# El Niño preparedness

## Winter 2026-27

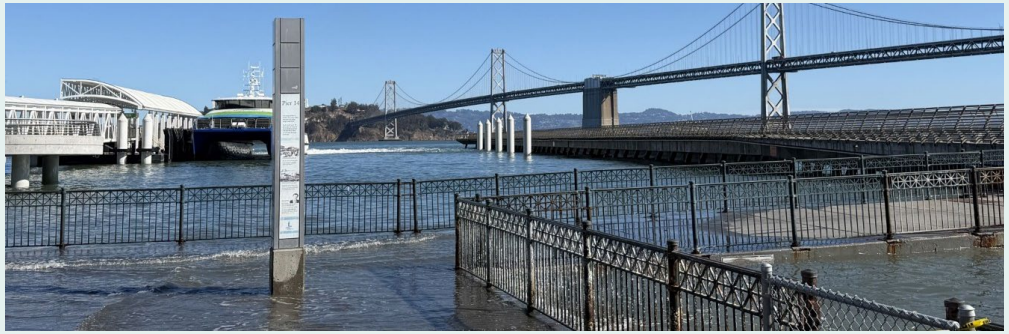


ARCHIVE PHOTO: PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO

Port Public Outreach
October, 2026

# Two primary winter hazards

## COASTAL FLOODING



- Warmer seawater expands. El Niño-related Kelvin waves raise coastal water levels.
- High tides, surf and storm surge can compound the risk.
- Coastal flooding can happen without rain.

## SEVERE RAIN AND WIND



- Heavy rain can flood streets.
- Wind can bring down trees and disrupt power.
- Expected impacts guide preparations.

Seasonal outlooks do not predict individual storms. One storm can cause serious impacts.

# Preparing before impacts

## Planning and readiness

Infrastructure, transportation and health and human services groups are meeting. DEM developed a draft seasonal Incident Coordination Plan.

## National Weather Service (NWS)

Close NWS coordination supports early activation and sustained operations as conditions require.

## Resources and recovery

Preparing for coastal flooding and power outages, from readiness and monitoring to response, infrastructure repairs and cost recovery.



Lessons from past storms, including New Year’s Eve 2022, inform this work.

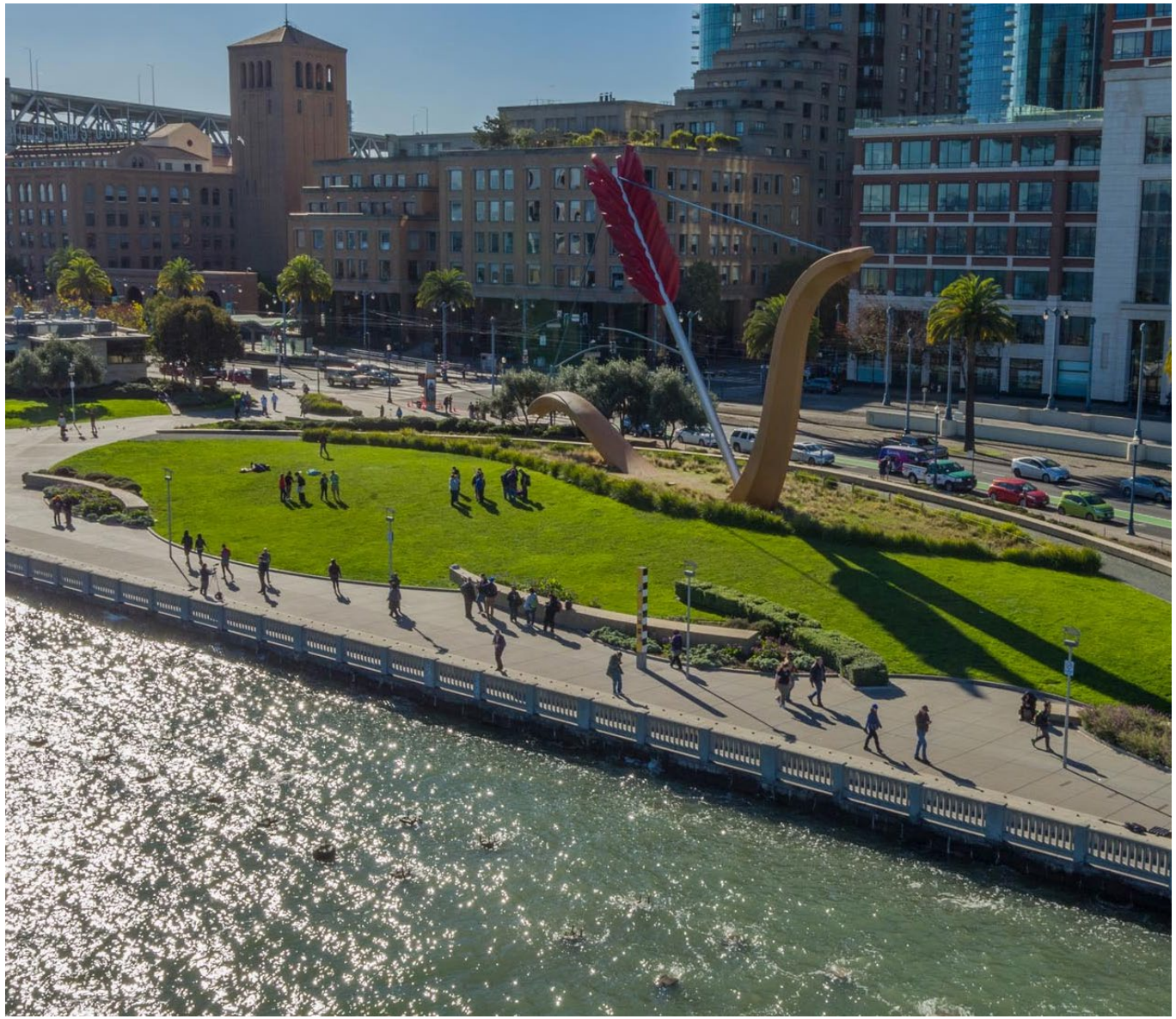
# Citywide Coordination & Port of San Francisco

