



Fall 2024 Engagement Summary

Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Resilience Project

January 2025



Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Resilience Project Engagement

Community outreach and engagement ran September 25 through December 5, 2024, to get public feedback on three draft project alternatives

Alternative A: Remain on Shoreline
This alternative minimizes Bay Fill and follows the existing shoreline more closely than the other alternatives.

Alternative B: Park Tunnels
Inspired by the Presidio Tunnel Tops Park in San Francisco, this alternative uses underground tunnels to transport creek water and places a new shoreline park on top.

Alternative C: Nearshore Waterway
This alternative uses a nearshore levee and set of operative gates and pump stations to control water levels inside a 200-foot wide open waterway between the levee and the existing shoreline.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
Coastal Flood Protection: Manage creek water to reach creek channel at parking stations.	Coastal Flood Protection: Manage creek water through tunnels leading to the mouth of Little Creek.	Coastal Flood Protection: Manage creek water through operating gates and pumps.
Habitat: Using shoreline.	Habitat: Using shoreline.	Habitat: Using shoreline & restored fill passage.
Bay Fill Impacts: ~50 acres of Bay Fill. Maximum Bayfill up to 100' wide.	Bay Fill Impacts: ~10 acres of Bay Fill. Maximum Bayfill up to 200' wide.	Bay Fill Impacts: ~50 acres of Bay Fill. Maximum Bayfill up to 100' wide.
Public Access: Miller Bay Trail from 0 to 20'. Chick Bay Trail open. Includes Bay Park. New shoreline park at Burlingame Park.	Public Access: Miller Bay Trail from 0 to 20'. Chick Bay Trail open. Includes Bay Park. New shoreline park at Burlingame Park.	Public Access: Miller Bay Trail from 0 to 20'. Chick Bay Trail open. Includes Bay Park. New shoreline park at Burlingame Park.
Advantages: Least amount of Bay Fill. Highest Bayfill. Includes Bay Park.	Advantages: Least Bayfill for Resilience in higher flood risk during storms. Most number of storm stations. Most use waterway and storage. Includes Bay Park.	Advantages: Multiple number of storm stations. Most storage for Resilience. Includes Bay Park.
Disadvantages: Least Bayfill for Resilience in higher flood risk during storms. Most number of storm stations. Most use waterway and storage. Includes Bay Park.	Disadvantages: Challenging construction and maintenance. Significant cost for Resilience. Includes Bay Park.	Disadvantages: Most amount of Bay Fill. Includes Bay Park.

Living Shorelines
A living shoreline is a natural or semi-natural shoreline that is designed to be resilient to sea level rise and storm surge. It uses natural materials like rocks, shells, and plants to absorb wave energy and reduce erosion. Living shorelines are more cost-effective and provide habitat for wildlife compared to traditional hard structures like seawalls and bulkheads.

In Reach 3 - A, Alternatives A, B, and C include the following elements:
While Laguna's existing elevated public walkway would be replaced by a tide gate, a new tide gate with larger parking stations at the mouth of Burlingame Laguna provides the flood protection needed along perimeter of Burlingame Laguna. The existing shoreline is in relatively steady, the proposed nearshore waterway with future nearshore beach would be implemented at a future stage.

More questions on Resilience?
Visit our website at www.ci.millbrae.ca.gov/2024/09/25/millbrae-burlingame-shoreline-resilience-project/



Engagement Overview

- 3 public presentations (OneShoreline Board, Millbrae & Burlingame City Councils)
- 4 OneShoreline hosted public events
- 9 Community Based Organizations presentations
- 10 Project Vetting Partner meetings
- 146 participants at all engagement events
- 155 sign ups to the project mailing list
- 1,648 views of project website
- 29,384 social media impressions

Event Type	Attendees
In-person Burlingame Community Meeting	35
Shoreline Walking Tour	24
In-person Millbrae Community Meeting	13
Online Community Meeting	13
Briefings to Project Partners and CBOs	61
Total	146



What We Heard - Community Members

- Questions about engineering specifics, living shoreline details, costs, and funding
- Concerns about infrastructure failures and impacts to surrounding communities
- Hesitation to choose one alternative over another
- Questions and concerns about coordination with SFO
- Support for a living shoreline, but concern about SFO
- Support and excitement for public access improvements



What We Heard – Community Organizations + City Councils

- Most were generally supportive of the range of alternatives, pleased to see living shorelines and no offshore alternative
- Environmental groups promoted development of additional alternatives using landward based adaptation and leveraging the Burlingame Sea Level Rise ordinance to provide space for adaptation measures; they did not support any of the three alternatives
- Questions about benefits and drawbacks of specific alternatives and coordination with SFO
- Suggested process improvements and additional organizations and experts to coordinate with
- Suggested conducting intercept outreach to engage directly with current shoreline users



What We Heard – Vetting Partners

- Permitting agencies had positive reactions to living shoreline. SFO had no support for nature-based solutions that increase habitat in any way.
- Landowners had questions about what level of sea level rise alternatives protect to.
- Technical experts recommended considering alternatives with upstream detention and more significant land use change to account for extreme precipitation + groundwater.
- Multiple partners had:
 - Requests for details about Bay fill and living shoreline
 - Had questions and concerns about coordination with SFO



What We Heard – Alternatives

Flood Protection:

