



# Draft Climate **Adaptation Plan**

December 15, 2020



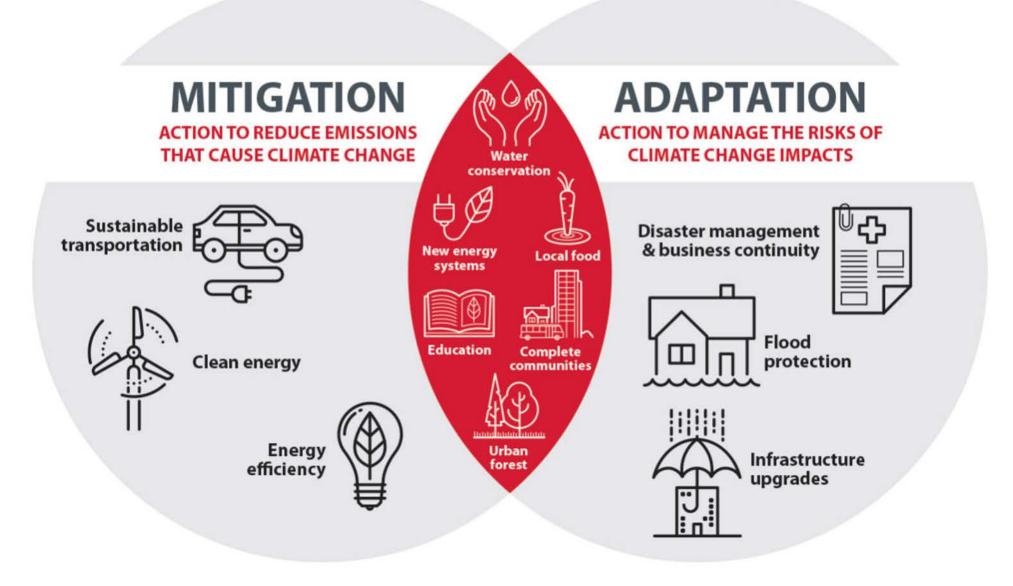






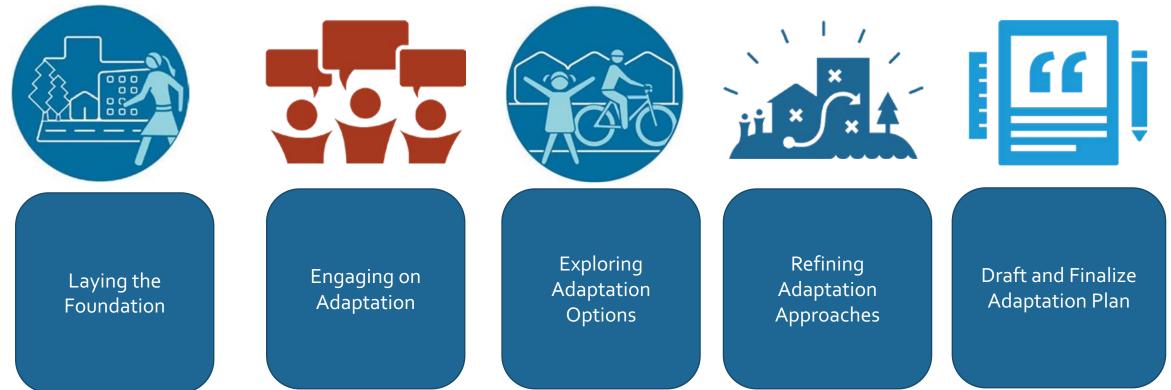
# **Adaptation Plan Process**

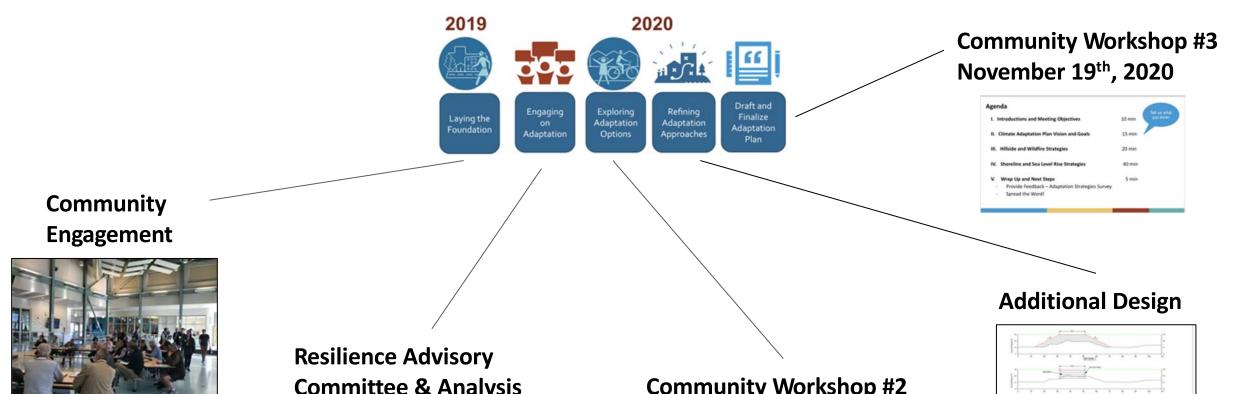
## **Building Climate Resilience**











Two Workshops **Community Survey** Flood Control Meetings Town Council Meetings Compilation of Existing Conditions

**Committee & Analysis** 

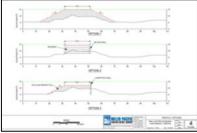


5 Advisory Committee Meetings **10** Partner Meetings **GIS & Other Technical Analysis** 

### **Community Workshop #2**



Virtual Workshop Storymap and Survey



Near Term Actions Shoreline and Hillside Preliminary Costs



# Values Driven and Science Based



## Vision: One Town, One Region, Resilient Together

## GOAL 1

Protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of all town residents, visitors, and workers by focusing on preparedness and prevention.

Protecting the health and safety of people, both now and in the future, includes supporting risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and improvements to everyday quality of life.

## GOAL 2

Incorporate resilience and equity into all of the Town's plans, policies, and projects.

Historically disadvantaged and underserved frontline members of the community experience the first and worst impacts of climate change. To successfully build resilience, actions must meet the needs of community members who face the greatest climate impacts with the least resources. Normalizing consideration of both climate change and equity in Town planning and actions is a crucial component of enhancing resilience.

#### **Plan Goals**

Building on the Guiding Principles, the goals were established through community engagement and refined over the course of the project to reflect the Town's values and interests.

## GOAL 3

Increase community awareness about the urgent need to take action and prepare for climate change.

An informed community can help create and implement strategic and effective solutions.



Bring the community, neighboring towns, and the region together to plan and fund actions to build resilience.

