



Community Workshop Recap and Reflections

City of Sausalito Gate 5 Area Drainage Management Study

April 29, 2026

Bay Model Visitor Center





Event Summary

On April 29, 2026, the City of Sausalito hosted a community workshop for the Gate 5 Area Drainage Management Study. The event was hosted from 4:30 to 6pm at Bay Model Visitor Center, 100 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. There were 51 attendees who signed in, plus seven WSP staff in person, one WSP staff member attending virtually, and three City staffers running the event: Sara Khorshidifard, Alexandra Anderson, and Patrick Guasco. There were 15 comments collected and 86 sticky dots placed as votes on preferences in the various table activities throughout the workshop.

The format of the event was an open house with five tables, with the overall goal to actively engage the community in a series of activities that build on each other and creates a narrative, showing the tradeoffs of different solutions for the shoreline. Each table had 1-2 WSP staff members, printed materials on the table, posterboards on easels, and an interactive activity. Although slides were displayed on a loop, no formal presentation was given. Instead, the team answered questions one-on-one at the tables in front of the visually-focused display boards and activity sheets, helping to explain technical concepts at a pace tailored to each attendee.

Tables and Activities

Table	Description	Activity
Table 1: Project Background	<p>Participants were given information about the background of the project. They viewed posters with the project's goals and a map of the study area.</p> <p>Materials: Factsheets printed as handouts, blown up fact sheet on poster board, map of project area</p> <p>Objective: Participants understand the project scope and have an informed background to weigh-in at other tables.</p>	<p>What Makes Sausalito Unique?</p> <p>Place sticky dots on what you think makes Sausalito/Marinship unique.</p> <p>Provide additional details on a sticky note.</p>
Table 2: Current and future flooding	<p>Table had maps showing different current flood scenarios, such as flooding during a 1-year storm surge event, 10-year storm, etc. for current conditions, 2050, 2080, and 2100. Other exhibits showed the costs of building damages, where flooding is coming from, and how the City is currently dealing with flooding.</p> <p>Objective: The project team has a detailed picture of where flooding is occurring and how it affects community members. Guests</p>	<p>Describe Your Flooding</p> <p>Large map of flooding on January 2, 2026, available on the table.</p> <p>Guests invited to place sticky dots on the current conditions maps if they experience flooding at areas outside of what is shown in the maps (from modeling).</p> <p>Comment cards were available to provide more details on the</p>



	<p>understand where the flooding is coming from and the costs of doing nothing under future flood scenarios.</p>	<p>flooding they experience. These comments will be used to inform and refine the assumptions in modeling.</p>
<p>Table 3: Potential Near-Term Solutions</p>	<p>Provided materials explaining what pump stations and tide gates are and how they work. Simple drawings showed how these function during high and low tides. A map of a possible pump station and tide gate locations were shown. Exhibits showed how a pump station placed on the canal would look and example designs of pump stations.</p> <p>Objective: The public has an understanding of near-term solutions and how they work. The project team has a clearer understanding of which solutions are most popular.</p>	<p>Evaluate Potential Near-Term Solutions</p> <p>Large table of potential near-term solutions on table, with handouts to show evaluation criteria.</p> <p>Place a sticky dot next to each option based on your level of support.</p> <p>Provide additional details on a sticky note.</p>
<p>Table 4: Potential Mid- and Long-Term Solutions</p>	<p>Provided simple drawings of proposed concept designs for future flooding/sea level rise. These did not show specific locations or properties; disclaimers were provided that the displays are for planning only. Solutions shown included potential vertical elements (road raising, seawalls, etc.). Showed how green infrastructure works.</p> <p>Objective: The public has an understanding of longer-term solutions and how they work. The project team has a clearer understanding of which solutions are most popular.</p>	<p>Evaluate Potential Mid- and Long-Term Solutions</p> <p>Large table of potential near-term solutions on table, with handouts to show evaluation criteria.</p> <p>Place a sticky dot next to each option based on your level of support.</p> <p>Provide additional details on a sticky note.</p> <p>Ask an engineer: Get technical questions answered by an engineer. WSP engineer available virtually.</p>
<p>Table 5: Surveys and Feedback</p>	<p>Provided preliminary survey results. Had some surveys printed for people to take, as well as evaluation surveys and comment cards.</p> <p>Objective: Encouraged guests to take the survey.</p>	<p>Take Evaluation and Community Surveys</p> <p>Complete the community survey, evaluation survey, and general comments.</p>



