we address flooding  
at a **higher rate** of  
sea level rise,  
as recommended by  
**CA and SF guidance?**

# USACE SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT COASTAL FLOOD STUDY

## Draft Waterfront Adaptation Strategies

***What if...***  
we **did not adapt**  
to mitigate the  
risks?

STRATEGY A

***What if...***  
we adapted by  
**floodproofing**  
and **moving**  
buildings and assets,  
*without* coastal flood  
structures?

STRATEGY B

***What if...***  
we address flooding  
at a **lower rate** of  
sea level rise?

STRATEGY C

STRATEGY D

***What if...***  
we address flooding  
at a **higher rate** of  
sea level rise,  
as recommended by  
**CA and SF guidance?**

STRATEGY E

STRATEGY F

STRATEGY G

# THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## Pathway to the Draft Waterfront Adaptation Plan

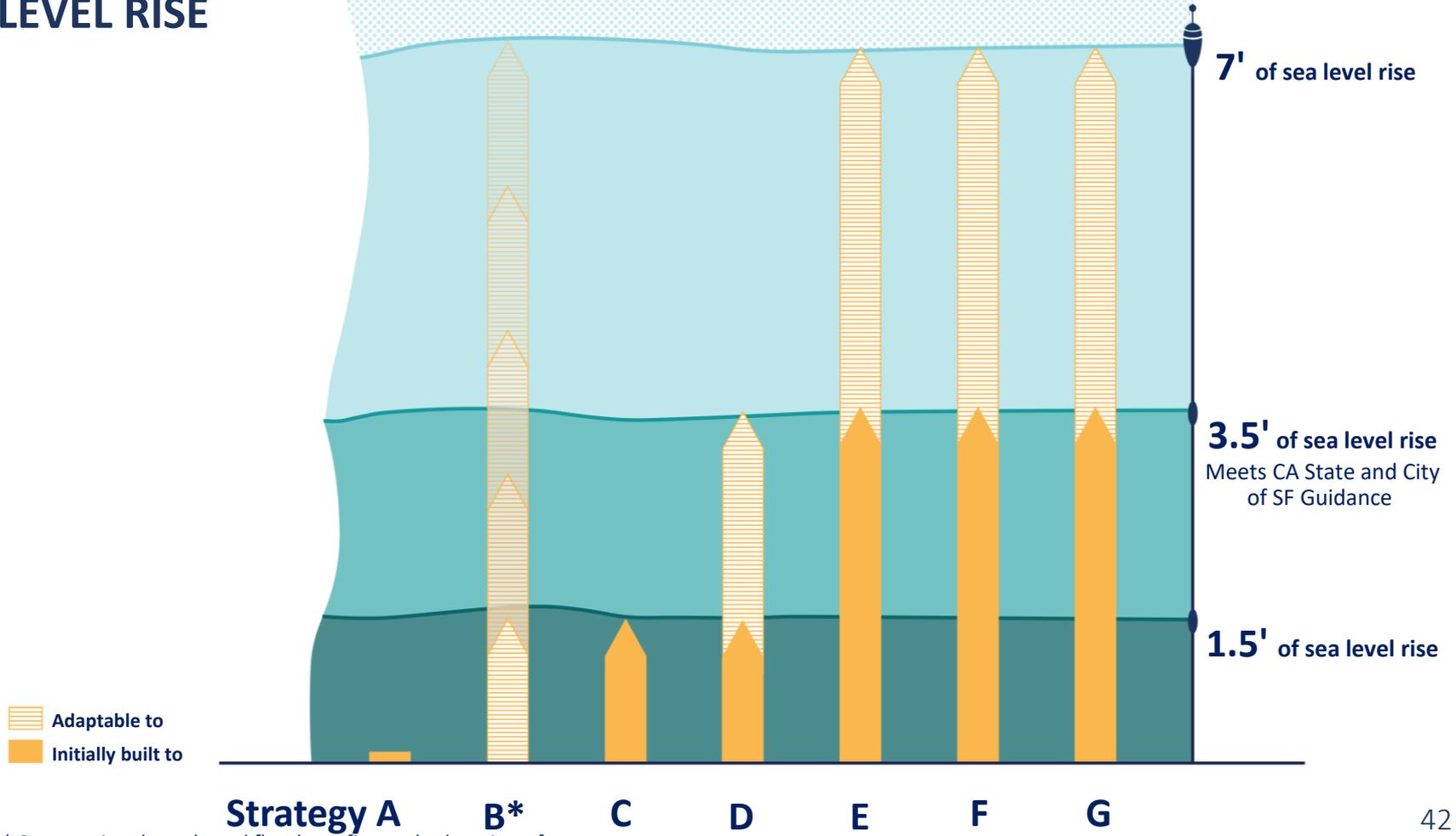


# Draft Waterfront Adaptation Strategies

# TIME HORIZONS



# SEA LEVEL RISE



\* Strategy involves phased floodproofing and relocation of assets

# USACE SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT COASTAL FLOOD STUDY

Focused on Strategies A-D

***What if...***  
we **did not adapt**  
to mitigate the  
risks?

STRATEGY A

***What if...***  
we adapted by  
**floodproofing**  
and **moving**  
buildings and assets,  
*without* coastal flood  
structures?

STRATEGY B

***What if...***  
we address flooding  
at a **lower rate** of  
sea level rise?

STRATEGY C

STRATEGY D

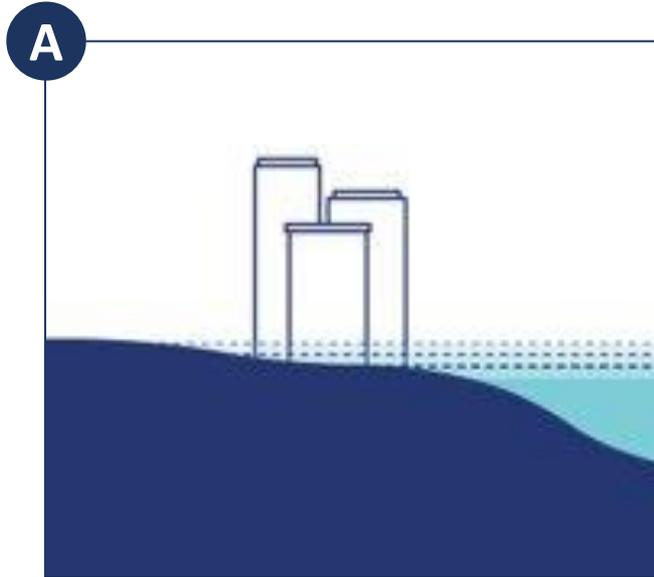
***What if...***  
we address flooding  
at a **higher rate** of  
sea level rise,  
as recommended by  
**CA and SF guidance?**

STRATEGY E

STRATEGY F

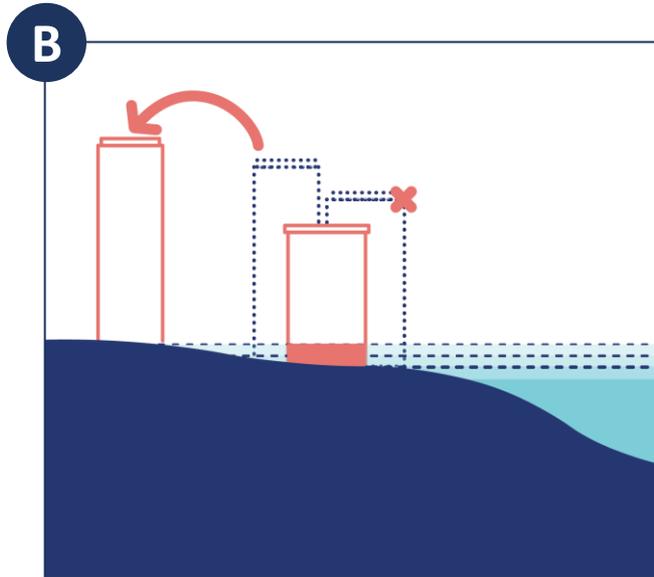
STRATEGY G

# STRATEGY A – NO ACTION



**This strategy takes no actions to reduce flood risks beyond projects that are already approved**

## STRATEGY B – NONSTRUCTURAL OPTION

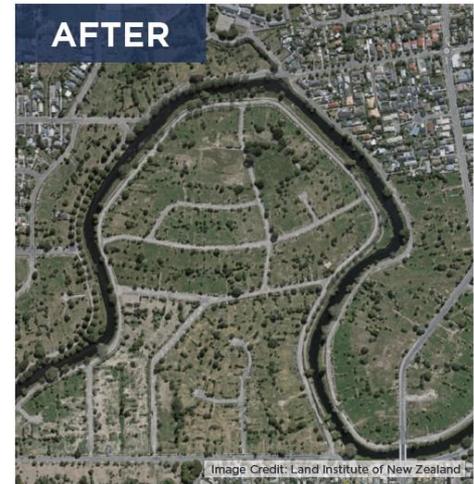


**Moves people and assets away from the risk, uses nonstructural measures (such as floodproofing) to reduce risks, and allows water to go where it wants rather than constructing traditional structural solutions**

