Humboldt County
Sea Level Rise
Adaptation Planning

Humboldt Bay Agricultural Lands Forum
May 4, 2017
Outline of Staff Presentation

• Areas of Projected Flooding from Sea Level Rise
• How the County’s Plan Works to Protect Agricultural Assets Now
• Other Ways the County’s Plan Could Help Protect Those Assets in the Future
Existing Areas of Flooding During High Tides – North Bay
Areas of Flooding from 1.0 meter SLR – North Bay
Agricultural Areas Affected by 1.0 meter SLR – North Bay
Dikes protecting agricultural lands – North Bay
Existing Areas of Flooding During High Tides – South Bay
Areas of Flooding from 1.0 meter SLR – South Bay
Agricultural Areas Affected by 1.0 meter SLR – South Bay
Dikes protecting agricultural lands – South Bay
How the County’s Plan Works to Protect Agricultural Assets

- All the diked former tidal marshes and clearly defined tidal sloughs that are now farmed are defined as “Transitional Agricultural Lands”.

- The land use policies that apply in these areas are designed to maintain existing agricultural land uses while preventing practices that would adversely affect existing wildlife habitats.

- They are all zoned Agriculture Exclusive.
How the County’s Plan Works to Protect Agricultural Assets Now

- “Diking and filling for new development within transitional agricultural lands shall be limited to... modification or repair of existing dikes threatened by erosion” Section 3.30(B)(3)(b)

- “Any structure permitted by this section shall be sited in the least environmentally damaging manner possible. Where feasible, new structures shall be sited 100 feet from tidal or non-tidal sloughs.”

- “Mitigation for these uses by restoration of tidal action or removal of fill is not feasible and shall not be required.”
How the County’s Plan Works to Protect Agricultural Assets Now

• “No land use or development shall be permitted in areas adjacent to coastal wetlands, called Wetland Buffer Areas, which degrade the wetland or detract from the natural resource value.” Section 3.30(B)(6)(a)

• “Wetland Buffer Areas shall be defined as…250 feet from the wetland…”

• “Transitional Agricultural lands designated Agriculture Exclusive shall be excluded from the wetland buffer”
Other Ways the County’s Plan Could Help Protect Those Assets in the Future

• Pre-permitting repair/maintenance of dikes for SLR

• Adding exclusions for repair/maintenance of dikes for SLR

• Adding repair/maintenance of dikes for SLR to the “de-minimus waiver” category of development

• Other suggestions?
Permit Jurisdiction and Local Policy Implications

Coastal Zone Jurisdictions
Permit Jurisdiction and Local Policy Implications

State Jurisdiction + 1.0 Meter Area
Permit Jurisdiction and Local Policy Implications
State Jurisdiction + 1.0 Meter

- 79% STATE
- 21% LOCAL
Humboldt County
Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Planning and Building Department

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WHO WILL PROTECT US FROM SEA LEVEL RISE?