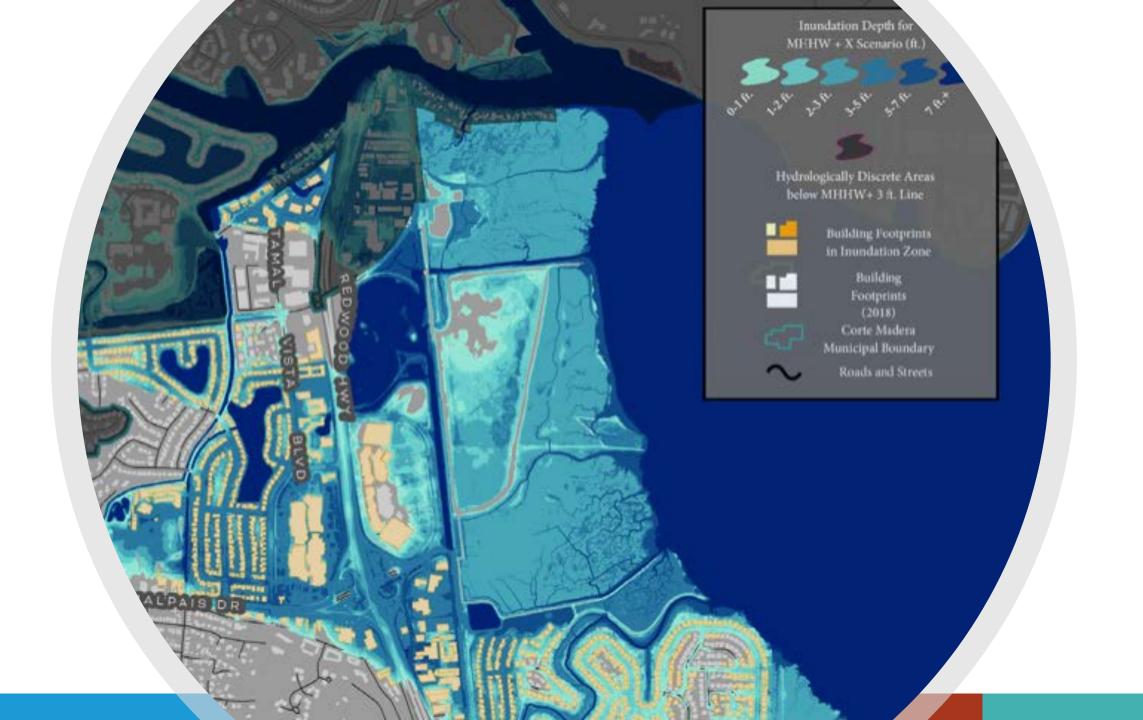
Multi-jurisdictional collaboration requires effort and attention. This collaboration is critical to the success of the broader resilience initiatives.

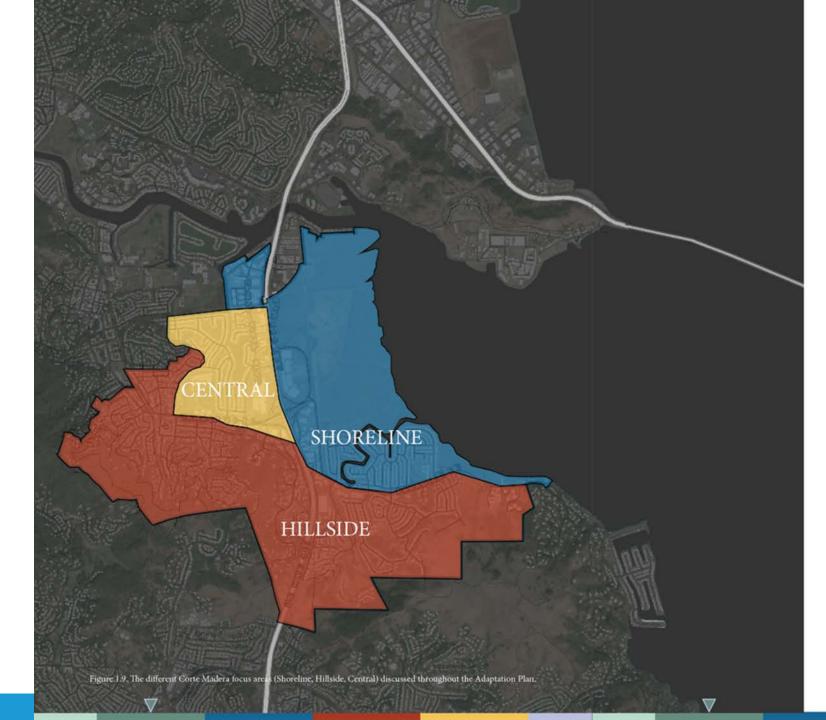
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| DROUGHT<br>Continued variability in rainfall<br>& hotter temperatures will mean<br>more drying and result in longer &<br>more intense drought events. | WILDFIRE<br>Wildfire risk is increasing in<br>intensity, duration, and severity<br>with a potential 50% increase in<br>area burned annually by the end of<br>the century. | EXTREME HEAT<br>Temperatures are rising and may<br>rise up to 7° F by the end of the<br>century with 2.5 times more<br>extreme heat days. | INLAND FLOODING<br>The largest storms are becoming<br>more intense. By 2100, current<br>20-year rainfall events may occur<br>every seven years. | SEA-LEVEL RISE<br>Sea levels are rising and will<br>continue to rise, up to 2 feet by the<br>2050s and potentially as much as<br>7 feet by the end of the century. |
|---|---|---|---|--|





#### **Strategic Planning in Corte Madera**

Adaptation and resilience planning in Corte Madera requires a long-term, cross-sectoral, and multi-layered approach. While some actions will need to be taken in specific locations, many others will need to be implemented with the whole community in mind. The subsequent sections of the report focus on specific climate exposures that are particularly relevant to the hillside, shoreline, and central Corte Madera focus areas of the town. These location-hazard pairs (hillside-wildfire, shoreline-coastal flooding, and central-inland flooding) allow for detailed consideration of the exposures and concerns specific to each area. The Town as a whole faces an interrelated mixture of climate exposures (see pages 22-35 for more information), therefore the full suite of adaptation actions in the following actions were chosen to address specific hazards more broadly, and in some cases, help the Town address multiple hazards at the same time.

Adaptation actions highlighted in each focus area are nested within key pillars of action and are described in more detail in the respective sections of the plan.

