Announcement from Our Coast our Future Project about the new award
October 26, 2011

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, PRBO Conservation Science, US Geological Survey, and the San Francisco Bay NERR are pleased to announce funding has been awarded through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative to extend the scope of the current outer coast Our Coast–Our Future (OCOF) project into San Francisco Bay, as well as provide increased technical assistance to our decision support tool users, both along the outer coast and in the Bay.

"Our Coast–Our Future: Planning for Sea Level Rise and Storm Hazards In the San Francisco Bay Area," is funded from November 2011 through August 2014 and objectives include:

- Expand the geographic extent and stakeholder participatory process of the current OCOF project into the equally vulnerable shoreline of San Francisco Bay.
- Provide a high resolution (2 m) seamless Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for the shorelines of the entire San Francisco Bay Area region, including the North-central California coastline, from Half Moon Bay to Bodega Head and San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, and Suisun Bay (both completed with additional funds outside of this grant).
- Produce a suite of sea level rise and storm scenarios using the USGS Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for the Bay that is consistent with the scenarios being built for the outer coast.
- Using the new DEM and CoSMoS scenarios, build increased capabilities into and update projections of physical and biological changes over time to PRBO's existing San Francisco Bay Sea Level Rise online decision support tool.
- Based on user feedback and emerging data, periodically update the outer coast and Bay online tools to best suite management needs over time.
- Through a stakeholder participatory process spanning the nine county San Francisco Bay Area region, develop the information, tools, training and technical assistance necessary to help shoreline resource managers and planners develop restoration, adaptation, and management plans to minimize predicted impacts of sea level rise and storm hazards on natural ecosystems and built infrastructure.
- Promote dialogue among coastal resource managers, planners, and scientists to ensure that analyses and tools are useful and can be effectively applied to local climate change adaptation and response strategies and actions.
- Develop a coordinated and cohesive approach to shoreline adaptation planning throughout the region, including data collection, model development, and building decision support tools.

There will be many opportunities to get involved in this project including:

- Attending an Open House meeting for the San Francisco Bay audience of users
- Participating in a San Francisco Bay needs assessment
- Participating on a San Francisco Bay advisory committee on a wide range of decisions – from underlying assumptions used in models, to features and functionality of end user applications
- Soliciting in-depth technical assistance on applying the decision support tools to your planning processes within the Bay and outer coast
- Participating in tool training and evaluation workshops for the Bay and outer coast
- Providing continuous feedback on the applicability of the Bay and outer coast tools and how they can best continue to meet user needs.

Simultaneously in 2012, development of the OCOF outer coast products will continue, and a focus group will be convened to test the beta version of the online decision support tool, with a final tool and subsequent training workshop anticipated in late Fall 2012.

Lead project staff under the NERRS Science Collaborative include:

Project Coordinator: Kelley Higgason, NOAA Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary kelley.higgason@noaa.gov

Collaboration Lead (San Francisco Bay): Marina Psaros, San Francisco Bay NERR Coastal Training Program mpsaros@sfsu.edu

Applied Science Investigator (Decision Support Tool Development): Grant Ballard, PRBO Conservation Science gballard@prbo.org

Applied Science Investigator (DEM and Scenario Development): Patrick Barnard, US Geological Surveypbarnard@usgs.gov

Project staff will begin preliminary planning work in 2011, but the official kick off for the project will not take place until early 2012. Kelley Higgason will be on maternity leave November 2011 through January 2012. Please direct any questions you may have during this time to one of the other appropriate staff leads. If you would like to be added to the **distribution list** for this project (and are not already on the current OCOF list), **please contact Marina at mpsaros@sfsu.edu**.

We would like to thank those agencies and organizations who provided letters of support for this proposal, and we look forward to building on our existing work with partners along the outer coast and beginning the collaboration process with those working within San Francisco Bay.

Sincerely,

OCOF Staff

Additional information on 2011 NERRS Science Collaborative funded projects:
The NERRS Science Collaborative has awarded $6.1million to fund collaborative projects that address a coastal management problem identified as a priority for a NERRS Reserve and a community that it serves. Please see attached funding announcement.

Over the next three years, project teams from California, Florida, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Texas will be working with stakeholders on a range of challenges, including native oyster restoration, sea level rise adaptation, Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater systems implementation, freshwater inflow standards, and greenhouse gas reduction.

The Science Collaborative is dedicated to putting science to work for coastal communities coping with the impacts of land use change, pollution, and habitat degradation in the context of a changing climate. The projects funded are designed to bring the intended users of the science into the research process so that their perspectives can inform problem definition, research design and implementation, and ultimately, application of the project's results.