

Marin County
**Sea Level Rise Adaptation
Organizational Structure and Decision-making
Process**

Bolinas Community Public Utility District Board of Directors Meeting

October 16, 2024

Project Purpose

The project aims to answer:

How can Marin County best work with its communities, cities, towns and state and federal partners to advance solutions to sea level rise?



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, photographer not specified or unknown, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Why do we need a countywide approach to sea level rise adaptation?

1 Much of Marin County's 110-mile shoreline is in low-lying areas that are susceptible to the threats of SLR

2 SLR adaptation requires a collaborative response between stakeholders

3 Everyone will be impacted by sea level rise - it will impact critical assets like roads, wastewater and water infrastructure, schools, property owners, and equity priority communities

Sea level rise adaptation requires:



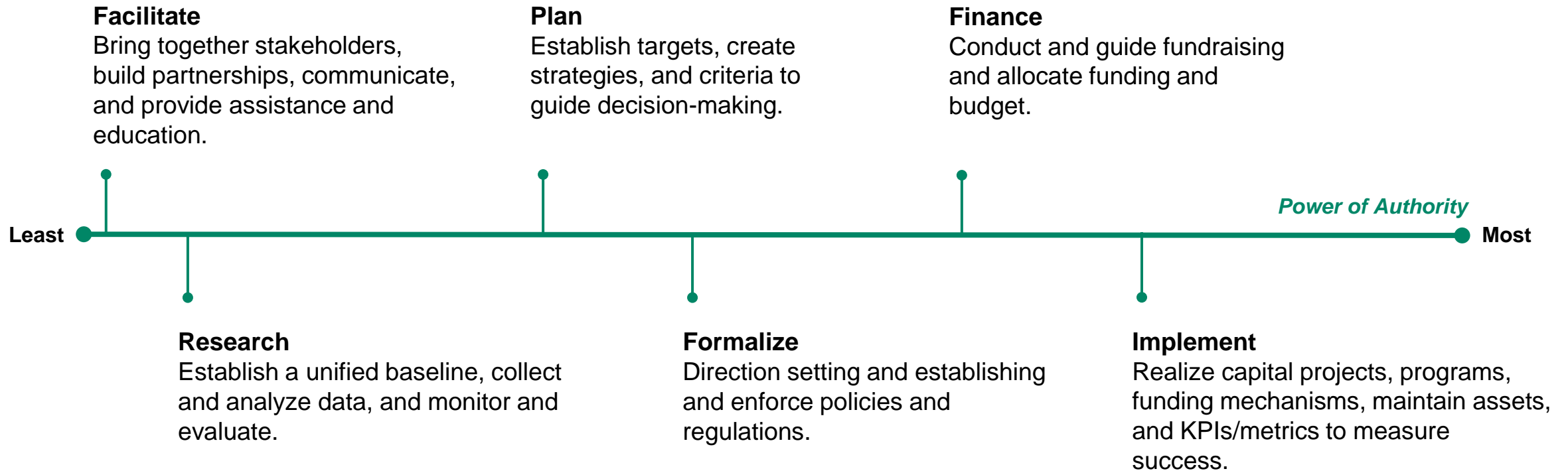
Defining Governance Structure

Defining Governance Structure

What is a Governance Structure

A way to organize Marin County stakeholders to collaboratively adapt to sea level rise. The ultimate governance structure may include the authority to manage staff and money and have decision-making powers.

Roles and Responsibilities



Governance Structure Case Studies

Defining Governance Structure

Marin County Wildfire Prevention Authority

Purpose

Envisions communities that are well-informed, prepared, and resilient in the face of wildfires. It aims to ensure that communities are capable of withstanding major fires, minimizing loss of life and property damage, while also preserving the area's environmental diversity.

Joint Powers Authority

Relevance

The JPA brings together 17 member agencies of Marin County to collaboratively enhance wildfire prevention and preparedness measures.

OneShoreline

Purpose

An independent government agency working throughout San Mateo County to improve resilience to the climate change-related impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and coastal erosion. With start-up funding from the County and 20 incorporated cities OneShoreline provides a unified vision to plan for the future and is securing funding for and will implement projects.

Special District

Relevance

OneShoreline partners with the County of San Mateo and the twenty cities and towns within the County, all of which are contributing start-up funding to the District to address impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and coastal erosion.

Marin Climate and Energy Partnership

Purpose

Founded in 2007, the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership is a partnership of the eleven Marin cities and towns, the County of Marin, and public agencies that serve Marin. The mission of the Partnership is to work collaboratively across the county, share resources, and secure funding.

Partnership

Relevance

GHG inventories, climate action plans, model ordinance development, outreach and education programs.

