



**Staff Recommendation**

March 23, 2026

Item 5a

**Action Item:**

**Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds for Track 1 of the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program**

Megan Williams, Coastal Resilience Program Manager

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to disburse up to \$1,890,724 to various grantees who submitted successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) for sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning projects, as listed below, and authorization to fund previously approved SB 1 Grant Program projects with either Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund or Proposition 4 funds, as appropriated by the Legislature.

- 5a.1 Up to \$320,911 to the City of Crescent City for the “Crescent City Coastal Resiliency Plan”
- 5a.2 Up to \$664,000 to the City and County of San Francisco for the “San Francisco Outer Coast Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan”
- 5a.3 Up to \$383,070 to the City of American Canyon for the “American Canyon Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan”
- 5a.4 Up to \$522,743 to the County of Napa for the “Napa County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan”

**Location:** Statewide

**Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives:** Goal 1: Build Resilience to Climate Change; Objective 1.1: Protect communities and ecosystems from the impacts of sea level rise, coastal storms, erosion, and flooding

## Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The SB 1 Grant Program meets many of the strategies and actions outlined in Goal 1 of OPC’s [Equity Plan](#), which is to establish and implement more equitable and sustainable community engagement and funding methods to expand and enhance opportunities for ocean and coastal projects, policies, and research. According to the [SLR Adaptation Criteria](#), each project, regardless of phase, must include outreach, education, and community engagement, especially to environmental justice (EJ) communities and tribes, as part of the project’s scope. Equity and EJ benefits include community engagement to inform locally driven adaptation priorities, improved coastal habitats, and safer coastal access.

## Findings and Resolution:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), OPC hereby finds that:

1. The proposed projects are consistent with the purposes of Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, the California Ocean Protection Act;
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the Budget Act of 2022, which included a \$37.5 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation for implementation of the California Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation Act of 2021 (Chapter 236 of the Statutes of 2021; SB 1), and with Proposition 4, Public Resources Code Section 92000, which provides \$75 million to implement SB 1; and
3. The proposed projects are not ‘legal projects’ that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations section 15378.”

Staff further recommends that OPC adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“OPC hereby approves the authorization to disburse up to \$1,890,724 to various grantees who submitted successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program for sea level rise adaptation planning projects, as follows:

- Up to \$320,911 to the City of Crescent City
- Up to \$664,000 to the City and County of San Francisco
- Up to \$383,070 to the City of American Canyon
- Up to \$522,743 to the County of Napa

OPC further authorizes staff to fund previously approved SB 1 Grant Program projects with either the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund or Proposition 4 funds, as appropriated by the Legislature, and as needed to ensure timely project execution and compliance with applicable expenditure deadlines.

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, each grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Director of the OPC detailed work plans, schedules, staff requirements, budgets, and the names of any contractors intended to be used to complete the projects, as well as discrete deliverables that can be produced in intervals to ensure the projects are on target for successful completion. All projects will be developed under a shared understanding of process, management, and delivery.”

### Executive Summary:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council approve the disbursement of up to \$1,890,724 to fund four SLR adaptation planning projects submitted by local governments that successfully met the requirements of the SB 1 Grant Program. These projects will advance locally led SLR adaptation planning efforts and support compliance with state planning requirements.

In August 2023, [OPC approved](#) the disbursement of up to \$95.9 million for the SB 1 Grant Program to fund SLR adaptation planning and implementation projects. The SB 1 Grant Program implements [Senate Bill 1 \(Atkins, 2021\)](#) and also supports local governments in meeting the requirements of [Senate Bill 272 \(Laird, 2023\)](#), which requires all coastal local governments to adopt SLR plans by 2034, integrated into Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) or San Francisco Bay Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans (SSAPs).

The SB 1 Grant Program offers two tracks of funding: Track 1 for SLR adaptation planning, and Track 2 for project implementation. Track 1 opened for proposal submission in December 2023 and continues to accept proposals on a non-competitive, rolling, quarterly basis, provided proposals satisfy program requirements. Track 2 launched in early 2026 with an initial Letter of Intent deadline of February 20, 2026, and is anticipated to be offered annually, pending availability of funds.

In this eighth round of Track 1 funding, OPC received six proposals requesting a total of \$2.69 million. All proposals were reviewed by OPC staff in coordination with either California Coastal Commission (CCC) or San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) staff, depending on project location. Proposals were reviewed for consistency with the [SLR Adaptation Criteria](#) and the evaluation criteria set forth in the solicitation.

