

Humboldt County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Planning and Building Department

Humboldt Bay Agricultural Lands Forum

May 4, 2017

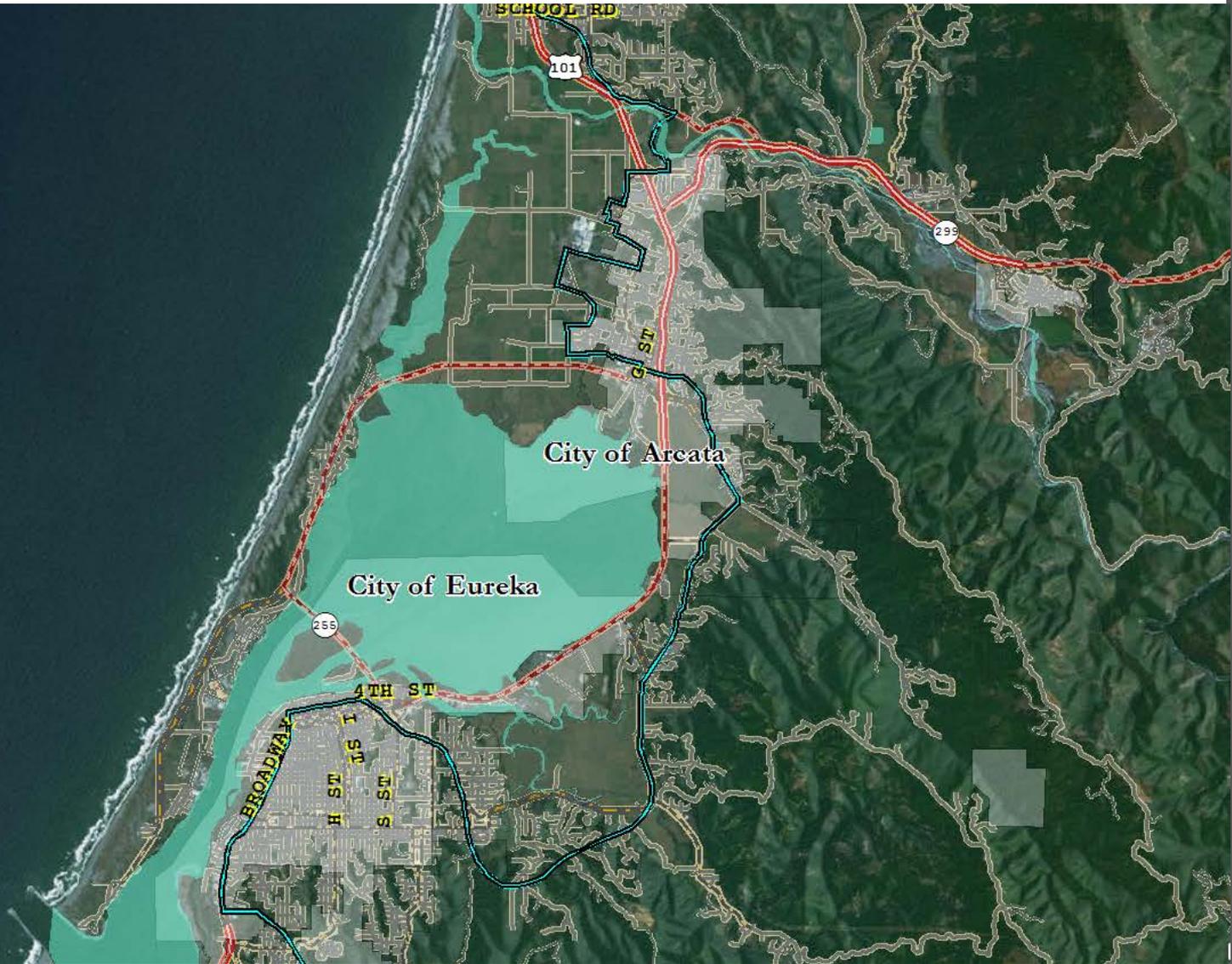


Outline of Staff Presentation

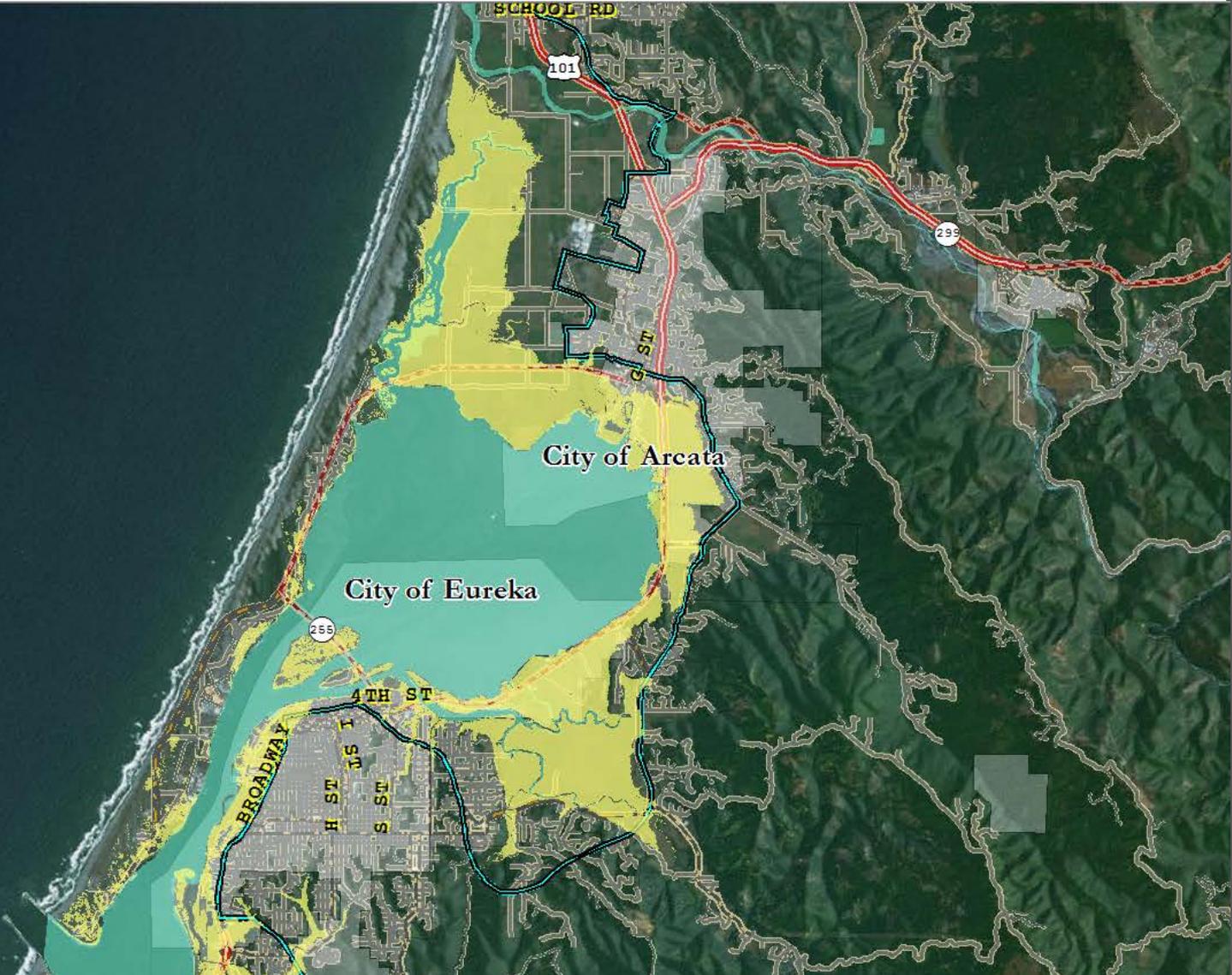
- Areas of Projected Flooding from Sea Level Rise
- How the County's Plan Works to Protect Agricultural Assets Now
- Other Ways the County's Plan Could Help Protect Those Assets in the Future



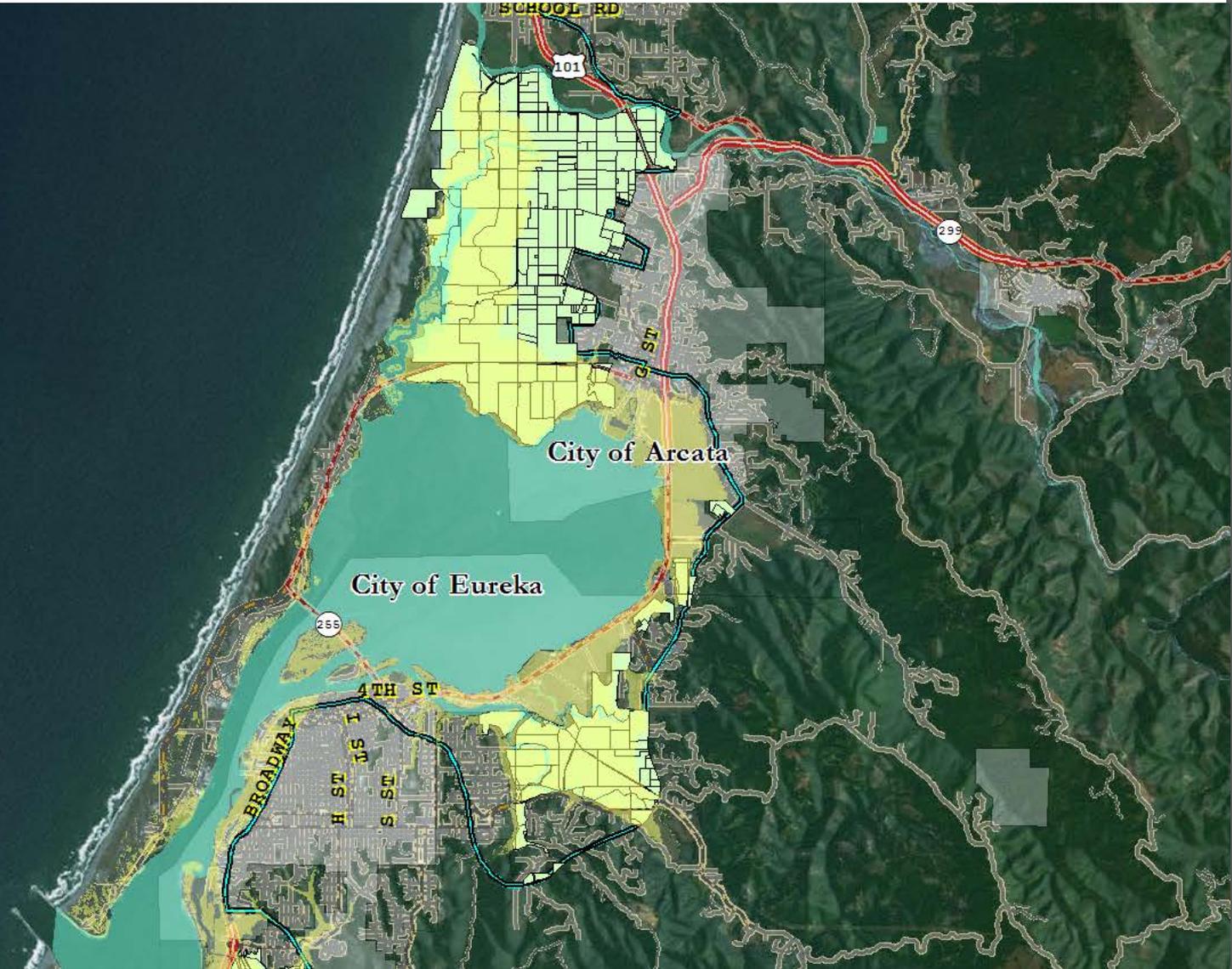
Existing Areas of Flooding During High Tides – North Bay



