Planning at the Bay Scale: Implementing the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

California Shore & Beach Preservation Association
2026 Symposium
May 12, 2026

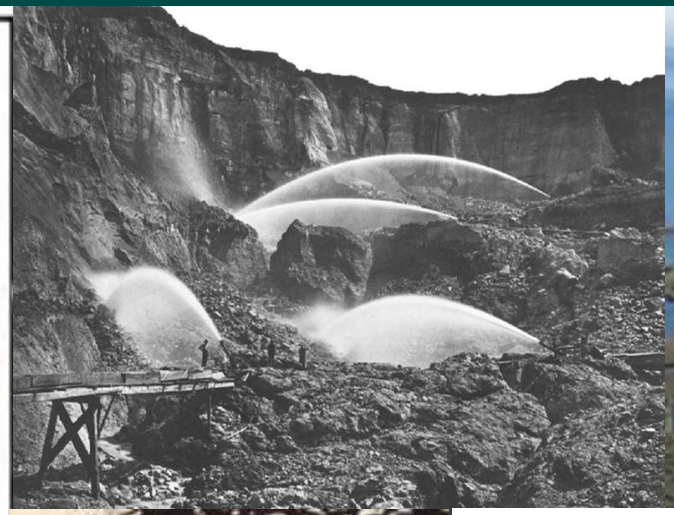
Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan
An implementation project of BAY ADAPT

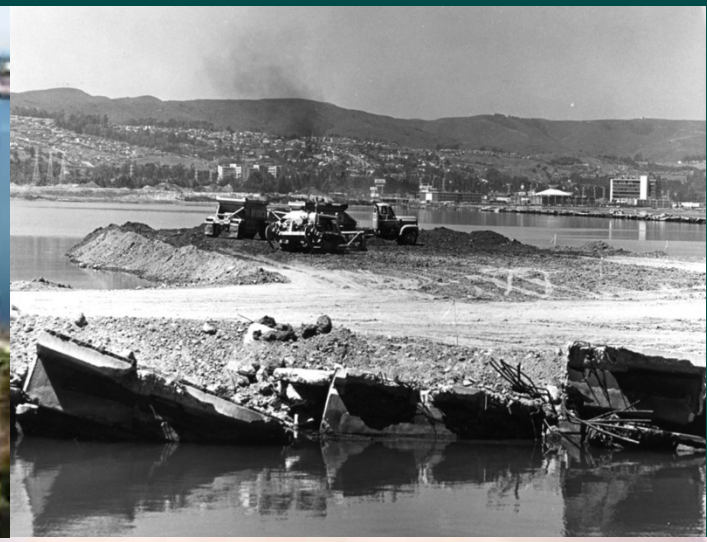
bcdc

San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC)

Protect and enhance the San Francisco Bay and encourage the Bay's responsible and productive use for this and future generations.

An evolving Bay shoreline





Previously the Bay was threatened by fill.

Now the Bay and its communities are facing a new threat –

sea level rise

Photo from the California King Tides Project, 2024

Today's king tides are harbingers of permanent flooding to come

Hwy 101 and Hwy 1 Intersection, Mill Valley
Photo courtesy California King Tides Project

Canal District, San Rafael
Photo courtesy Multicultural Center of Marin

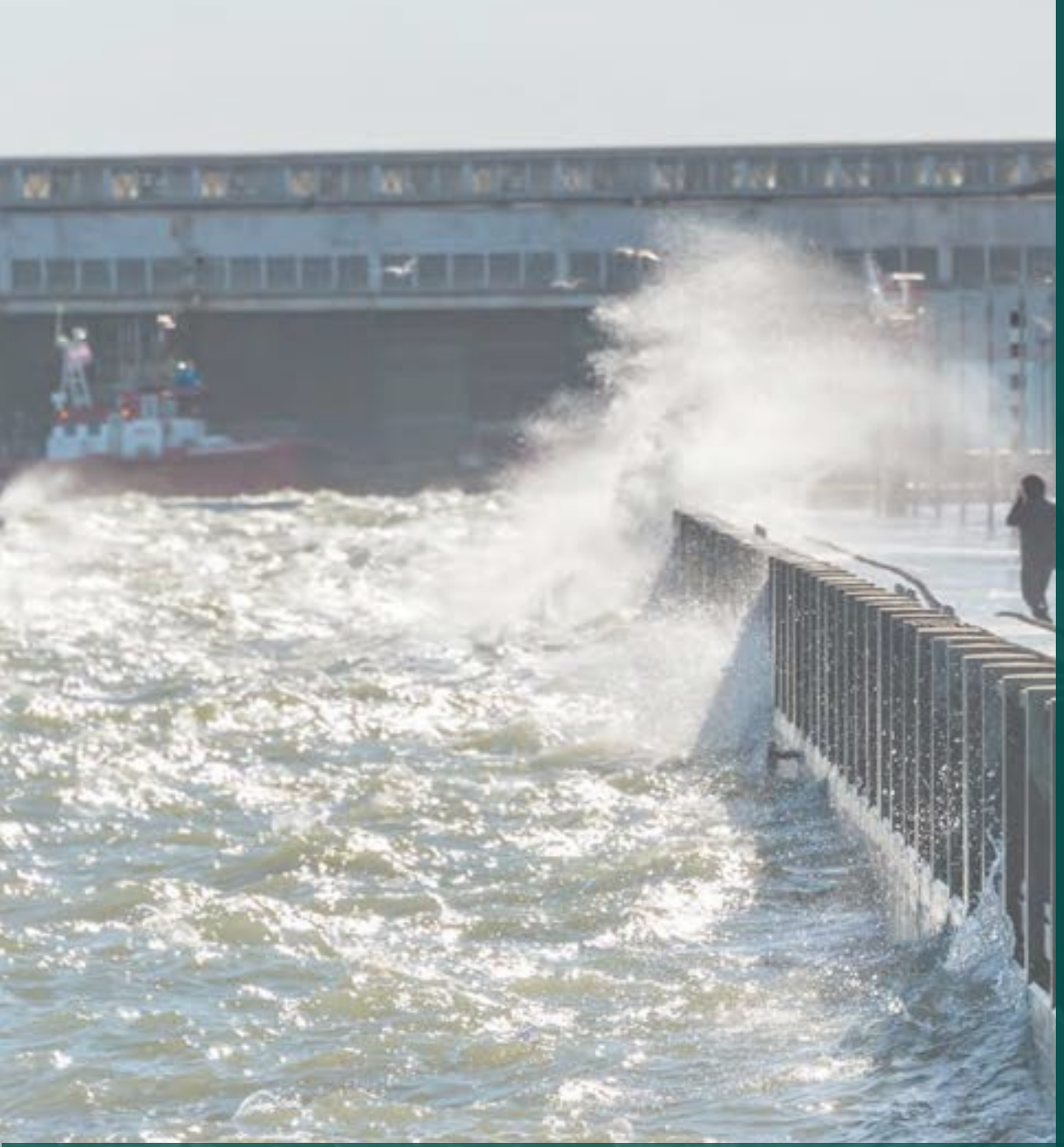


Photo from the California Tides project, 2020

What's at risk?

1/3 of California's coastline BUT
2/3 of the state's economic damages from sea level rise

- **20,000** acres of wetlands habitat
- **5 million** daily vehicle trips
- **60,000** daily rail commuters
- **83,000** existing housing units and new units
- **191,000** existing jobs and new jobs
- **28,000** socially vulnerable residents

ART Bay Area, 2020. Risks at 4' SLR.
Funding and Investment Framework, 2023.

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Rising water **affects us all**

The cost of inaction is far higher than the cost of adaptation and vulnerable communities often face the greatest risks and impacts.

Adaptation needs:

$110 billion

VS

Cost of inaction:

$230 billion

MTC/ABAG, Plan Bay Area 2050+ (Draft 2024)

Photo courtesy California King Tides Project.

Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan
BAY ADAPT

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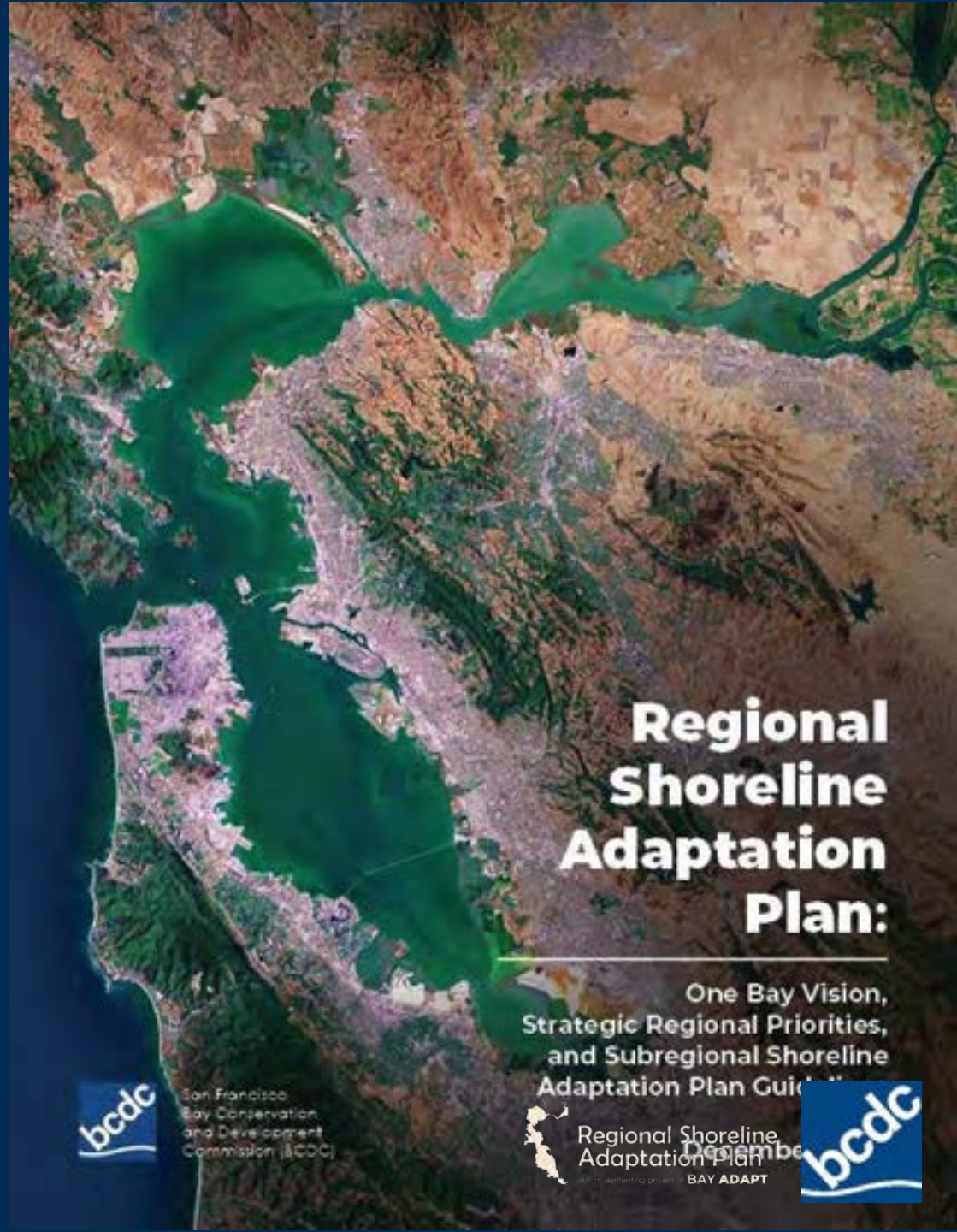
The RSAP and Subregional Plans

- **2023**: SB 272 enacted
- **2024**: BCDC adopts the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan
- **Who**: 51 Bay Area jurisdictions
- **When**: Until January 1, 2034
- Projects in approved subregional plans are prioritized for state funding.



Why do we need a regional approach to adaptation planning?

- **Coordinated** adaptation
- Priority resources to **frontline communities**
- Long-term **health of wetlands**
- **Strategic** implementation
- Common **standards and methods**
- Advance priority **projects** and **funding**
- Track and **measure progress**

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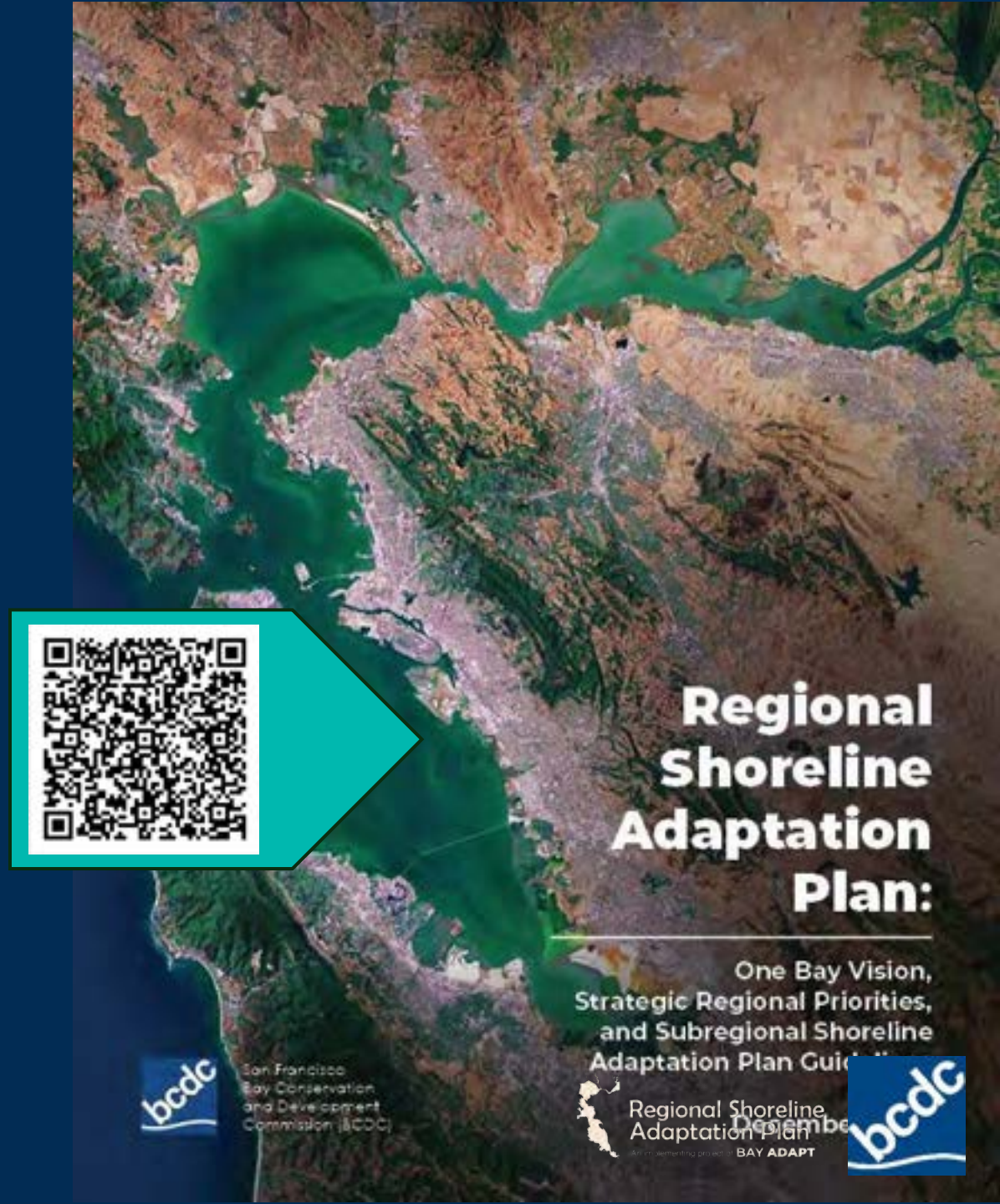
Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

BAY ADAPT

The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

A regional plan to address sea level rise and guides the creation of plans.

- **One Bay Vision**
- **Strategic Regional Priorities**
- **Plan Guidelines**



Subregional plan guidelines

Plan Elements

- A Planning Process
- B Existing Conditions
- C Vulnerability Assessment
- D Adaptation Strategies and Pathways
- E Land Use and Policy Plan
- F Project Implementation and Funding
- G Project List

Minimum Standards

Coastal Flood Hazards and Sea Level Rise Scenarios Standards

Minimum Categories and Assets Standards

Equity Assessment Standards

Adaptation Strategy Standards

Many voices have shaped the RSAP

Bottom three photos by Karl Nielson.

- **6** Advisory Group meetings
- **40+** Subcommittee meetings
- **6** Local Electeds Regional Task Force
- **3** Bay Adapt ICG
- **6** BCDC Commission meetings
- **6** Rising Sea Level Commissioner Working Group meetings
- **2** Design Review Board
- **2** Engineering Criteria Review Board
- **10** Community events
- **1** Online survey
- **1** Public workshop
- **4** Focus Groups
- **5** Local workshops
- **1** Practitioner workshop
- **4** Conferences
- **9**-County local elected road show
- **4+** Interagency Meetings
- **1** Tribal consultation

Who has officially initiated a plan?

