



Sustainable Solano hosted a Flood Walk along the waters of the marina in Suisun City, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. The walk showed participants the various areas of concern for the future if Suisun floods once again. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

## Walk participants review possible waterfront flooding sites

By **Susan Hiland**

SUISUN CITY — Kim Rodriguez likes to take walks along the trails by the marina. One thing she has noticed over the past few years is that some pieces of land are now underwater.

“When I first moved to the area I wanted to buy a house along the water in Suisun, but then I worried about flooding,” she said. “It wasn’t something that had happened but it was on my mind.”

Instead, 20 years ago, she chose Fairfield – and she is glad she did.

“The area over there,” she said as she pointed toward the water’s edge, “that was where some homeless were living but it’s gone.”

An educational Flood Walk, sponsored Saturday by Sustainable Solano along with the Resilient Neighborhoods program, took 12 participants on a journey through the marshlands, by the docks and through some residential areas in Suisun City, showing the areas that could be affected in the future by flooding.

“It seems weird talking about flooding when we are in a drought,” said Alex Lunine of Sustainable Solano and program manager for the Resilient Neighborhoods program.

Sustainable Solano is a grassroots movement to unite people to work toward a future that is ecologically regenerative while also economically and socially supportive of local communities.

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

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

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 few years. The plan will look at the impact of flooding in both Suisun City and Fairfield.

“We are working on mixing strategies to address the flooding issues,” Lunine said.

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 is accompanied by low atmospheric pressure.

A king tide is a nonscientific term people often use to describe exceptionally high tides, according to the National Weather Service.

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.

A series of older levees and a robust water management strategy can manage current pressures – within reason. But as the threat potential continues to increase in coming years, Suisun City is working toward action to collectively weather the storm.

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.

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

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