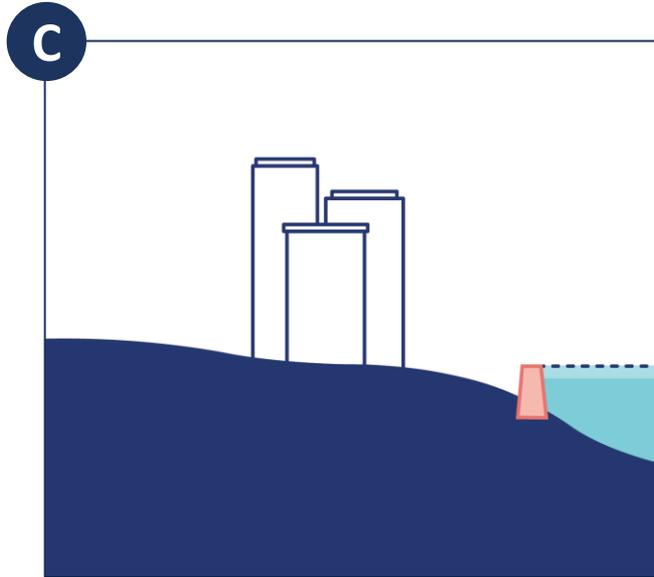
# STRATEGY B – NONSTRUCTURAL OPTION

## Examples

- Floodproofing
- Raising structure in place
- Floodable spaces
- Buyouts
- Warning systems



## STRATEGY C – LOWER SEA LEVEL RISE



**Adapts the shoreline to withstand 1.5' of sea level rise by 2040 using a combination of structural and nonstructural measures**

# STRATEGY C – LOWER SEA LEVEL RISE

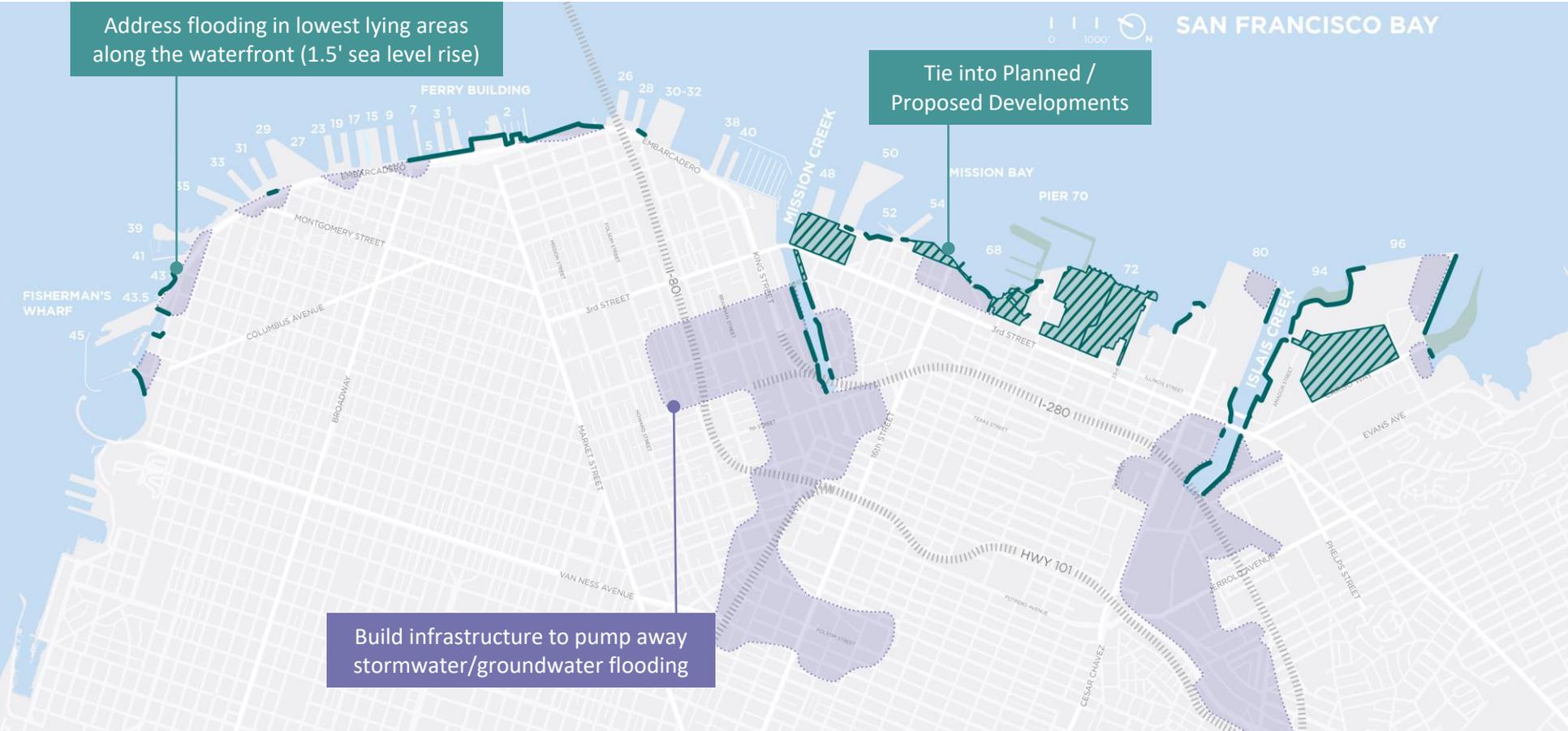
2040

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone
- Planned / Proposed Developments

Address flooding in lowest lying areas along the waterfront (1.5' sea level rise)

Tie into Planned / Proposed Developments

Build infrastructure to pump away stormwater/groundwater flooding

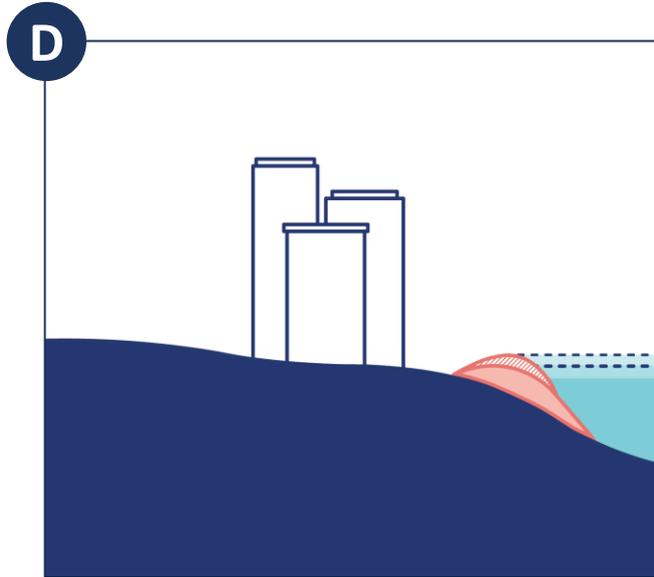


SAN FRANCISCO BAY

## POLL QUESTION #3

Do you feel strategy C defends against the risks you are concerned about?