Table 1: Project Background

At Table 1, guests were given a fact sheet with an overview of the project. Key terms were defined on the table, and a map of the project area was shown. Guests were asked to rank their favorite qualities that make Sausalito unique. There were 49 dots left on the board, with 22% of respondents saying they valued the City's historic character, 20% choosing waterfront access and the working waterfront each, 16% choosing the floating homes community, and 12% choosing natural habitats and open space.

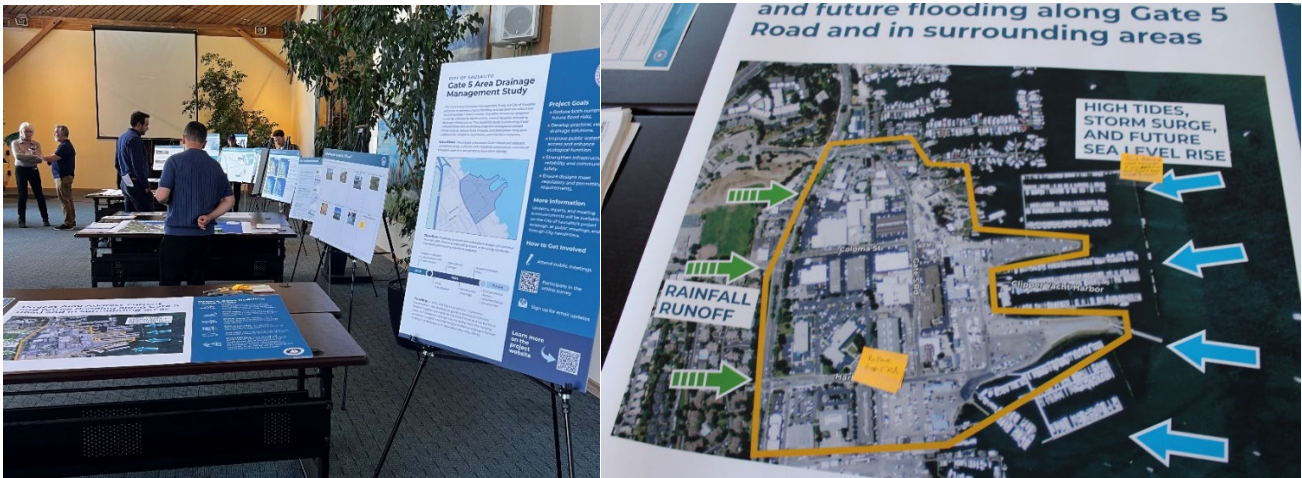
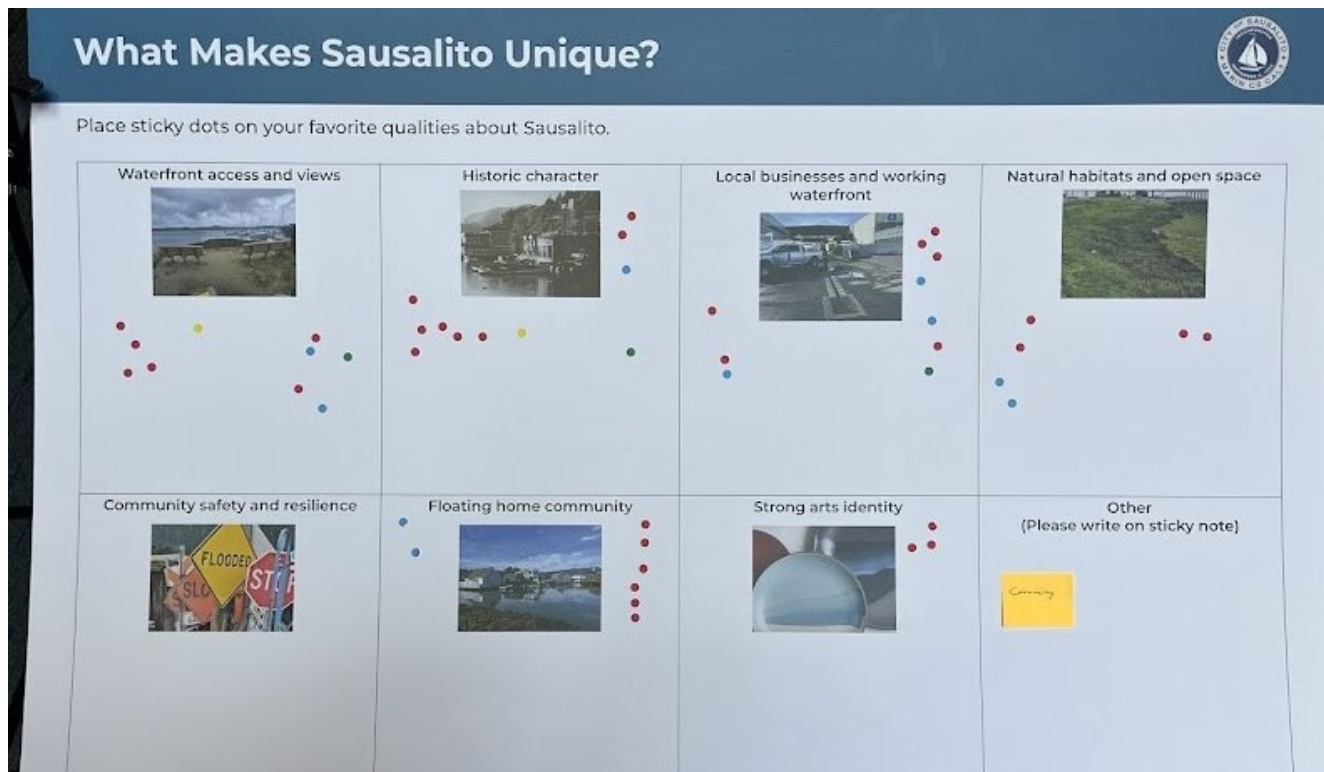