## Citywide

- Department of Emergency Management is coordinating with City & Regional Agencies
- Local emergency declaration by Mayor

## Port

- Managing 7.5 miles of SF waterfront
- Protect public safety and promote continuity of operations for Port tenants
- Analyze and communicate coastal flood and stormwater management conditions and risk
- Track actual tides against predictions to support tactical decisions for preparation and response for upcoming events

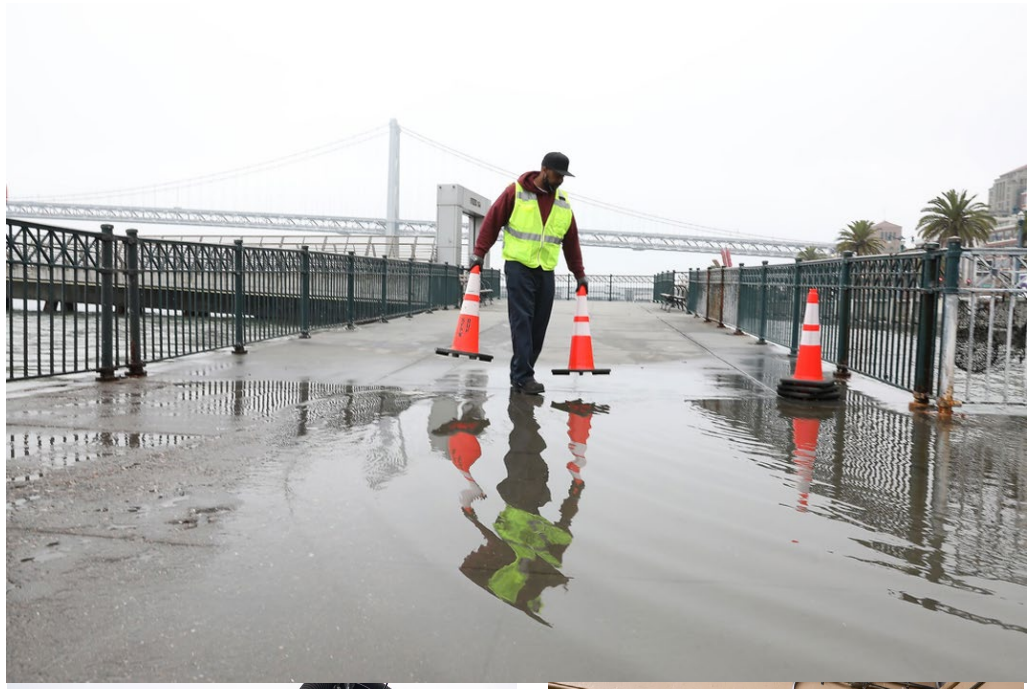


PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO

# Port of San Francisco

## Prevention

- Ordering additional large water pumps and generators
- Clearing storm drains port wide before November and checking regularly thereafter
- Clearing roof drains and gutters port wide
- Deploying message boards along Embarcadero and other high flood areas
- Inspecting mooring for barges, boats, marinas and ferry terminals
- Staging sandbags port wide
- Preparing water pumps, back-up power and pump sensors on drydocks at the shipyard
- Staging barricades and signage to close flooded facilities







PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO

# Port of San Francisco

## Preparedness

- Flood risk mapped: Pier 14 to Rincon Park, Pier 45, Pier 80, Pier 96
- Convene weekly coordination groups across Port divisions, including procurement
- Barrier layouts prepared and quantities calculated
- Monitoring flooding during high tides and storms
- Barrier materials procured from California Department of Water Resources (CDWR)
- Early funding sources identified



