

South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Preliminary Study

Economic Impact Areas 1-10

The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study will safeguard hundreds of homes, schools and business along Santa Clara County's shoreline from the risk of tidal flooding. The study will also restore and enhance tidal marsh and related habitat that was lost due to former salt production activities and provide opportunities for continued recreational and public access along the bay shoreline.

The Shoreline Study encompasses 18 miles of coast in Santa Clara County, which is divided into 11 sections, called Economic Impact Areas. The Shoreline Study is being conducted in phases, beginning with Economic Impact Area 11 because of its high risk of tidal flooding and important regional infrastructure, such as the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility and the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is leading the **preliminary** planning efforts for the Economic Impact Areas 1-10, which runs between San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto to Guadalupe River in San Jose. The **preliminary** planning efforts will study future sea level scenarios and elevations for a 1% coastal flood, identify a **preliminary** coastal levee alignment through early discussion with key stakeholders to determine the next phase(s) of the project.

Overall project highlights

Features

- Multi-purpose project to restore a vibrant, safe South Bay
- Considers safeguarding against future sea level rise
- Partners with state, local and federal governments

Benefits

- Provides integrated flood protection for Silicon Valley's residents, businesses and infrastructure
- Provides adaptability to sea level change
- Restores tidal marsh habitat for endangered species and migratory birds
- Provides opportunities for recreation, public trails and connectivity to regional trail system





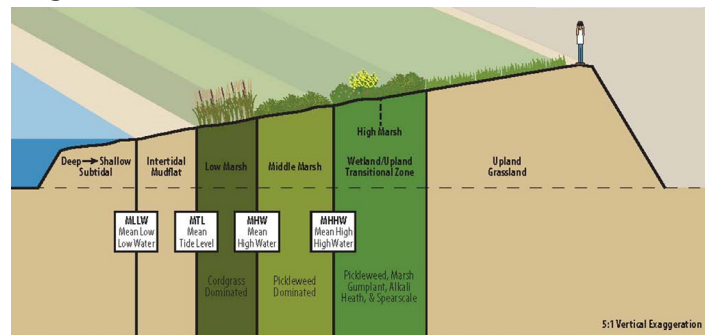
Coastal levee

The **preliminary** coastal levee alignment is approximately 14.4 miles (light blue line on Figure A). The **preliminary** alignment may change during planning to incorporate further public feedback and technical considerations. Currently, the **preliminary** alignment incorporates feedback from the local agencies in the area, including City of Palo Alto, City of Mountain View, City of Sunnyvale, City of San Jose, NASA Moffett Field, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California State Coastal Conservancy and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Habitat restoration

Over time, the San Francisco Bay has lost 90 percent of coastal wetlands and tidal marsh due to conversion of bay land to salt production, agriculture and development. The new coastal levee creates the opportunity to connect the old salt ponds with bay waters to create vital ecosystems for a variety of threatened and endangered species, such as Ridgway's rails, black rails and the salt marsh harvest mouse, as well as providing habitat for a unique suite of wetland plant species. Adding a sufficient habitat buffer area (see Figure B) will benefit the recovery of listed species by serving as refuge area during high tide events and providing additional levee protection by lessening the impact of wave damage during large storms.

Figure B



Recreation and public access

The Shoreline Study encompasses recreational opportunities that are compatible with the coastal levees and ecosystem restoration. American with Disabilities Act compliant trails will be built on top of the new proposed coastal levee along with viewing platforms and benches. Figure A presents the **preliminary** coastal levee alignment (light blue line) and the existing trails (dark blue line). The new coastal levee might contribute additional 2.4 miles of trail to the connect pieces of the existing Bay Trail system.

For more information, visit southbayshoreline.org
 Para obtener información en español, por favor comuníquese con José Villarreal al (408) 630-2879.

CONTACT US

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