Table 1 had fact sheets and a project map showing the general directions of flooding into the project area.





Guests were invited to place sticky dots on their favorite Sausalito qualities. One person added “community” in bottom right.

Table 2: Current and Future Flooding

On Table 2, guests were asked to place sticky dots on a map if they experienced flooding outside the blue area on January 2, 2026. However, one resident pointed out that Varda Landing and Clipper Yacht Club did not flood, and circled the area where flooding did not occur. The guest added that there is a short seawall at Varda Landing already that is not shown in the maps.



A map displayed on Table 2 encouraged guests to point out where they experienced flooding on January 2. One guest circled the area that did not flood.



A posterboard at Table 2 showed where flooding is coming from under current conditions.

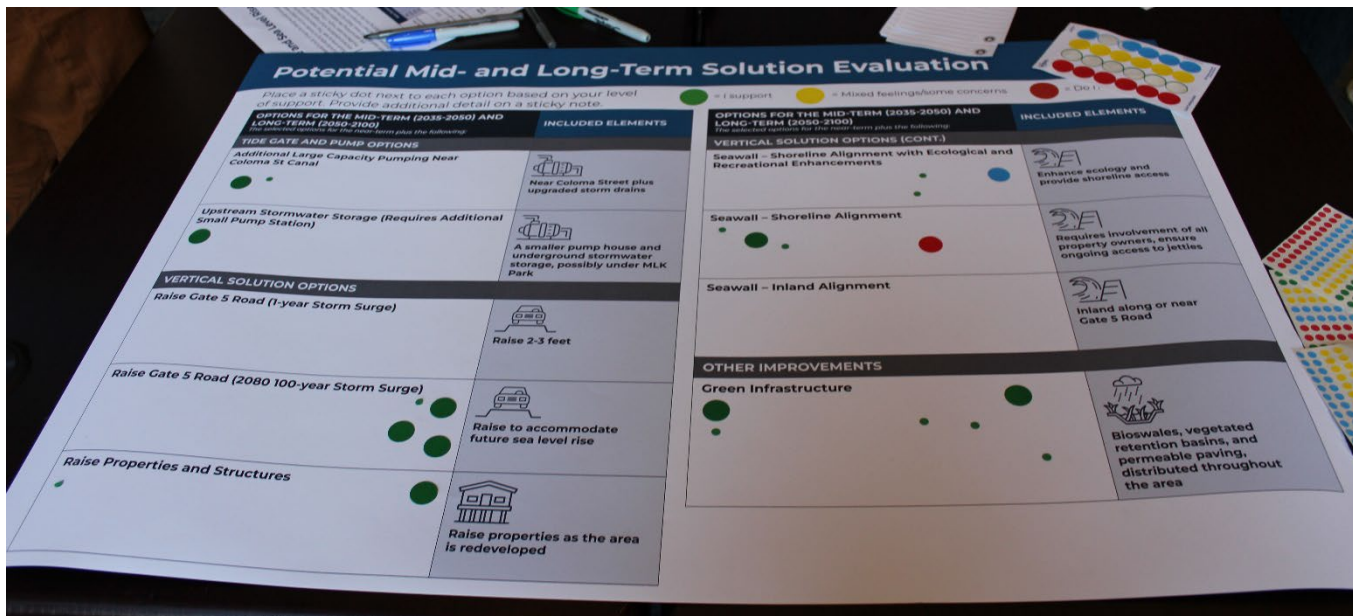


Table 4: Mid- and Long-Term Solutions

The voting activity on Table 4 was similar to Table 3, but the most popular solutions were green infrastructure and road raising. However, the information on the boards described the limited effectiveness of these solutions. Directly across from Tables 3 and 4, guests could speak with WSP engineer Eric Slaugh virtually to answer more complex technical questions, which proved to be a popular aspect of the workshop.



There were many boards at Table 4 to visit, including information on sea walls, road raising, and longer term pumping and stormwater capture. Guests could also speak with an engineer virtually at a small table across from Tables 3 and 4.

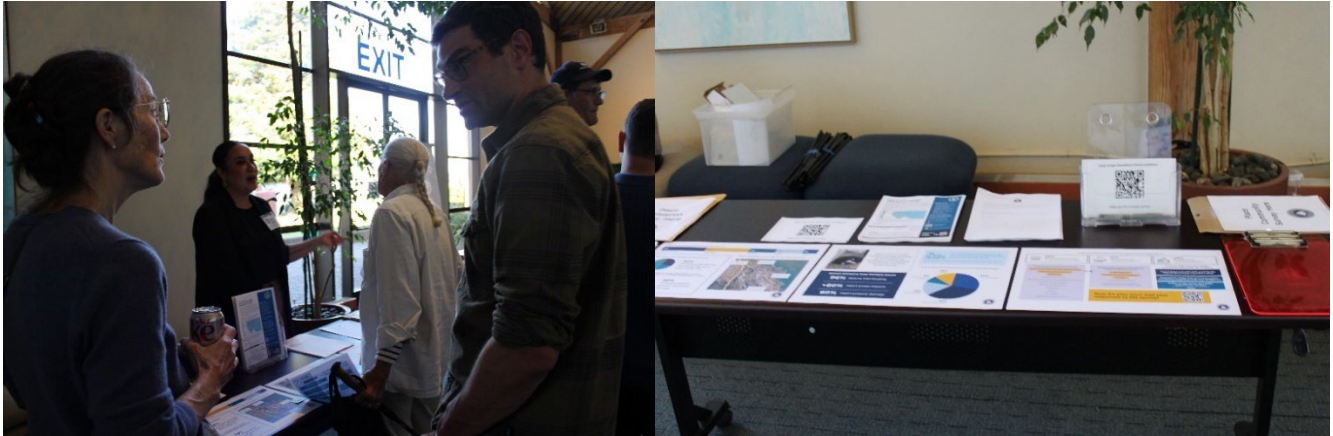


Of all the solutions available to vote on, six people were in favor of green infrastructure, four were in favor of road raising, and three were in favor of a seawall along the shoreline.



