

Grand Jury Report: Come Hell or High Water Flood Management in a Changing Climate **Opportunities and Next Steps**

Government Accountability & Oversight Cmte
Office of Resilience & Capital Planning
September 19, 2024

F1: ClimateSF Governance and Coordination Are Inadequate.

- There are numerous examples of coordinated actions approved and implemented through ClimateSF
- There is some overlap, but having a standing agenda item with the Capital Planning Committee is not an effective vehicle for ClimateSF decision-making.
- (R1.4) ClimateSF has limited resources for directly tracking all resilience projects city-wide but will explore ways to implement process improvements.

F2: Resilience Projects are Not Easily Identifiable.

- Increased clarity on climate resilience expenditures would support better tracking and management key gaps and implementation progress.
- The Controller's Office will work with the Capital Planning Committee (CPC) to conduct further analysis on this topic.

F3: Funding of Climate Resilience Is Hampered by Debt Cap and Service Rate Constraints.

- Increased cost clarity could better equip the City to evaluate its various funding options, including the expanded use of general obligation bonds, but this is hampered by an uncertain picture of the future cost of adaptation.
- It is infeasible to estimate likely future increases in taxes and service rates in isolation relative to the range of options the City employs to fund projects across a wide range of needs.
- The Controller's Office will add a disclosure of the property tax limit to the Debt Policy of the City and County of San Francisco by the end of 2024.

F4: Flood Management Needs Interdepartmental Coordination.

- The City has taken numerous steps in recent years to improve interdepartmental flood management coordination.
- New formal coordination processes are likely needed to manage increased flood risk associated with climate change.
- SFPUC, supported by ClimateSF, is currently exploring flood resilience policy and governance options that aim to enhance interdepartmental coordination. The City will complete the study before committing to a specific formal approach such as the recommended MOU.

F5: Flood Damage Claims Are Not Funded by Insurance.

- No flood damage claims are compensated through the general fund. Claims against the City for flood damage are evaluated by the City Attorney on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, that compensation has come from SFPUC Wastewater Enterprise rate payer revenue.
- SFPUC actively supports and encourages property owners to be more flood resilient, including promoting the voluntary purchase of flood insurance.
- SFPUC also offers Floodwater Grants to eligible property owners who can receive up to \$100,000 to install flood protection projects to reduce the risk of future flood damage.

F6: The City Fails to Communicate Impacts of Climate Change.

- There are numerous recent examples of communications, including its web-based Hazards and Climate Resilience Storymap. The City will continue to improve its ability to coordinate and deliver climate change communications,
- Recent climate resilience planning initiatives have featured robust outreach efforts featuring purposeful engagement with vulnerable communities.

Questions

onesanfrancisco.org

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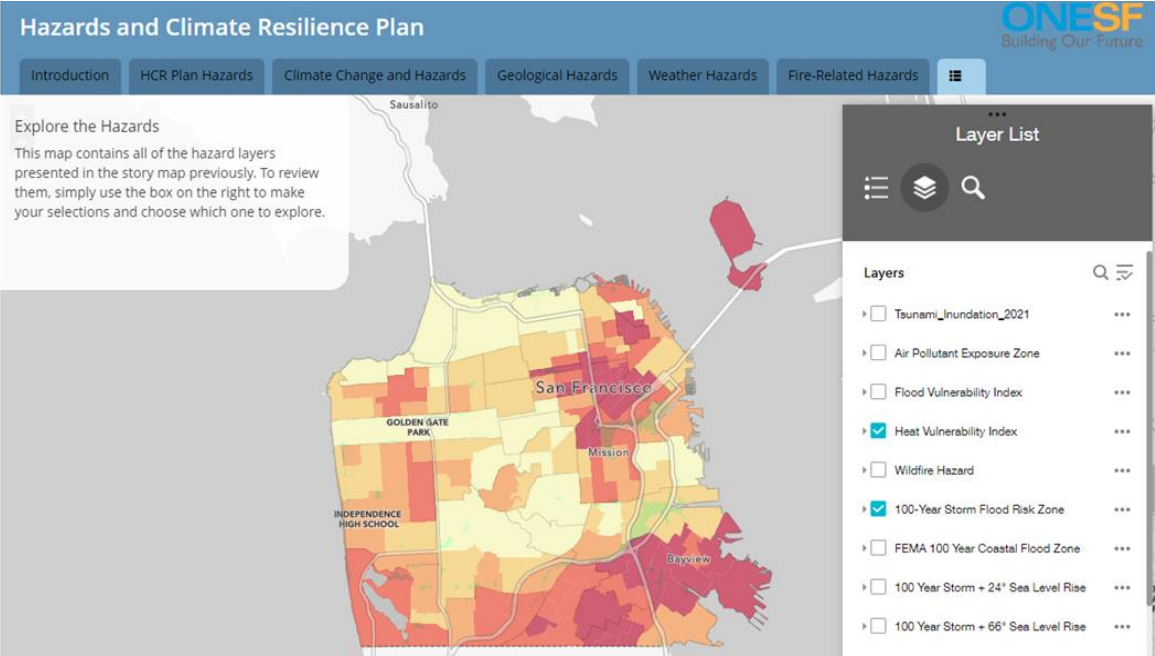


