Flood Resilience Report Card

SAVE THE BAY

Hayward	21 out of 48

Hayward faces flooding from sea level rise, groundwater rise, and extreme storms which will affect industrial, commercial, and residential areas on the shoreline and along creeks and drainage ways.

Along the shoreline, many ecological assets are at risk, including wetlands like the Oro Loma Marsh and Hayward Marsh that provide flood protection to the city and habitat to endangered species. There are also critical infrastructure assets along the shoreline at risk, including wastewater treatment plants.

Hayward stands out among Bay Area communities for having taken early action to create the Hayward Regional Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan (HRSAP), which identifies areas and assets impacted by sea level rise and makes project and policy recommendations for adapting.

Hayward Regional Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan

The Hayward Regional Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan (HRSAP) was created in 2021 to establish a coordinated vision and set of adaptation strategies for protecting natural and built shoreline assets from sea level rise. It recommends shoreline resilience projects such as horizontal levees, gently sloping vegetated buffers that provide sea level rise protection and water quality benefits. The HRSAP was created by a joint powers authority consisting of the City, the Hayward Area Park and Recreation District (HARD), and the East Bay Regional Park District.

Key Policy & Planning Opportunities

We recommend that Hayward focus on these key opportunities to advance flood resilience:

1. **Overlay Zones:** Create sea level rise and groundwater rise overlay zones that establish building standards (such as minimum lowest floor elevations, setbacks, and flood-resilient building materials) to ensure new developments are resilient to future flood risk. This aligns with the HRSAP's policy recommendation of increasing standards for new development in flood zones.
2. **Storm Drain Master Plan:** Create a Storm Drain Master Plan that ensures that Hayward's storm drain system has the capacity to function under future conditions. It should prioritize projects based on future flood risk, water quality, and benefits to disadvantaged communities. We recommend a focus on stormwater infrastructure because the Equity Priority Communities in Hayward are east of Hesperian Blvd and most likely to experience inland flooding.

The next page breaks down Hayward's sea level rise and flood resilience score and offers additional policy and planning recommendations.

How Scoring Works: We identified 48 policies that local governments should implement to defend against sea level rise, groundwater rise, and inland flooding. The scores represent how many policies in each category the city has implemented. Partial points may be awarded if a city has implemented a component of a policy but not the full policy.

General Flood Resilience Score	5 out of 9
Highlights	☑ The Hayward Regional Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan (HRSAP) identifies sea level rise and related flood risks and identifies priority projects, mitigation actions, and policies for sea level rise resilience.
Next Steps	LOW HANGING FRUIT ☐ Create a process (such as a sea level rise and green infrastructure checklist) to evaluate all Capital Improvement Plan projects for opportunities to maximize flood resilience and nature-based green infrastructure. ☐ Clarify what the flood risks, if any, are in the five Priority Development Areas identified in the General Plan. LARGER LIFT ☐ Form regional partnerships to coordinate shoreline resilience planning and HRSAP implementation with neighboring municipalities.
Groundwater Rise Resilience Score	**0.5 out of 3**
Next Steps	☐ Use existing groundwater rise data to establish a Shallow Groundwater Rise Overlay District and related policies to protect against groundwater flooding. Study how groundwater rise may exacerbate other risks like liquefaction, corrosion, and contaminant mobilization.
Sea Level Rise Resilience Score	**2 out of 4**
Highlights	☑ The HRSAP prioritizes nature-based solutions in its sea level rise resilience projects.
Next Steps	☐ Use existing sea level rise data to establish a Sea Level Rise Overlay District and related policies to protect against sea level rise flooding.
Sea Level Rise & Groundwater Rise Multi-hazard Resilience Score	**7.5 out of 16**
Highlights	☑ The HRSAP identifies natural and built assets that are at risk of flooding and recommends a variety of protect, adapt, and retreat strategies to build flood resilience.
Next Steps	LOW HANGING FRUIT ☐ Maintain an up-to-date inventory and map of all toxic sites and pollutant sources at risk of contaminant mobilization due to sea level rise or shallow groundwater. LARGER LIFT ☐ In partnership with frontline communities, develop toxic site cleanup standards that a site must meet before housing or other sensitive developments can be built on it.
Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Resilience	**3 out of 10**
Highlights	☑ The Green Infrastructure Plan includes a workplan for integrating the GI plan into the Pedestrian & Bike plan.
Next Steps	LOW HANGING FRUIT ☐ Overlay existing data on communities experiencing heightened flood risk, urban heat, air pollution, and lack of green space to identify priority areas for urban greening projects. LARGER LIFT ☐ Create a Storm Drain Master Plan that identifies areas at risk of flooding under future precipitation conditions and plans to update the storm drain system accordingly, prioritizing projects based on future flood risk, water quality, and disadvantaged community status.
Accountability & Transparency	**3 out of 6**
Highlights	☑ The General Plan website includes an easy-to-navigate table of implementation programs and their progress statuses.
Next Steps	☐ Apply the racial equity lens framework utilized in the Strategic Roadmap to all climate resilience projects.