Table 5: Surveys and Feedback

As guests were leaving, they were asked to take an evaluation survey to describe how much they learned from the event. They were also encouraged to take the community survey (if they hadn't already) either by scanning a QR code or filling out printed versions of the survey. Preliminary survey results were displayed on the table.



A WSP staff member encouraged guests to take surveys as they were leaving the event.

Summary of Feedback

Several key themes emerged from the conversations had at the event.

Strong Concern for Near-Term Flooding, Particularly at Varda Landing

Almost everyone expressed their concern about flooding within the project area and wanted immediate action. Many guests recounted their experiences with flooding, including damage to their vehicles. People were particularly concerned about the flooding at Varda Landing, and a near-term solution for Varda Landing (a seawall proposed at Table 3) was a popular proposal. A few people also suggested raising the Varda Landing area or the road leading to it. In addition, a few people commented that they wished for Gate 5 Road to be re-paved and repaired to improve the existing experience driving on the road.

Support for Nature-Based Solutions and Stormwater Storage

Many participants expressed enthusiasm for greener or more creative approaches. Suggestions included vegetated basins and oyster-based protection. Some guests expressed concern about placing a pump station over Coloma Canal and placing tide gates at the shoreline; they preferred having these features inland to avoid damaging shoreline and canal habitats. A few guests also expressed their support for stormwater storage basins.



Concerns about Costs and Funding Mechanisms

Participants repeatedly asked about the financial implications of different strategies. Questions focused on the cost of intermediate solutions (e.g., short seawalls, road raising) and long-term investments. Participants proposed potential funding tools such as bonds or tax districts.

Desire for Multi-Jurisdictional Approaches

Participants emphasized that Sausalito cannot solve flooding alone. People pointed to flooding in Marin City, including along the bike trail and at Target, arguing that solutions must be coordinated across jurisdictions to avoid simply shifting risk. They are concerned that only addressing flooding in small areas would leave Sausalito vulnerable to flooding from overland flows from unprotected areas. One guest suggested putting a flood gate across the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent high tides from impacting all communities along the Bay. Guests clearly understood the need for public-private partnerships, with many expressing their willingness to help and work with one another.

Stressing the Importance of Explaining Technical Solutions

At first, many guests did not understand how tide gates and pump stations worked. WSP staff used the diagrams on the posterboards to explain why both are needed to work in tandem. Guests originally thought that seawater pumped back into the Bay would continue flooding lowland areas; WSP staff carefully explained that tide gates help prevent tidal backflow. At Table 3, several guests liked the pump stations shown from other areas, particularly the glass pump house. People were also concerned that seawalls would leave certain areas unprotected or could cause seawater to come underneath and emerge inland. Staff acknowledged that seawalls would need to be connected to each other or to raised roads across jurisdictions for maximum effectiveness.

Costs of Doing Nothing, Redevelopment, and Managed Retreat

Some guests expressed skepticism that any engineered solution could relieve flooding, and some added that they had already moved out of the floodplain. Some were concerned about being forced out of the area and expressed concern about high-rise construction. Many acknowledged the need to move off the ground floor and redevelop the entire area.

Next steps

Participant input provided during the community workshop will be reviewed by the engineering teams as the planning and design stages progress. This input will inform the conceptual designs specifically for the near, mid and long-term solutions and ultimately be summarized in the Implementation Report that will be presented at two Council meetings this year. Other stakeholder engagements will also continue throughout the project, including information updates via the project website, newsletters, and emails to the stakeholder list.