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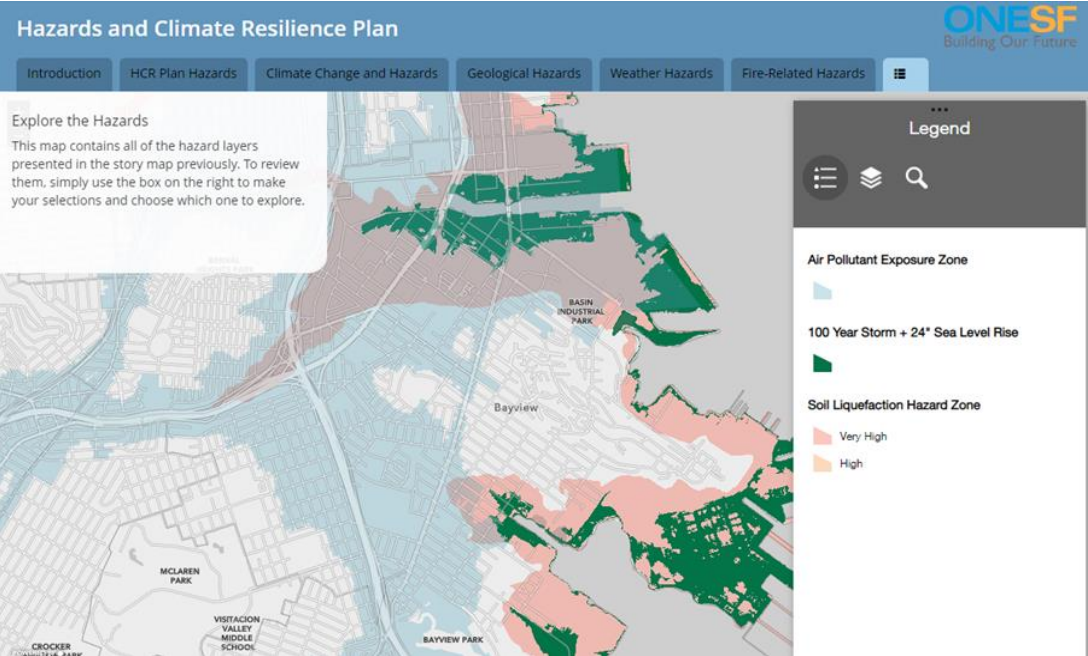
Appendix: Additional Context Slides

