

San Mateo County Harbor District
400 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite #300
South San Francisco, Ca 94080

CONFERENCE ON THE CHALLENGE OF SEA LEVEL RISE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Press Release

Monday, December 9, 2013

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On December 9, San Mateo County Harbor District representatives attended a conference on the challenge of Sea Level Rise impacts of climate change in San Mateo County. The all-morning conference, organized by Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Assemblyman Rich Gordon, and Supervisor Dave Pine, was held at the College of San Mateo.

Keynote speaker John Englander, oceanographer and author of the book “High tide On Main Street: rising Sea Level and the Coming Coastal Crisis”, and former BCDC Executive Director Will Travis spoke and were followed by three panels. The panels covered Challenges and Options in San Mateo County and the Bay Area, Local Initiatives and Action, and Future Policy Development and Next Steps.

The Harbor District will include Sea Level Rise issues affecting its Pillar Point Harbor and Oyster Point Marina/Park as a major component of planning for its Strategic Business Plan, due to start early in 2014. This effort will consider policy and priority concerns set forth in recent reports of the Coastal Commission, Ocean Protection Council, Coastal Conservancy, and State Lands Commission.

Peter Grenell
General Manager
San Mateo County Harbor District



**Congresswoman
Jackie Speier**
In conjunction with



**Assemblyman
Rich Gordon**



**Supervisor
Dave Pine**

Meeting the Challenge of Sea Level Rise in San Mateo County

8:00 – 8:30 – Registration

8:30 – 8:45 – Opening / Review of Program

- Chancellor Ron Galatolo
- CSM President Michael Claire
- Congresswoman Jackie Speier
- Assemblyman Rich Gordon
- SMC Supervisor Dave Pine

8:45 – 9:45 – Keynote Speaker – John Englander

Rising Sea Level – Planning Ahead for a New Reality

John Englander, oceanographer and author of the highly acclaimed book, *High Tide On Main Street: Rising Sea Level and the Coming Coastal Crisis* encourages businesses and communities to confront the inevitable future of an ocean that will rise for centuries. His presentation will make several critical points:

- We should realistically plan for severe storms, extreme tides, and sea level rise, going beyond the cautious projections most scientists and planners typically use.
- Looking ahead just three decades allows us to do better planning now, yielding a better return on our investment.
- Those who can see the “tsunami on the horizon” can reduce their risk and may find new opportunities.

(over)

9:45 – 10:05 – Projected impact of sea level rise on San Mateo County – Will Travis, Former BCDC Executive Director

10:05 – 10:20 – BREAK

10:20 – 11:05 – Panel One: Challenges and Options in San Mateo County and the Bay Area

- Moderator – Congresswoman Jackie Speier
- Maximilian Auffhammer, Professor of International Sustainable Development, UC Berkeley
- Craig Conner, Flood Risk Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Larry Goldzband, Executive Director, BCDC
- Kathleen Schaefer, Regional Engineer, Risk Analysis, FEMA Region IX

11:05 – 11:50 – Panel Two: Local Initiatives and Action

- Moderator – SMC Supervisor Dave Pine
- Len Materman, Executive Director, San Francisquito Creek JPA
- Larry Patterson, Interim City Manager, City of San Mateo
- Julian Potter, Chief of Staff, San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- Sam Schuchat, Executive Director, California State Coastal Conservancy

11:50 – 12:30 – Future Policy Development and Next Steps

- Congresswoman Jackie Speier
- Assemblyman Rich Gordon
- SMC Supervisor Dave Pine

Speaker presentations will be posted at: <http://sanmateosealeverise.wordpress.com/>

Do you want to stay involved with the issue of how San Mateo County should address sea level rise?

If you have not already done so, please go to <http://sanmateosealeverise.wordpress.com/> to sign-up to receive follow-up communications on this topic or to participate in a working group.