



SILICON VALLEY CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 4, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Re: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project

Dear Director Young and Secretary Connor:

As an organization committed to climate resilience in San Francisco Bay, the Silicon Valley Central Chamber writes to express our strong support for upholding the federal government's partnership and commitment to funding Phase I of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project (Shoreline Project). We understand that, without additional federal funding, this project is at risk of not being completed. Time and again, Bay Area residents have voted to tax themselves to advance important climate resilience projects like the Shoreline Project. We find it simply unacceptable that this long-promised project – which began in 2005 and will reduce known flood risks for thousands of residents and businesses in the heart of Silicon Valley, as well as help our region adapt to climate change – may not be realized. We need your help to get this project back on track.

The Shoreline Project, which took decades to study, plan, and design in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), provides a significant opportunity to protect businesses and communities in Santa Clara County, a key economic driver for the region, state, and nation. Phase I of the Shoreline Project, which is currently under construction but at risk of not being completed, will provide not only coastal flood risk reduction but also protection for up to 2.6 feet of sea level rise to 2,220 residents, 1,100 structures, and critical infrastructure that includes California State Route 237, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, and the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility that serves 1.5 million people – nearly the entire population of Santa Clara County.

Each future phase of the Shoreline Project is dependent upon the successful completion of Phase I. Once complete, the entire Shoreline Project will span 18 miles of shoreline, protecting people and businesses across five cities in Santa Clara County. The Phase II project in Palo Alto will protect the Bay Area's fourth busiest airport, U.S. Highway 101 (a major artery for residents and commuters), and the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant. The Phase III project will protect the NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Federal Airfield, the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant, the Sunnyvale Solid Waste Recycling and Transfer Station, and California State Route 237. And all phases will protect

global businesses that help fuel the region's economy. Flooding of any of this infrastructure could have a devastating financial impact on the region, state, and nation.

We understand that the Shoreline Project, like many major infrastructure projects across the country, has faced challenges such as cost overruns and delays. Regardless of these challenges, the project is, without question, worth constructing. We urge you to work with the non-federal sponsors, Valley Water and the California State Coastal Conservancy, to find a path forward that completes the Phase I project expeditiously and upholds the federal government's commitment to providing the full federal cost share.

Respectfully,



Christian D. Malesic, MBA, CAE, CMP, IOM
President / CEO

Cc by e-mail:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Ro Khanna, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, U.S. House of Representatives
Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Colonel Antoinette Gant, Commander and Division Engineer, South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Arnett, Commander and District Engineer, San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers