June 20, 2017

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Marin Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Final Report and Program Summary

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the final Marin Bay Shoreline Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

SUMMARY: On April 11, 2017, your Board received the draft Marin Bay Shoreline Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment through the Marin Bay Waterfront Assessment Vulnerability Evaluation project, or BayWAVE. This assessment sets the foundation for understanding the vulnerability of our bayside communities and assets to a range of sea level rise scenarios. The public outreach for BayWAVE began following the Board meeting. Aided by a front-page story in the Marin IJ and several interviews on Bay Area evening news broadcasts, the three public meetings were well attended. Over 300 people attended meetings in San Rafael, Mill Valley, and Novato to hear the results of the report, ask questions of staff, and play the Game of Floods. Supported by staff from Community Development Agency (CDA) and Department of Public Works (DPW), the game gave participants an opportunity to find flood solutions from the perspective of planners who have to plan for entire communities (e.g., homes and businesses, utilities, transportation, and natural habitat), and to maintain important aspects of each island neighborhood. The public comment period ended on May 30, 2017, with eight comments received. The comments include edits to minor typos and grammatical errors, corrections to place names and descriptions, and text clarifications to make the document more accurate. These edits have been made in the final version of the report, available on www.MarinSLR.org.

Marin County is a leader in planning and coordination for sea level rise in the Bay Area. The first phase of BayWAVE will be complete with the acceptance of the report. Our staff worked with local, regional, and national experts to share our processes and learn from theirs. We worked with every city and town, local agencies, special districts, and private landowners to develop the report and more importantly, build relationships to better understand and prepare for our risks with rising tides. The relationships are significant because the impacts extend beyond the flooded shoreline edge to include transportation, emergency services, and utilities, as well as the neighborhoods, commercial areas, and other...
wetlands, beaches, and parks. We have a comprehensive roadmap of the challenges ahead to start our planning for a resilient future.

The next phase of BayWAVE will include a multi-departmental approach with CDA, DPW, Marin County Parks, and Health and Human Services to reach a wider public audience. We will support implementation of projects such as guidance for general plan updates and capital improvement projects, demonstration projects built to test innovative approaches to flood impacts, continued coordination between jurisdictions and agencies, and education to support the use of the vulnerability assessment. Public engagement will be continued around the assessment with targeted outreach to high school students and disadvantaged communities. The County will lead to strengthen our coordinated approach through shared principles and prioritization tools to assess benefits and consequences of implementation actions.

FISCAL IMPACT: There are no impacts by this action.

REVIEWED BY: [ ] Department of Finance [X] N/A
[ ] County Counsel [X] N/A
[ ] Human Resources [X] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

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