

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 3-29-2024**



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March 22, 2024

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Audriana Hossfeld, P.E.  
City of South San Francisco  
Department of Public Works – Engineering Division  
315 Maple Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

**Re: Letter of Support: SSF Shoreline Protection and Connectivity Project**

Dear Ms. Hossfeld,

I am writing in support of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Grant application for the South San Francisco Shoreline Protection and Connectivity Project feasibility study submitted by City of South San Francisco. This project is crucial to protecting the residents, businesses, and critical infrastructure of South San Francisco and surrounding areas from the growing threat of coastal flooding caused by sea level rise and storm surges.

An identified area of South San Francisco, near the confluence of Lower Colma Creek and the San Francisco Bay, has an increasing risk of coastal flooding caused by storm driven waves and sea level rise. Predictions suggest that with a 24-inch rise in sea level and 5-year storm surge, various critical infrastructure including residences, businesses, Highway 101, the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) North Base Maintenance and Operations Facility (North Base), and the South San Francisco/San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant (SSF-SB WQCP) could be affected (based on ART Bay Shoreline Flood Explorer). Notably, this area is predominantly inhabited by people of color who have historically faced disadvantages in access to services (Lower Colma Creek Continuing Authorities Program Section 103 Project, USACE, June 2022).

North Base, SamTrans' primary operations and maintenance facility, is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and erosion. It contains over 170 fixed-route vehicles, employs about 270 staff, and houses the SamTrans paratransit fleet, a disaster relief bus and disaster relief trailer. Impacts to North Base will disrupt SamTrans bus service and prevent people who are transit dependent from accessing work, school, and essential services. Notably, nearly 75% of SamTrans passengers do not have access to a car and are public transit dependent. Approximately 64% of SamTrans passengers are in the "extremely low" income category, which is two times the federal poverty limit.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
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Audriana Hossfeld, P.E.

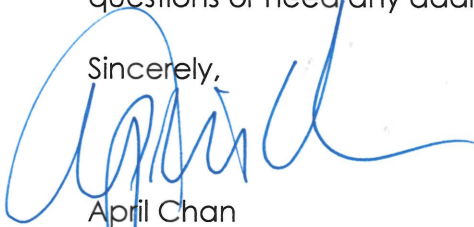
March 22, 2024

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If flooding occurs as projected, there could be severe consequences, including risks to human life, property damage, and disruptions to essential services. To tackle these challenges, South San Francisco plans to conduct a feasibility study (which would be funded by this grant) exploring potential solutions to mitigate coastal flooding exacerbated by sea level rise and storm surges. This study will involve collaboration with various agencies such as Caltrans, SamTrans, OneShoreline, City of San Bruno, Caltrain, SFO and appropriate regulatory agencies such as BCDC. The goal of this study is to assess alternatives for coastal flood protection that could safeguard residences, businesses, transportation infrastructure, and other critical facilities like SFO and the SSF-SB Water Quality Control Plant. It will also contribute to a larger regional effort exploring additional sea level rise mitigation alternatives.

For these reasons, SamTrans strongly supports this project. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Director Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



April Chan  
General Manager/CEO

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors