



January 19, 2024

California Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning

Re: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program (Climate Adaptation) –
Port of Oakland Application – Rising Seas and Oakland’s Infrastructure and Frontline Communities:
Climate Adaptation Planning for Neighborhood-led Resiliency

Dear Sir/Madam:

Save The Bay is writing to support the Port of Oakland’s grant application, in partnership with the City of Oakland, for Climate Adaptation Planning under the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

Save The Bay works to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay for people and wildlife through community education, habitat restoration, and policy advocacy. We work to ensure that all Bay communities are prepared for the impacts of climate change including sea-level rise, groundwater intrusion, and extreme storm events. We support the proactive, coordinated, and comprehensive planning work that this grant would fund.

The location of the Port and the City make it vulnerable to sea-level rise (SLR), future extreme weather events, and ground water intrusion (GWI). The proposed Project involves the conduct a vulnerability assessment that focuses on modeling projected SLR and GWI levels for the entire Port of Oakland property, including the Seaport, Airport, and Commercial Real Estate, and adjacent underserved and historically disadvantaged communities. Given the amount of underserved communities in the project area, it is especially important that the area receives sufficient funds to plan to protect those communities.

Based on the findings from the vulnerability assessment modeling, the Port and City will work with the local communities to develop and prioritize strategies to mitigate tidal inundation and groundwater impact in an Adaptation Plan. By better understanding the threats of SLR and GWI, the Port and City of Oakland will be more prepared to prevent and respond to these concerns, preserving transportation and other infrastructure and facilities from flooding and contamination, and safeguarding lives. The State, region, and local communities will benefit from safe resilient infrastructure, reduced economic and financial losses from destruction to infrastructure and property, and improved public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lewis".

David Lewis
Executive Director
Save The Bay