## STRATEGY D – LOWER SEA LEVEL RISE – ADAPTABLE



**Adapts the shoreline to withstand 1.5' of sea level rise by 2040, with the possibility of building higher by 2090**

# STRATEGY D – LOWER SEA LEVEL RISE – ADAPTABLE

2040

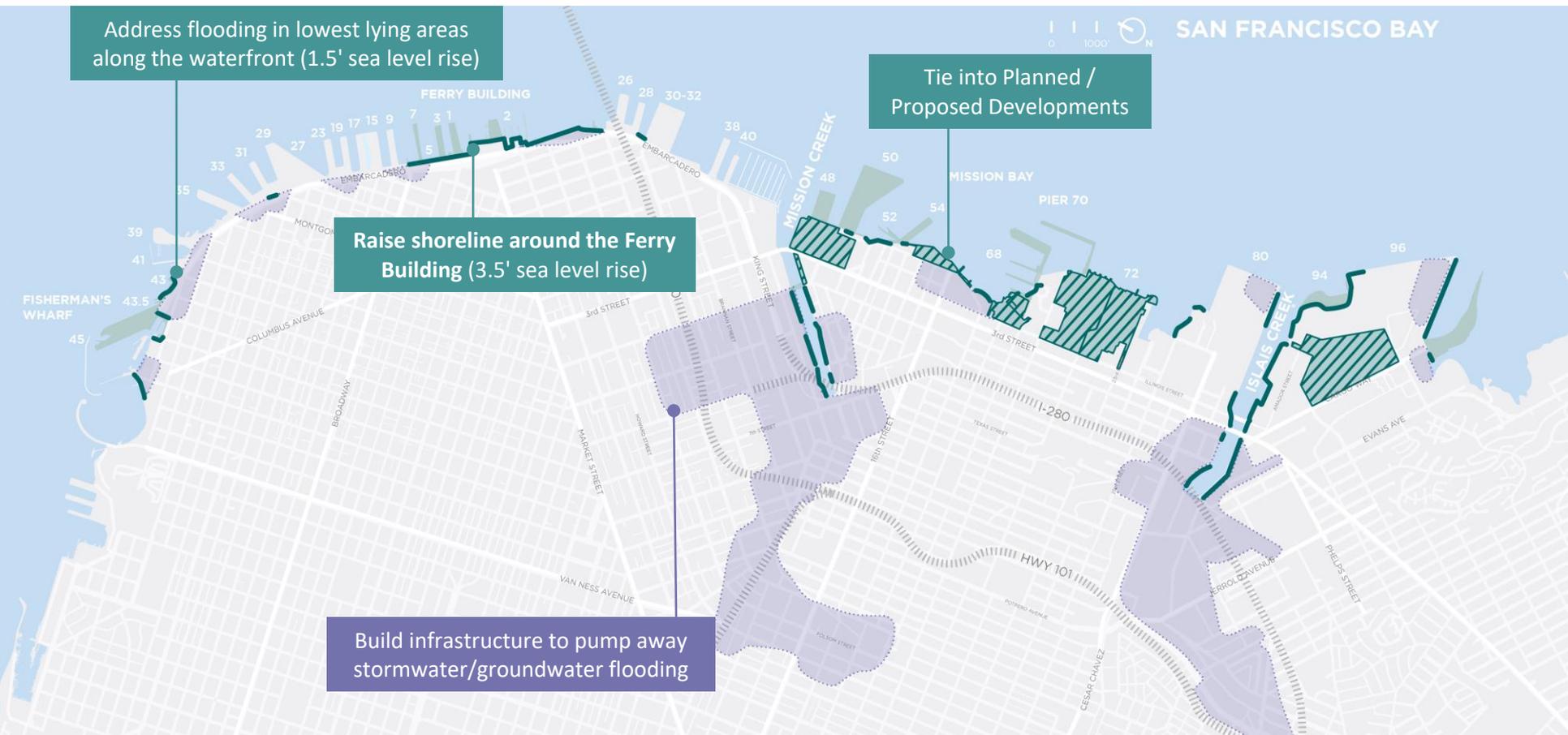
- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone
- Planned / Proposed Developments

Address flooding in lowest lying areas along the waterfront (1.5' sea level rise)

Raise shoreline around the Ferry Building (3.5' sea level rise)

Tie into Planned / Proposed Developments

Build infrastructure to pump away stormwater/groundwater flooding



# STRATEGY D – LOWER SEA LEVEL RISE – ADAPTABLE

2090

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone
- Planned / Proposed Developments

Raise remaining shoreline  
(3.5' sea level rise)

0 1000' N SAN FRANCISCO BAY



Invest in additional infrastructure  
to pump away stormwater/  
groundwater flooding

Raise bridges and connected  
roads/transit (3.5' sea level rise)

## POLL QUESTION #4

**Do you feel strategy D defends against the risks you are concerned about?**

# USACE SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT COASTAL FLOOD STUDY

Focused on Strategies E, F, and G

*What if...*  
we **did not adapt**  
to mitigate the  
risks?

STRATEGY A

*What if...*  
we adapted by  
**floodproofing**  
and **moving**  
buildings and assets,  
*without* coastal flood  
structures?

STRATEGY B

*What if...*  
we address flooding  
at a **lower rate** of  
sea level rise?

STRATEGY C

STRATEGY D

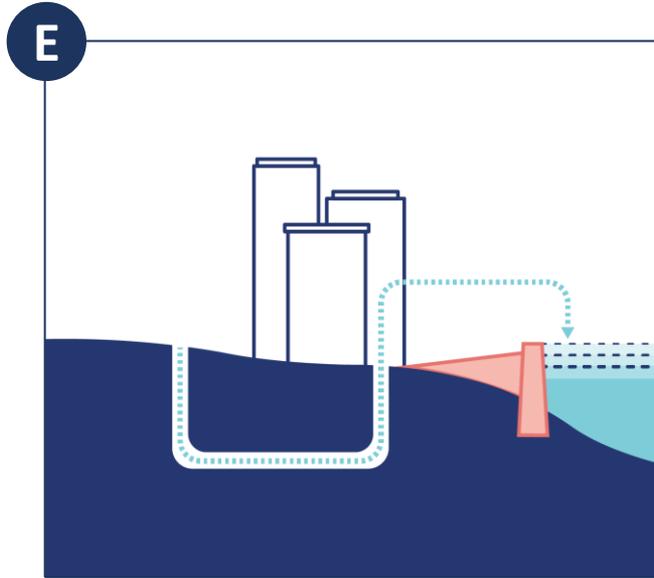
*What if...*  
we address flooding  
at a **higher rate** of  
sea level rise,  
as recommended  
by **CA and SF**  
**guidance?**

