



Oakland Safety Focus Group #2

Friday July 8, 2022 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Held via Zoom

Participating Organizations:

- Sustainability Team, City of Oakland
- CBE-Communities for a Better Environment
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Save the Bay
- EMSD- Emergency Management Services Division, City of Oakland
- OakDOT-Oakland Department of Transportation

Meeting facilitated by Alison Moore and Rajeev Bhatia of Dyett & Bhatia

SUMMARY AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

Participants in this meeting were focused on community stewardship and leadership as a tool for climate and disaster resilience. Participants highlighted a number of organizations they have partnered with and programs they have developed or participated in to build disaster preparedness and resilience in Oakland. Participants also discussed Green Infrastructure projects as an important tool for climate resilience and described the multi-faceted benefits green infrastructure can provide.

One project highlighted included the Shoreline Leadership Academy, which paid 14 volunteers to learn about the shoreline and nature-based solutions. Participants in this program worked with the US army corps of engineers to build up neighborhood expertise about these issues, and they are currently working to implement projects they have developed. Communities for a better Environment suggested that to best serve communities disproportionately impacted by climate issues, they first look to those communities for input. Various city agencies have also been working with communities to develop climate and disaster management solutions. OakDOT has been working to support urban agriculture, and ESMD has a strategy to dovetail with community resiliency hubs to establish emergency shelters and safety centers.

Participants also discussed several ways their organizations have been planning for the future of climate change and the potential effects of sea level rise. OakDOT described their push for electric transportation fleet to decarbonize Oakland transit systems, and Save the Bay reiterated the importance of nature-based green infrastructure solutions, but also urged participants to reconsider affordable housing siting to ensure that affordable housing won't be disproportionately impacted by climate change harms. Participants suggested working with frontline communities to provide input on climate and disaster-related planning decisions. Participants noted that unhoused people are already experiencing flooding, but that there is also an "awful lot of money coming to local nonprofits to deal with sea level... the City of Oakland should be thinking about how they are working with nonprofits to implement projects and get the funds off the ground."



Lastly, participants discussed methods of engagement and how they would like to be engaged in the future. One participant mentioned that emails are good, but suggested a Teams group discussion could be a lower commitment form of communication. Participants noted that it “would be helpful to have a timeline of specific deadlines and to have the opportunity to respond to specific language that’s being proposed.” Participants also proposed more topic-specific discussions.

DETAILED MEETING NOTES

How are people in Oakland Adapting to and managing climate change?

- Participant described the Shoreline Leadership Academy: Paid 14 volunteers to learn about the shoreline, learn about nature based solutions, worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers to build up neighborhood expertise about these issues. They are currently working to implement projects. Many projects around remediating toxic sites.
 - Also worked with a group called “Water is Life”
 - Groups put together DIY air filters and distributed them to the community.
 - Bay Adapt program
- Save the Bay was pleased to see that green stormwater infrastructure was incorporated in the GP as a way to address climate challenges, water quality was not listed as a potential benefit
 - There was also a section about flooding and permeable surfaces as a part of flood strategies
- Last round of analysis had conservative numbers about climate change projections and this participant urges using the 5 foot projection
- Communities for a Better Environment focuses on those who are disproportionately impacted by climate issues. We would first look to those communities for input.
 - Working with organizations dealing with houseless, working AVA team and public works and considering factors in local hazard mitigation plan
- One of our primary pushes is that FEMA pushed out that everyone should have three days of emergency supplies. This doesn’t work out well from an equity perspective because many people are food insecure
 - Food deserts relate to disaster relief
 - Any clean water project is helpful
- The ECAP described networks of mutual aid- instead of mutual aid and community networks being separate from city facilities and services, participants suggested this was a big challenge that deserved more attention
- We’ve been involved with West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project and other orgs doing work on deep east Oakland, helping create urban agricultural systems. We’re primarily focused on adaptation and resilience, working with OAKDOT to reduce carbon emission, make building less carbon intensive, decarbonize transportation systems.
 - Would love to see electrification measure included in the safety element as something we need to uplift.

- We also need to talk about drought and the long-term pressures that this will present and we need to flag this and understand how the city will deal with water scarcity. This is a growing concern at the state level.
- EMSD
 - We are trying to dovetail with community resiliency hubs to establish emergency shelters and safety centers
 - In a big disaster event with a power outage, all electric fleets are difficult to make use of.

How should the city plan for the future of planning for sea level rise?

- Save the Bay wants to prioritize nature-based solutions, but also wants to encourage thinking critically about the siting of affordable housing and make sure that affordable housing won't be disproportionately impacted by climate change harms. Make sure we know who is going to be affected the most.
- Don't make significant decisions without community leadership, my recommendation is that we work with other frontline communities; "say, this is the latest data, what should Oakland plan for that makes sense to you?"
- Unhoused people are already experiencing flooding- atmospheric river a few months ago. There is a lot of money coming to local nonprofits to deal with sea level, participants are thinking about technical capacity, City of Oakland should be thinking about how they are working with nonprofits to implement projects and get the funds off the ground.
- Action items in Safety Element that were established before OakDOT was established, and now we're taking the opposite approach. Make sure people have affordable housing, think about where housing already exists, its really difficult to finance affordable housing. Think about access to the waterfront, and how to enjoy open space and nature that we do have. Need to understand unintended consequences of policies.
- In places that are mostly underdeveloped, there are also more climate hazards for sea level change- like Brooklyn basin
- One alternative is to look at areas where sea level rise is less of a problem, like the hills
- +1 for upzoning in response to sea level rise, the hills have their own dangers related to wildfires
- Zonehaven: platform where the city can split the city up into zones, which can be tied into messaging system. Will send out emails and phone calls to send messaging related to information related to each zone
- Mycore for remediation of toxic sites

How to engage in the future?

- Emails are good, teams group discussion. Nobody wants more meetings, but maybe teams chat could
 - Emergency planning teams want to be involved in everything related to their work
- Would be helpful to have a timeline of specific deadlines, would love to respond to language that's being proposed
- Suggestion for more topic-specific discussions to enable more focused participation.