

**Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District**

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Annex to 2010 Association of Bay  
Area Governments  
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan  
*Taming Natural Disasters*

BETHEL ISLAND MUNICIPAL  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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### **Introduction**

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) was formed in 1960 by the California State Legislature. The newly formed BIMID absorbed Reclamation District 1619. Bethel Island, California, is located in the unincorporated portion of East Contra Costa County; the only access to the island by road is across the Bethel Island Bridge, which is owned and maintained by Contra Costa County. The island is not a city and thus relies on a combination of private and county public services. BIMID is a special act district that has powers similar to a city. BIMID is responsible for the maintenance and rehabilitation of 14.5 miles of earthen levee which completely surround Bethel Island (3 miles of the levee currently are part of the Delta Coves Project which is presently on hold and not under control of this District), thus protecting the island's 3500 acres of agricultural and residential properties (all below sea-level) and over 3700 year-round residents from flood inundation from the waters of the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta. (Note: The new Delta Coves development, when fully built out, will add about 495 new homes and 60 condos to the Bethel Island community.) BIMID also provides habitat mitigation, park services, as well as storm drain maintenance and repair for Bethel Island.

The majority of BIMID funding comes from ad valorem tax which is collected by Contra Costa County and is used to compete for State funding (in the form of cost share work agreements) from the Department of Water Resources.

Currently, BIMID has four employees, consisting of two full time employees, the Levee Foreman and the District Clerk; and two part time employees, the Assistant Secretary and a field worker. The Board of Directors for BIMID consists of five elected members, each director serving for a period of four years.

A map of the District's jurisdictional boundary is provided in Exhibit A.

### **The Regional Planning Process**

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District participated in various ABAG workshops, conferences, and meetings, including:

- County/City Workshop
- Comment on Strategies

At these meetings BIMID representatives provided input on the regional mitigation strategies that were important to the District and shared relevant mitigation successes and challenges with the various groups. For more information on these meetings and for rosters of attendees, please see Appendix A and H in the ABAG Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010 (MJ-LHMP). In addition, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan and provided information on facilities that are defined as "critical" to ABAG.

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### The Local Planning Process

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District Local Planning team includes: Board President Marguerite Lawry, District Manager Steve Spence, District Clerk Julie Hugel, and Emergency Coordinator David Graas. The team met on a regular basis to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation strategies.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District is a relatively small District in regards to available staffing. Key management level staff was asked to participate. Board President Lawry has owned property on Bethel Island since 1972, has lived on the island full time since 1994, has been on the Board of Directors since 2000 and has been Board President for three years. She served on the Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Council for 6 years so is familiar with the variety of issues and concerns associated with Bethel Island. District Manager Spence was hired as District Manager in 2008, however had been involved with the major Delta Coves construction project on Bethel Island for many years prior and was well versed in the intricacies of the Bethel Island levee system (District Manager Spence was one of the two employees laid off in March 2011 due to budgetary constraints). District Clerk Hugel has been employed with the District since 2004 and has been involved with nearly every aspect of District business and is responsible for successful daily operations of the District. Emergency Coordinator Graas is a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trainer and represents the District during multi-agency emergency planning projects.

At the first meeting, general priorities were identified. Subsequent meetings identified mitigation strategies, prioritized said strategies, and reviewed preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designated as “High” priority for District-owned-and-operated facilities.

The complete plan was reviewed by the entire Board of Directors prior to finalization.

### *Review and Incorporation of Existing Information*

The following studies, reports, and plans were used to update this annex.

<b>Existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information</b>	<b>Method of incorporation into the jurisdiction annex</b>
Bethel Island Topographic Survey 2007 (includes levee land survey, hydrographic survey, and building encroachment inventory) Prepared by Green Mountain Engineering, July 2009	Identifies problematic areas of concern along the Bethel Island levee system. Identifies encroachments into the levee setback area.
Geotechnical Investigation – Levee	Identifies liquefaction risks that may

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Assessment and Conceptual Design for the Existing Levee. Prepared by Hultgren-Tillis Engineers, February 2007	significantly increase during an earthquake emergency.
Sampling and Testing of Sediments for the Bethel Island Flood Control and Habitat Restoration Project. Prepared by Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc., January 2011	Identifies liquefaction risks that may significantly increase during an earthquake emergency.
Levee Owners Manual for Non Federal Flood Control Works. Prepared by United States Army Corps of Engineers, March 2006	Identifies various mitigation strategies for use with an earthen levee system.