STRATEGY E

STRATEGY F

STRATEGY G

## STRATEGY E – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – HOLD THE LINE



**Preserves a waterfront that looks and functions much as it does today by adapting the shoreline**

# STRATEGY E – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – HOLD THE LINE

2040

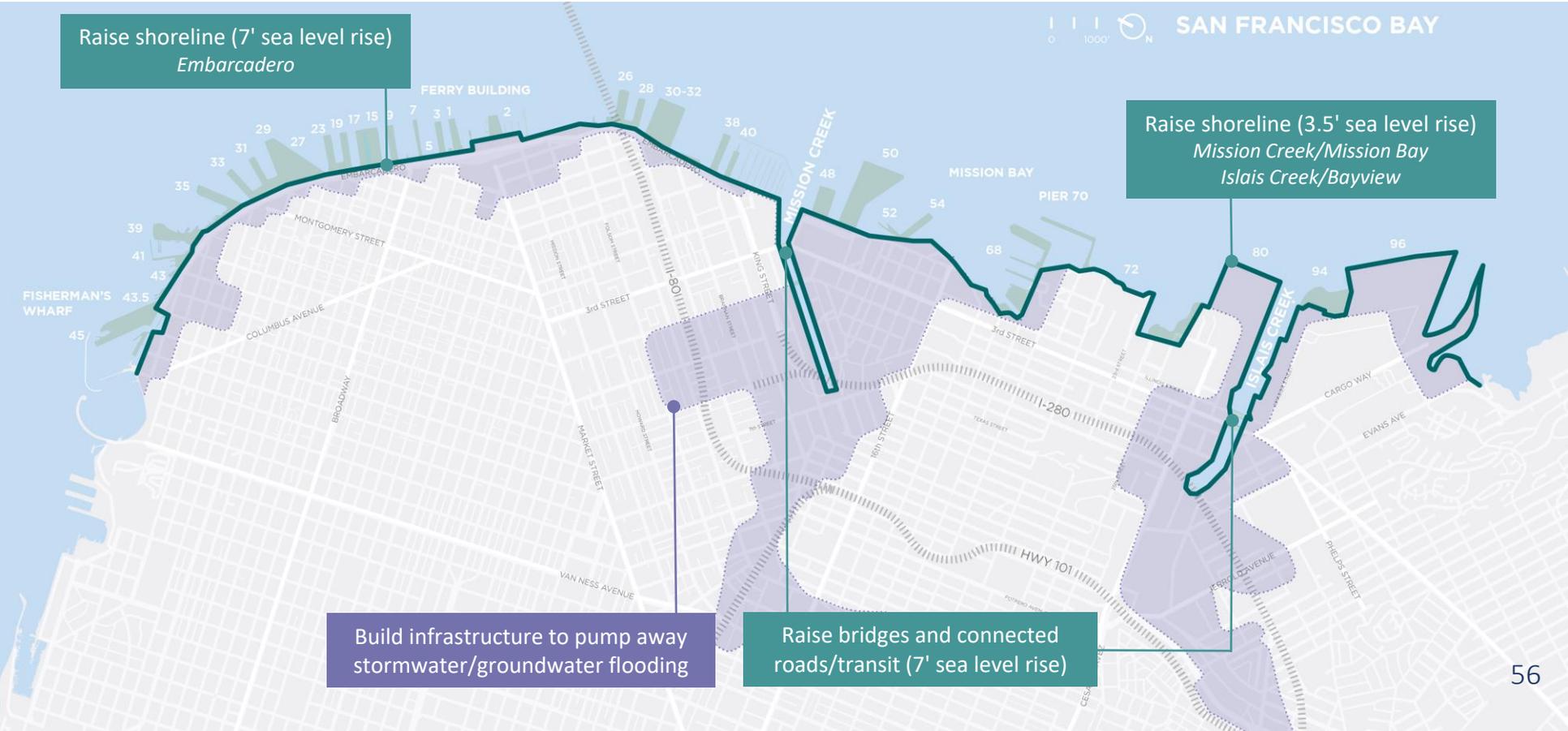
- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone

Raise shoreline (7' sea level rise)  
*Embarcadero*

Raise shoreline (3.5' sea level rise)  
*Mission Creek/Mission Bay  
Islais Creek/Bayview*

Build infrastructure to pump away  
stormwater/groundwater flooding

Raise bridges and connected  
roads/transit (7' sea level rise)



# STRATEGY E – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – HOLD THE LINE

2090

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone



Raise shoreline (7' sea level rise)  
*Mission Creek/Mission Bay  
Islais Creek/Bayview*

Invest in additional infrastructure  
to pump away stormwater/  
groundwater flooding

# STRATEGY E – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – HOLD THE LINE

Islais Creek / Bayview in 2090



# STRATEGY E – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – HOLD THE LINE

## Mission Creek / Mission Bay in 2090



Redesign for a narrower Terry Francois Blvd

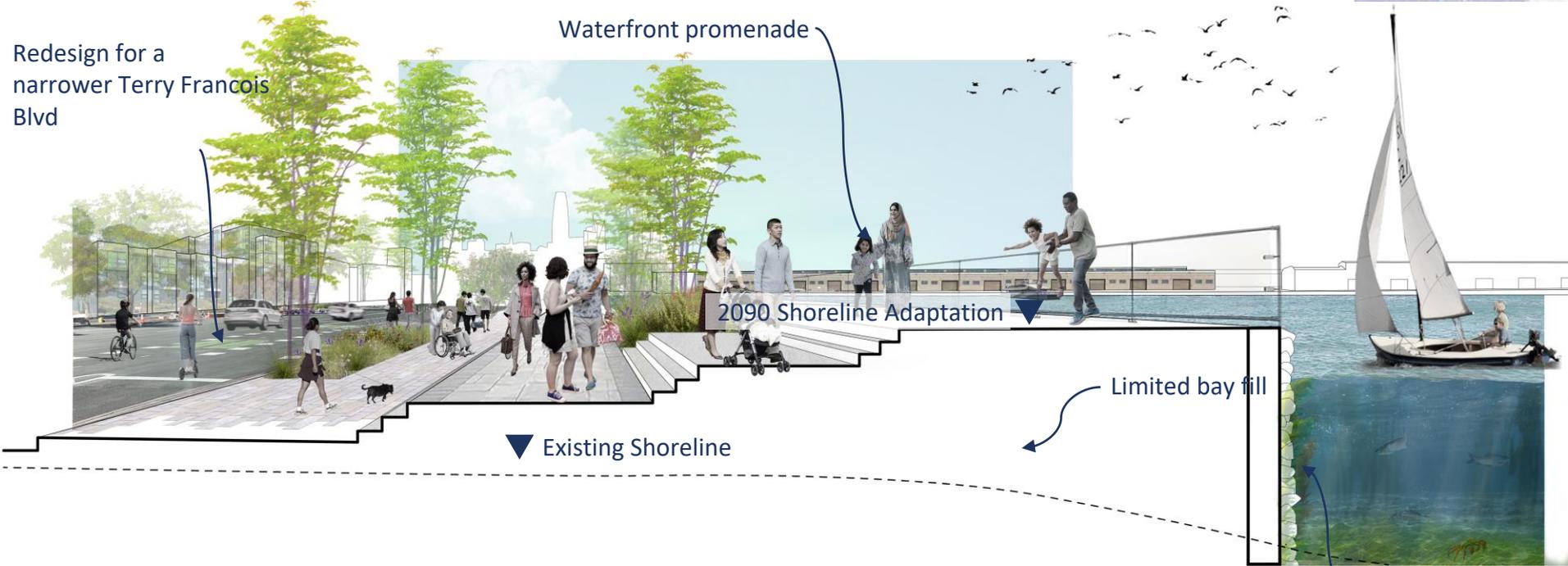
Waterfront promenade

2090 Shoreline Adaptation

Existing Shoreline

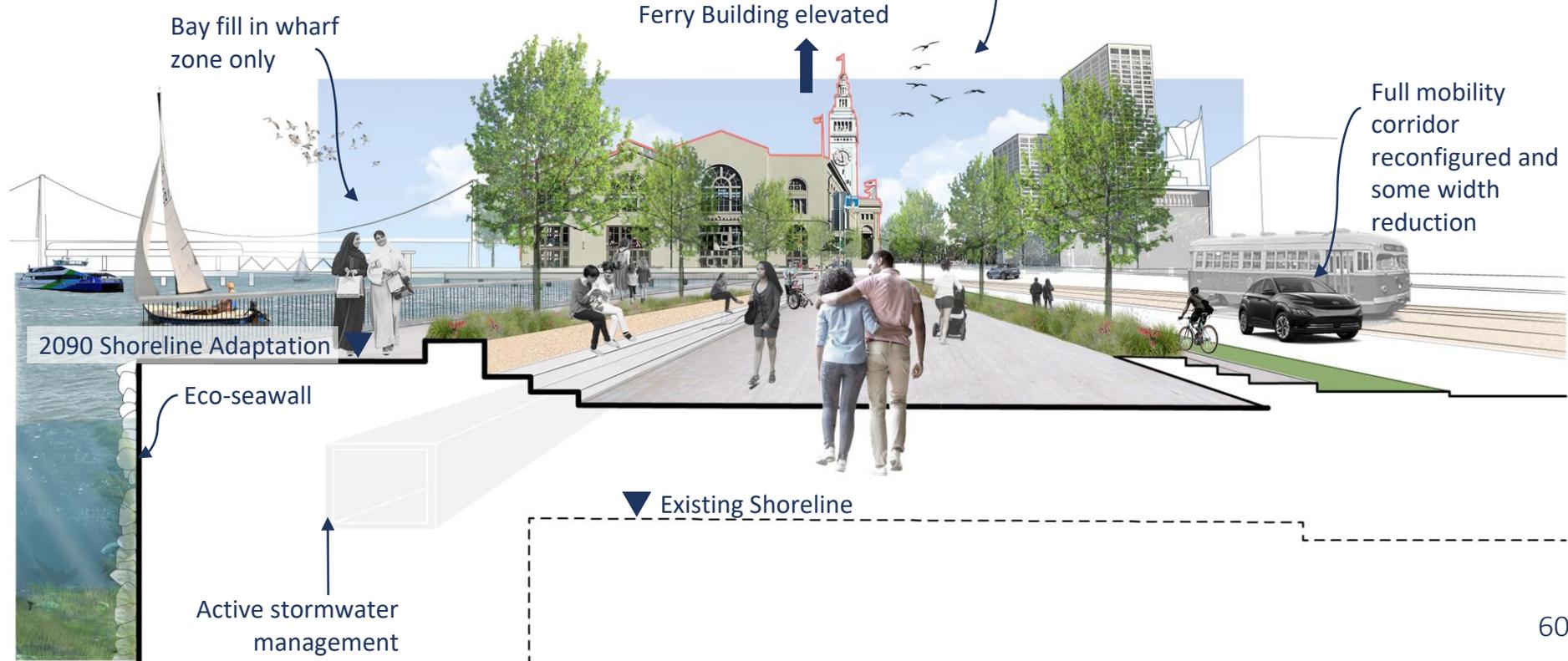
Limited bay fill

Eco seawall



# STRATEGY E – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – HOLD THE LINE

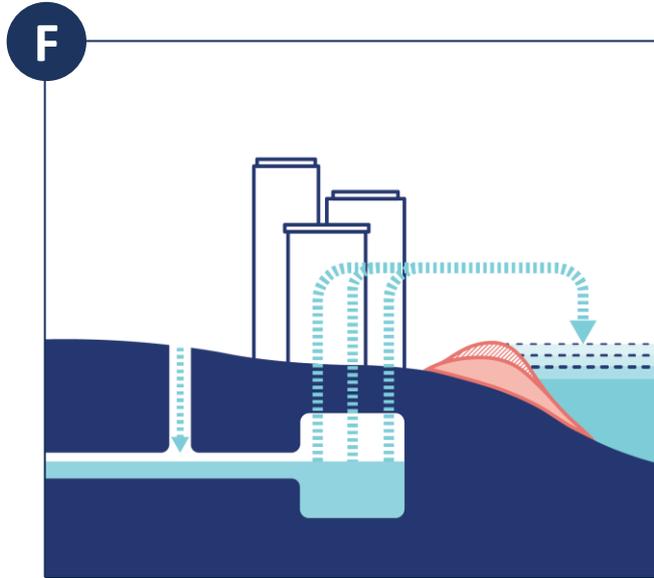
Embarcadero in 2090



## POLL QUESTION #5

Do you feel strategy E defends against the risks you are concerned about?

# STRATEGY F – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – MANAGE THE WATER



**Creates an active system for managing flooding by heavily relying on machinery**

# STRATEGY F – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – MANAGE THE WATER

2040

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone

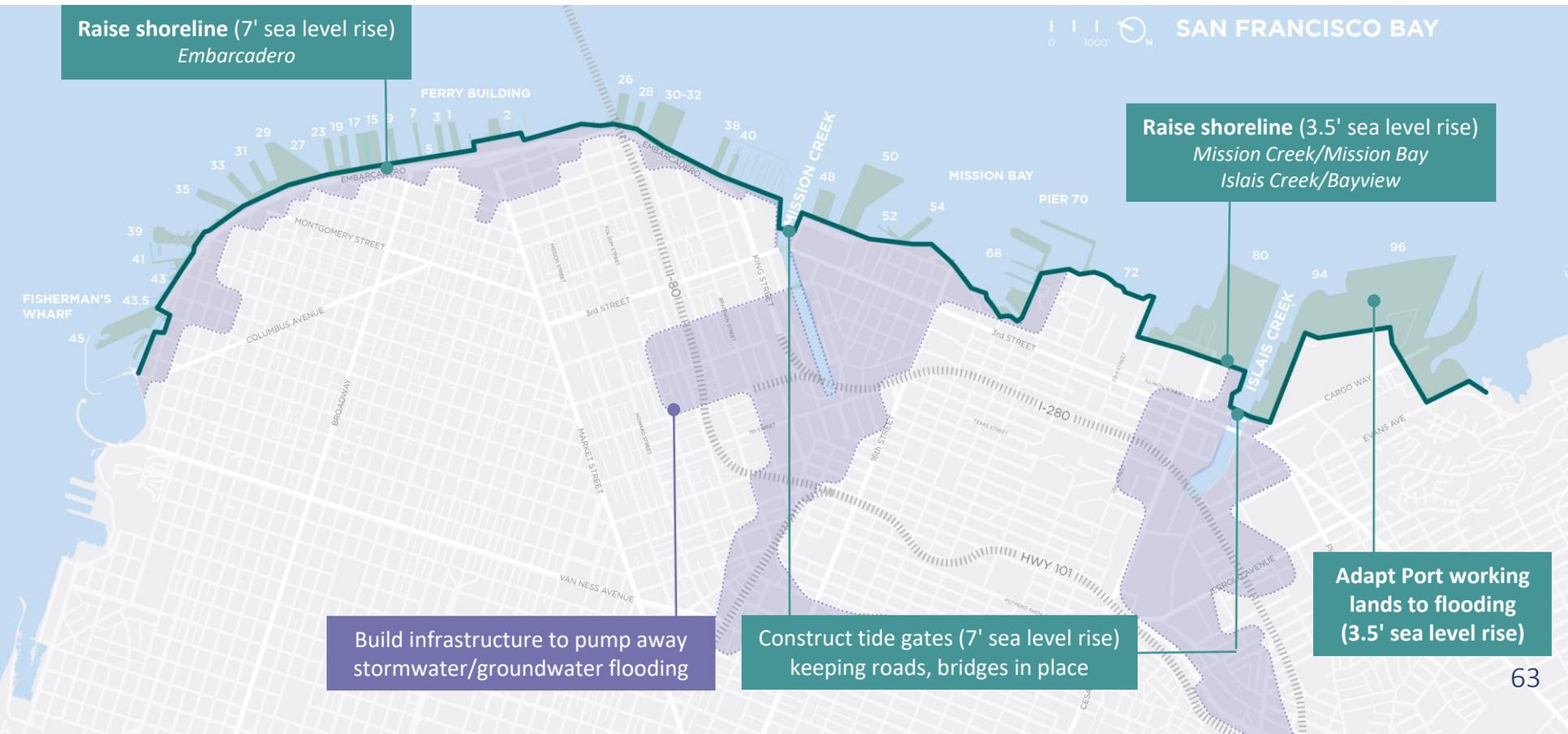
Raise shoreline (7' sea level rise)  
*Embarcadero*

Raise shoreline (3.5' sea level rise)  
*Mission Creek/Mission Bay*  
*Islais Creek/Bayview*

Build infrastructure to pump away  
stormwater/groundwater flooding

Construct tide gates (7' sea level rise)  
keeping roads, bridges in place

Adapt Port working  
lands to flooding  
(3.5' sea level rise)