#### Town-wide Actions (pages 36-53):

Health and Wellness
Emergency Preparedness
Resilient Infrastructure
Collaboration

Shoreline Actions (pages 54-95): 1) Protect 2) Accommodate 3) Retreat

Hillside Actions (pages 96-121): 1) Evacuation 2) Wildfire Mitigation 3) Protection 4) Education

Central Corte Madera Actions (pages 122-137): 1) Collaboration 2) Protection

The full suite of high priority actions is extensive, and only some actions can be featured in each section of the report. The featured actions highlighted in each focus area demonstrate the depth and breadth of types of actions the Town can take but are not the only important (or most immediate) actions. The full suite of actions and more detailed information on each action can be found in Appendix X and are referenced throughout the plan.

### ADAPTATION PATHWAY

#### MARINER COVE & MARINA VILLAGE

This adaptation pathway diagram provides a visual depiction of the various decision points associated with adaptation planning for the neighborhoods, as well as a sense of how long various adaptation actions can be expected to provide protection. Continued coordination with stakeholders in the near term will help inform decisions regarding construction of a levee/sheet pile wall with a tide gate and nature-based infrastructure (coarse beach, ecotone levee) to protect the Mariner Cove and Marina Village neighborhoods. At the same time, stakeholders can contribute to the development of the Town's stormwater master plan and the development of a shallow groundwater monitoring program. As environmental conditions reach predetermined thresholds, (e.g. sea levels nearing "freeboard" elevation, or the safety margin included as a buffer in the design of a levee) decisions must be made about next steps. For example, replenishing material on the coarse beach fronting a levee or sheet pile wall may reduce erosion for a certain amount of time, but eventually a decision needs to be made about raising the levee or moving toward a managed retreat strategy. This decision is likely to be dependent on the feasibility of continuing to manage stormwater and groundwater conditions on the landward side of the levee.

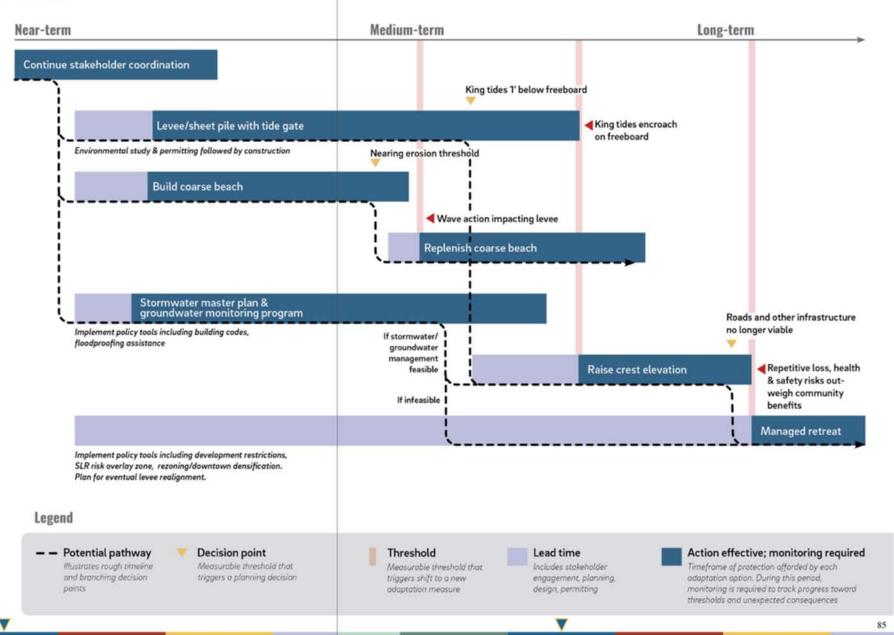


Figure 3.11. Adaptation pathway for Mariner Cove and Marina Village.