# Port of San Francisco

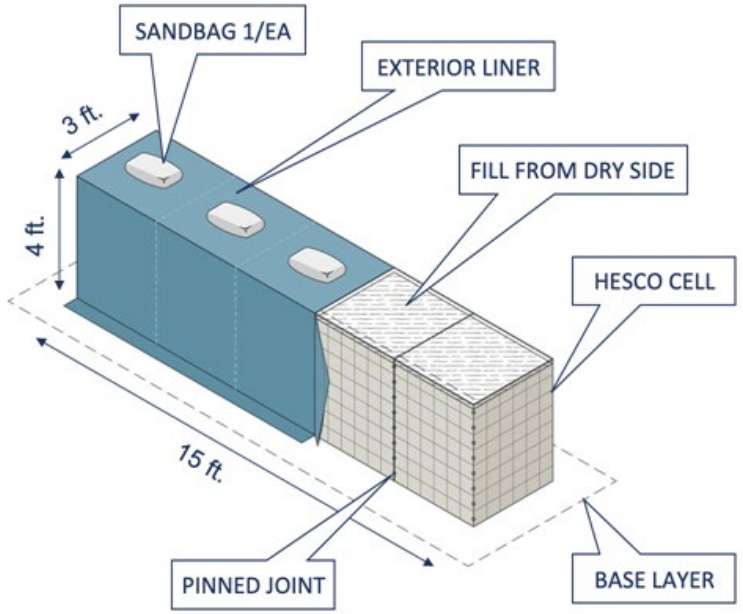
Response

**4**

priority flood areas

**3,800 LF HESCO barrier**

procured

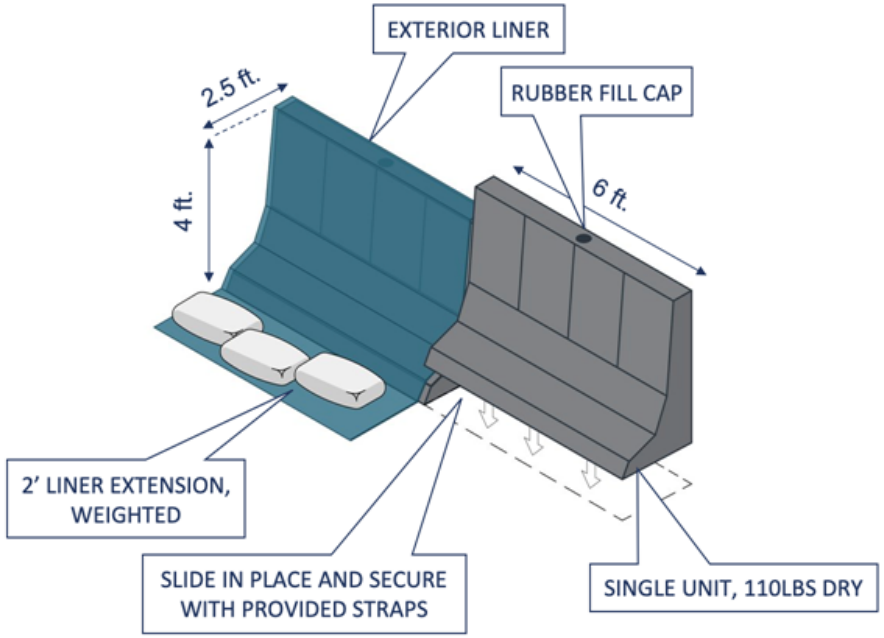



**Over 2,000 sandbags**

procured

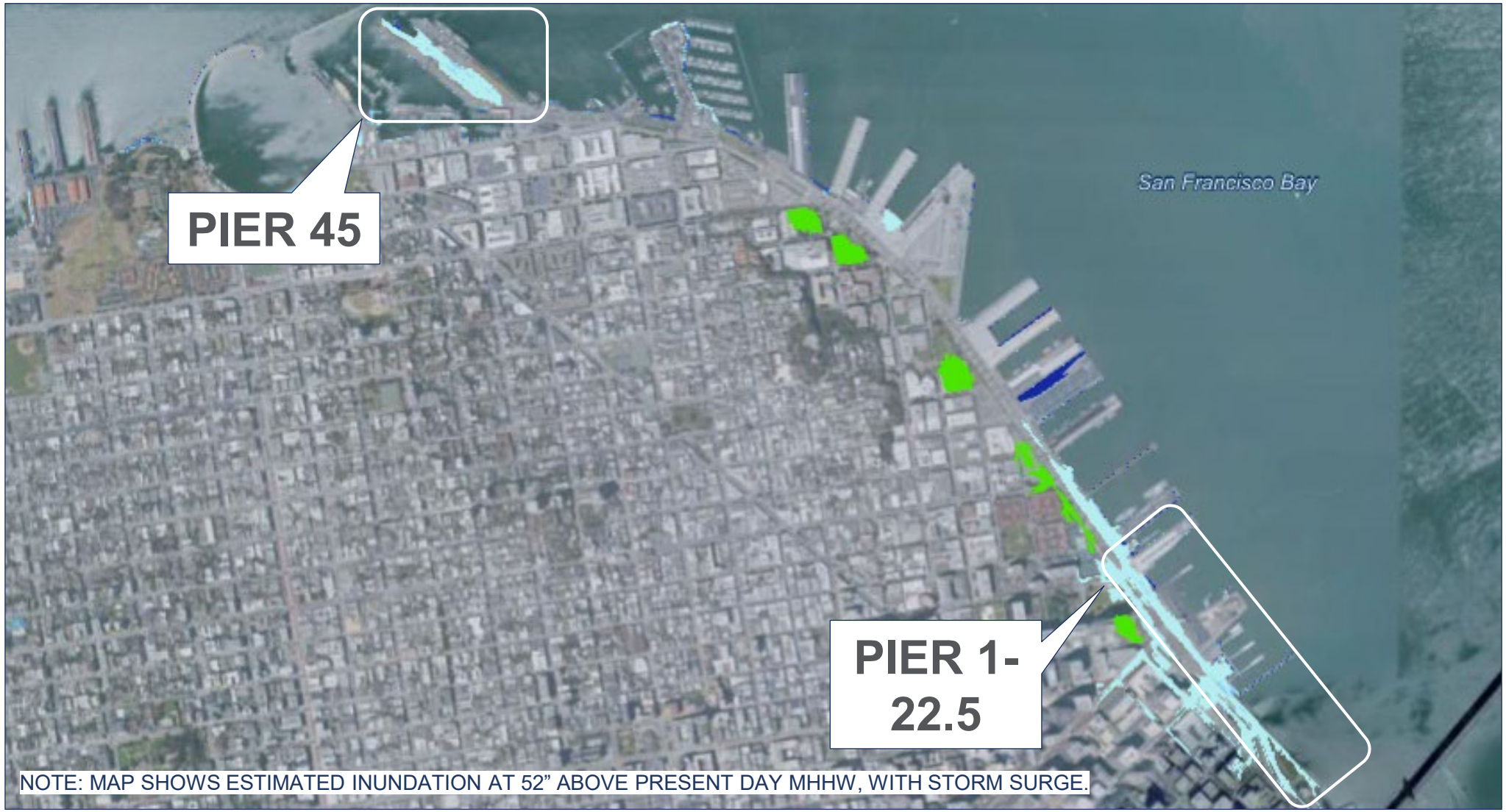
**3,000 LF Muscle Wall**

procured



# Super El Niño Protection

## Project Locations



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