### *Process for Updating Plan Sections*

Each section of the annex from 2007 was closely evaluated to determine the need for re-categorization and prioritization. Team members reviewed the steps that have been taken to achieve the goals of the mitigation actions and priorities that were previously identified.

### *Public Meetings*

Opportunity for public comments on the DRAFT mitigation strategies was provided at a public meeting at Scout Hall (3090 Ranch Lane, Bethel Island) on September 8, 2009 at 6:00pm and advertised on the Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee website. Another opportunity for public comments on the DRAFT mitigation strategies was provided at a public meeting at the BIMID Hall (3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island) on September 17, 2009 at 7:00pm and advertised on the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District website. No public comments were received from either meeting. Copies of the agendas for the two meetings are included as **Exhibit A** to Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District 2010 Annex.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District Board of Directors will adopt the plan in a public meeting via an official Resolution upon approval by FEMA. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's Emergency Preparedness Plan. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District is also a planning partner in the Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## Hazards Assessment

The ABAG Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). Maps of these hazards and risks are shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

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The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that flooding (levee failure and drainage disruption) and wildfire (an underground peat fire) pose a significant risk for potential loss.

New hazards have been identified by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District since the original development of this plan in 2005. (Additional hazards identified by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District include: earthquakes, particularly ground shaking and liquefaction). The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has also identified severe weather (not considered a natural disaster by the ABAG multi-jurisdictional plan) as a significant risk for potential loss.

While the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

### **Past Occurrences of Disasters (natural and human-induced)**

Since Bethel Island was reclaimed in 1901, the island experience partial flooding several times in 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1911, but has not flooded since.

The 2005-2006 Winter Storms of December 2005 thru January 2006 produced severe weather including high winds from an unusual direction (from the NorthWest instead of the South) which created devastating wave action along the Northwestern portion of the island's levee (which is unprotected by surrounding islands as is the remainder of the island). In addition, water releases from California's reservoirs led to a higher tide which, in combination with the high winds, caused some slight over-topping to the Bethel Island levee. Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District declared an emergency. Over 9,100 tons of rip-rap was required to repair the Bethel Island levee system that was damaged during the 2005-2006 Winter Storms.

More information on State and Federally declared disasters in Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District can be found at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/ThePlan-D-Version-December09.pdf>

In addition to the declared disasters noted in Appendix D, locally significant incidents that have also impacted Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District in the last several years include various episodes of severe weather, heavy winds and rain, high tides, peat fires, and power outages which make the island pump stations unusable. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has been able to effectively prepare for, and monitor, these incidents with frequent levee patrols, along with assistance from the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection

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District, Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, California Office of Emergency Services, and the California Department of Water Resources.

## **Risk Assessment**

### *Urban Land Exposure*

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has no urban land exposure.

### *Infrastructure Exposure*

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure within the jurisdiction based on the information on ABAG's website at

**<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>**.

Of the 14.5 miles of levee surrounding the District, 8.3 miles of the levee are developed with housing and marinas and 6.2 miles are undeveloped (Note: 3 miles of the undeveloped levee is the Delta Coves development, which is currently at a standstill, but when fully built out, will add about 495 new homes and 60 condos to the Bethel Island community). Bethel Island also has approximately 19.1 miles of District maintained drainage ditches that provide critical storm water and seepage control.

### *Exposure of District-Owned Buildings, Plus Critical Healthcare Facilities and Schools*

Finally, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and District-owned buildings located within the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District based on the information on ABAG's website at **<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit2010.html>**. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District provided a list of the critical facilities it owns to ABAG. ABAG provided a detailed assessment of the hazard exposure of each of its facilities.

There are no critical health care facilities or schools located within the District. There is a county owned bridge that spans Dutch Slough connecting Bethel Island to the mainland and a federally owned Post Office near the center of the island.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District owns two critical facilities within the District. The exposure of these facilities to hazards is as follows.