# Adaptation Actions

# town-wide

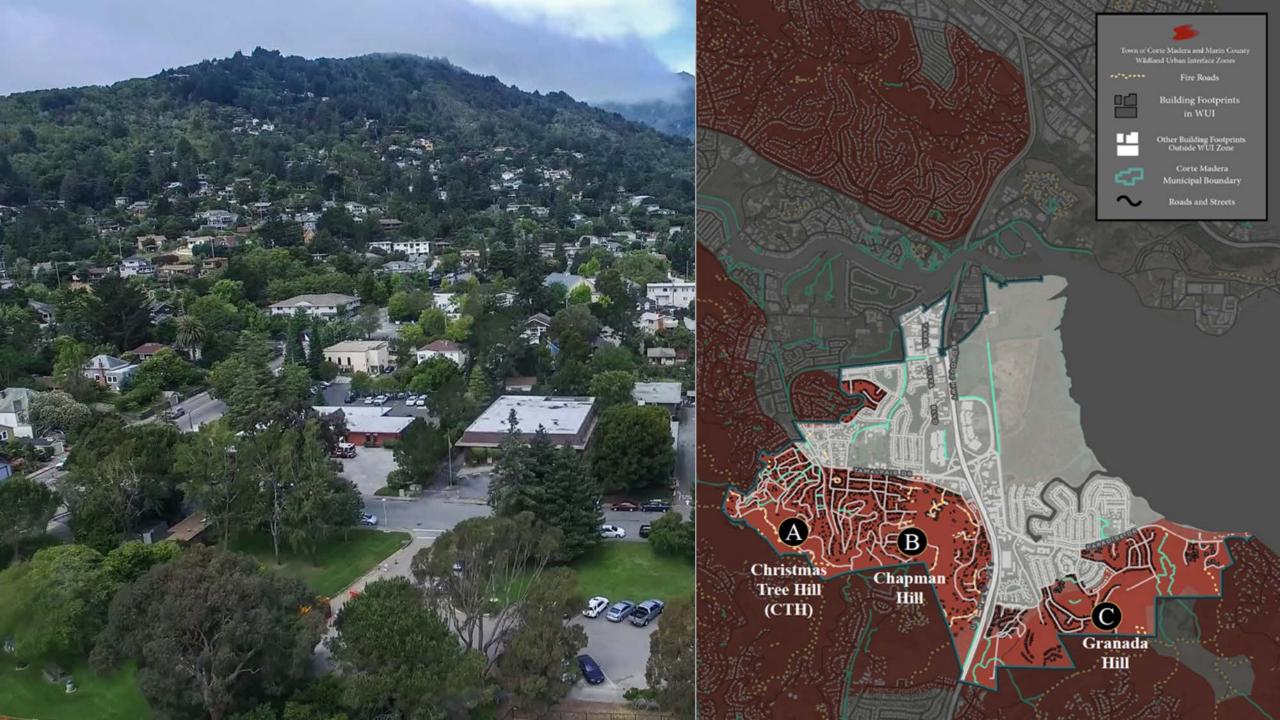
## **Town-wide Action Examples**

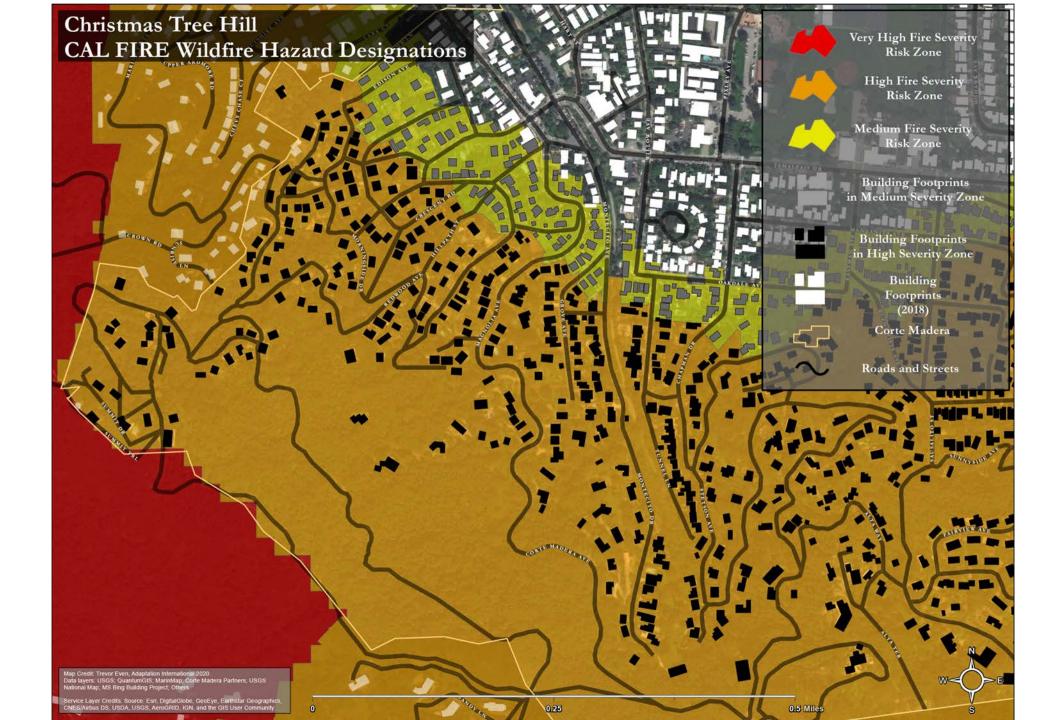
- Resilience HUBs
- Identify or hire a climate resilience coordinator.
- Require that climate change is considered in all plans, policies, and programs.
- Ensure all Town buildings have smoke and particulate filtration systems.
- Work with regional utilities to enhance the preparedness, protection, and resilience of water, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure.

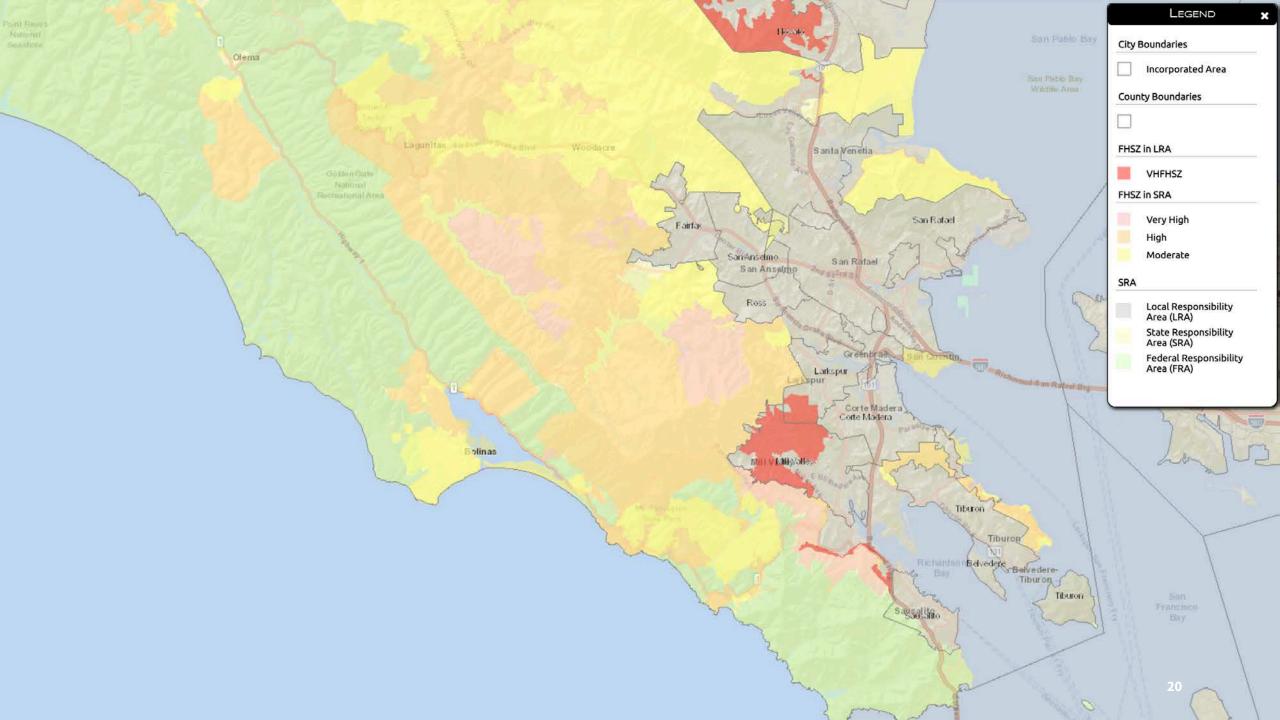
Identify opportunities to enhance the capacity of community centers and school facilities to become Resilience Hubs, evacuation centers, cooling centers, and charging stations, during extreme heat or weather events.

> Project Lead: Corte Madera Public Works









| 9<br>Total cost (in<br>billions) in<br>damages from<br>Wildfire in<br>California in     | <b>1,943,500,000</b><br>The total dollar value of all commercial<br>properties and homes located in the WUI in<br>Corte Madera. |  | <b>49</b><br>Total percentage<br>of Corte Madera<br>structures located<br>in the WUI. |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 2018 alone. (*)<br>26<br>Total number<br>of road miles<br>in hillside<br>neighborhoods. | <b>3.5</b><br>The total dollar value of damages from wildfires in California in 2018 alone (*).                                 |  | 100 h m   |  |  |
| B   | BY THE NUMBERS  |  |   |  |  |

## **Hillside Policy Action Examples**

- Support other modes of transportation
- Restrict further development in the WUI
- Build wildfire resilience stations in the WUI
- Coordinate with PG&E to underground electric power lines
- Identify opportunities to support NRGs to increase community and neighborhood cohesion