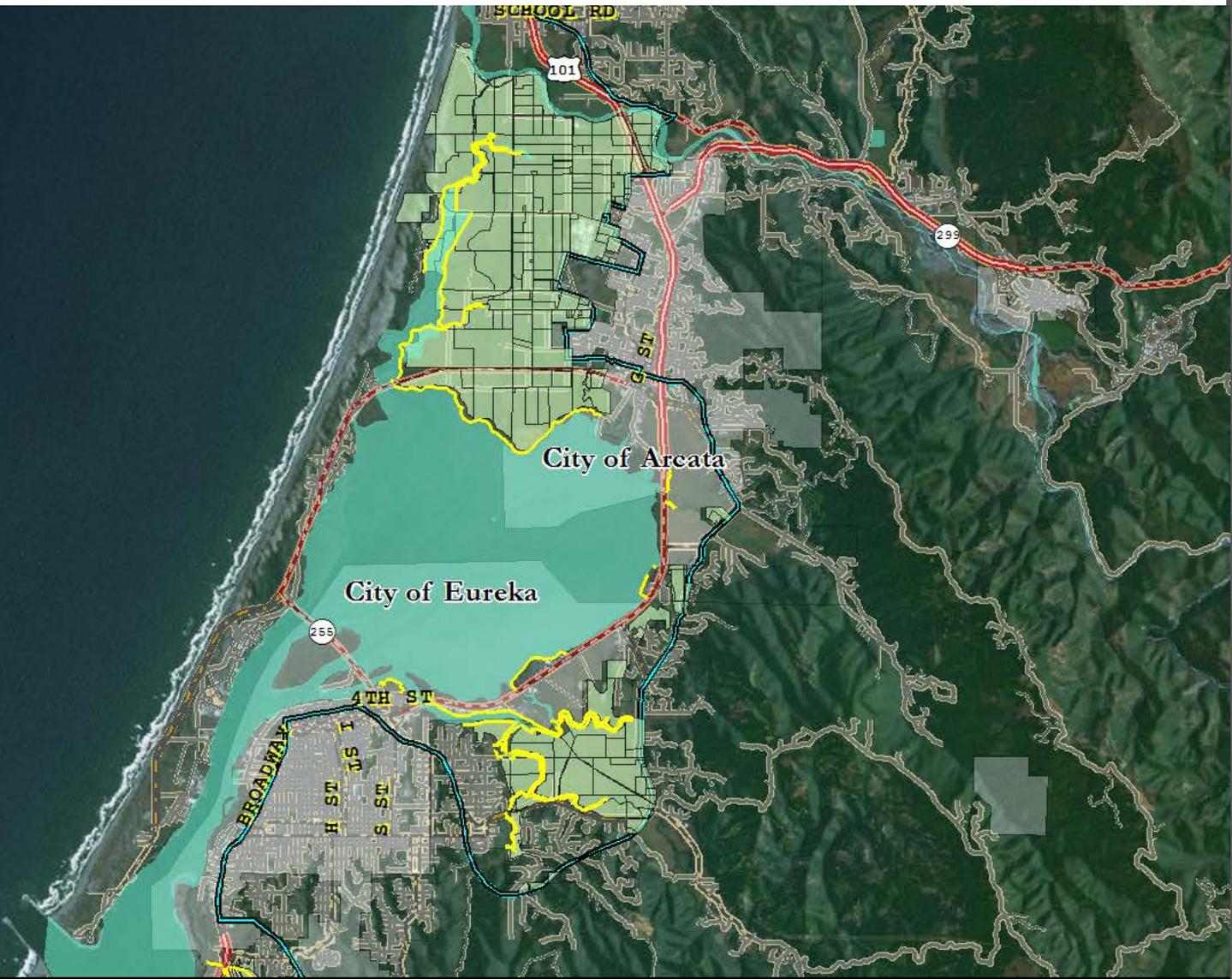
Areas of Flooding from 1.0 meter SLR – North Bay



