



## West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

January 17, 2024

California Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Planning

***Re: FY 24-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program: Port of Oakland Application***

Dear Sir/Madam:

The West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP) is pleased to offer its enthusiastic support for the Port and City of Oakland's grant application for Climate Adaptation Planning, *Rising Seas and Oakland's Infrastructure and Frontline Communities: Climate Adaptation Planning for Neighborhood-led Resiliency*, under the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. As one of the premier Environmental Justice organizations in the state, WOEIP specializes in "research for action" and this project promises to create a blueprint for action in our flood-prone, historically disadvantaged community. While many of our institutions have been preparing for sea level rise for decades, our low-lying, working-class communities have been left out of the planning and mitigation process.

The Port and portions of the City are especially vulnerable to sea-level rise (SLR), future extreme weather events, and groundwater intrusion (GWI). The proposed project would conduct a vulnerability assessment that focuses on projected SLR and GWI levels for the entire Port of Oakland property, including the Seaport, Airport, and Commercial Real Estate – and the adjacent underserved, historically-disadvantaged communities. West Oakland residents near the Seaport live with antiquated stormwater and sanitary sewer systems that flood during winter rains, aging pumping systems, toxic groundwater, and inadequate solid waste management programs under constant pressure from the unhoused population. Studies like this one are critical to understanding the complex issues surrounding stormwater and groundwater incursion management, and the protection of our precious San Francisco Bay resources.

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.

This proposal, with its planned community engagement, will begin to change history. The Biden Administration's Justice 40 strategy intends to direct 40% of the benefits from government spending toward disadvantaged communities and this proposal offers a real commitment to that vision. WOEIP is eager to offer our decades of community leadership experience to this important project. We strongly encourage this award for the good of the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Beveridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Beveridge" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Beveridge  
Co-founder, Co-Executive Director (Finance & Operations)  
bbeveridge@woeip.org