## **Proposed Infrastructure Improvements**

## **Christmas Tree Hill & Chapman Hill**

## **Granada Hill**





## **Evaluation Framework for Hillside Improvements**

| Approach/Metric   | Status Quo  | Policy Changes  | Enhanced Network  | California Lane<br>(new connection)                                       | Lower Summit Fire Road<br>(new connection)                                      |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Multimodal access   | Private Vehicle<br>Emergency Vehicle<br>Pedestrian<br>Bike/e-bike | Private Vehicle<br>Emergency Vehicle<br>Pedestrian<br>Bike/e-bike | <b>Private Vehicle<br/>Emergency Vehicle</b><br>Pedestrian<br>Bike/e-bike | <b>Private Vehicle<br/>Emergency Vehicle</b><br>Pedestrian<br>Bike/e-bike | <b>Private Vehicle</b><br><b>Emergency Vehicle</b><br>Pedestrian<br>Bike/e-bike |
| Streets permitting<br>simultaneous access &<br>egress         | Very limited  | Limited   | Very Limited - More   | Most  | Most  |
| Households with access<br>to a new primary<br>vehicular route | -   | -   | 0-49  | 69  | 16  |
| Downhill access/egress<br>points (to Town)                    | 3   | 3<br>(with better two-way<br>operation)                           | 3<br>(with better two-way<br>operation)                                   | 4   | 3   |
| Uphill access/egress<br>points (over hills)                   | -   | -   | 0-1   | 4   | 1   |
| Infrastructure cost   | -   | Low-Medium  | Low-Medium  | High  | High  |

## **Investing in Infrastructure**

## **Priority Actions**

- Improve and widen portions of Summit Drive (~\$1,000,000)
- Resurface, and improve Lower Summit Fire Road (~\$1,000,000)
- Establish an evacuation route between El Camino Drive and Madera Del Presidio Drive (~\$200,000)
- Connect Sausalito Street to Mill Valley (via Coach Fire Road) (~\$400,000)
- Improve the Town-maintained hill paths and stairs on Christmas Tree Hill (~\$300,000)
- Strategic Pullouts on Christmas Tree Hill and Chapman Hill (~\$300,000 per pullout)
- Widen Redwood Avenue where feasible on Christmas Tree Hill (~\$1,000,000)

## **Investing in Infrastructure**

Important Projects that Require Further Assessment

- Enhance California Lane to connect Redwood Avenue with Corte Madera Avenue (~\$2,000,000)
- Establish evacuation route between Grove Avenue and Corte Madera Ave. (~\$1,500,000)
- Improve Endeavor Fire Road on Granada Hill

# Questions & Discussion

# central corte madera

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## **Central Action Examples**

- Develop homeowners guide to Stormwater Management
- Complete Stormwater/Drainage Master Plan Update

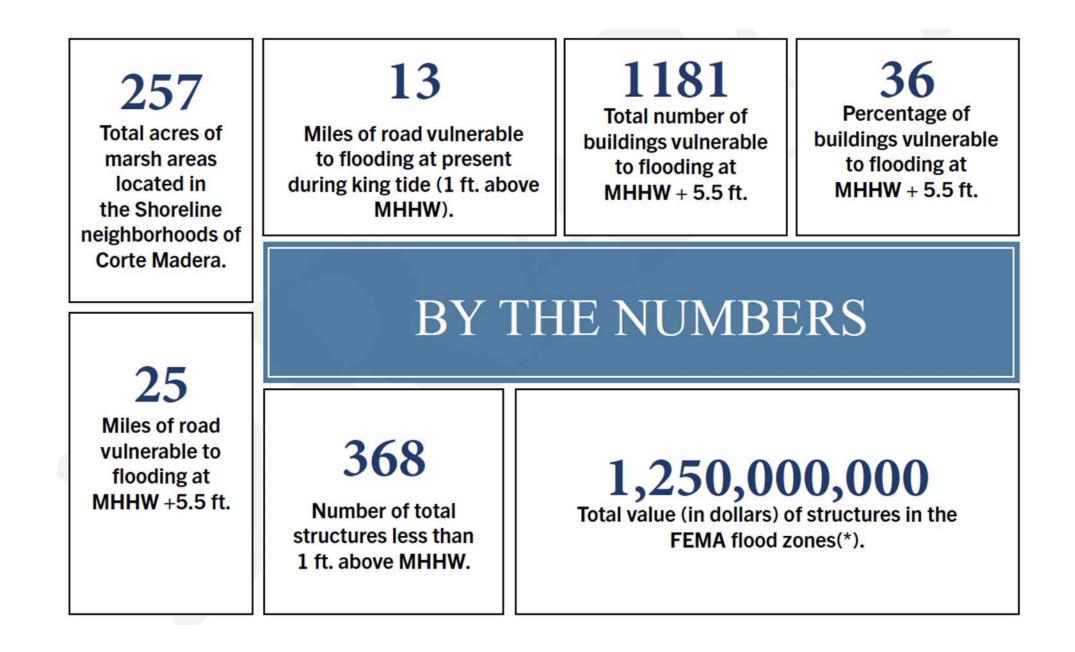


## the shoreline

**King Tide, 2015** 7.4ft NAVD88, 1.5 ft above average high tides

| Scenario           | Threshold             | SLR     | "Event"    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|------------|
| MHHW $+1$ ft.      | Episodic Flooding     | 0       | King Tide  |
| IVIIIII VV + 1 IL. | Episodic Plobuling    | 1 ft.   | Daily Tide |
| MHHW + 3 ft.       | Levee Overtopping and | 1 ft.   | 5-yr       |
| MHH w + S ll.      | Significant Flooding  | 3 ft.   | Daily Tide |
| MHHW + 5.5 ft.     | Chronic and Extensive | 2 ft.   | 100-yr     |
| MHH w + 5.5 II.    | Flooding              | 5.5 ft. | Daily Tide |







# **Nature-based measures**

- Multiple benefits
  - Habitat
  - Flood protection
  - Recreation
  - More adaptable over time
  - Can be used in combination with other approaches

#### NATURE-BASED ADAPTATION

Natural and nature-based measures are physical landscape features that are created and evolve over time through the actions of environmental processes, or features that mimic characteristics of natural features but are created by engineering and construction (in concert with natural processes) to provide coastal protection and other ecosystem services.<sup>99</sup> Nature-based adaptation measures are only appropriate in certain landscape settings. They can be used in combination with other appropriate nature-based measures, or in hybrid combinations that include both nature-based measures and conventional gray infrastructure measures. Two examples of suites of nature-based adaptation measures to provide flood protection and habitat benefits are shown in Figure 3.2. Examples of nature-based measures that are suitable in Corte Madera are tidal marshes, ecotone slopes, sub-merged aquatic vegetation, and coarse beaches, each of which are described in more detail below.

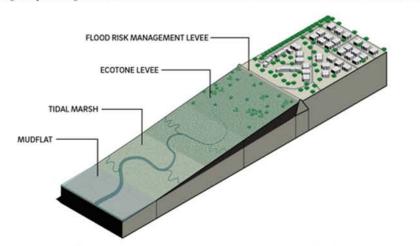


Figure 3.2. Example of multiple "gray" (traditional) and "green" (nature-based) adaptation actions working in concert to provide flood protection and habitat benefits. Illustration by Micaela Bazo, SFEI. Adapted from the SF Bay Adaptation Atlas (SFEI & SPUR 2019).

#### **Tidal Marshes**

Protecting, maintaining, and restoring tidal marshes and their associated tidal flats is critical for sustaining their flood risk management services with a changing climate.100 Specific actions include restoring tidal action to diked baylands to restore marshes, planting native species to accelerate colonization, placing sediment to raise subsided areas, and creating marsh mounds - higher areas within marshes to provide high-tide refuge.101 In existing marshes this measure might also include sediment placement to help maintain marsh elevation with sea level rise. The topography of the marsh and its associated mudflat plays a significant role in wave refraction, shoaling, and breakingWide marshes at Corte Madera are an asset in wave attenuation. Stabilizing the outer edge of the marsh by placing coarse beaches can help maintain marsh width by reducing erosion.

#### **Ecotone Slopes**

Ecotone slopes are ramps (with a length to height ratio of 10:1 or gentler) bayward of flood risk management levees and landward of a tidal marsh. They can provide wetland-upland transition zone habitat when properly vegetated with native clonal grasses, rushes, and sedges.<sup>102</sup> They can attenuate waves, provide high-tide refuge for marsh wildlife, and allow room for marshes to migrate upslope with sea level rise.<sup>103</sup> In Corte Madera, there is a unique opportunity to use on-site material (dredge spoils at the Golden Gate Bridge District parcel) to create an ecotone slope along the railroad embankment, connecting a future flood-risk management levee to the marsh.<sup>104</sup> For more information about nature-based sea level rise adaptation strategies, please refer to the <u>San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas</u>.

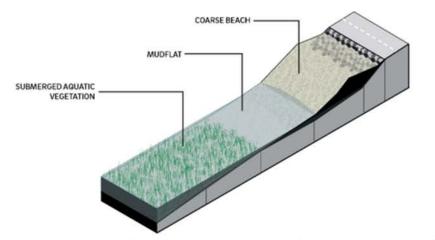


Figure 3.3 - Submerged aquatic vegetation, mudflats, and coarse beaches are natural features that can reduce the impact of wave action on the shoreline. Illustration by Micaela Bazo, SFEI. Adapted from SF Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas (SFEI & SPUR 2019).

#### **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation**

Submerged aquatic vegetation refers to all underwater flowering plants, and contributes to trapping sediment and slowing shoreline erosion.<sup>106</sup> Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) is the main species in the lower parts of the San Francisco Estuary, but other submerged vegetation species exist throughout the Bay as well. However, submerged aquatic vegetation cannot grow anywhere; alinity, light, and substrate are limiting factors for eelgrass beds, and they do best where current speeds and wave energy are not excessive. Potential exists to establish eelgrass beds at depths less than 2m in broad swaths along the shores of Corte Madera bayward of the tidal marsh.<sup>106,107</sup>

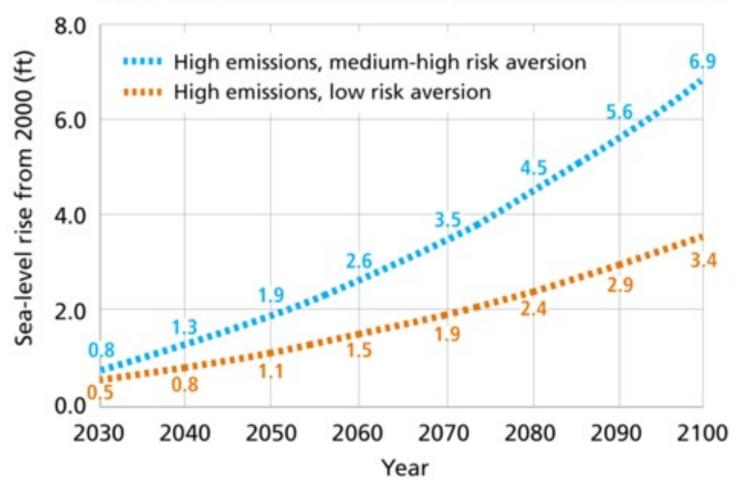
#### Beaches

Coarse or composite estuarine beaches are dynamic features that can consist of a mixture of sand, shell, gravel, or cobble. Coarse gravel and cobble beaches can dissipate wave energy over shorter distances than marshes and therefore may be more suitable within an urbanized estuary and that has limited space.<sup>108</sup> Beaches can be placed in front of levees, roads or other infrastructure vulnerable to wave overtopping, or in front of marshes vulnerable to erosion These beaches have the potential to be a multi-beneficial soft-shoreline stabilization strategy in San Francisco Bay.<sup>109</sup> In addition, groins or other retention structures (large woody debris is one option) should be considered for beaches implemented along shorelines where the dominant waves tend to transport sediment down the shoreline.



## Projected sea-level rise in San Francisco

Source: State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance: 2018 Update





| Structure Height<br>Assumptions |            |                              | With natural<br>outboard edge<br>(beach or<br>ecotone slope) | Elevations in<br>NAVD88<br>Traditional<br>levee/wall          | feet   |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| SLR                             | MHHW + SLR | MHHW + SLR<br>+ 100 yr storm | MHHW + SLR<br>+ 100 yr storm<br>+ 2' freeboard               | MHHW + SLR<br>+ 100 yr storm<br>+2' freeboard<br>+ wave runup |  |
| 0'                              | 6.1'       | 9.5'                         | 11.5'  | 13.9'   |  |
| 1.9'                            | 8.0'       | 11.4'                        | 13.4'  | 15.8'   | Unofficial "goa<br>for 2050 by<br>California State       |
| 3.5'                            | 9.6'       | 13.0'                        | 15.0'  | 17.4'   | Assembly, Sea<br>Level Rise and<br>California<br>Economy |
| 6.9'                            | 12.9'      | 16.4'                        | 18.4'  | 20.8'   | Committee  |

Sea Levels from OPC (2020). Strategic Plan to Protect California's Coast and Oceans 2020-2025. California Ocean Protection Council. <u>http://www.opc.ca.gov/2020/02/the-ocean-protection-council-approves-a-bold-plan-to-protect-californias-coast-and-oceans/</u>