Together, the four recommended projects will advance science-based and regionally coordinated SLR adaptation planning across California’s coast and San Francisco Bay – ensuring that coastal communities have the technical foundation and locally driven strategies needed to build resilience to SLR by 2034, consistent with SB 1 (2021, Atkins) and SB 272 (2023, Laird).

## **Track 1 (Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning) Project Summaries:**

### **5a.1 Crescent City Coastal Resiliency Plan**

#### **Project Summary:**

The City of Crescent City (City) proposes to develop a Coastal Resiliency Plan encompassing a SLR, Tsunami Hazards, and Erosion Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan. Located in Del Norte County with approximately 3.5 miles of coastline, the City faces an exceptional combination of coastal hazards – including tsunami inundation, storm surge, bluff erosion, and tidal flooding – that will be significantly exacerbated by SLR. The project will use best available science to assess vulnerabilities across the City's coastal infrastructure, habitats, and community resources, and identify prioritized adaptation strategies and pathways through 2150. The City will collaborate closely with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, which is concurrently seeking SB 1 funding through the Tribal Cultural Resources solicitation to conduct a SLR assessment that includes tribal resources ([Item 5b.2](#)), to ensure a comprehensive, complementary, and non-duplicative approach for sea level rise planning in this region.

The resulting Adaptation Plan will evaluate protection, accommodation, and retreat strategies with an emphasis on nature-based solutions, and establish adaptation pathways with clear triggers, a monitoring strategy, and a financing framework to guide future implementation. The project will culminate in an Administrative Draft LCP Policy and Implementation Document, including draft policy language and development standards that will position the City for a future LCP amendment and compliance with SB 272.

#### **Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:**

Crescent City is a severely disadvantaged community as designated by the [North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant the Division of Financial Assistance criteria](#), with a California Healthy Places Index rating at the 15.6th percentile statewide. With nearly the entire community living within half a mile of the coast, coastal hazards fall disproportionately on residents with the least capacity to recover – as made clear by the October 2025 atmospheric river event that flooded downtown businesses and residences, and by storm surges that regularly close Highway 101. Approximately 10% of residents identify as Native American, reflecting the significance of tribal partnership and consideration of tribal cultural resources in the project area.

The project’s Community Engagement Plan will prioritize equitable participation through multilingual outreach, surveys, and public workshops. The City maintains an ongoing monthly coordination relationship with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and will continue to engage both the Nation and Elk Valley Rancheria throughout the planning process to ensure tribal perspectives and cultural resource protection inform the vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies.

### **About the Grantee:**

The City of Crescent City is a small, rural coastal jurisdiction in Del Norte County with ongoing exposure to coastal hazards and a demonstrated need to update its 2011 LCP to better address SLR-related risks. The City will serve as lead grantee, maintaining responsibility for grant administration and community engagement, and brings extensive experience administering grants across housing, infrastructure, and emergency programs. The City will be supported by SHN Engineers and Geologists, Inc., which has provided contract planning and engineering services to the City for more than six years. SHN's familiarity with City infrastructure, coastal conditions, and local stakeholders – including an established working relationship with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation – positions the team to deliver this work on schedule and within budget.

### **Project Timeline:**

This project will be completed over two years.

### **Project Financing:**

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$320,911 to the City of Crescent City for the Crescent City Coastal Resiliency Plan.

## ***5a.2 San Francisco Outer Coast SLR Adaptation Plan***

### **Project Summary:**

The City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) proposes to develop an Outer Coast SLR Adaptation Plan for CCSF’s approximately 3.5-mile outer coast, where oceanfront neighborhoods, parks, and critical wastewater and transit infrastructure face growing risks from coastal erosion, storm surge, and SLR. A [recently approved CCC grant](#) through the complementary LCP Local Assistance Grant Program will fund foundational work including community visioning, an updated vulnerability assessment incorporating new science and groundwater inundation modeling, and data collection. The proposed funding provided by OPC’s SB 1 Grant Program would build on that foundation to develop and evaluate adaptation strategies, establish adaptation pathways with clear triggers and decision points, and prepare high-level cost analyses for critical public infrastructure. The project

will culminate in a final Adaptation Plan and associated LCP amendments for CCC certification, advancing compliance with SB 272.

The project will build on prior outer coast planning efforts including the Ocean Beach Master Plan and CCSF's ongoing Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project, and together with OPC's [previously funded](#) San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Plan, will form a comprehensive SLR adaptation framework for the CCSF's entire coastline.

