

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Galveston Bay Report Card

March 24, 2022

As a prelude to a series of meetings about flooding, PCAC focused on Galveston Bay. While flooding is a concern due to risk to life and property, it also impacts the bay's various uses. Sasha Francis, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), shared information on the most recent assessment of the health of Galveston Bay. Back in 2014, PCAC community and plant members had the opportunity to provide input on what should be included in the report. Francis described some of the Report Card outreach goals: discuss grade changes and what they mean; emphasize the importance of community, organizations, and industry action; and discuss impacts of pandemic & citizen science on data. For 2021, grades had some category improvements and NO decreases! See <https://www.galvbaygrade.org/>

GBF's rain barrel program helps reduce run-off in the area to keep excess nutrients out of the bay. In 2021, 333 affordable kits were distributed to the community, equating to the conservation and more controlled flow of ~350,000 gallons of water annually. In addition, they launched an improved Water My Yard water conservation tool this year (<https://watermyyard.org/#/Location>) which has personalized watering recommendations based on sprinkler types and rainfall data. GBF is partnering with Texas A&M and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) on a project to reduce Gulf Coast flood and chemical exposure risk for humans and vulnerable habitats by mapping facility locations, vulnerable areas, and flooding. Fish tissue testing will be used to evaluate potential impacts of chemicals on animal, human, and habitat health. GBF offered to speak to PCAC about this project when timely.