Project Approach & Objectives

Project Approach & Objectives

1

Conduct Research and Stakeholder Engagement *(Spring 2024 to Early 2025)*

- Understand community and agency priorities, challenges, and needs as they relate to sea level rise planning and project implementation, and existing efforts already underway.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities that County and its partners want a new governance structure to fulfill.

2

Identify Governance Structure Alternatives *(Early 2025 to Summer 2025)*

- Prioritize and refine alternatives in collaboration with community stakeholders.
- Establish how a new structure could relate to and build on existing county-wide and regional SLR efforts.

3

Recommend Alternative Governance Structure and Decision-making Process *(Summer 2025)*

- Recommend for County Board of Supervisor approval an effective alternative governance structure for countywide sea level rise adaptation based on local goals and existing efforts.

Project Approach

Steering Committee

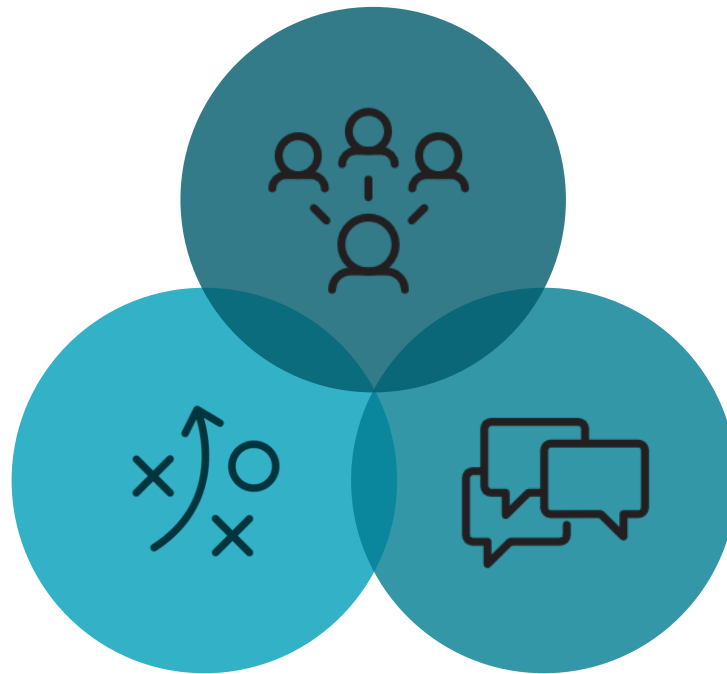
A process and political oversight body comprised of elected officials from across the county

Technical Advisory Committee

A subject matter body comprised of agency and organization staff with experience in SLR planning, delivery, operations, and funding

Extensive Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is foundational to this process and will inform all components of the process and recommendations.



County-led Project Team

1 Conduct Research and Stakeholder Engagement

to understand community and agency priorities, challenges, and needs as they relate to sea level rise planning and project implementation.

(Spring 2024 to Early 2025)

Process



Conduct Introductory Outreach



Conduct Case Study Research & Landscape Assessment



Draft Engagement Strategy & Committee Proposal



Launch Committees & Confirm Engagement Strategy



Conduct initial stakeholder engagement

Research will inform engagement

We are here!

Learning Objectives:

- Priorities and challenges to SLR planning, funding, & implementation
- Priorities and challenges related to multi-jurisdictional collaboration

Steering Committee

The formation of committees is recommended to ensure the process aligns with the project objectives and to:

1 Engage and bring together those leading SLR policy, project design and implementation

2 Build trust, gather valuable community insights, and guide broader community engagement

3 Build support for project outcomes and share insight on political landscape and constituent need

Each Committee member is expected to support the project by:

- Working with other members of the Committee to help support the project and assess political environment;
- Communicating progress to their own Councils/Board and constituents; and
- Bringing information, ideas, and concerns from their constituents into the collaborative process.

Steering Committee Purpose

Committee Structure

Purpose

- Informs the overall project process, representing the perspectives and interests of their constituents and agencies.
- Ensures that the project is conducted so that the recommendation is widely accepted.

Roles

- Define success and equity goals
- Guide communication and stakeholder engagement plans
- Review and approve the final recommendation
- Provide guidance on coordination with public agencies on final recommendations

Steering Committee Members & Expectations

Committee Structure

Members

- Elected officials from throughout the County, including electeds representing unincorporated areas
- Ideally, elected officials will also have representation ties to BayWAVE Committee, BCDC, MCCMC SLR Committee, utility districts, SMART, and/or LAFCo

Expectations

- Participate in regular (virtual) meetings (approx. 3 month interval)
 - **First meeting is targeted for mid-November and will be in-person** (with a hybrid option, if needed)
- Coordinate with others in their agency and their constituents, including reporting out and representing their perspectives on the Committee
- Provide input on strategies and recommendations

Questions?