

January 5, 2024

From: Warner Chabot, Executive Director
San Francisco Estuary Institute
4911 Central Ave.
Richmond, CA. 94804

TO: 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 Frontline Infrastructure and
Communities: Climate Adaptation Planning for Neighborhood-led Resiliency

Dear Sir/Madam:

The San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) is writing this Letter of Support for 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 because it will enhance the resilience of Oakland’s vulnerable shoreline communities with better data and better coordination of infrastructure planning with community leadership.

SFEI is an environment science research institute, focused on landscape scale environmental and land use issues in the S.F. Bay and Delta Region. Much of our work is assessing and advising on adaptation options to address the impacts of climate change including sea level rise, rising groundwater and lowland flooding from increased frequency and intensity of storms. We recognize that the communities and infrastructure of the Oakland shoreline are among the most vulnerable in the S.F. Bay Area.

As a frontline community, Oakland is especially susceptible 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 in West Oakland and Deep East Oakland.

Based on the findings from the vulnerability assessment modeling, the Port and City is committed to working with 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.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this application to receive funding for Climate Adaptation Planning and we look forward to supporting this critical project, if selected.

Respectfully,

Warner Chabot

Warner Chabot
Executive Director