



NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING

Environmental Impact Report for the Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Area Protection and Enhancement Project

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023

To: Interested Agencies, Organizations, Businesses, and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Area Protection and Enhancement Project as well as Notice of EIR Scoping Meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2023

This notice announces that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Area Protection and Enhancement Project (Project) to identify, evaluate, and disclose possible environmental impacts and to develop strategies to avoid, reduce, or compensate for potentially significant impacts that arise from the implementation of this Project.

San Mateo County has already been severely affected by the water-related impacts of climate change, including drought, coastal erosion, and flooding from atmospheric rivers. Projected sea level rise will exacerbate this flooding and threatens more people and property here than in any other county in California. This is why the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (also known as OneShoreline) was established by State legislation in 2020 as the first independent countywide government agency in California to work across jurisdictional boundaries to plan for, alert people to, and build resilience to climate change. Because the timeline for specific levels of sea rise is unclear, OneShoreline's approach is to design the Bay shoreline to a specific, substantial protection elevation standard and allow for future adaptation in order to move forward with the urgency this issue demands, while acknowledging the uncertainty of tomorrow. OneShoreline's Bay Protection Standard is the FEMA Base Flood Elevation plus 6 feet (equal to approximately 10 feet above today's high tide).

OneShoreline is proposing this Project to protect natural and built areas along the Bay shoreline south of San Francisco International Airport (SFO) within and near the cities of Millbrae and Burlingame from coastal flooding and sea level rise, and to enhance the recreational and habitat values of this area. As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), OneShoreline has determined that the Project may have a significant impact on the environment, and the preparation of an EIR is necessary to evaluate potential impacts. There will be many opportunities for public participation throughout this environmental review process. At this time, OneShoreline requests input from responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested agencies, organizations, businesses, and members of the public, on the scope of the EIR (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082).

This NOP provides: 1) a summary of the proposed Project, 2) OneShoreline's preliminary identification of the potential environmental issues to be analyzed in the EIR, and 3) information on how to comment on the scope of the EIR. This NOP, and other information related to this Project, is available online at: [OneShoreline.org/Projects/Millbrae-Burlingame](https://www.oneshoreline.org/Projects/Millbrae-Burlingame) and in the main libraries of these two cities.

EIR NOP Public Review Period: October 10, 2023 to November 15, 2023

During this public review period, interested agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals are invited to comment on this notice to prepare the EIR and the scope of environmental topics to be included in it.

NOP Written Comments: Written comments must be received by **11:59 pm on November 15, 2023**. Please include “NOP Comment: Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Area Protection and Enhancement Project EIR” in the subject line and submit comments via mail or email to:

Makena Wong, OneShoreline Project Manager
1700 S. El Camino Real, Suite 502, San Mateo, CA 94402
Projects@OneShoreline.org

EIR Public Scoping Meeting: OneShoreline will hold a public scoping meeting to describe the Project and receive verbal comments on the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. No decisions concerning the proposed Project will be made at this meeting.

This Public Scoping meeting will occur in-person at the following time and location:

Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Burlingame Community Center, Sequoia Room, 850 Burlingame Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010

To participate in this meeting remotely via Zoom, go to: <https://oneshoreline-org.zoom.us/j/87923899434> or call 669-444-9171 (Meeting ID# 87923899434). The agenda and other information for this meeting will be available by Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at Oneshoreline.org/events under the November 2, 2023 event date.

Project Objectives: The proposed Project objectives include: 1) protecting areas within the cities of Millbrae and Burlingame along the Bay shoreline, creeks, and lagoons (shown on Figure 2) against current coastal hazards and future sea level rise as defined by OneShoreline’s Bay Protection Standard; 2) enhancing recreation and trails; and 3) promoting healthy and sustainable ecosystems proximate to the Bay shoreline.

Project Location: The proposed Project would be located along the shoreline areas and in State waters of San Francisco Bay south of San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and immediately adjacent to and within the cities of Millbrae and Burlingame. Figure 1 shows the regional location, and Figure 2 shows the proposed Project estimated boundaries and potential components.