Agricultural Areas Affected by 1.0 meter SLR – North Bay



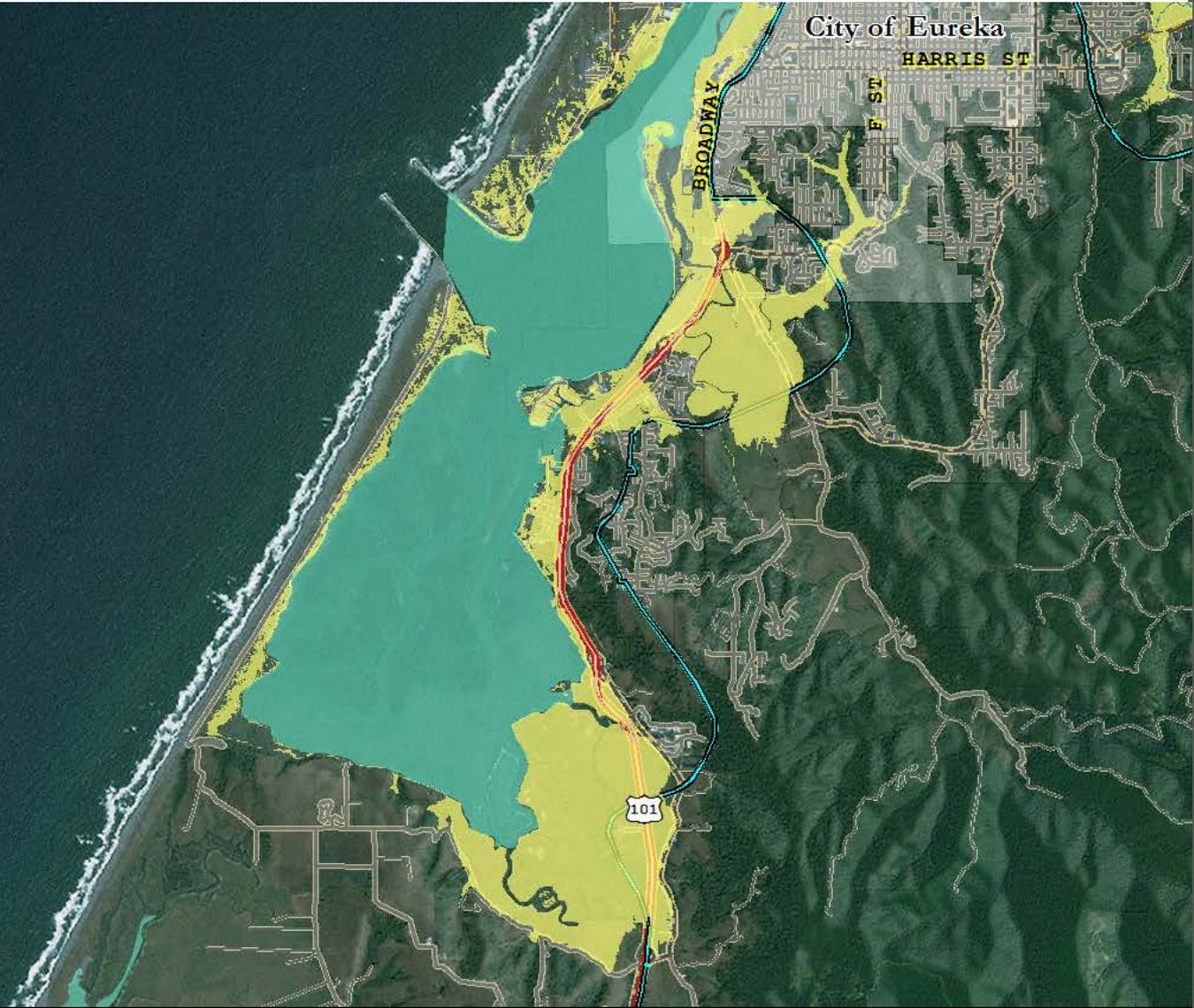
Dikes protecting agricultural lands – North Bay



