



Why Now?

The flooding, erosion and sea level rise challenges facing San Mateo County are multi-jurisdictional and will require significant funding and staffing resources to address resiliency. Most agencies aren't equipped to tackle these issues on their own and a coordinated, integrated response is necessary to:

- Plan, implement, and maintain flood, coastal erosion, and shoreline protection projects
- Reduce future costs
- Better position the County for State and Federal funding

A number of flood protection, regional stormwater management, and SLR adaptation projects have already been identified. A dedicated entity can focus expeditiously on funding and implementing priority projects.

A Proposed New Agency for San Mateo Countywide Flood and Shoreline Protection

Flooding and coastal erosion pose both an immediate and long-term risk to San Mateo County and its residents. It is estimated that by 2100, over 40% of the County lands could be adversely affected by flooding and erosion processes related to sea level rise (SLR) and climate change. To address these issues, San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) are initiating a countywide multi-jurisdictional collaboration among local governments and other public agencies to organize a coordinated response to these challenges.



Background of Process

C/CAG's Countywide Water Coordination Committee, a committee consisting of eight elected officials from throughout the county, formed an Advisory Team to develop an organizational proposal to address flooding, coastal erosion, and sea level rise. In addition, the County hired a consultant to assist with developing the proposal and gathering information from the 20 cities on their needs and priorities, which subsequently will be presented through a comprehensive outreach process in 2019. The proposal will include:

- Mission statements
- Preferred options for organizational and governance structure
- Primary functions
- Guiding principles and objectives
- Approach for integration with current efforts
- Preliminary budget and potential funding sources

What Would be its Authority?

The new entity's authority would be developed to support the interests and needs of the 20 cities and towns and the County, with the primary focus of providing an integrated response to flooding, coastal erosion, and shoreline protection. Other water management activities such as local stormwater management and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) are not anticipated to be part of the proposed entity's purview at this time.



What Would be its Structure and Funding?

Various governance options will be considered as part of the proposal development, such as a Joint Powers Authority, a Memorandum of Agreement between agencies, a new or modified special district, or a new department or branch within an existing agency. Each of these options offers different challenges and opportunities, and the pros and cons of each will be detailed in the proposal. The funding required to create and operate the entity also needs to be identified. Developing a funding strategy will be part of the initial informational gathering process.

Financial Benefit of Acting Early as a Coordinated County-wide Entity:

“Each \$1 spent on mitigation saves an average of \$6 in future disaster costs”

Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report,
<http://www.nibs.org/page/mitigationsaves>

How Can My Agency Participate?

During the information gathering stage, agencies will be invited to participate in a series of focused meetings designed to provide input into the proposal. Such meetings will include:

- Cities with similar interests and geography
- C/CAG members
- Council of Cities
- City Managers Association
- City/County Engineers Association

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