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Solano County's News Source

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA



Jonathan Erwin, manager of the Resilient Neighborhoods program at Sustainable Solano, gives an hour-long tour of areas in Suisun City that could be impacted with flooding in the future, Saturday, July 17, 2021. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

## Sustainable Solano walk looks at prospect of flooding in Suisun City

By **Susan Hiland**

SUISUN CITY — The third and final Flood Walk, sponsored by Sustainable Solano, took 12 participants on a journey through the marshlands, by the docks and through some residential areas in Suisun City.

All are spots that could be affected by flooding.

“It seems weird talking about flooding when we are in a drought,” said Sustainable Solano program manager Jonathan Erwin.

Sustainable Solano is a grassroots movement to unite people in working toward a future that is ecologically regenerative, and economically and socially supportive of local communities.

In a brief overview of Suisun City’s history, Erwin described how the city has flooded more than once downtown and inland, so it was no surprise to longtime residents that this is a continued issue.

“The rising sea levels are going to impact Suisun City,” Erwin said. “It is just a matter of time.”

“Scientists talk about climate change but when you can’t see it, it is difficult to imagine,” said longtime Solano County resident Steve Chung.

He and his wife Georgia were out for the walk to get a better idea of how water is related to climate change and would affect local communities.

“We are seeing fires that are stronger than before,” Georgia Chung said.

Suisun City and Fairfield would be affected differently at different total water levels.



The marina in Suisun City is shown, Saturday, July 17, 2021. The marina was part of the Flood Walk hosted by Sustainable Solano to look at areas that would be affected if there is a flood. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

Sustainable Solano, along with the city and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, plan to develop a Flood Resilience Action Plan over the next year. The plan will look at the impact of flooding in Suisun City and Fairfield.

Several types of events that could affect the water levels are sea levels rising from ice melting; tidal flooding, which happens at King tides; and storm surges. Surges happen when there is a buildup of water during a storm that whips up high winds and us accompanied by low atmospheric pressure.

Some ideas Sustainable Solano is working on include preparing for the potential for flooding, learning about flooding in the areas where people live learning to adapt to the new reality of higher water or evacuating in the end to a safer place to live.

continues to increase in coming years, Suisun City is working toward action to collectively weather the storm.

A series of aged levees and a robust water management strategy can manage current pressures – within reason. But as the threat potential

Sustainable Solano is focused on building what it characterizes as organically resilient neighborhoods in the most environmentally and socially vulnerable communities of Seabreeze, Victorian Harbor and Old Town. Their research has shown these communities will be the most affected by future flooding, while also having the smallest means to implement change.

Sustainable Solano has worked in Vallejo for the past few years, implementing changes to help foster more efficient ways to use the tools available today.

To get more information on various Sustainable Solano projects, go to <http://sustainablesolano.org>.

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