F6: Hazards and Climate Resilience StoryMap

OneSanFrancisco.org/hazards

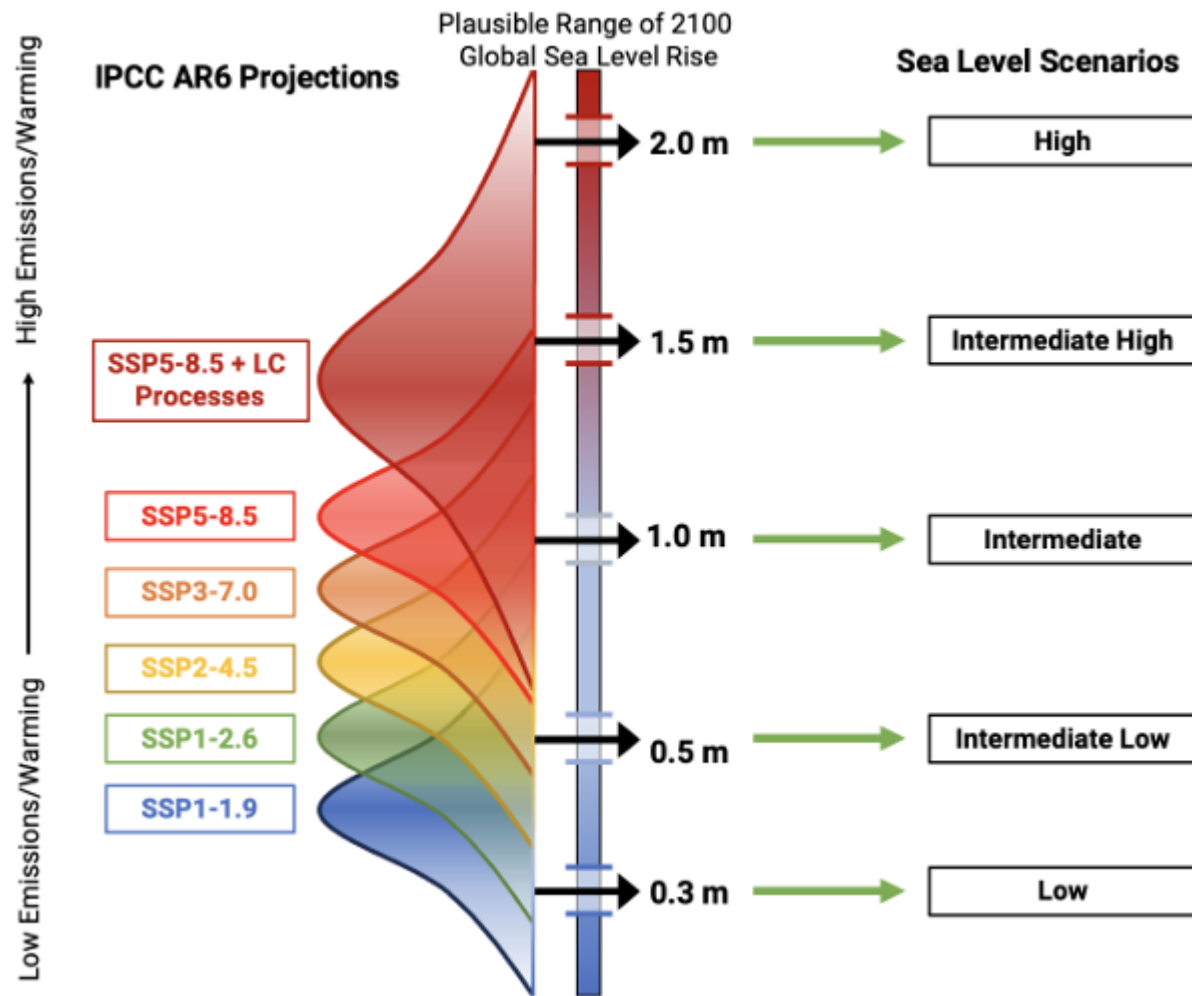


Toggle on and off a wide range of climate-related hazards, such as extreme heat and 100-year storm flood risk.



Zoom into a neighborhood of interest.

F3 Example: How much sea level rise should we plan for?

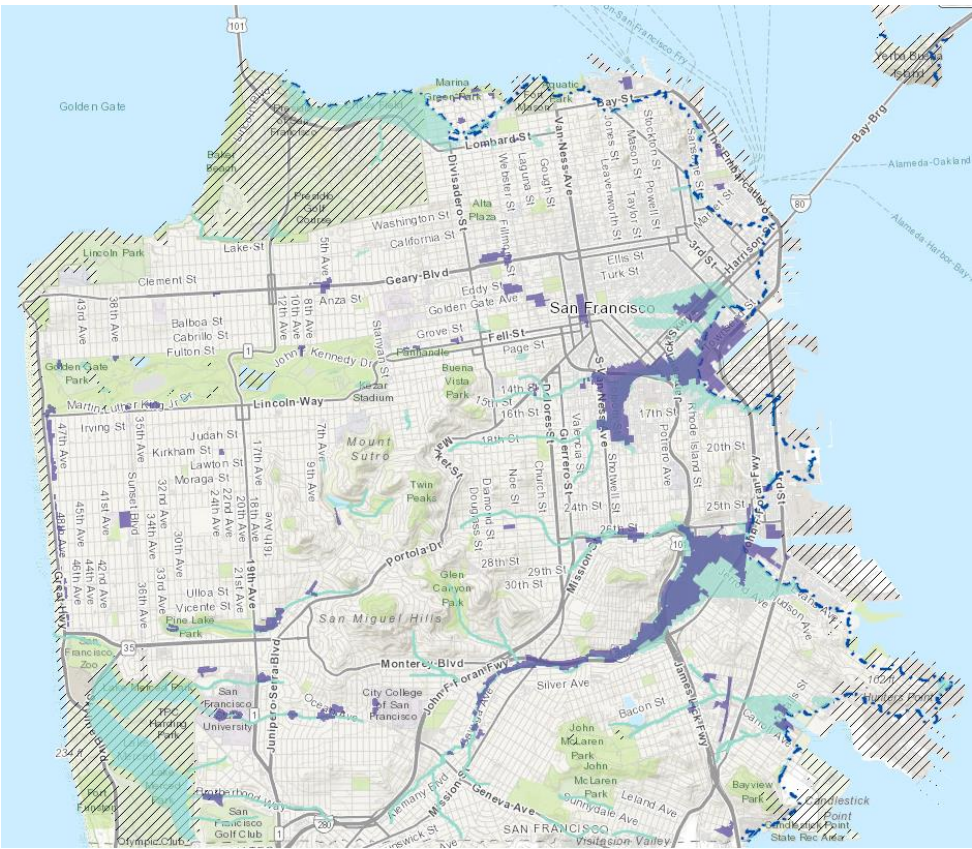


- The cost of future SLR adaptation is uncertain because of the accuracy of global SLR models and future emissions-reduction policies at a global scale.
- The City employs an “Adaptive Pathways” approach to manage this uncertainty. This approach provides the City with a range of investment options and associated costs.
- This prevents the City from establishing a precise estimate of future SLR adaptation costs.

F5: Background on Flood Risk in San Francisco



FEMA Designated (1%) flood risk is limited to coastal locations.



SFPUC has identified additional areas of San Francisco where significant flooding from storm runoff is highly likely to occur during a 100-year storm.