

USACE - Adapting to a Changing “Climate”

STORMS, FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL DEFENSE
CONFERENCE 2023

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U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers



Port of Oakland



City of Sunnyvale



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WHAT METRIC DOES THE USACE RELY ON TO EVALUATE PROJECT ALTERNATIVES?

1. Environmental Quality
2. National Economic Development
3. Regional Economic Development
4. Other Social Effects

(yes, this is a trick question!)





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NEW POLICY DIRECTIVE !

COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENTATION OF BENEFITS



- Benefit Cost Analysis – well established method
- The new policy directs the Project Delivery Team (PDT) to emphasize all benefits when evaluating project alternatives
- These other benefits can be considered as well, especially if the study area impacted by coastal storms for example is in an Environmental Justice (EJ) community for example, or there is an immediate life safety risk
- This new policy will help us align with our local agency partners goals and objectives as well
- The USACE PDT members are adopting and adapting to this new policy
- Comprehensive Documentation of Benefits in Decision Document
[https://planning.erdc.dren.mil/toolbox/library/MemosandLetters/ComprehensiveDocumentationofBenefitsin DecisionDocument_5January2021.pdf](https://planning.erdc.dren.mil/toolbox/library/MemosandLetters/ComprehensiveDocumentationofBenefitsinDecisionDocument_5January2021.pdf)





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2 CURRENT PROJECTS USING COMP BENEFITS



Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Feasibility Study (agreement with Port of Oakland signed July 2020, \$4.1M study and estimated \$0.6B design and construction)

- Formulated and evaluated alternatives for comprehensive benefits
- Navigation study that estimates approximately 2.4M cubic yards of dredged material suitable for beneficial use
- Approved NED Exception by the Assistant Secretary of the Army to cost-share beneficial use of dredged material
- Ongoing public engagement with communities adjacent to the Port has been critical

Shoreline Sunnyvale Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study (agreement with Valley Water signed August 2023, \$3+ M study, with potential for large scale project implementation)

- 5-mile X 5-mile study area, numerous jurisdictions and stakeholders, CSR and FRM, ecosystems restoration and recreation
- Good candidate for Comprehensive Documentation of Benefits
- Good candidate for **Engineering With Nature** proving ground



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THANK YOU!

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