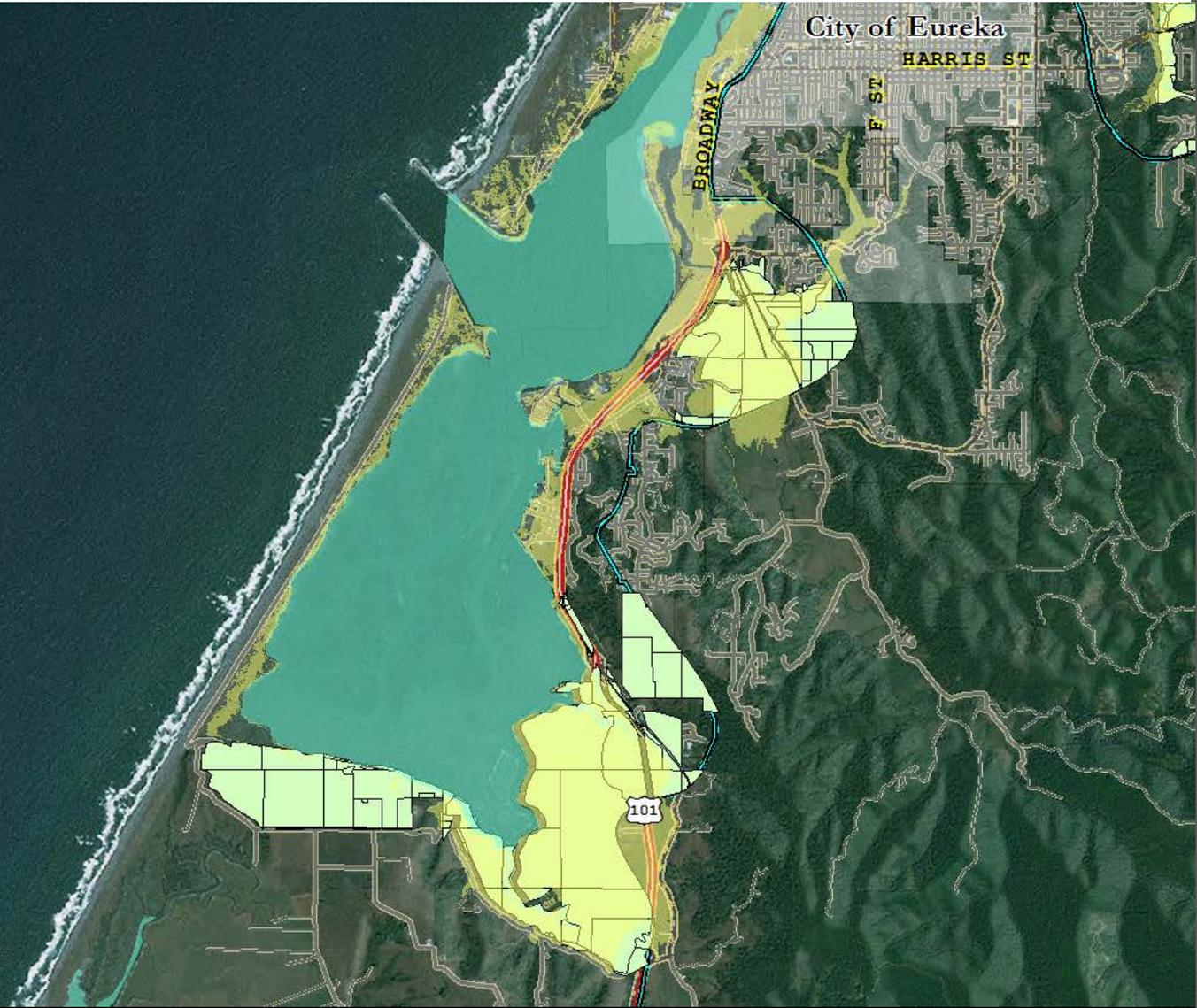
Existing Areas of Flooding During High Tides – South Bay