The storm water and seepage is removed from Bethel Island by way of the District-owned Main Pump Station. Flooding would make the Pump Station inoperable as it is currently below the 100-year flood elevation. The Pump Station has little to no threat of exposure to a wildfire or damage caused by an earthquake (either from ground shaking or liquefaction). Severe weather is

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identified as an indirect threat to the Pump Station as a power outage caused by heavy winds or rains would make it inoperable.

The District-owned BIMID Hall (where the District offices are located) is critical to the continuity of government as it contains all District documents and records, both working and historical. Flooding would destroy all of the BIMID Hall contents, documents and equipment and would make the building unusable as the seat of government. There is a moderate threat of wildfire as the entire island sits on extremely flammable peat soil which, if ignited, can burn for many months. The BIMID Hall is within the second tier of shaking potential from an earthquake. Severe weather poses an indirect threat as a power outage caused by heavy winds or rains would put the Hall without electricity and hinder the daily activities of the District.

### ***Repetitive Loss Properties***

Although the entire Bethel Island area is located in the 100-year flood plain, there are NO repetitive loss properties in the District based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html> and as collected from Rich Lierly, Floodplain/Watershed Manager, Contra Costa County Public Works Department.

### ***Other risks***

As noted earlier, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has identified severe weather as another potential risk to the vital levee and drainage systems that this District maintains. District-owned facilities (Main Pump Station and BIMID Hall) have the potential of being adversely affected by episodes of severe weather.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District plans to continue to work with ABAG to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG, including developing ways to assess how many soft-story buildings are located in the unincorporated areas of the County.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities which might result from any of the hazards previously noted.

## **National Flood Insurance Program**

Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program is only available to cities and counties and is not available to this Special District.

## **Mitigation Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the ABAG MJ-LHMP is to maintain and enhance a disaster-resistant region by reducing the potential for loss of life, property damage, and environmental degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters. This goal is

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unchanged from the 2005 plan and continues to be the goal of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District in designing its mitigation program.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has identified the Bethel Island levee and drainage system as vital to protecting life and property on Bethel Island. Every effort is made to adequately maintain and improve these systems with the money that is available.

In an attempt to provide funding for much needed improvements and rehabilitation to the Bethel Island levee and drainage systems, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District placed a measure on the November 2, 2010 ballot for possible approval by the Bethel Island voters. The measure was for a parcel tax that would expire in ten (10) years and would have provided funding for the following: raising the entire Bethel Island levee to federal minimums (required for federal assistance in the event of an actual flood event), riprap placement on the entire 11.5 miles of Bethel Island (excluding the Delta Cove levee section), re-grading and yearly cleaning for the 19.1 miles of Bethel Island drainage ditches thus improving proper water flow, raising the two District-owned pump stations above the flood plain, placement of an all weather surface on the levee crown, and a few other minor projects. However, the measure did not pass and the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District is faced with more uncontrollable cuts in property tax revenue, which will reduce this District's ability to provide, and sustain, the basic services directly related to the levee and drainage until additional funding is secured.

## **Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

### *Evaluation of Progress from 2005 Plan*

In 2005, mitigation actions and priorities were identified. The attached list indicates each of the strategies identified, along with responsible party, action taken, and current status of progress.

Mitigation strategy number: ECON-f-1 and HSNG-h-1 HIGH priority

To reduce flood risk, thereby reducing the cost of flood insurance to property owners, work to qualify for the highest-feasible rating under the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has committed to ensuring the continued safety of the island residents and maintaining property values on Bethel Island. The BIMID Funding Research Committee developed a Bethel Island Levee and Drainage Revitalization Plan (BILDR Plan) with the following goals: continue raising the Bethel Island levee to meet current federal height standards, complete the current need for riprap placement on the entire 11.5 miles of Bethel Island levee, and clean and re-grade 19.1 miles of Bethel Island drainage ditches to improve proper water flow. The Committee determined that to reach these goals, BIMID needed to levy a special tax to fund the projects. The Bethel Island voters did not agree and did not pass

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the measure that would have provided the necessary funding. The Committee will now need to attempt to identify alternative sources of funding in order to achieve its goals.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority for the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District.