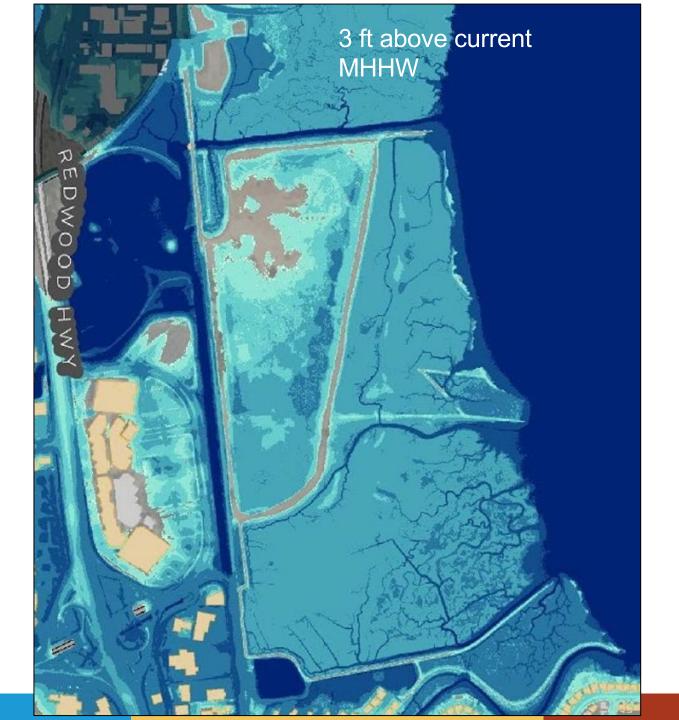
Tides and extreme water levels from AECOM (2016). San Francisco Bay Tidal Datums and Extreme Tides Study. Bay Conservation and Development Commission <a href="http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/20160429.SFBay\_Tidal-Datums\_and\_Extreme\_Tides\_Study.FINAL\_.pdf">http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/20160429.SFBay\_Tidal-Datums\_and\_Extreme\_Tides\_Study.FINAL\_.pdf</a>

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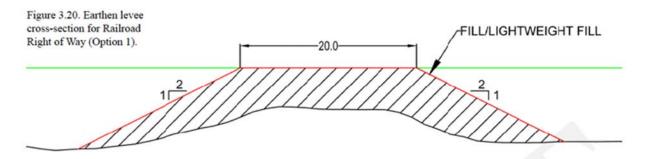
## **Shoreline Policy Action Examples**

- Coastal Resilience Overlay Zone
- Begin community conversation on long-term impacts of Sea level rise.
- Conduct comprehensive finished floor elevation inventory of buildings.
- Require additional freeboard above base flood elevation.

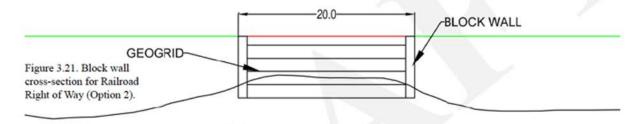
"An overlay zone is a land use planning area where additional zoning requirements 'overlay' the original requirements of the underlying zone."93



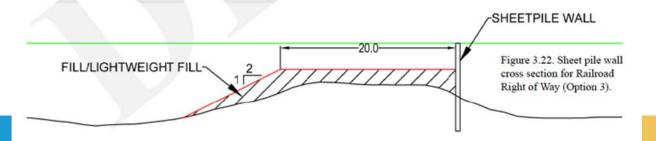
#### **Conceptual Cross-Section for Railroad Right of Way**



Option 1 is a traditional earthern levee built over the existing railroad berm. The 20 ft. width at the top at 15 ft. NAVD88 would protect the central portion of the town from a 100-year storm in the middle of the century and would provide 2 ft. of free board. It could also accommodate an enhanced bike and pedestrian path or a future rail expansion. The weight of the fill may cause differential settlement and require rasing over time. Replacing earthen fill with lightweight fill would reduce settling but be approximately three times more expensive.



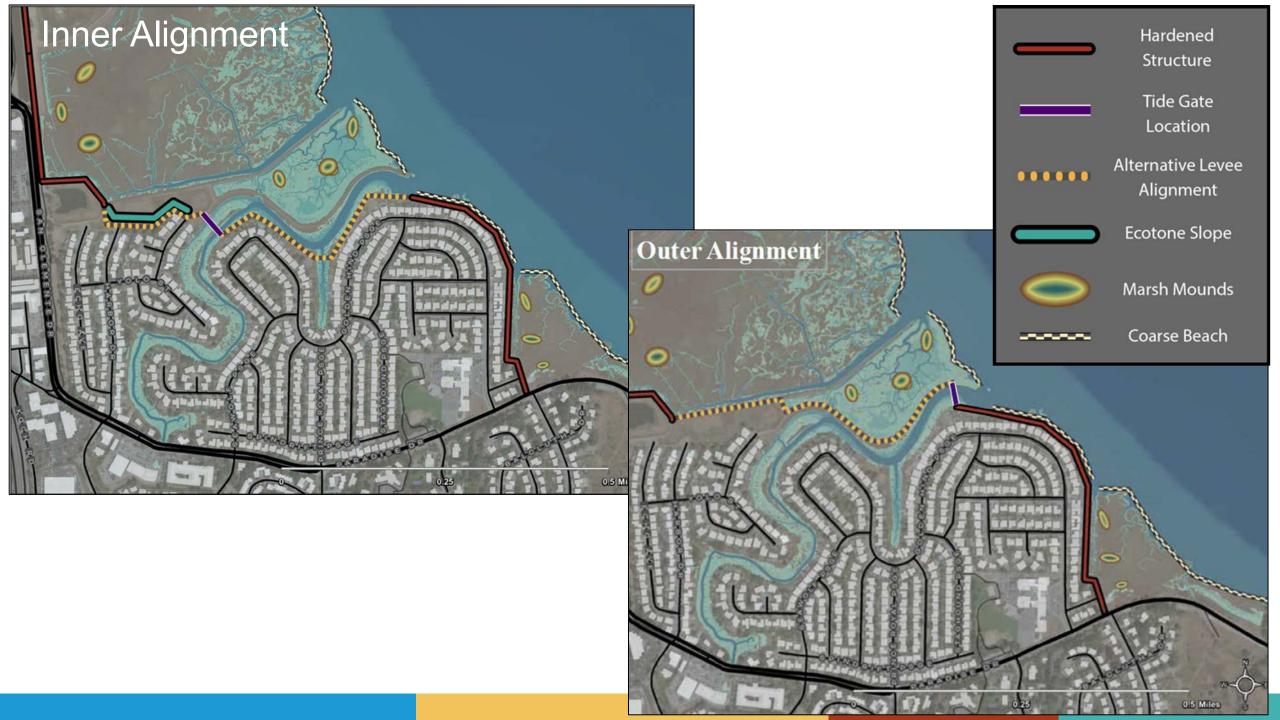
Option 2 is a block wall connected by a geogrid. This option would reduce additional weight on the marsh and reduce settlement rates. The 20 ft. width at the top could still accommodate additional bike and pedestrian facilities or a future rail expansion. The block walls could be hidden or made more visually appealing by adding natural landscaping.