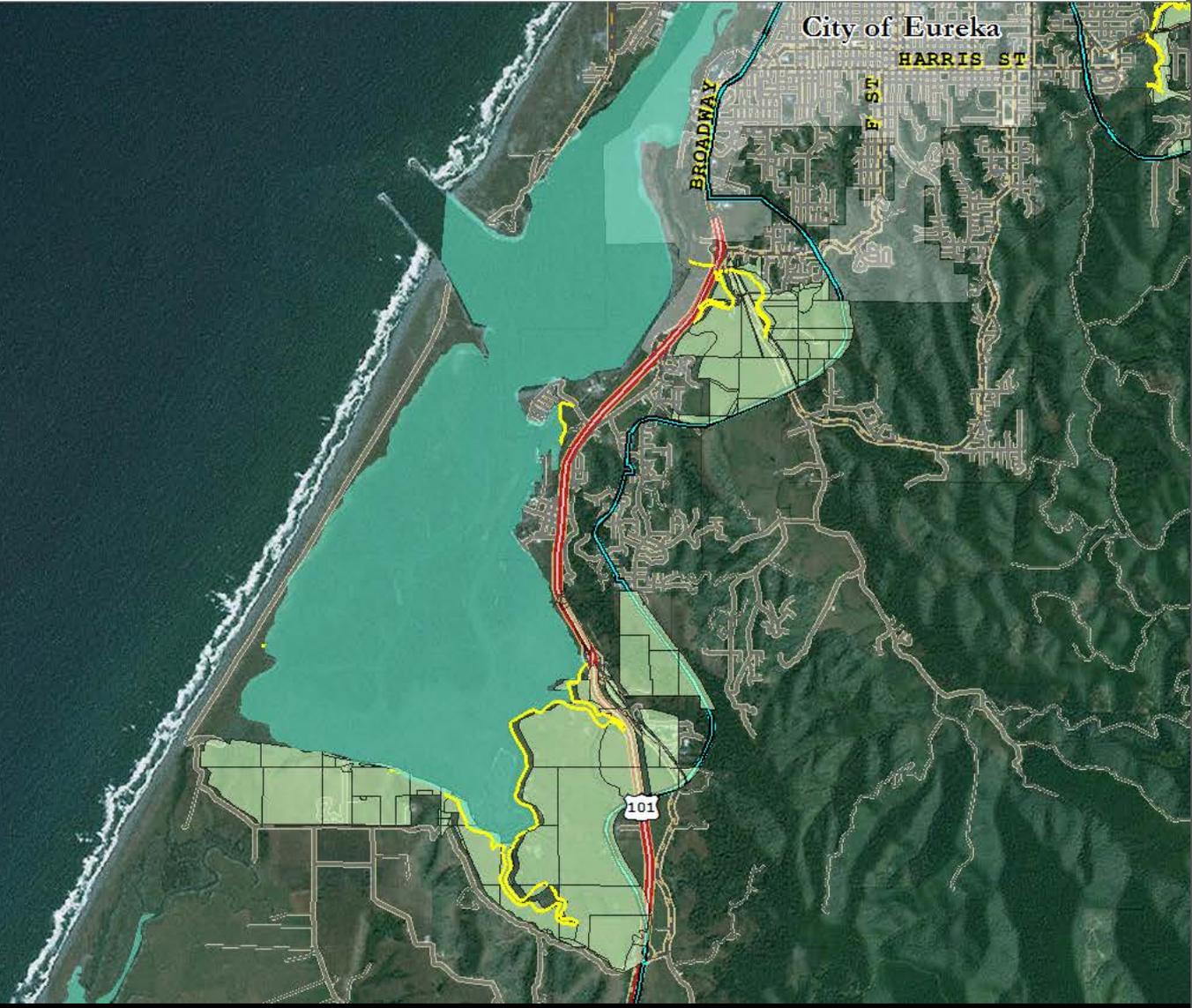
Areas of Flooding from 1.0 meter SLR – South Bay



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 Now

- 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



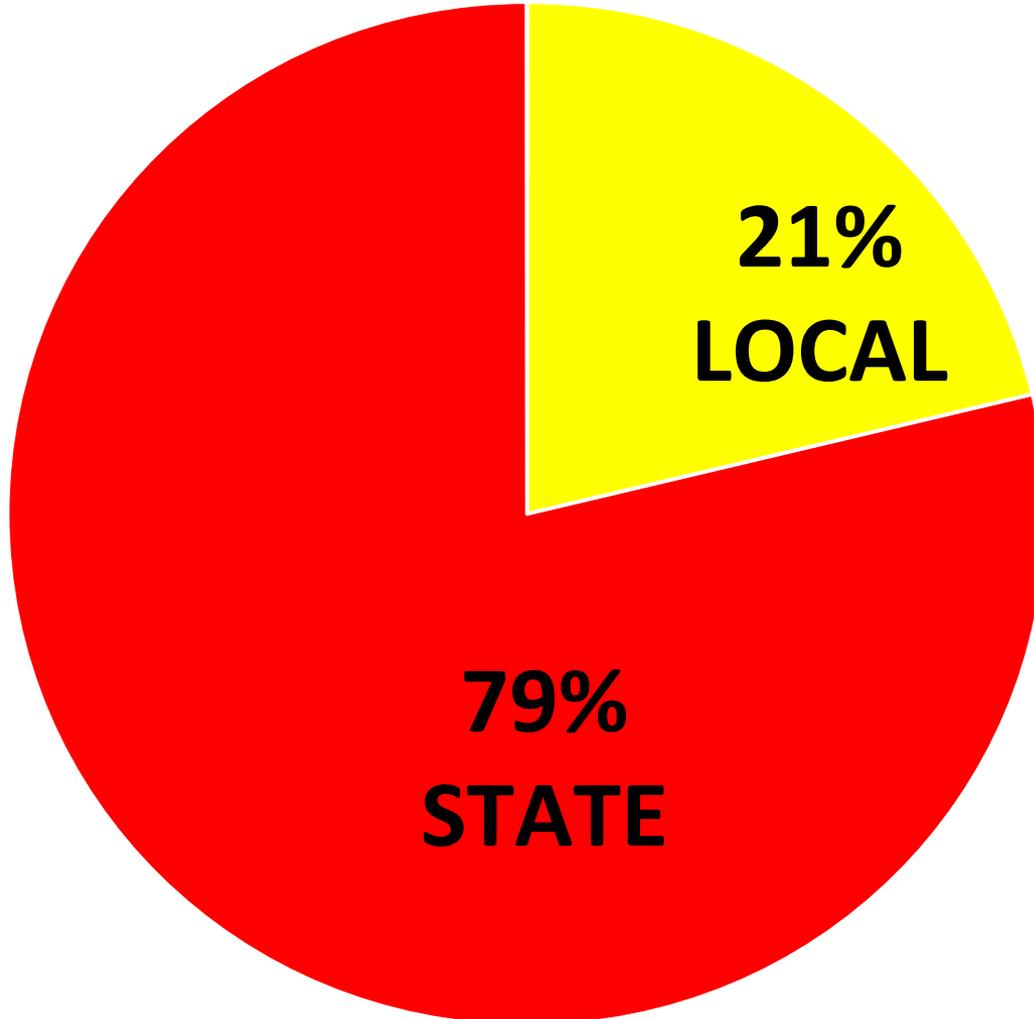
Permit Jurisdiction and Local Policy Implications

