

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
CITY OF FOSTER CITY
FOSTER CITY LEVEE PROTECTION PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT (CIP 301-657)
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
PUBLIC HEARING – JANUARY 19, 2017
State Clearinghouse # 2016012012**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Foster City, as Lead Agency, has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Foster City Levee Protection Planning and Improvements Project (CIP 301-657).

PUBLIC HEARING: The Planning Commission is scheduled to receive public comments on the DEIR on **January 19, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.** at Foster City Council Chambers, located at 620 Foster City Boulevard.

PUBLIC REVIEW TIMELINE: The public review period for the DEIR begins **November 23, 2016 and ends January 12, 2017**. The City must receive all written comments regarding the adequacy of the DEIR within this time period. Written comments may be submitted in person, by mail, by e-mail, or by fax. The mailing address is 610 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404, the email address is cbanks@fostercity.org and the fax number is (650) 286-3589. Direct all comments to the attention of Curtis Banks, Community Development Director.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Copies of the DEIR are available for review Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the City of Foster City City Hall, Community Development Department, 610 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City, California, 94404, except on specified holidays. The DEIR is also available at the Foster City Public Library, at 1000 East Hillsdale Boulevard, and online, at <http://www.fostercity.org/>.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project location will be generally located within the footprint of the approximately 43,000-linear-foot (8 miles) existing levee system that surrounds Foster City along the bayfront with a slight deviation from the existing levee system footprint, and includes six proposed construction staging areas. Figure 1 depicts the location of the project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The existing levee system was originally authorized by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Section 404 Clean Water Act Regulatory Program on February 20, 1976 (Permit No. 9318-49) to protect properties interior of the levee from flooding as a result of levee overtopping either from high tides (stillwater or storm surges) and/or wave runup. Approximately 9,000 properties in Foster City are protected from the one-percent annual chance of flooding by the existing levee system that was primarily designed for flood protection. An additional 8,000 properties in the City of San Mateo are also protected by the Foster City levee system. Conversely, properties in Foster City are protected from the one-percent flood by San Mateo's levee and floodwall systems south of San Mateo Creek.

The City's levee system has been subsequently improved over time in order to maintain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) levee accreditation and was last re-accredited by FEMA in 2007. Updated FEMA flood hazard information was provided to the City in 2014 and codified in the FEMA preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Mapping (FIRM) released on August 13, 2015. Current FEMA guidelines require the current levee elevation along the City's levee system to be raised to protect the City from flooding associated with levee overtopping from extreme high tides (stillwater or storm surges) and/or wave runup.

The purpose of the project is to provide flood protection in accordance with updated FEMA guidelines and retain FEMA accreditation for its existing levee system. In addition, the improved levee system will be designed to adapt to future sea level rise while maintaining public access along the levee system and protections for sensitive habitat and species. If FEMA accreditation is not achieved, approximately 17,000 individual properties within Foster City and San

Mateo will be placed in a high-risk Special Flood Hazard Area by FEMA, due to the risks associated with levee overtopping from high tides (stillwater or storm surges) and/or wave runup.

The precise design and height of the project is not yet finalized; therefore, the environmental analysis studies two scenarios at an equal level, which would have different ranges of levee elevations/floodwall heights as needed to meet FEMA freeboard requirements and protect against future sea level rise. “Freeboard” is additional levee height above the 100-year flood elevation that tends to compensate for the factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed. The two scenarios are:

1. FEMA Freeboard with Sea Level Rise for the Year 2050
2. FEMA Freeboard with Sea Level Rise for the Year 2100

Based on currently available data, preliminary evaluations, and City Council direction, the City anticipates that the project will utilize a combination of three different levee improvement types, depending on the location along the existing levee and the adjacent site constraints. These three levee improvement types are as follows:

1. Sheet Pile floodwall
2. Earthen levee
3. Conventional floodwall

This hybrid approach (combining improvement types 1, 2 and 3) would provide the most flexibility to meet current FEMA standards and retain FEMA accreditation and would also achieve the following: (a) maintain public access and recreational opportunities; (b) minimize and/or avoid impacts to sensitive habitats such as jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and State (including wetlands) within San Francisco Bay; (c) minimize impacts to sensitive habitats such as jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and State on the landward side of the levee; and (d) avoid direct impacts to fully tidal waters and wetlands occupied by special-status species such as federal- and State-listed species to the maximum extent feasible.