Mitigation strategy number: GOVT-a-3 VERY HIGH priority

Clarify to workers in critical facilities and emergency personnel, as well as to elected officials and the public, the extent to which the facilities are expected to perform only at a life safety level (allowing for the safe evacuation of personnel) or are expected to remain functional following an earthquake.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has trained District personnel and elected officials through various training opportunities, as well through the Employee Handbook and Director's Policy Manual on what to do following an earthquake. Further review of the susceptibility of the District's critical facilities to earthquake damage found that minimal damage would be sustained.

This mitigation strategy is now considered to be a moderate priority.

Mitigation strategy number: GOVT-a-12 VERY HIGH priority

Prior to acquisition of property to be used as a critical facility, conduct a study to ensure the absence of significant hazards.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has not acquired any additional critical facility property. In the event an opportunity arises for future acquisition, this District will make every effort to identify any potential hazards prior to acquisition.

This mitigation strategy remains a very high priority.

Mitigation strategy number: GOVT-b-14 HIGH priority

Install an alert and warning system with outdoor sirens, coordinating them, to the extent possible, with those of neighboring jurisdictions.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has installed an outdoor warning system consisting of three sirens located at strategic locations on the island. In the event of an actual flood emergency (levee breach), the sirens will be activated by District personnel through the County OES system, thus notifying Bethel Island residents that they are to go to the perimeter levee and wait for emergency responders and further evacuation instructions.

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The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District also has entered into a Use Agreement for the Telephone Emergency Notification System with Contra Costa County.

The three sirens that make up the Bethel Island warning system are tested monthly, the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m.

This mitigation strategy is now, and will continue to be, an existing program.

Mitigation strategy number: GOVT-c-3 VERY HIGH priority

Recognize that a multi-agency approach is needed to mitigate flooding by having flood control districts, cities, counties, and utilities meet at least annually to jointly discuss their capital improvement programs for most effectively reducing the threat of storm-induced flooding.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District participates in table top drills for flooding as often as possible. The last table top drill was hosted by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District in 2009 and was very informational and productive. Another drill has been scheduled for 2011 and this District plans to attend and participate.

This mitigation strategy is now, and will continue to be, an existing program.

Mitigation strategy number: HSNG-h-8 HIGH priority

Encourage home and apartment owners to participate in home elevation programs.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District encourages home owners to elevate their homes by waiving permit fees associated with home-raising.

This mitigation strategy is now, and will continue to be, an existing program.

Mitigation strategy number: HSNG-k-11 HIGH priority

Distribute NOAA weather radios to high-risk, limited-income families living in flood hazard areas.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has NOAA weather radios available to island residents, at cost. Unfortunately, there is no current funding or grants available that would allow this District to distribute the NOAA weather radios to limited-income families free of charge.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

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Mitigation strategy number: INFR-a-4 HIGH priority

Retrofit or replace critical lifeline facilities and/or their backup facilities that are shown to be vulnerable to damage in natural disasters.

The District-owned Main Pump Station has been identified as vulnerable to damage caused by severe weather or flooding, and possible minimal damage caused by an earthquake.

One of the projects proposed to be undertaken, if the District's parcel tax measure had passed in the November 2010 elections, was to elevate the two District-owned pump stations above the flood plain. Because the measure did not pass, the District will now attempt to identify alternative sources of funding to provide the funds necessary to elevate the pump stations.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

Mitigation strategy number: INFR-a-8 HIGH priority

Pre-position emergency power generation capacity (or have rental/lease agreements for these generators) in critical buildings of cities, counties, and special districts to maintain continuity of government and services.

Currently, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District does not have the necessary funds to provide pre-positioned emergency power. The District is looking into rental agreements, to be executed in the event of an emergency.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

Mitigation strategy number: INFR-d-4 HIGH priority

Assist, support, and/or encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, various Flood Control and Water Conservation Districts, and other responsible agencies to locate and maintain funding for the development of flood control projects that have high cost-benefit ratios (such as through the writing of letters of support and/or passing resolutions in support of these efforts).

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District participates in joint efforts with many agencies that are critical to flood control within the local jurisdiction. This includes evaluating projects with a high cost benefit ration. Currently, this District has agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Horseshoe Bend Project Management Plan which includes a feasibility study and design review for a flood control project. The Horseshoe Bend Project has been determined to meet the criteria for a high cost benefit ratio project. The funding efforts for this project have come from a joint effort of local, state, and federal agencies.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

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Mitigation strategy number: INFR-d-5 HIGH priority

Pursue funding for the design and construction of storm drainage projects to protect vulnerable properties, including property acquisitions, upstream storage such as detention basins, and channel widening with the associated right-of-way acquisitions, relocations, and environmental mitigations.

Again, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's parcel tax measure that did not pass in the November 2010 election would have provided critical funding for various drainage improvement projects. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District will continue to attempt to identify alternative sources of funding to provide the funds necessary for the critical drainage improvement projects.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

Mitigation strategy number: INFR-d-6 HIGH priority

Continue to repair and make structural improvements to storm drains, pipelines, and/or channels to enable them to perform to their design capacity in handling water flows as part of the regular maintenance activities.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's failed parcel tax measure would have provided funding for yearly drainage/stormwater ditch maintenance. This District will continue to attempt to identify alternative sources of funding to provide the funds necessary for drainage maintenance projects.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

Mitigation strategy number: INFR-d-8 HIGH priority

Enforce provisions under creek protection, stormwater management, and discharge control ordinances designed to keep watercourses free of obstructions and to protect drainage facilities to conform with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Best Management Practices.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District passed an Ordinance allowing for the abatement of nuisances. The new ordinance provides an avenue to enforce illegal dumping of debris, yard waste, and garbage into the District's drainage ditches.

This mitigation strategy is now, and will continue to be, an existing program.

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Mitigation strategy number: INFR-d-12 HIGH priority

Provide a mechanism to expedite the repair or replacement of levees that are vulnerable to collapse from earthquake-induced shaking or liquefactions, rodents, and other concerns, particularly those protecting critical infrastructure.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District participates in the Department of Water Resources Subventions program which allows for partial reimbursement for levee repairs as needed due to sloughing and rodent damage. The Subventions program is underfunded. In the event of extensive levee damage caused by an earthquake or levee breach, State and Federal funding may be available if the Bethel Island levee meets State and Federal levee standards. At this time, the Bethel Island levee system does not meet those standards. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's failed parcel tax measure would have provided the necessary funds to raise the entire levee to minimum Federal standards. This District will continue to attempt to identify alternative sources of funding to provide the funds necessary to raise the levee to minimum Federal standards.

This mitigation strategy remains a high priority.

Mitigation strategy number: LAND-c-1 VERY HIGH priority

Establish and enforce requirements for new development so that site-specific designs and source-control techniques are used to manage peak stormwater runoff flows and impacts from increased runoff volumes.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, through its ordinances and guidelines, has established the requirements to meet the stormwater impacts from new developments. Each new development must manage the stormwater runoff through their site specific designs and control techniques.

This mitigation strategy is now, and will continue to be, an existing program.

Mitigation strategy number: LAND-c-2 HIGH priority

Incorporate FEMA guidelines and suggested activities into local government plans and procedures for managing flood hazards.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District is currently engaged in a work agreement with the Department of Water Resources that will reimburse this District (up to \$50,000) to develop a Five-Year Plan. Work on the plan has begun, with the complete plan expected to be finalized by June 30, 2011. Federal guidelines and suggested activities will be incorporated into the Five-Year Plan.

This mitigation strategy is now, and will continue to be, an existing program.

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### ***Future Mitigation Actions and Priorities***

As a participant in the 2010 ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, the staff of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage. Executive staff then met on a regular basis to review progress on the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's 2005 strategies, and to identify and prioritize additional mitigation strategies to update the list

These draft priorities were submitted to the Board of Directors of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District for review. The draft priorities will be provided to the Board of Directors of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District for adoption pending approval of this LHMP by FEMA.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District planning team also prioritized specific mitigation tasks for the next 5 years.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District will continue to work to look for alternative sources of funding to provide the funds necessary for the many projects that have been identified as critical to ensuring the safety of the island residents by improving the Bethel Island levee and drainage systems. A levee breach and flooding remain a serious threat to Bethel Island and Bethel Island residents. Until funding can be obtained to complete the necessary levee and drainage improvement projects, this District will continue to educate the island residents (with quarterly newsletters, news releases, and website updates) of important information and resources pertaining to disaster prevention planning and response.

To mitigate for flooding, the District will continue to pursue avenues for stockpiling flood-fighting supplies on island. Obtaining mutual aid agreements with neighboring Districts will remain a priority. Increased public involvement and education will continue to be encouraged. Enhanced volunteer levee patrols will provide the Bethel Island citizens an opportunity to take part in monitoring the levee which protects their homes and their lives.

Aside from flooding, one of the most potentially destructive hazards on Bethel Island is a wildfire. During the summer when the grass/vegetation is dry, winds generally blow across the island from west to east. There are few roads bisecting the center of the island, and all roads are dead ends. There are no fire hydrants on Bethel Island. The East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District has the responsibility for fighting fires on Bethel Island. There is a manned fire station on Bethel Island. Due to the unique topography and geography of Bethel Island, the

## Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District

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fire department has special procedures designed to fight wildfires on Bethel Island. Once a fire is out, tanker trucks soak the ground in an attempt to avoid the underlying peat from catching fire. Land owners are immediately directed to begin soaking their property. In the past the fire department has been very successful in quickly extinguishing wildfires. This District promotes preparations for wildfire emergencies by maintaining fire breaks on properties with vast expansions of vegetation and maintaining fire extinguishers in all District vehicles and equipment. In addition, rampant levee vegetation has been kept to a minimum with yearly spraying and the mitigation site has been closely monitored for overgrown vegetation. These activities are part of the District's on-going mitigation strategies for wildfires.

### *On-Going Mitigation Strategy Programs*

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has many on-going mitigation programs that help create a more disaster-resistant region. The following list highlights those programs identified as *Existing Programs* in the mitigation strategy spreadsheet. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District is currently underfunded so many mitigation strategies that this District has identified as priorities cannot be achieved at this time. Instead, this District focuses on the mitigation strategies that require little, or no funds, yet have a significant impact on disaster mitigation for this District. It is the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's priority to find additional funding to sustain these on-going programs, and other vital mitigation programs, over time.

- Mitigation Strategy GOVT-a-5: Encourage joint meetings of security and operations personnel at critical facilities to develop innovative ways for these personnel to work together to increase safety and security.
- Mitigation Strategy GOVT-c-5 Periodically assess the need for changes in staffing levels, and additional or updated supplies, equipment, technologies, and in-service training classes.
- Mitigation Strategy GOVT-c-13 Continue to participate not only in general mutual-aid agreements, but also in agreements with adjoining jurisdictions for cooperative response to fires, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters.
- Mitigation Strategy GOVT-c-15 Conduct periodic tests of the alerting and warning system.
- Mitigation Strategy GOVT-d-1 Promote information sharing among overlapping and neighboring local governments, including cities, counties, and special districts, as well as utilities.

### **Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms**

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District has incorporated many planning mechanisms in our effort to improve the safety of those who live here. These efforts include a General Plan

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safety review, a Capital Improvement Plan, a community climate action plan, as well as participation in the Delta Emergency Management Plan.

Bethel Island is covered by the 2005-2020 Contra Costa County General Plan. The County has a Safety Element in its General Plan that includes a discussion of earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards.

### **Plan Update Process**

As required Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District will update this plan annex at least once every five years, by participating in a multi-agency effort with ABAG and other agencies to develop a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The administrative staff of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District will ensure that monitoring of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis by the District Clerk and a participating Board Member. Review of the plan shall occur, at a minimum twice a year, once in January and once in June, in conjunction with the budget adoption. However, the major disasters affecting our District, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District leaders at least once a year in January. At that meeting, the Board of Directors and administrative staff will focus on evaluating the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. The Board of Directors will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the District again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the Contra Costa County's Office of Emergency Services. Contra Costa County is working toward developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The public will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the District will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics. More public participation will be pursued by continuing to encourage the residents of Bethel Island to become more involved with the on-going process of island safety and emergency preparations. The recent formation of a Levee Neighborhood Community Watch is the first step for increased involvement.