Proposed Project: The proposed Project would include a combination of offshore and shoreline features to achieve its objectives. The Project proposes to create a tidal lagoon capable of controlling the offshore water level through the construction of an offshore barrier composed of both hardened and natural materials that include habitat features and could include a pedestrian trail. This barrier with habitat features, which has been described as a “living shoreline” in other contexts, would extend approximately 2.65 miles from southernmost coastal SFO location just north of Highline Canal to the southeast corner of the shoreline of Burlingame (see Figure 2). To expand its benefits, this barrier could be extended an additional 0.6 miles further south to high ground at the northwest edge of Coyote Point within the City of San Mateo. The proposed barrier’s height would be sufficient to enable onshore protection from future sea level rise and its width would depend on the amount of habitat and recreational features included in it. To achieve its objectives, the proposed Project may also construct shoreline features, such as trails, beaches, habitat, levees, walls, bridges, tide gates, and pump stations. These potential features (indicated in orange on Figure 2) would occur on the Bay water side of Old Bayshore Highway and Airport Boulevard.

EIR Environmental Impact Areas: The EIR will provide an evaluation of potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. The EIR also will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the proposed Project when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. OneShoreline anticipates that the Project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts in regard to the following topic areas, which will be further evaluated in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

The EIR will analyze the topics identified above, and potentially others, in detail and it will propose mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts determined to be significant.

EIR Project Alternatives: The EIR will also evaluate a reasonable range of project alternatives that could reduce or avoid potential environmental effects identified in the EIR, including a required “No Project” alternative and an alternative exclusively with features along the shoreline.

Future Notices: All interested persons and organizations wishing to be notified when the Draft EIR is available for review should email Projects@OneShoreline.org and provide a current email address. When the Draft EIR is available for review, OneShoreline will provide a public notice with information about how to access it and provide comments on it.

If you have questions regarding this NOP or the EIR public scoping meeting, please contact the Lead Agency contact, Makena Wong, at Projects@OneShoreline.org.

Len Materman
Chief Executive Officer
OneShoreline

October 10, 2023

Figure 1. Regional Location

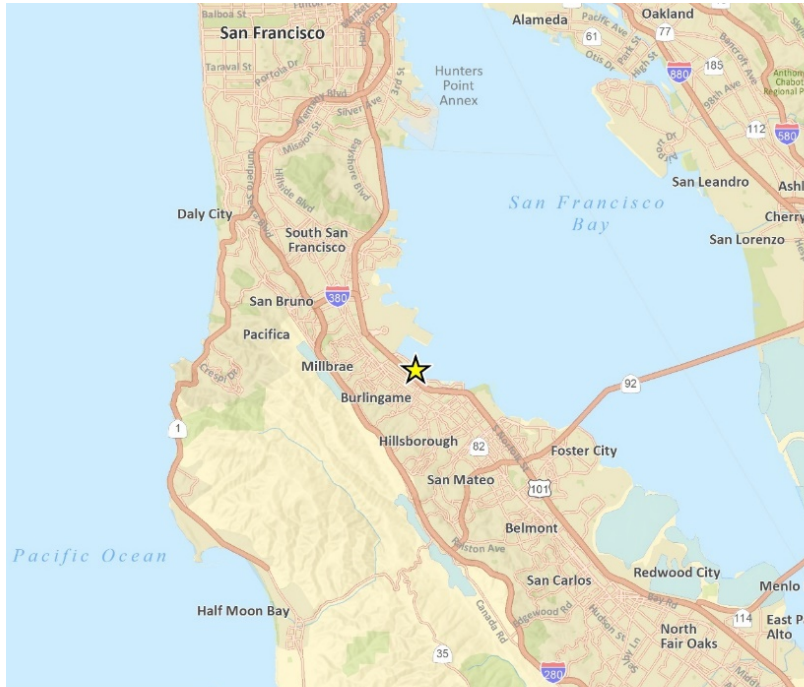


Figure 2. Proposed Project Estimated Boundaries and Components