# STRATEGY F – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – MANAGE THE WATER

2090

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone



# STRATEGY F – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – MANAGE THE WATER

Islais Creek / Bayview in 2090



Industrial uses and jobs stay in place

Water access and recreational activities

Improved public access

2040 and 2090 Coastal Defense at Existing Shoreline

Eco seawall

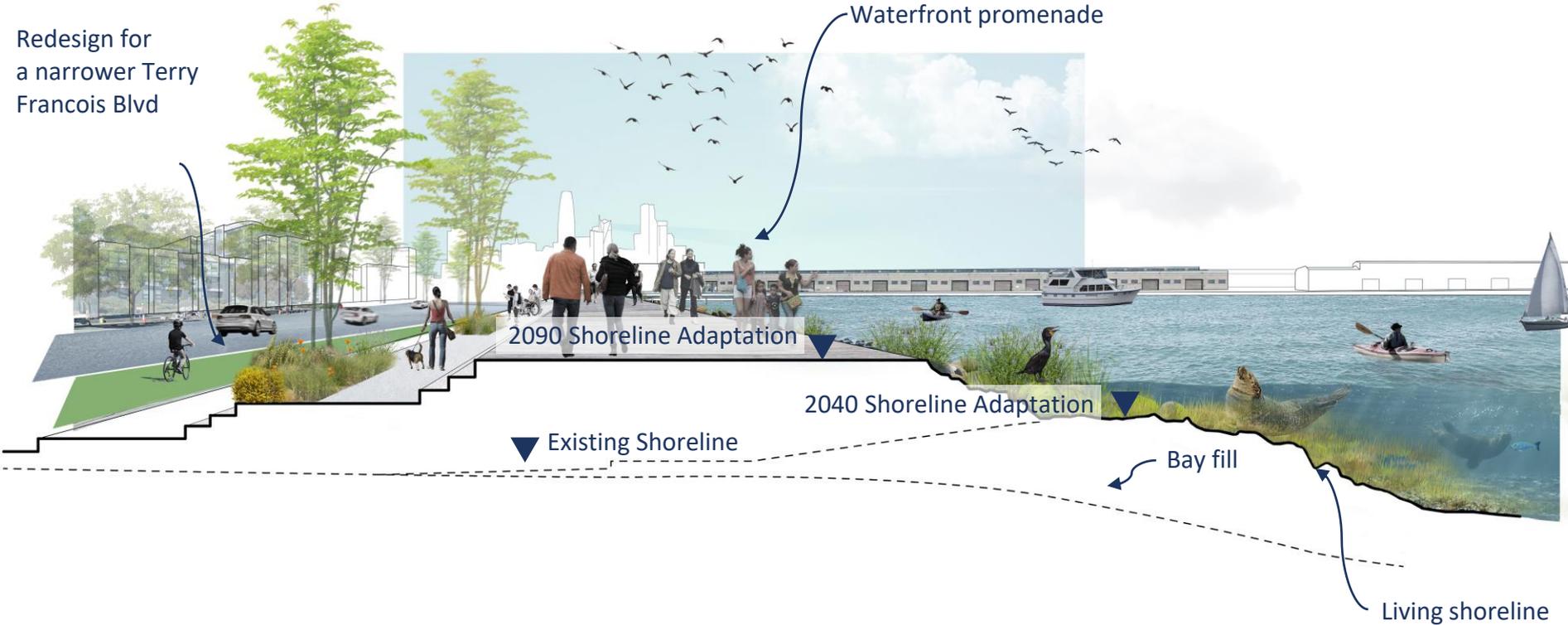
# STRATEGY F – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – MANAGE THE WATER

## Mission Creek / Mission Bay in 2090



Redesign for  
a narrower Terry  
Francois Blvd

Waterfront promenade



# STRATEGY F – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – MANAGE THE WATER

## Embarcadero in 2090



Elevated bayward promenade with public realm improvements

Ferry Building stays in place

Limited impacts to mobility corridor

Most bay fill

2090 Shoreline Adaptation

2040 Shoreline Adaptation

Habitat terraces

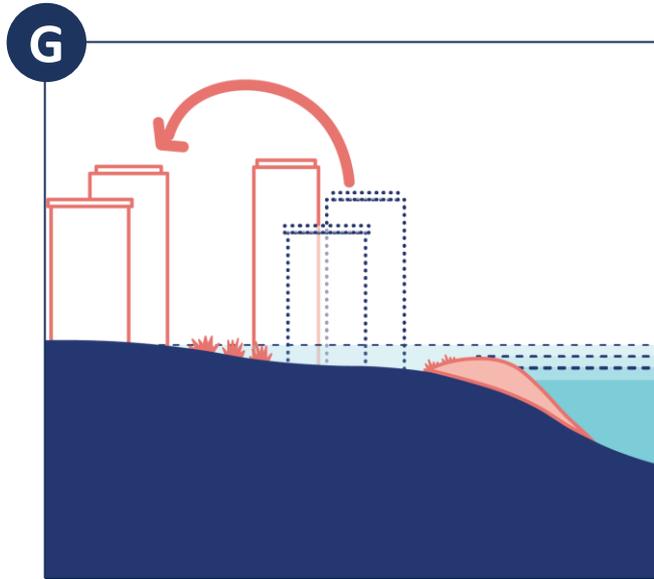
Active stormwater management

Existing Shoreline

## POLL QUESTION #6

**Do you feel strategy F defends against the risks you are concerned about?**

# STRATEGY G – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – ALIGN WITH WATERSHEDS



**Advances shoreline adaptation while working with natural inland flooding patterns to floodproof some buildings and infrastructure and move others away from the highest risk areas**

# STRATEGY G – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – ALIGN WITH WATERSHEDS

2040

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone

Raise shoreline (7' sea level rise)  
*Embarcadero*

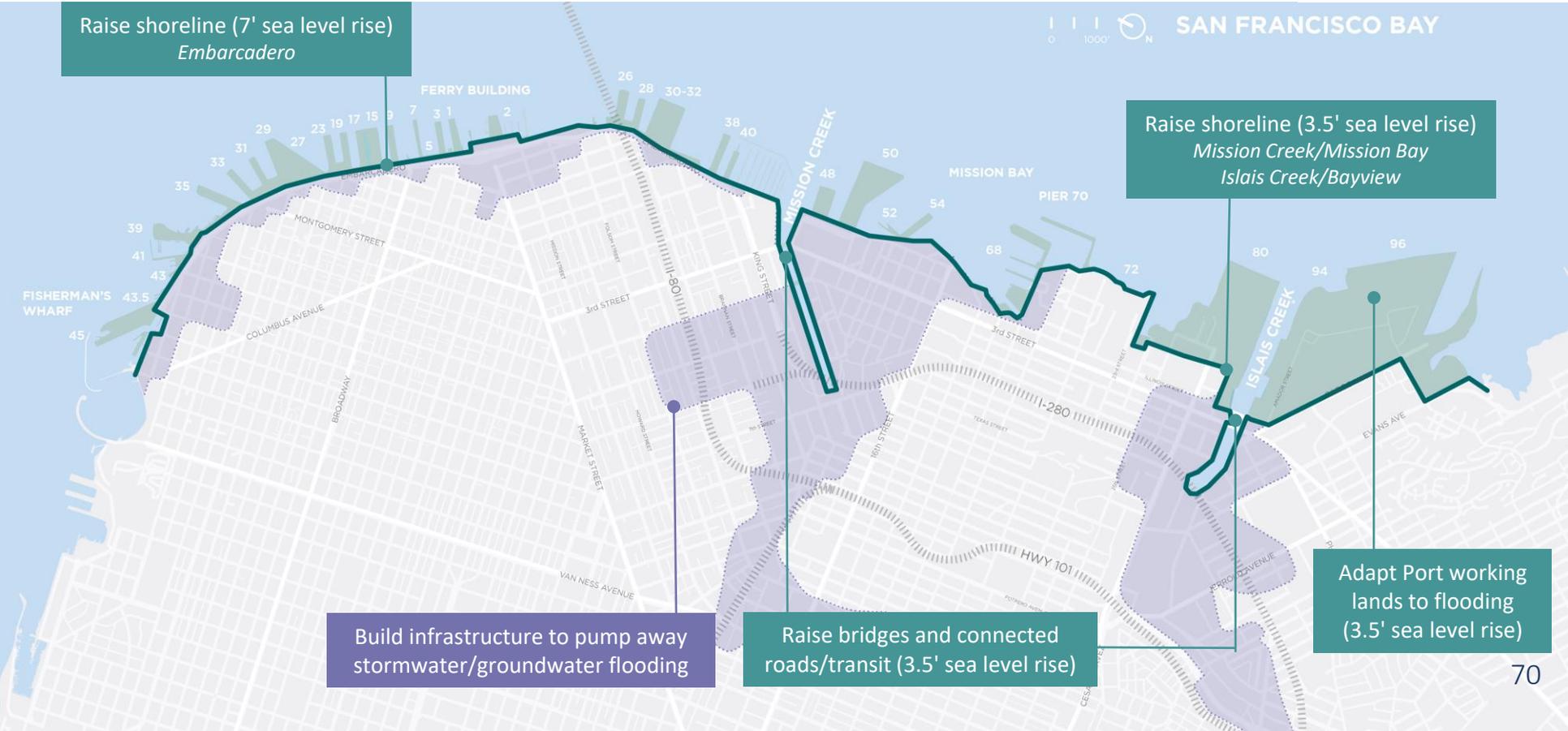
Raise shoreline (3.5' sea level rise)  
*Mission Creek/Mission Bay  
Islais Creek/Bayview*

Build infrastructure to pump away  
stormwater/groundwater flooding

Raise bridges and connected  
roads/transit (3.5' sea level rise)

