

Bay Area: What's At Risk?

Carl Guardino, President and CEO Silicon Valley Leadership Group

San Francisco Bay is central to our economy and quality of life here in the Bay Area. Today, the reality of a rising bay and ocean is a risk to that economy, and business engagement is critical to protect the region from flooding.

The Bay Area is at particular risk due to our geography and infrastructure. Billions of dollars in assets are located right at the water's edge. The region is already dealing with the impacts from a rising ocean, from Ocean Beach to Richardson Bay and beyond. Scientists tell us we can expect this kind of flooding to not only continue, but that it will get worse and with more frequency due to global warming.

In the South Bay, the Bay itself may often be out of sight but a significant amount of critical Silicon Valley businesses, housing, transportation and other vital resources are at risk; many of the existing levees that protect the South Bay were built more than 100 years ago and were not engineered to meet federal flood standards. A major storm in the Bay Area could put hundreds of thousands of people and tens of billions of dollars in assets at risk, not only threatening the public safety of the region but also directly impacting the innovation economy.

Flooding catastrophes in New Orleans with Katrina and New York with Sandy have led national policymakers and business groups into a conversation about the benefit of natural flood protection. For New York City, a buffer of rebuilt wetlands is truly science fiction, but for significant parts of the Bay Area, it can be a reality.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group is coordinating with a number of groups to engage the business community on these issues, and we have launched a business community taskforce that is collaborating on strategy and helping set direction for the next several years.

Keywords: Silicon Valley, Bay Area Economy, Flood Protection, Wetlands

Session Title: Day 1 Plenary Session: Wetlands, Flood Protection, and the Bay Area Economy

Speaker Biography: Carl Guardino, one of Silicon Valley's most distinguished business and community leaders, is the President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy trade association that represents more than 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected companies.

In February 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Guardino to a four-year term on the California Transportation Commission. He was reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown. He also serves on numerous other boards and is actively involved in a wide range of community organizations and projects. In 2000, the San Jose Mercury News named Guardino one of the "Five Most Powerful" people in Silicon Valley in a once-per-decade study.

Guardino has been the chief executive of the Leadership Group since 1997. He previously served as a vice president with the organization between 1991 and 1995. He also held an executive position in governmental affairs with Hewlett-Packard and he spent six years on the staff of Central Valley Assemblyman Rusty Areias, the last three as his chief assistant.

Guardino was born and raised in San Jose and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from San Jose State University, where he is a Distinguished Alumnus. He is a member of Junior Achievement's "Silicon Valley Business Hall of Fame" and a recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from City Year, and is a second recipient of the American Public Transit Association's Business Executive of the Year.

The Strategy for the South Bay

Linda J. LeZotte, Director District 4, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Santa Clara County's shoreline is at great risk from flooding now due to extreme storm events combined with high tides, and in the future due to sea level rise. In its "Flood Future" Report, the Department of Water Resources identified Santa Clara County, along with Los Angeles and Orange Counties, as having the highest potential flood damages in the state. Portions of Santa Clara County near the Bay are below sea level, and many high-tech companies are located along the shoreline, along with residents and the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Bay Area.

To address this risk, the Santa Clara Valley Water District is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Conservancy on the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, a congressionally authorized study to investigate and determine whether there is a Federal interest in providing flood risk management and ecosystem restoration improvements along the South Bay. The purpose of this multi-objective study is to provide one-percent tidal flood protection, restore and enhance tidal marsh and related habitats, and provide recreational and public access opportunities for the Santa Clara County shoreline area. The Shoreline Study takes into consideration the potential need for adaption resulting from climate change, the primary consideration being sea level rise.

The current phase of the Shoreline Study is focusing on the San Jose shoreline area located between Alviso Slough and Coyote Creek, which includes the Alviso community and the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. Additional areas, such as Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale, will be the subject of future studies. The water district's Safe, Clean Water measure, passed in 2012, includes \$15 million to cost share construction of the project and another \$5 million to conduct studies of additional areas

Keywords: Flood Risk Management, Ecosystem Restoration Improvements, Tidal Marsh, Sea Level Rise

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Speaker Biography: Linda LeZotte is a San Jose attorney with 30 years of practice specializing in land use and environmental and municipal law. Linda was elected to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board in November, 2010, which she chaired in 2012. She represents the City of Campbell and portions of Willow Glen and San Jose (Cambrian, North Almaden and Blossom Hill).

For eight years, Linda served as a distinguished member of the San Jose City Council leading the green building/sustainability policy discussion. Linda is one of a select group of Silicon Valley and California attorneys who are accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council as a LEED AP (LEED Accredited Professional) in New Construction. Linda chaired the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Sustainable Buildings Initiative, and serves on the Advisory Board of Sustainable Silicon Valley.

Panel Discussion: Wetlands, Flood Protection, and the Bay Area Economy

Moderator: Carl Guardino, President and CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

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Panel Members:

Linda J. LeZotte, Director District 4, Santa Clara Valley Water District

David Lewis, Executive Director, Save The Bay

Kerrie Romanow, Director of Environmental Services, City of San Jose

Lieutenant Colonel John Baker, Commander and District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

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Accredited Professional) in New Construction. Linda chaired the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Sustainable Buildings Initiative, and serves on the Advisory Board of Sustainable Silicon Valley.

Panel Member Biography: As Executive Director of Save The Bay since 1998, David Lewis has been San Francisco Bay's top advocate for more than a decade. David was born and raised in the Bay Area, and prior to joining Save The Bay, he devoted 14 years to work for nuclear arms control in Washington, D.C., including in the U.S. Senate, and also worked on election campaigns across the country. He holds a B.A. in Politics and American Studies from Princeton University.

Panel Member Biography: Kerrie Romanow serves as Director of Environmental Services for City of San José; the nation's tenth largest city and the largest city in Northern California. The Environmental Services Department manages solid waste collection and recycling, watershed protection, pollution prevention, municipal drinking water, recycled water, community sustainability initiatives, and operation and planning for the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. The department has over 500 employees, an annual operating budget of over \$200 million, and a five-year capital budget of nearly \$750 million. Prior to joining the City, Kerrie served as Chief Operating Officer for a national environmental, health, and safety management consulting firm, and as Manager of Facilities and Environmental, Health, and Safety for an international compound semiconductor manufacturing firm. She earned a BS Degree in Environmental Economics from UC Berkeley, an MBA from Santa Clara University and completed the Harvard University Senior Executives in State and Local Government certificate program.

Panel Member Biography: Lieutenant Colonel John K. Baker assumed command of the San Francisco District on June 28, 2012. As Commander and District Engineer, he leads an organization that has provided public engineering services in Northern California since 1866 supporting military contingencies and disaster response and managing the nation's water resource infrastructure for economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Raised in Texas, LTC Baker was commissioned in 1995 and served in a variety of engineer district and troop unit assignments across the U.S. and through three combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. LTC Baker earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland. He is a registered Professional Engineer and a member of multiple professional organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers.

Panel Member Biography: Sam Schuchat became Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy in 2001. He was Executive Director of the Federation of State Conservation Voter Leagues, the trade association of 26 environmental Political Action Committees (PACs). For six years he was Executive Director of the California League of Conservation Voters, the nation's largest and oldest state environmental PAC with 25,000 members. Mr. Schuchat served on the California Fish and Game Commission (1999-2003), including a stint as vice president. He was deputy director of Sacramento AIDS Foundation in the late 1980s. He received his BA in Political Science at Williams College (1983) and his MA in Public Administration at San Francisco State University (1989).