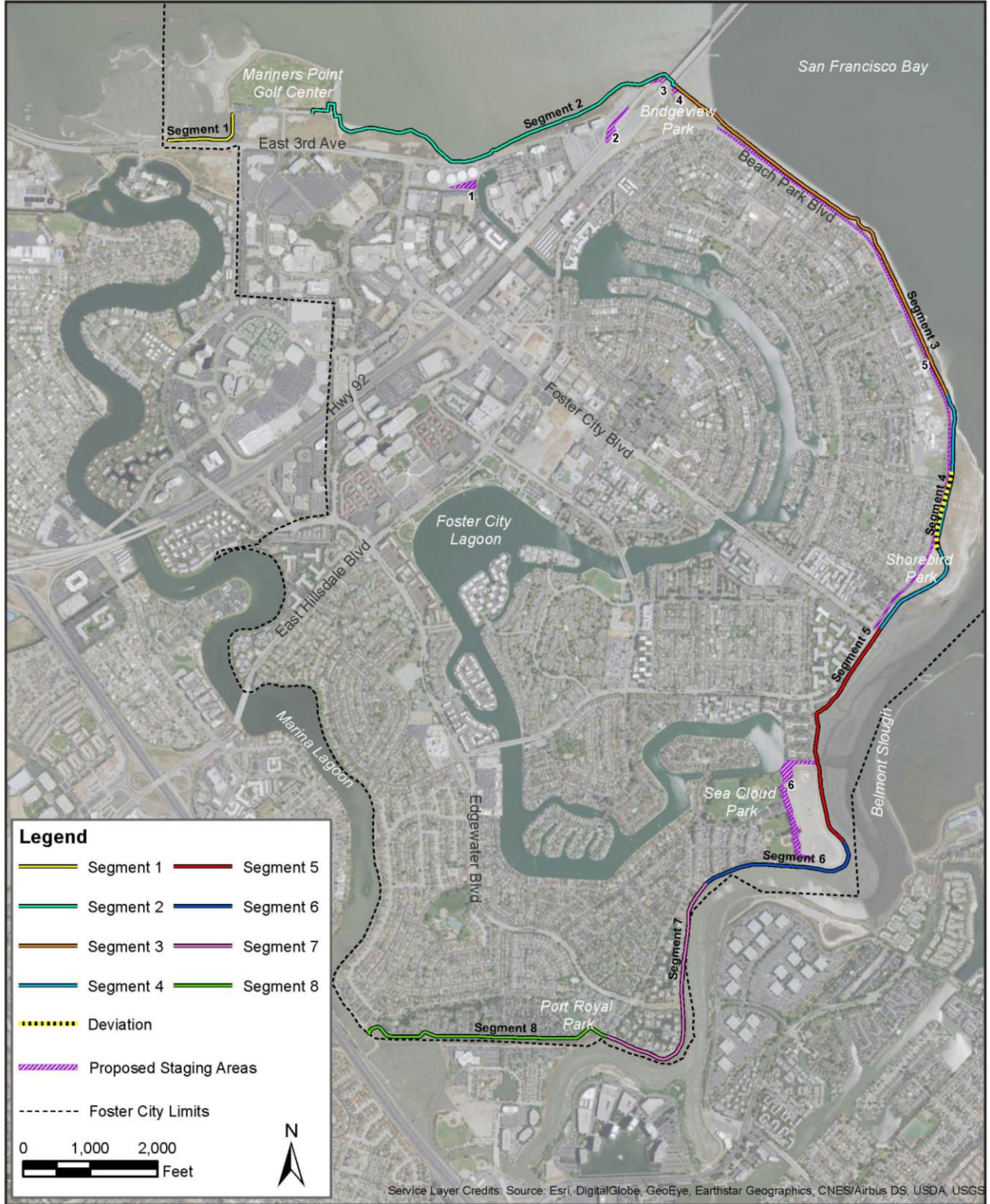
SIGNIFICANT ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The DEIR provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and recommends mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. With the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, no significant impacts would result with implementation of the proposed project, except for the following impacts:

- Aesthetics and Shade and Shadow — The increased elevation of the levee would alter the existing visual character and may adversely impact scenic vistas of the San Francisco Bay from Shorebird Park (segment 4) under the two project scenarios (2050 Sea Level Rise and 2100 Sea Level Rise) and scenic vistas of the Belmont Hills from Sea Cloud Park (segment 6) under the 2100 Sea Level Rise project scenario.
- Noise and Vibration — Construction of the proposed project could result in the exposure of nearby sensitive receptors, such as residences, schools, hospitals, and retirement homes, to temporary noise levels that would conflict with the City of Foster City Municipal Code regulations, and could generate substantial increases in noise levels for intermittent periods when certain construction activities occur (e.g., pile driving).

These impacts would remain significant and unavoidable, since the mitigation measures identified in the DEIR would not reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level. The project site is not listed on any of the lists of hazardous materials sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about this project, please contact Curtis Banks, Community Development Director at (650) 286-3239 or cbanks@fostercity.org.

Figure 1: Project Site for Levee Protection Planning and Improvements Project (CIP 301-657)



Source: Schaaf & Wheeler, Urban Planning Partners, 2016

Note: The location of staging areas are preliminary and may change.