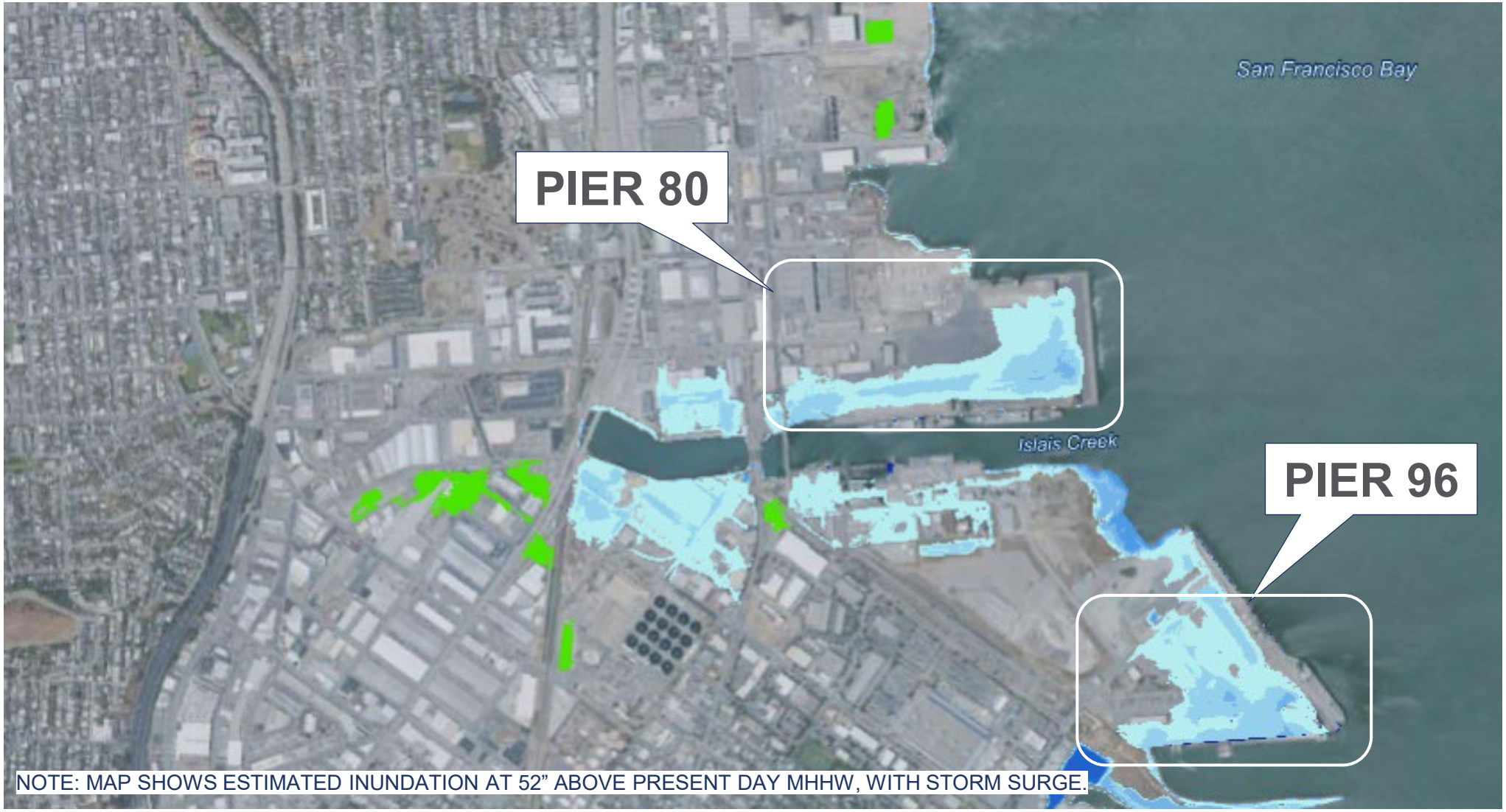

# Port of San Francisco

## Outreach

Ongoing guidance to tenants and direct engagement for most impacted

NOAA, DEM, and SoFar helping track tide and storm forecasts

