Dear California State Senate & Assembly,

The San Francisco Bay Area is a quite unique region as it contains 7.76 million people, 9 counties, 88 municipalities, and 27 transit operators – but no unifying regional government. This leads to a lack of a single regional effort towards predicting and planning around floods. Since floods don’t necessarily obey any borders, it will affect many cities and counties at once. Even if the affected jurisdictions form models and plans, the resulting predictions and mitigations will be narrow-sighted and weak. What the Bay Area needs is a **Regional Flood Inundation Modelling and Planning Center** **(FIMPC)** in order to:

1. spatially predict regional flooding;
2. understand the affected citizens & jurisdictions; then,
3. collectively develop mitigation plans, policies, & infrastructure.

The Bay Area FIMPC, *via an initial team of environmentalists, data analysts, & planners*, would first develop a model of how a flood could form based on a multiple of variables, such as (1) elevations, (2) water flows, & (3) water locations. The flood model’s predictions can then be tested against the locations of previous floods. This model forms a prediction of the location and severity of the flood. With that in mind, a second stage of modeling can target how the flood could affect vulnerable houses, communities, & jurisdictions.

With potential floods sights predicted, the Bay Area FIMPC would have a team of planners, engineers, and advocates who can

1. form an infrastructure, mitigation, & evacuation plan around the predictions;
2. coordinate with jurisdiction stakeholders to understand the prediction scenarios; and,
3. advocate to the jurisdiction’s policymakers to turn the plan into policies & infrastructure.

For the Bay Area’s numerous amount of local governments and potential flood scenarios, it is import to coordinate with jurisdictions to form realistic partnerships & reliable policies. The fractured political environment is the main thing standing in the way of the Bay Area’s FIMPC’s success and successful flood prevention.

The Bay Area FIMPC would likely need to be formed and funded by the California State Government. Even though the Bay Area governments benefit the most from the center, they likely cannot provide consistent funds, data, & analysis – hence why there isn’t reliable water flood modeling in the first place.