State Jurisdiction + 1.0 Meter Area



Permit Jurisdiction and Local Policy Implications

State Jurisdiction + 1.0 Meter



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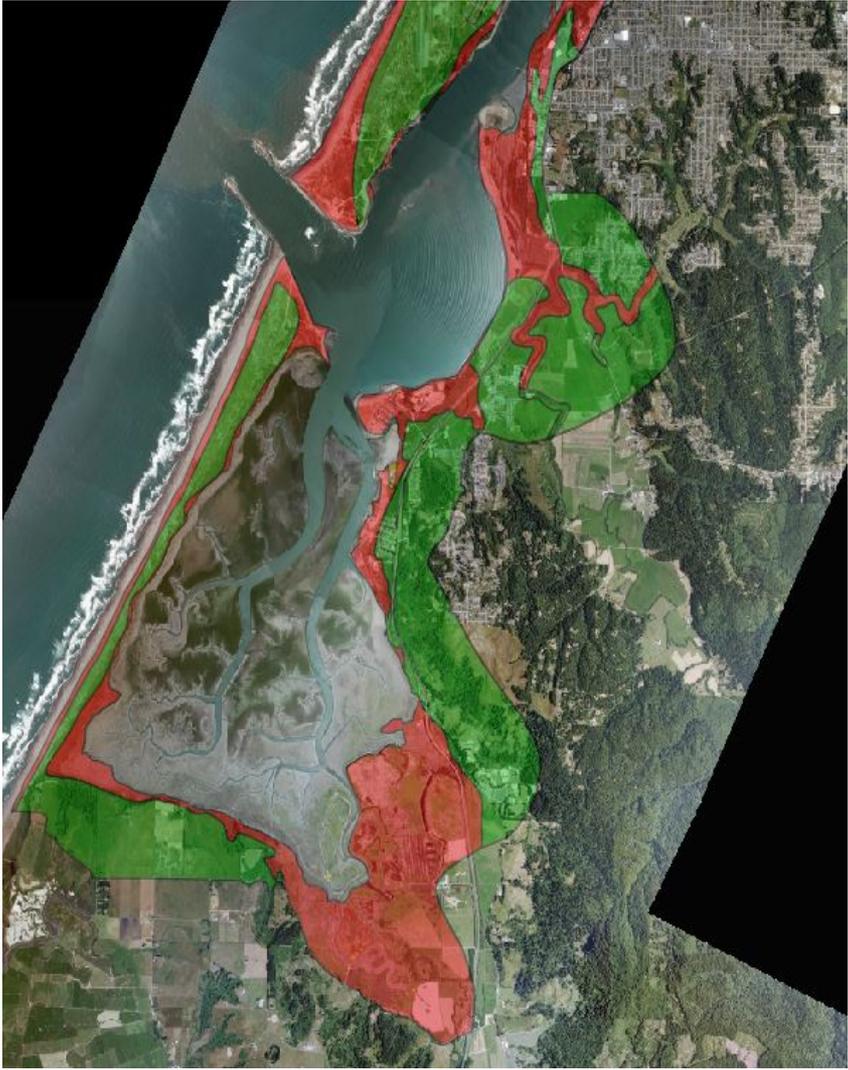