### **Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:**

While the outer coast project area does not include EJ communities as identified under CCSF's SB 1000-compliant EJ Communities Map, it encompasses parks, beaches, and coastal resources heavily used by EJ communities located elsewhere in the city and region, connected by transit lines that bring communities directly to the coast. The project will include targeted outreach and engagement with San Francisco EJ communities to understand their relationship to these coastal resources and ensure their input shapes adaptation priorities throughout the planning process.

CCSF brings extensive experience engaging EJ communities in SLR planning, including the Islais Creek Southeast Mobility and Adaptation Strategy, the San Francisco Waterfront Coastal Flood Study, and the ongoing Yosemite Slough Neighborhood Adaptation Study. The project will also engage California Native American tribes and local Native American representatives, inviting tribal participation and partnership throughout strategy development and plan preparation.

### **About the Grantee:**

CCSF will serve as lead grantee, with the San Francisco Planning Department managing the project in close collaboration with the City's ClimateSF program and Office of Resilience and Capital Planning. CCSF has extensive experience securing and managing state and federal grants to advance complex, multi-stakeholder coastal planning efforts, including multiple SLR planning processes along both its bay and outer coast shorelines. OPC previously funded CCSF's San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Plan ([Item 4.3](#), December 2024), and together these two efforts will form a comprehensive, SB 272-compliant SLR adaptation plan for CCSF's entire coastline.

### **Project Timeline:**

This project will be completed over three years.

## **Project Financing:**

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$664,000 to the City and County of San Francisco for the San Francisco Outer Coast SLR Adaptation Plan. This project includes leveraged state funds through the CCC LCP Local Assistance Grant Program of \$628,000 for a project total of \$1,292,000.

### ***5a.3 American Canyon Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan***

#### **Project Summary:**

The City of American Canyon (City) proposes to develop a single-jurisdiction Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (SSAP) for its shoreline along San Pablo Bay and the Napa River, consistent with BCDC's [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Planning \(RSAP\) guidelines](#). The City's low-lying geography, wetlands, and urban infrastructure face significant and growing risks from tidal flooding, storm surge, groundwater rise, and saltwater intrusion. Building on prior planning work including the 2024 American Canyon Wetlands Restoration Plan and the 2023 Climate Action Plan, the project will fill remaining gaps to produce a complete SSAP addressing all RSAP Elements A-G.

The project will conduct a vulnerability assessment using best available science, develop and evaluate adaptation strategies prioritizing nature-based and hybrid solutions, and establish phased adaptation pathways with clear triggers and decision points. American Canyon will convene a regional Technical Advisory Committee that will include Napa County – which is concurrently seeking SB 1 Grant Program funding for its own adjacent shoreline planning effort (Item 5a.4) – to facilitate coordinated analysis, shared data, and aligned outreach across both planning efforts. The resulting plan will be presented to City Council for adoption and developed in close coordination with BCDC to complete an SSAP, in compliance with SB 272.

#### **Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:**

American Canyon's coastal zone includes two Disadvantaged Community census tracts identified through [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#), characterized by elevated pollution burdens and limited access to healthcare. Over 40% of residents identify as Latino or Hispanic, and a significant share of households are renters, seniors on fixed incomes, and essential workers – populations identified through prior outreach as especially vulnerable to flooding and limited mobility during emergencies.

The project will contract a community-based organization to co-develop the Outreach and Engagement Plan and lead targeted outreach, ensuring EJ communities are meaningfully represented throughout the planning process. Engagement will include bilingual outreach, co-

designed workshops, and stipends for CBO participation, consistent with BCDC's Equity Assessment Standard. The City will also pursue government-to-government consultation with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, incorporating tribal perspectives on cultural resources, traditional ecological knowledge, and nature-based solutions.

**About the Grantee:**

The City of American Canyon will serve as lead grantee and has an established track record advancing climate and coastal resilience planning, including the 2023 Climate Action Plan, the 2024 Wetlands Restoration Plan, and active participation in regional initiatives including BCDC's Bay Adapt Joint Platform and the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group. The City will procure a consultant team through a competitive Request for Proposals process to lead technical work, stakeholder engagement, and RSAP-compliant plan preparation.

**Project Timeline:**

This project will be completed over two years.

**Project Financing:**

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$383,070 to the City of American Canyon for the American Canyon Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.