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**Mitigation Plan Point of Contact**

Name: Marguerite Lawry  
Title: Board Secretary  
Mailing Address: PO Box 244, Bethel Island, CA 94511  
Telephone: 925.684.3254  
Email: [lawry@prodigy.net](mailto:lawry@prodigy.net)

***Alternate Point of Contact***

Name: Julie Hugel  
Title: District Clerk  
Mailing Address: PO Box 244, Bethel Island, CA 94511  
Telephone: 925.684.2210  
Email: [bimid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bimid@sbcglobal.net)

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**Exhibit A - Jurisdiction Boundary Map**



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**Exhibit B - Public Meeting Announcements**

# Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee



Belinda Bittner, Chairperson  
Supervisor Federal D. Glover,  
District V

Kendra Ward, Administrative Support  
P. O. Box 1388  
Bethel Island, CA 94511

*The Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body to the  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the County Planning Agency.*

## **AGENDA**

**September 8, 2009**

**6:00 P. M.**

***Scout Hall, 3090 Ranch Lane, Bethel Island***

*Time is allotted under Public Comment for those persons who wish to speak for up to three minutes on any item NOT on the agenda. Persons who wish to speak on matters on the agenda will be heard for up to three minutes when the Chair calls for comments. After persons have spoken on an agenda item, the hearing can be closed by the Chair and the matter is subject to discussion and action by the MAC. Persons wishing to speak are requested to fill out a speaker card.*

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Public Comment (3 Minutes/speaker)**
4. **Agency Reports**
  - a. Sheriff's Department
  - b. Marine Patrol
  - c. CHP
  - d. Fire/Public Safety – East County Fire Protection District
  - e. Supervisor District V Office – Lynn Reichard
  - f. Citizens' Fire Committee – Mark Whitlock
  - g. Bay Area Conservation Plan - David Graas
  - h. Heart Safety – David Graas
  - i. Safety Fair – Belinda Bittner

The Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the meeting who contact Chairperson Belinda Bittner at least 72 hours before the meeting, at (925) 684-9436.

Materials distributed for the meeting are available for viewing at (address).

# Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee



Belinda Bittner, Chairperson  
Supervisor Federal D. Glover,  
District V  
Kendra Ward, Administrative Support  
P. O. Box 1388  
Bethel Island, CA 94511

*The Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the County Planning Agency.*

## 5. Presentations

- a. BIMID, Associated Bay Area Governments Presentation -- Mar Lawry

## 6. Consent Items

*All matters listed under Consent Items are considered by the MAC to be routine and will be enacted by one-motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a member of the MAC or a member of the public prior to the time the MAC votes on the motion to adopt.*

- a. Approval of the Records of Action for August 11, 2009
- b. Approval for October 13, 2009 BIMAC Meeting to be held at 5 p.m.

## 7. Items for Discussion and/or Action

## 8. Committee Reports/Member Reports

- a. Code Enforcement – Bob Cameron
- b. Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce
- c. Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District
- d. Ad Hoc Park-Committee
- e. Bethel Island/Delta – Chairperson Bittner

## 9. Correspondence/Announcements

- a. Request for monies to BIMAC from BIMID for postage for Bethel Island Park mailings

## 10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Town Hall Meeting, October 13, 2009 at 6 p.m.

## 11. Adjournment to October 13, 2009

The Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the meeting who contact Chairperson Belinda Bittner at least 72 hours before the meeting, at (925) 684-9436.

Materials distributed for the meeting are available for viewing at (address).