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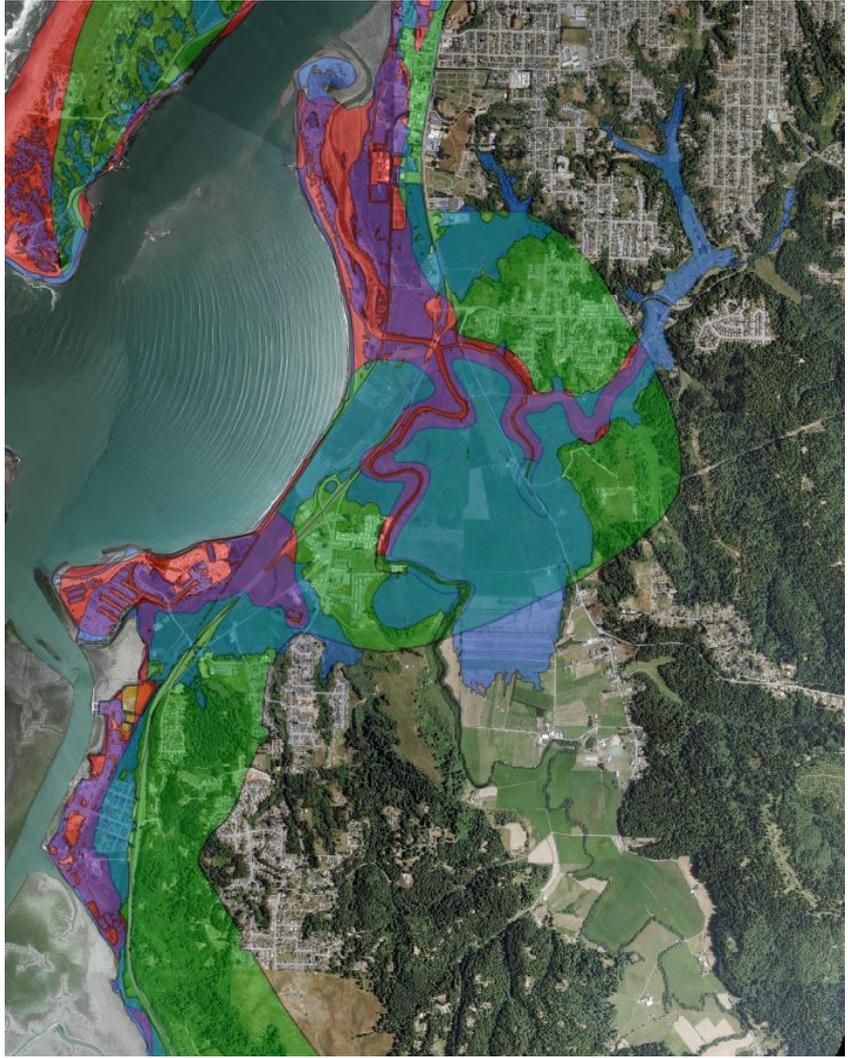
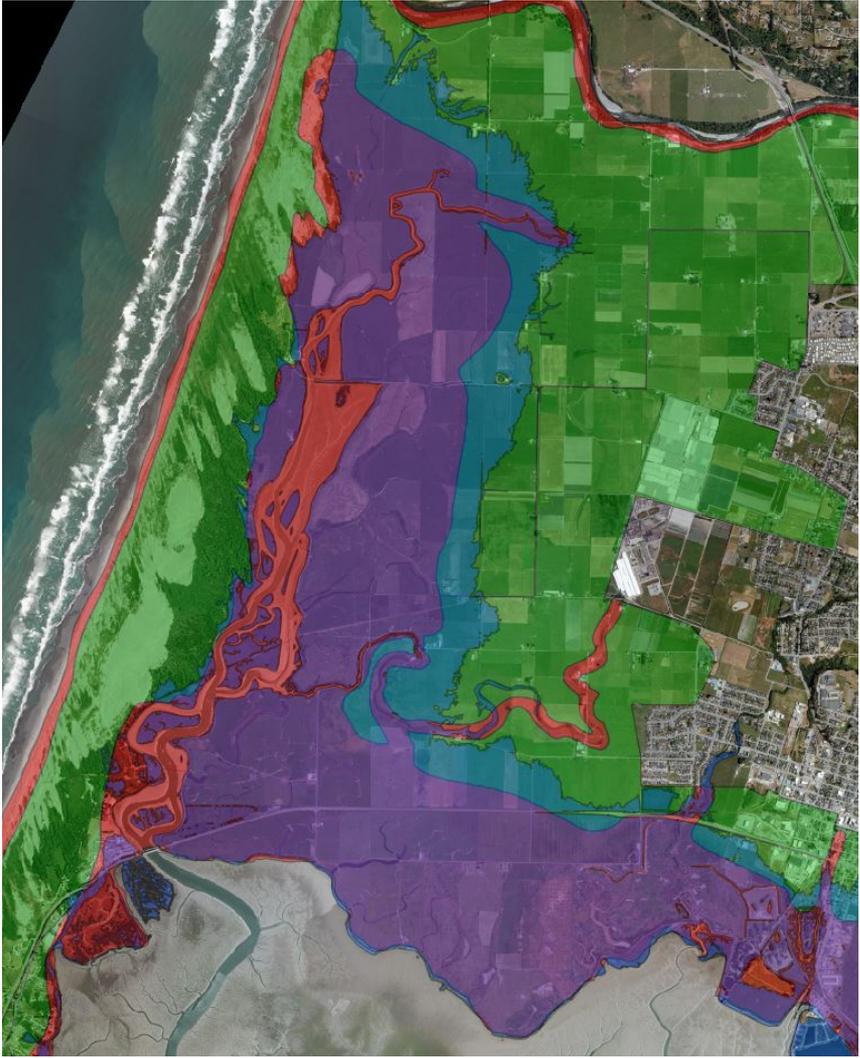
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WHO WILL PROTECT US FROM SEA LEVEL RISE?