#### Corte Madera Marsh & Railroad Right of Way

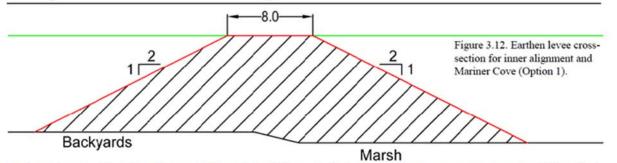
| Preliminary Construction Costs                | \$5.0 million  |
|---|----------------|
| Preliminary Engineering, Public Outreach, &   | \$1.0 million  |
| Environmental Document                        |                |
| Environmental Permitting & Mitigation         | \$1.5 million  |
| Design (15% of construction)                  | \$0.8 million  |
| Construction Management (15% of construction) | \$0.8 million  |
| Subtotal                                      | \$9.1 million  |
| Contingency (20% of total)                    | \$1.8 million  |
| Maintenance (25 years)                        | \$3.5 million  |
| Total   | \$14.4 million |



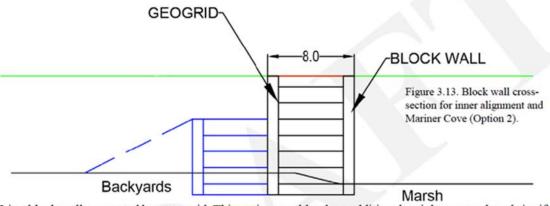




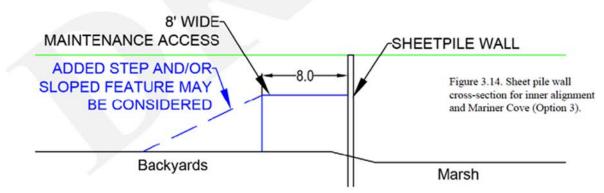
#### **Conceptual Cross-Section for Inner Alignment and Mariner Cove**



Option 1 is a traditional earthern or light weight fill levee built in or near homeowners' backyards. While this is the least expensive option, it is likely infeasible due to space limitations, the net weight of the levee, and the associated settlement in areas built over bay mud.



Option 2 is a block wall connected by a geogrid. This option would reduce additional weight on marsh and significantly reduce the width of the levee; however, this option would reduce visibility of the Bay, as it would extend eight or nine feet above the current ground level to provide adequate flood protection through the middle of the century. The block walls could be modified on the inside to provide a set-up design (see blue lines in figure 3.13), be hidden by landscaping, or allow homeowners to build steps and decks connected to the wall.



#### Marina Village & Mariner Cove

| Preliminary Construction Costs                | \$21.5 million |
|---|----------------|
| Preliminary Engineering, Public Outreach, &   | ¢1 5 million   |
| Environmental Document                        | \$1.5 million  |
| Environmental Permitting & Mitigation         | \$4.0 million  |
| Design (15% of construction)                  | \$3.2 million  |
| Construction Management (15% of construction) | \$3.2 million  |
| Subtotal                                      | \$33.4 million |
| Contingency (20% of total)                    | \$6.6 million  |
| Maintenance (25 years)                        | \$4.0 million  |
| Total   | \$44 million   |

## **Investing in Infrastructure**

### **Priority Actions**

- Continue to collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and environmental agency stakeholders to refine and build partnerships around our adaptation project concepts.
- Marina Village/Mariner Cove Flood Barrier
  - Prepare Cost-to-Benefit ratio (<\$25k)
  - Initiate preliminary engineering, public outreach and environmental compliance (\$1.0M)
- Lucky Drive
  - Apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant in coordination with the County of Marin (<\$15k)
- Paradise Drive
  - Supplement existing Safe Routes design funding to include adaptation to sea level rise for the Paradise Drive Improvements between Westward Dr. and Robin Dr. (\$150k)
- Document the current King Tides by drone imagery to be used as public education, support for grant applications and the overall planning and design efforts (<\$5k)
- Establish ground water monitoring wells as part of geotechnical borings on other projects, where applicable (<\$20k)

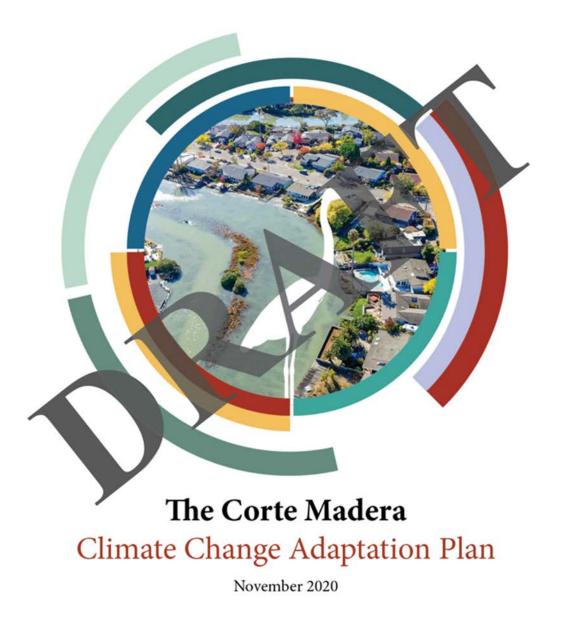


# Comment Period

### **Providing Feedback...**

Download the Report Project Website: <u>www.cortemaderaadapts.org</u> www.cortemaderaadapts.org/draft-plan

Public Comments through January 8, 2021 CalTrans Grant Ends February 28, 2021



### **Some Initial Community Comments**

Well done! The "education" component is especially important, so people understand and therefore feel the necessity of supporting the adaptations.

The issue of protecting the wetlands between San Clemente Creek and Corte Madera Creek is a bay area issue and we should look for grants and funds from some of our recent bond measures to move this forward... Undergrounding PGE lines should be front and center discussion...

The notion that undergrounding of utilities is about private views or aesthetics is outdated and dangerous thinking. Undergrounding is about <u>fire</u>, and there is plenty of evidence in Sonoma and Napa to prove that point.

> Navigational rights for homeowners on San Clemente Creek.

> > adaptation

It is great that there are plans to bring people down from the hillside more safely with roads and stairways. However, on the west side, once people get to Tamalpais Avenue it is quite likely that they will be unable to get any further...



### Resilience Requires –

- Robust and Redundant Systems
- Holistic and Inclusive Planning
- Monitoring and Flexibility
- Persistence and Dedication

This Plan is an essential next step in the journey of building resilience and provides a roadmap for the Community's efforts.

## **Question & Discussion**





# THANK YOU!

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