Adapt Port working  
lands to flooding  
(3.5' sea level rise)

0 1000' N SAN FRANCISCO BAY



# STRATEGY G – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – ALIGN WITH WATERSHEDS

2090

- Coastal Flood Defense
- Coastal Adaptation Zone
- Inland Adaptation Zone

SAN FRANCISCO BAY



Mission Bay transformed to a floodable district, with significant changes to all urban systems

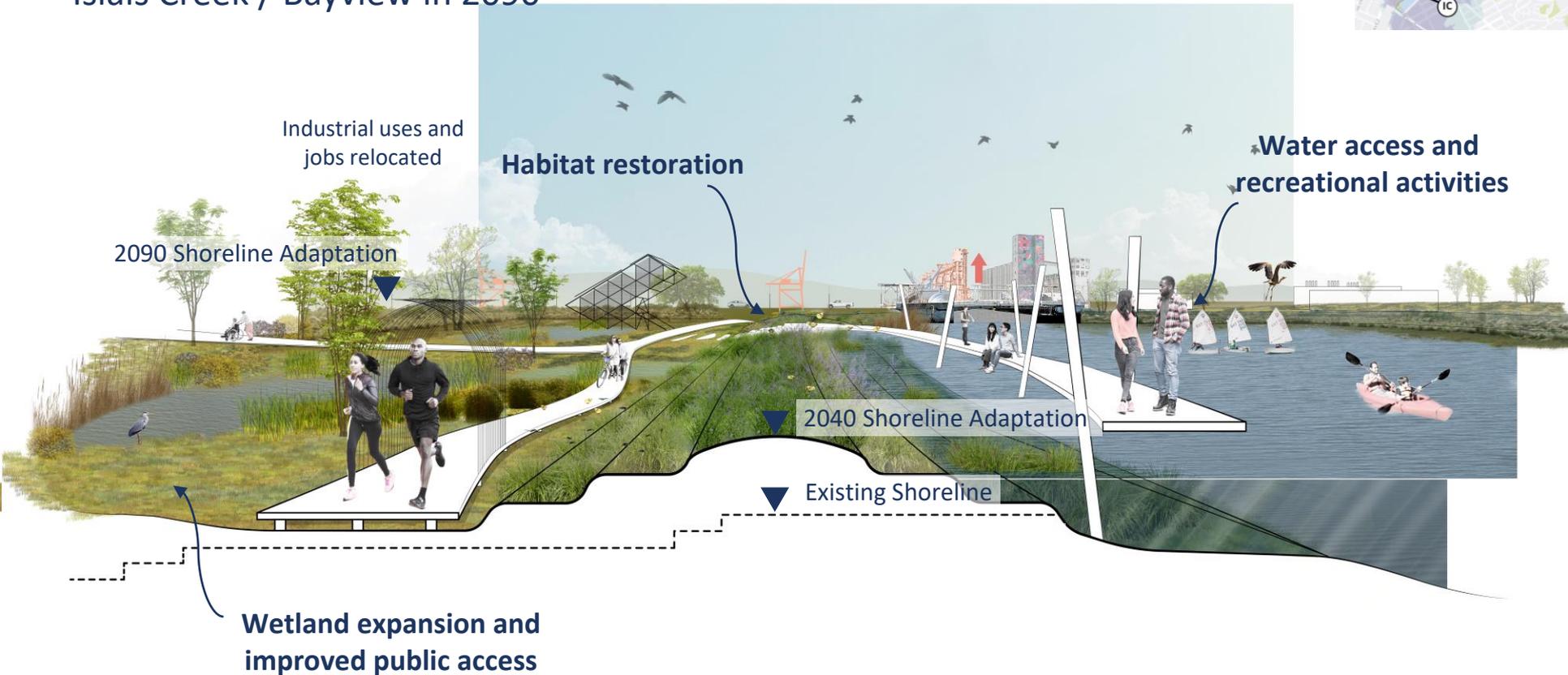
Raise shoreline (7' sea level rise)  
*Mission Creek/Mission Bay*  
*Islais Creek/Bayview*

Adapt Port working lands and industrial zones for flooding (7' sea level rise)

Widen Islais Creek – new open spaces and wetlands

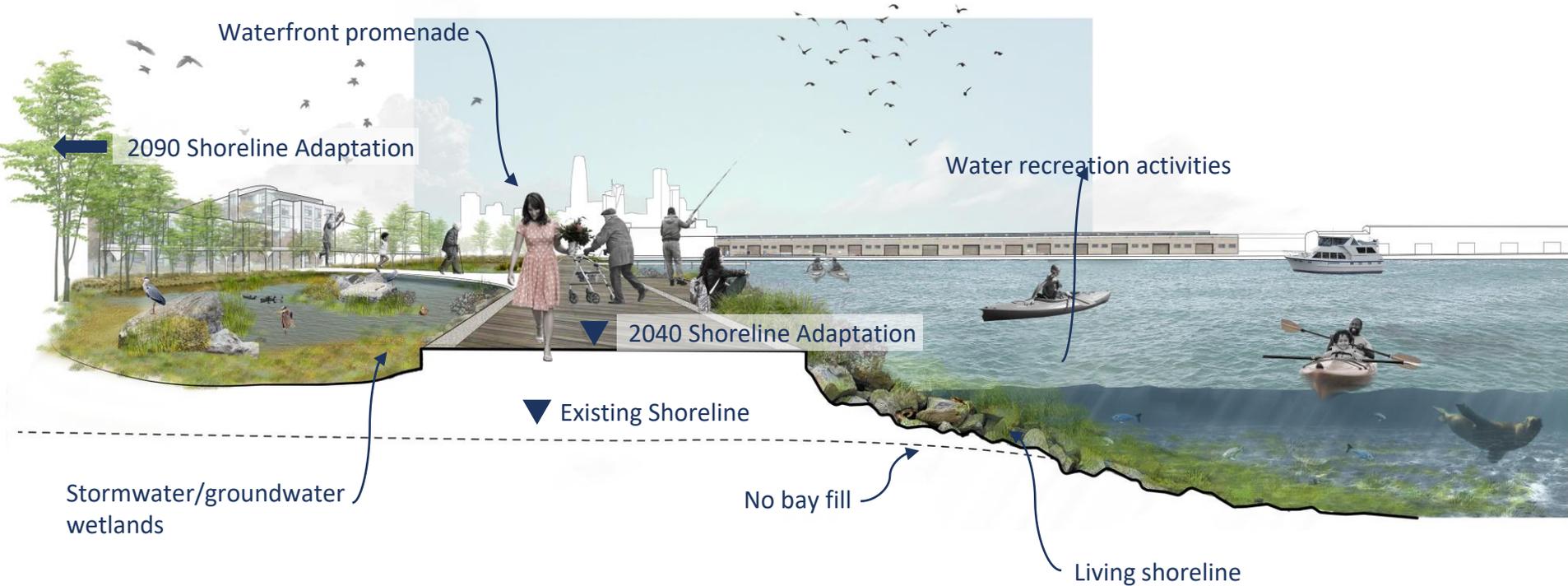
# STRATEGY G – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – ALIGN WITH WATERSHEDS