7 Plans publicly initiated/noticed!

- City of Alameda
- City of San Mateo
- Solano County (+Benicia, Fairfield*, Suisun City, Vallejo)
- City and County of San Francisco
- City of Richmond
- Mill Valley
- Contra Costa County

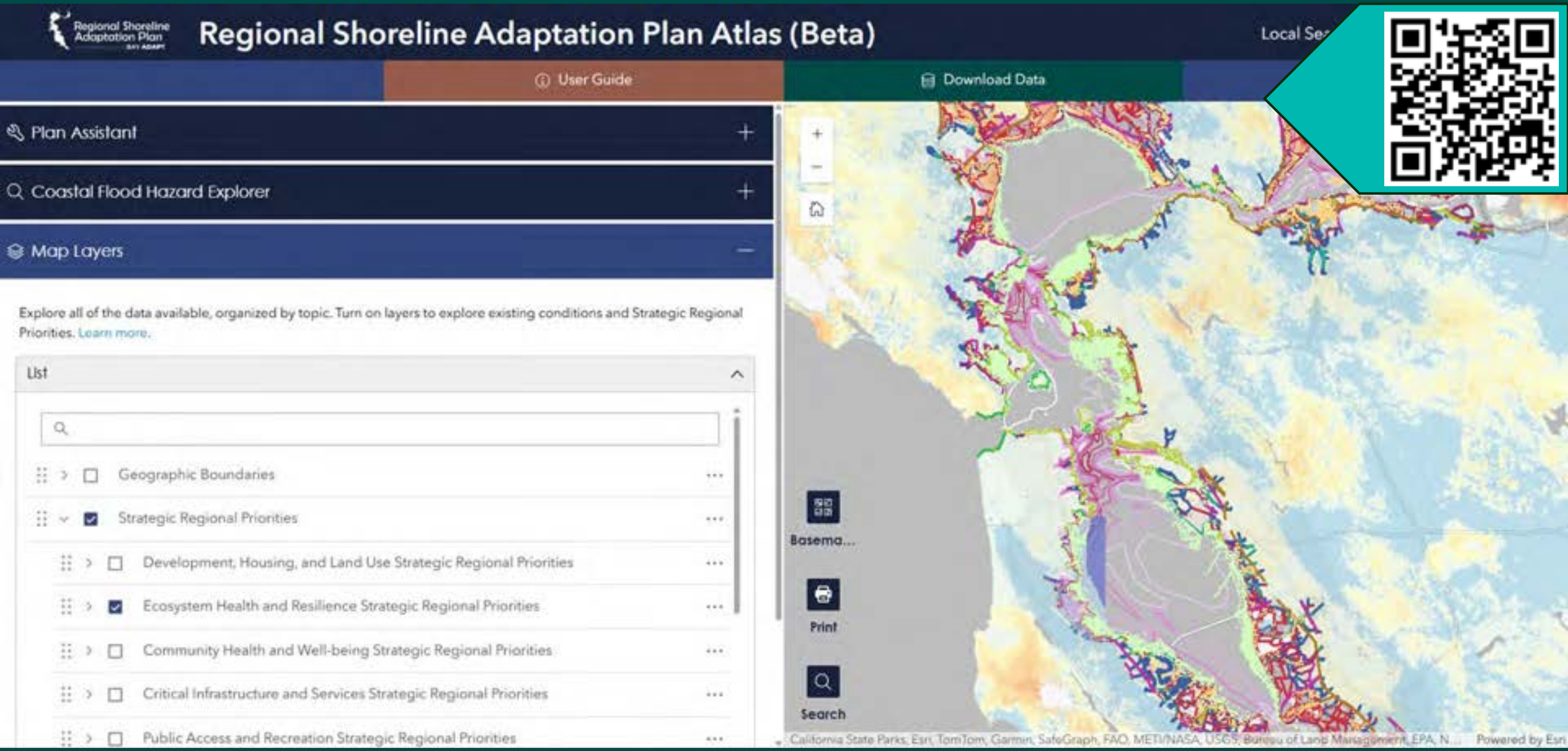
~20% Of required jurisdictions have formally initiated

What other progress are we seeing?

~$21m In SB1 grants awarded to date, covering > 72% of jurisdictions

60% Of SB1 grants are multi-jurisdictional

>95% **Jurisdictions have formally or informally begun planning**


Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan
Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Atlas (Beta)
Local Se
User Guide
Download Data
Plan Assistant
Coastal Flood Hazard Explorer
Map Layers
Explore all of the data available, organized by topic. Turn on layers to explore existing conditions and Strategic Regional Priorities. Learn more.
List
Geographic Boundaries
Strategic Regional Priorities
Development, Housing, and Land Use Strategic Regional Priorities
Ecosystem Health and Resilience Strategic Regional Priorities
Community Health and Well-being Strategic Regional Priorities
Critical Infrastructure and Services Strategic Regional Priorities
Public Access and Recreation Strategic Regional Priorities
Basema...
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California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, N...
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Adapting together

Photo by Karl Nielson.

Our future will be shaped by how more than **50** cities and counties along the Bay align around **shared values**, **plans**, and **actions** to address sea level rise.

Stay connected!

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Check out our website

Check out Bay Adapt Currents

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