

# The Seawall Program

The City, acting through the Port of San Francisco, launched the San Francisco Seawall Earthquake Safety and Disaster Prevention Program (Seawall Program), to improve seismic performance, provide near-term flood protection improvements, and plan for long-term resilience and sea level rise adaptation along the Embarcadero Seawall.

## What are the Major Goals of the Seawall Earthquake Safety Program?

- Act quickly to improve disaster preparedness
- Reduce earthquake damage and disruption
- Improve flood resilience
- Engage the community
- Enhance the City and the bay
- Preserve historic resources

## How is the Port Going to Reconstruct the Embarcadero Seawall?

The Embarcadero Seawall is three miles long and there is no single solution to rebuild the infrastructure. Initial concepts include repairing deterioration, strengthening the weak soils both below and behind the Seawall, driving piles or drilling large shafts to support the wall, and building an entirely new Seawall. Detailed engineering studies will help determine the approaches that are appropriate for locations along the Seawall.

## Does the Port have a Preferred Approach to Rebuilding the Embarcadero Seawall?

At this time, the Port does not have a preferred approach. Detailed engineering studies and broad stakeholder engagement is required to inform the decision-making process.

## What Happens First?

The first phase of the Seawall Program will address the most critical life-safety upgrades to the Seawall and is estimated to cost \$500 million. Possible improvements include strengthening the ground below and landside of the Seawall, constructing new Seawall segments, strengthening or replacing bulkhead walls and wharves along the Embarcadero Promenade and relocating or replacing critical utilities.

PROTECT THE CITY:  
STRENGTHEN  
THE SEAWALL



San Francisco Seawall Earthquake Safety and Disaster Prevention Program



### **How much will the Seawall Program Cost, and How Will it be Funded?**

The rebuild of the Embarcadero Seawall is estimated to cost up to \$5 billion and take several decades to complete. The Port is planning an initial phase of improvements to address the highest priority life safety projects. This phase will cost \$500 million. Phase I funding will require local, state, and federal funding. Local funding will be provided in part by a proposed voter-approved General Obligation Bond of \$425 million for the November 2018 ballot. The General Obligation Bond will require two-thirds voter approval and will not raise tax rates.

### **What is the Timeline for the Seawall Program?**

The project is currently in the early stages of planning, following an extensive vulnerability study. Immediate seismic upgrades are targeted for completion by 2026.

### **When Would Construction Begin?**

Construction is anticipated to start in 2022. Planning, environmental review, and design activities will identify disruptions and seek ways to minimize impact.

### **Would the Seawall Earthquake Safety Program Create Jobs?**

The Seawall Earthquake Safety Program will create tens of thousands of jobs during the life of the program. The Port will work with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development as it negotiates contracts for Embarcadero Seawall construction work (expected in the early 2020s) to make sure that these contracts encourage employment for San Francisco residents, including First Source Hiring and Local Hiring.

### **Is Anyone Outside of the Port Overseeing the Seawall Earthquake Safety Program?**

The Seawall Earthquake Safety Program is a city-wide coordinated effort spearheaded by the legacy of Mayor Lee. The Port of San Francisco will continue to work with the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors and other City agencies to ensure the project is managed efficiently and cost effectively.