Islais Creek / Bayview in 2090



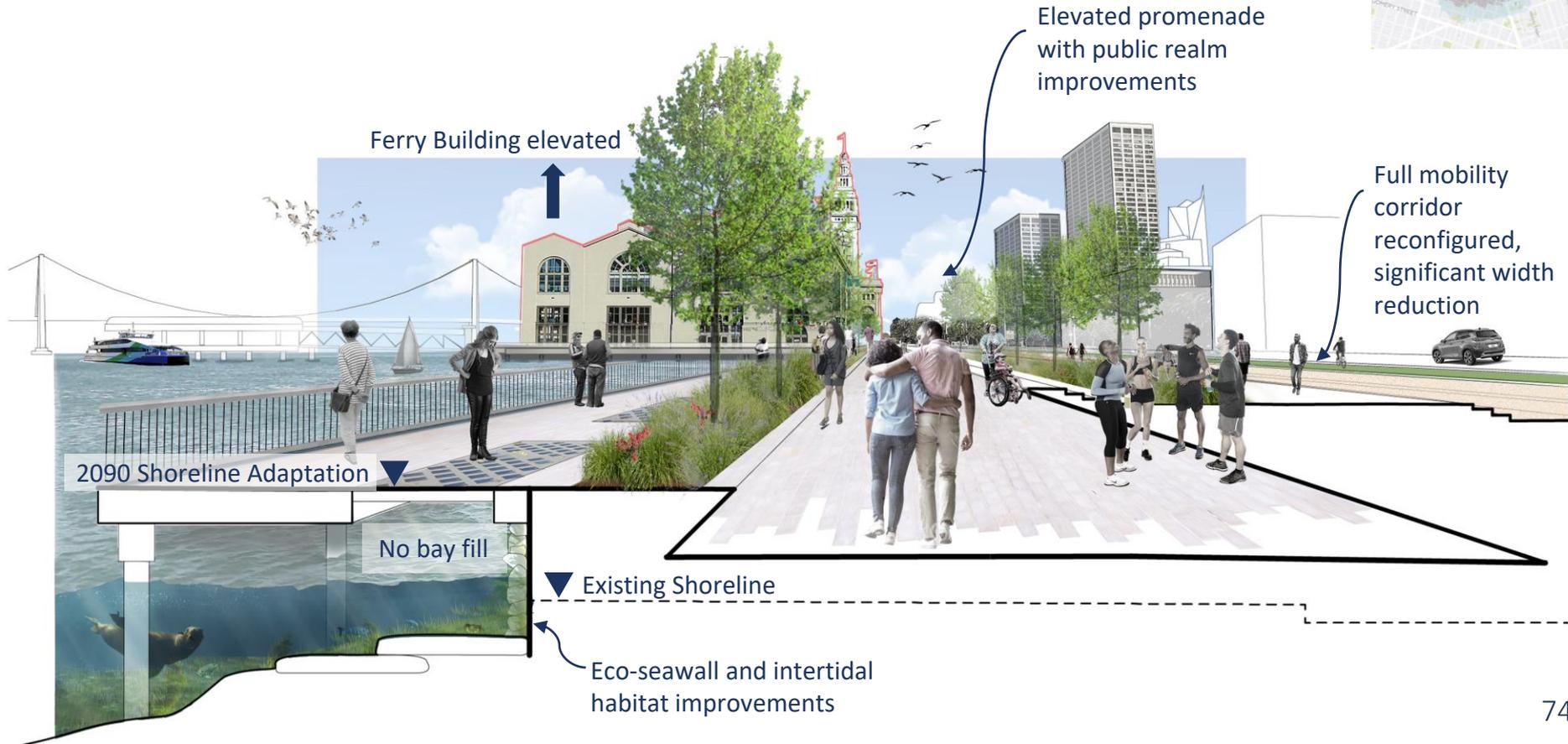
# STRATEGY G – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – ALIGN WITH WATERSHEDS

Mission Creek / Mission Bay in 2090



# STRATEGY G – HIGHER SEA LEVEL RISE – ALIGN WITH WATERSHEDS

## Embarcadero in 2090



Ferry Building elevated

Elevated promenade with public realm improvements

Full mobility corridor reconfigured, significant width reduction

2090 Shoreline Adaptation

No bay fill

Existing Shoreline

Eco-seawall and intertidal habitat improvements

## POLL QUESTION #7

**Do you feel strategy G defends against the risks you are concerned about?**

## POLL QUESTION #8

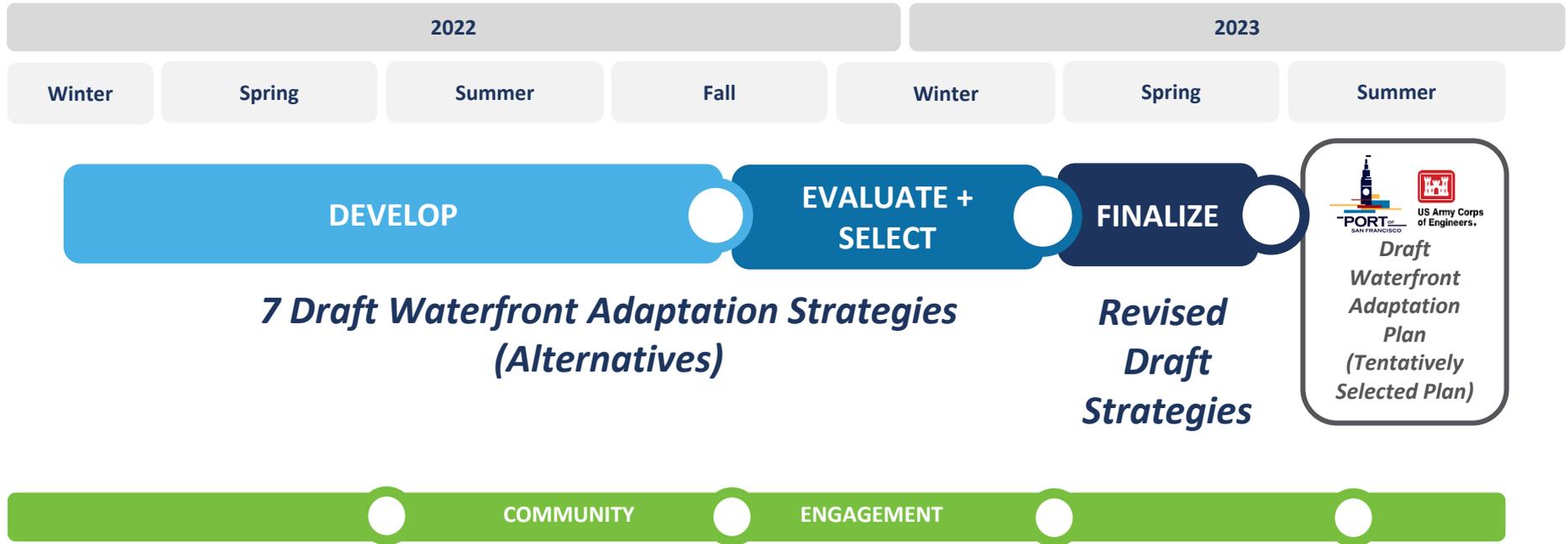
All of these strategies defend against flood risks in different ways. All present big changes, but they also bring big opportunities for public benefits. Now that you've seen the strategies, please rank the following opportunities they could bring:

# Next Steps



Waterfront Resilience Program

# DRAFT WATERFRONT ADAPTATION STRATEGIES DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

Materials Live on [sfport.com/wrp](https://sfport.com/wrp)

Other Commission Meetings

Community Workshops /  
Meetings

In Person Outreach via Walking Tours  
and Waterfront Community Mixer

Digital Engagement via StoryMaps

Presentations to CACs, southern waterfront CBOs, etc.

Focus Groups by Geography



# WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR



- Summer Survey of over 1000 respondents
- Openness to exploring many kinds of adaptation approaches (including more transformative options)
- Desire to preserve and expand connections between the city and the waterfront
- Curiosity about feasibility, cost, and disruption impacts

# JOIN THE CONVERSATION

## Different Options for Engaging



- Join us at an upcoming geography specific meeting – online or in-person
  - Events weekly now through Dec 8
- Explore the online StoryMaps, digital storytelling and surveys
- Join us at the upcoming walking tour
- Full list of engagement opportunities: [www.sfport.com/wrp/our-waterfront](http://www.sfport.com/wrp/our-waterfront)

## POLL QUESTION #9

**After this meeting how do you feel about these strategies and the work the Port and its federal and city partners are doing?**

A photograph of two children riding bicycles on a dirt path. The child in the foreground is wearing a red and white shirt, white shorts, and a yellow helmet. The child in the background is wearing a dark jersey with the number 30 and a dark helmet. In the background, a large ship is visible in a harbor under a clear blue sky. The path is surrounded by dry grass and some trees.

# Thank You

Adam Varat | [adam.varat@sfport.com](mailto:adam.varat@sfport.com)



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



- Type your question in the Chat box
- Raise your Hand to ask a question off mute

A photograph of two children riding bicycles on a dirt path. The child in the foreground is wearing a red and white jersey and a yellow helmet. The child in the background is wearing a dark jersey with the number 30 and a dark helmet. In the background, a large ship is visible in a harbor under a clear blue sky. The path is surrounded by dry grass and trees.

# Thank You

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