***5a.4 Napa County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan***

**Project Summary:**

Napa County (County) proposes to develop a single-jurisdiction SSAP for unincorporated county lands along San Pablo Bay and the Napa River, consistent with BCDC's RSAP guidelines. The project area encompasses low-lying communities, agricultural lands, and critical transportation and wastewater infrastructure that face significant and growing risks from tidal flooding, storm surge, and SLR. Building on prior work including the County's 2025 SLR analysis and the ongoing Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP), the project will address remaining gaps needed to meet RSAP minimum standards – including end-of-century SLR scenarios, cost of inaction analysis, and priority area identification – and develop a complete SSAP addressing all RSAP Elements A-G.

The project will develop adaptation strategies prioritizing nature-based solutions, establish phased adaptation pathways with clear triggers and decision points, and produce land use policy recommendations and an implementation and funding strategy. Napa County will participate in the regional Technical Advisory Committee convened by the City of American Canyon (Item 5a.3) to facilitate coordinated analysis, shared data, and aligned outreach across both planning efforts.

The resulting plan will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for adoption and developed in close coordination with BCDC toward SB 272 compliance.

**Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:**

The project area includes several communities with direct exposure to coastal flood hazards, most notably the Edgerly Island and Ingersoll Tract – a low-lying residential community of 134 homes on the west bank of the Napa River where flood levels currently reached approximately once a decade could occur daily with three feet of SLR. Nearby Equity Priority Communities have high concentrations of low-income residents, residents with disabilities, and limited English proficiency residents whose access to healthcare, employment, and essential services would be disrupted by chronic flooding.

The project will engage community-based organizations through focus group meetings, public workshops, and pop-up events with bilingual staff, translated materials, and stipends for CBO participation, consistent with BCDC's Equity Assessment Standard. Napa County will conduct outreach to the Middletown Rancheria, Mishewal Wappo, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and Suscol Intertribal Council to partner with local tribes and incorporate tribal perspectives throughout the planning process.

**About the Grantee:**

Napa County will serve as lead grantee and brings strong institutional capacity for regional climate and resilience planning, currently leading the multi-jurisdictional RCAAP in partnership with the Napa Resource Conservation District – which will also support community engagement on this project. The County will be supported by a consultant team already embedded in Napa County's planning context through ongoing work on the General Plan Baseline Data Report and the RCAAP. Combined with the County's established working relationship with American Canyon and commitment to coordinated planning through the regional TAC, Napa County is well-positioned to deliver an RSAP-compliant shoreline adaptation plan that builds on strong regional momentum.

**Project Timeline:**

This project will be completed over two years.

**Project Financing:**

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$522,743 to Napa County for the Napa County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.

**Project Financing:**

Staff recommends that OPC authorize encumbrance of up to \$1,890,724 to the following:

Recommended SB 1 Grant Program Projects	OPC	Non-OPC
<b>Track 1 (Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning) Projects</b>		
5a.1 City of Crescent City	\$320,911	
5a.2 City and County of San Francisco	\$664,000	\$628,000
5a.3 City of American Canyon	\$383,070	
5a.4 Napa County	\$522,743	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,890,724</b>	<b>\$628,000</b>

The anticipated source of funds will be from the Budget Act of 2022, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation (Fiscal Year 2022/2023) to OPC for implementation of the California Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation Act of 2021, enacted under Chapter 236 of Statutes of 2021 (SB 1, Atkins), and from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4), Fiscal Year 2025/2026. Proposition 4, Public Resources Code Section 92000 directs a total of \$75 million to OPC to implement SB 1.

Pursuant to SB 1, funding is designated “for the purpose of making grants to local and regional governments to update local and regional land use plans to take into account sea level rise and for directly related investments to implement those plans.” Consequently, all projects under the SB 1 Grant Program will focus on SLR adaptation and fall within the pre-planning, planning, or implementation project phases. These projects will follow the SLR Adaptation Criteria, developed in accordance with SB 1 and in consultation with the SLR State and Regional Support Collaborative.

### **Consistency with California Ocean Protection Act:**

The proposed projects are consistent with the Ocean Protection Act, Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, because these projects are consistent with trust-fund allowable projects, defined in Public Resources Code Section 35650(b)(2) as projects which:

- Eliminate or reduce threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems, habitats, and species.
- Allow for increased public access to, and enjoyment of, ocean and coastal resources, consistent with sustainable, long-term protection and conservation of those resources.
- Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
- Provide funding for adaptive management, planning coordination, monitoring, research, and other necessary activities to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on California's ocean ecosystem.

### **Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):**

The various proposed projects are not 'legal projects' that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15378. If a project were determined to be a 'legal project' under CEQA, the proposed projects are statutorily exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations section 15262 as feasibility and planning studies.