- Concerns about pump station reliability and how neighboring communities would be impacted should pumps fail
- Concerns about operation and maintenance, particularly for Alternatives B and C

Habitat:

- Support for living shorelines and gradual sloping to allow for water access and views, questions about what a living shoreline means in practice
- Concerns about impacts to wildlife and habitat, water quality, and increases in red tides
- Concerns that SFO requirements will limit opportunity for habitat
- Concerns about erosion and impacts of large storm events on living shoreline if no vegetation planted
- Suggestion to coordinate with estuary ecology experts



What We Heard – Alternatives

Public Access + Recreation

- Support for making the Bay Trail continuous
- Support for improvements to the Bay Trail including making the trail safer, wider, more accessible, and more aesthetically pleasing
- Requests to consider designing space for both active (biking, running) and passive (sitting, community gathering) recreation
- Importance of preserving wind sport access
- Requests to consider impacts on man powered vessels like kayaks with specific needs like emergency takeout locations, wave impact, etc.
- Requests to consider accessibility of project area, i.e. parking is currently very limited and makes accessing the shoreline difficult



What We Heard – Evaluation Criteria

During events and meetings, participants were asked about draft evaluation criteria and whether anything was missing. Feedback includes:

Related to Implementation

- Separate **cost** out as its own criterion
- Consider differences in **construction timelines**
- Consider which alternatives require transfer of **property rights**
- Consider whether the alternative is able to be **phased**
- Consider the **consequences of failure** for each alternative

Related to Public Access + Recreation

- Consider which alternatives provide **educational opportunities** along the shoreline
- Consider which alternatives maximize places for community to learn and **gather**



What We Heard – Post Event Survey Results

29 community members filled out a short post-event survey:

- Respondents said they were on average 50% familiar with the project before attending the event
- Across all event types, respondents said they were on average 84% satisfied with the event they attended
- The highest rated event was the walking tour with 90% satisfaction
- The most common ways participants heard about the events were from an email from OneShoreline, a city newsletter, or an email from a community-based organization
- Suggestions for improvement from respondents included:
 - Providing a glossary of technical terms or spending time defining key terms before presentations
 - More focus on the pros and cons of each alternative
 - Requests for renderings to help people envision changes
 - Better sound amplification during walking tour



Recommendations for Future Engagement

Materials and Communication

- More messaging is needed about:
 - The “costs” of doing nothing
 - Reducing risk of potential infrastructure failure
 - Possible benefits to Millbrae and Bayfront Park and connection to the rest of the Bay Trail
 - Groundwater flooding and limitations of this project
- Opportunity to communicate more on the benefits to recreation and excite people
- Provide a glossary of terms on the website and define key terms at the start of presentations
- Consider sharing renderings in the next phase of engagement to help people envision changes and benefits

Promotion

- Consider outreach to youth organizations
- Tweaks to social media strategy and Eventbrite language
- Aim for radio PSAs for next public engagement phase



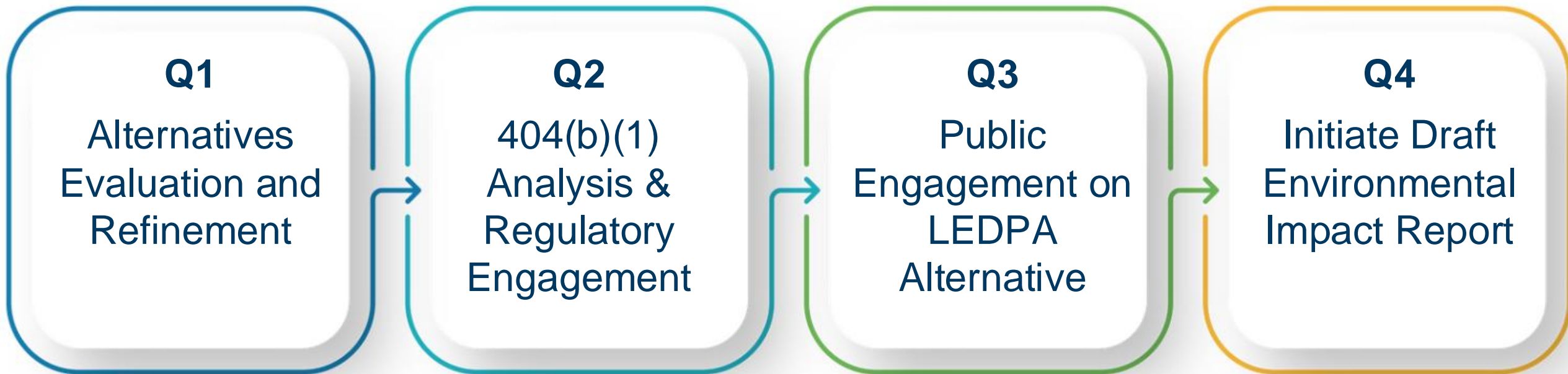
Recommendations for Future Engagement

Event Types and Logistics

- Continue briefings with project vetting partners and core CBOs
- Consider offering more walking tours - most well attended and highest rated events
- Hold one in-person Community Meeting since attendance numbers were lower when split between two
- Continue offering an online meeting format, but consider a “meeting” instead of webinar format
- Prioritize intercept outreach along Bay Trail with anglers and other users



Next Steps: Anticipated 2025 Schedule





Thank you for your participation!