**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BETHEL ISLAND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**  
**BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA**  
**3085 STONE ROAD**  
**MEETING LOCATION: BIMID HALL**  
**3085 STONE ROAD, BETHEL ISLAND**  
**DATE: September 17, 2009**  
**7:00 PM**

- Agendas are posted at the Post Office and on the outside bulletin board at the BIMID office. Agendas are also on the District web site: [www.bimid.com](http://www.bimid.com).
- A complete packet of information containing Staff Reports and exhibits related to each item is available for public review prior to a Board meeting at the BIMID office.
- Agendas may be picked up at the BIMID office at no charge. To subscribe to the e-mail distribution list and receive a copy of the agenda via electronic mail, please contact the District Secretary at 925 684-2210.
- BIMID will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who are planning to attend meetings if they contact Julie Hugel, District Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting at 925 684-2210.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- A. Introduction of new director, Dan Phippen, appointed on 09-09-09

**2. BOARD DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL APPEARANCES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Notice to the public:** All matters under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine by BIMID staff and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items, unless a Board member, the District Manager, or a member of the public requests that particular item(s) be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. **THOSE ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE NEXT AGENDA ITEM.**

- A. Approval of minutes of the Special meeting August 20, 2009\*
- B. Approval of minutes of the Regular meeting August 20, 2009\*
- C. Approval of resolution 09-09-17A "Authorizing the Renewal of a Line of Credit in the Amount of \$250,000 with ECC Bank, a Division of the Bank of Agriculture & Commerce"\*
- D. Consider adoption of Resolution 09-09-17B "Authorizing the Signing of New Signature Cards for ECC Bank for existing District General Checking and main Money Market bank accounts"\*
- E. Consider adoption of Resolution 09-09-17C "Authorizing the Signing of New Signature Cards for ECC Bank for existing House Number Sign Project bank account"\*
- F. Consider adoption of Resolution 09-09-17D "Authorizing the Signing of New Signature Cards for ECC Bank for existing Special Project #1, Special Project #2, and Special Project #3 Money Market bank accounts"\*

**4. SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER(S) REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Bridge replacement update
- B. Dry Hydrant update

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public wishing to address the Board on matters within the jurisdiction of the board may do so by completing the appropriate form and handing it to the District Secretary. Persons submitting the form will be called upon when PUBLIC COMMENT is reached on the agenda. A California Law called the "Brown Act" sets the guidelines for conducting public meetings. While the Brown Act does not allow discussion or action on items not on the agenda, it does allow members of the Board, or its staff, to "briefly respond" to comments or questions from members of the public; refer the matter to staff; or direct staff to place the issue on a future agenda. If an item is agendaized, interested persons may address the Board during the Board's consideration of that item. On occasion it may be necessary to limit the time per speaker. That limit will be announced prior to the agenda item and will generally be three minutes per speaker.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion of and adoption of ongoing contract to employ Steve Spence as District Manager\*
- B. Discussion of and consideration of BIMID's priority rankings for Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, solicit public comment\*
- C. Discussion of possible future funding mechanisms for the District, Director Rocca to recommend possible presentation dates for consultant presentation\*

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion of and consideration of appointing new Board Secretary
- B. Discussion of and consideration of request for "annual" levee key for Richard Kent of Kentco Construction\*
- C. Discussion of and consideration of request for "annual" levee key for 3200 Stone Road\*
- D. Discussion of and consideration of authorizing District staff (on behalf of the District) to enroll as an interested agency with CA Communities to possibly participate in the loan securitization program to offset the fiscal impact of the recent suspension of Prop 1A\*
- E. Discussion of and consideration of authorizing the signing and execution of "Contract for Deposit of Moneys" for the three new money market accounts with ECO Bank\*

**9. STAFF REPORTS**

- District Manager Report\* Spence
- District Clerk Report\* Hugel
- Emergency Coordinator Report Graas

**10. DIRECTOR REPORTS**

- Project Approval Applications\* Maloney
- Treasurer\* Eisenbeis
  - a. Motion for approval for payment of bills and expenditures\*
- Bethel Island Park Lawry
- Drainage/Private Property Ditch Cleaning
  - a. Select a director
- Web Site Eisenbeis

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Ditch Inventory Committee (Ad-hoc)
  - a. Select a director to chair
- Levee Key Process Committee (Ad-hoc) Maloney

**12. CORRESPONDENCE\***

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

\*denotes supporting documentation available at the BIMID office.