

# CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

# SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLANNING

## IMPLEMENTING STATEWIDE SLR GUIDANCE

Monterey County  
Board of Supervisors  
2/8/2021

City of Pacifica



Photo Credit: Kelsey Ducklow

**Kelsey Ducklow**  
Climate Change Analyst



CALIFORNIA  
**COASTAL**  
COMMISSION



# COASTAL HAZARDS

- **Inundation** – increased extent of permanently wet areas
- **Flooding** – increased extent of storm/extreme tide floods (temporarily wet)
- **Erosion** – accelerated erosion of bluffs, dunes, and beaches
- **Groundwater Change** – rising groundwater tables and saltwater intrusion



# COASTAL HAZARDS

Beach flooding and loss, Del Mar



Pasture flooding near Liscom Slough, Arcata



Flooding at Ledbetter Beach, Santa Barbara







# COASTAL HAZARDS

King Tide, January 2020 Pacific Grove



Bluff erosion, Isla Vista



El Niño Storms, Jan. 2016 Pacifica Pier







# COASTAL HAZARDS



Highway 1, Half Moon Bay



Wastewater outflow at Ocean Beach, San Francisco



Railroad, Elkhorn Slough



Mandalay Generating Station, Oxnard



# STATEWIDE SLR PLANNING

**S-13-08** State climate strategy & SLR adaptation

**B-30-15** Climate change considerations in planning and investment

**AB 2800** State agency consideration of climate change; impacts to infrastructure

**SB 379** Climate adaptation in safety elements

**AB 691** SLR vulnerability assessments for public trust lands



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair  
Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor, State Lands Commission Chair  
Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Susan Golding, Public Member  
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member  
Fran Pavley, State Senator  
Toni Atkins, State Assemblymember

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA SEA-LEVEL RISE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Developed by the Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the California Climate Action Team (CO-CAT), with science support provided by the Ocean Protection Council's Science Advisory Team and the California Ocean Science Trust

## Making California's Coast Resilient to Sea Level Rise: Principles for Aligned State Action

### Background

- California's coast, bays, estuaries, and ocean are critical to the state's environmental and economic security, integral to our quality of life, and an iconic part of the state's legacy. Each generation of Californians has an obligation to be strong stewards of the coast and ocean for future generations.
- However, Californians' safety, local and state economies, critical infrastructure, and natural resources face increasing threats from sea level rise (SLR). Every scientific assessment since California's 2009 Climate Adaptation Strategy has revealed that coastal impacts from climate change-caused SLR will occur more quickly and be more severe than previously projected. **California's coast faces a significant risk of experiencing SLR of up to 1.0 feet by 2030 and 7.6 feet by 2100.**
- Warming temperatures and a higher frequency of extreme weather, in conjunction with high tide events, have already resulted in SLR impacts at Imperial Beach, Seal Beach, Del Mar, Pacifica, Arcata, areas along San Francisco Bay, and elsewhere.
- Projections of future SLR point to **significant impacts to California communities**, with considerable environmental justice implications, upwards of hundreds of billions of dollars in impacts to property and development, impacts to statewide and regional water supplies, as well as significant damage to and loss of many miles of beaches, tidepools, coastal rivers, estuaries, and wetlands.
- To improve effectiveness in addressing this immediate challenge, state and regional agencies co-developed and endorsed the following Principles for Aligned State Action.

Photo: Embarcadero, San Francisco, "King Tides," Mike Filippoff







# CCC SLR POLICY GUIDANCE



## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION SEA LEVEL RISE POLICY GUIDANCE

*Interpretive Guidelines for Addressing  
Sea Level Rise in Local Coastal Programs  
and Coastal Development Permits*



Original Guidance unanimously adopted – August 12, 2015  
Science Update unanimously adopted – November 7, 2018

- Overarching guidance from the OPC State SLR Guidance, information specific to CCC context
- Guiding Principles
  - Use best available science
  - Precautionary approach
  - Prioritize natural adaptation options
  - Phased adaptation approaches



# UPDATED SLR PROJECTIONS

## Rising Seas in California

AN UPDATE ON SEA-LEVEL RISE SCIENCE



## State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance

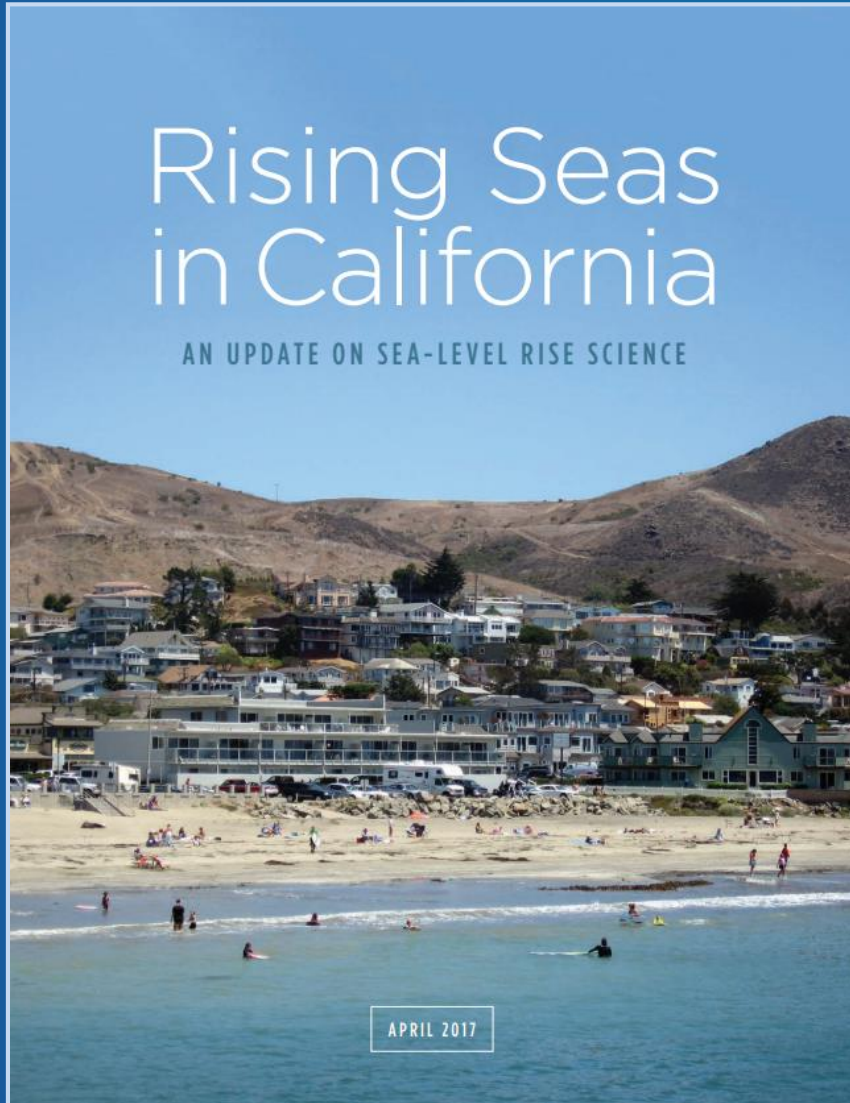
2018 UPDATE







# UPDATED SLR PROJECTIONS

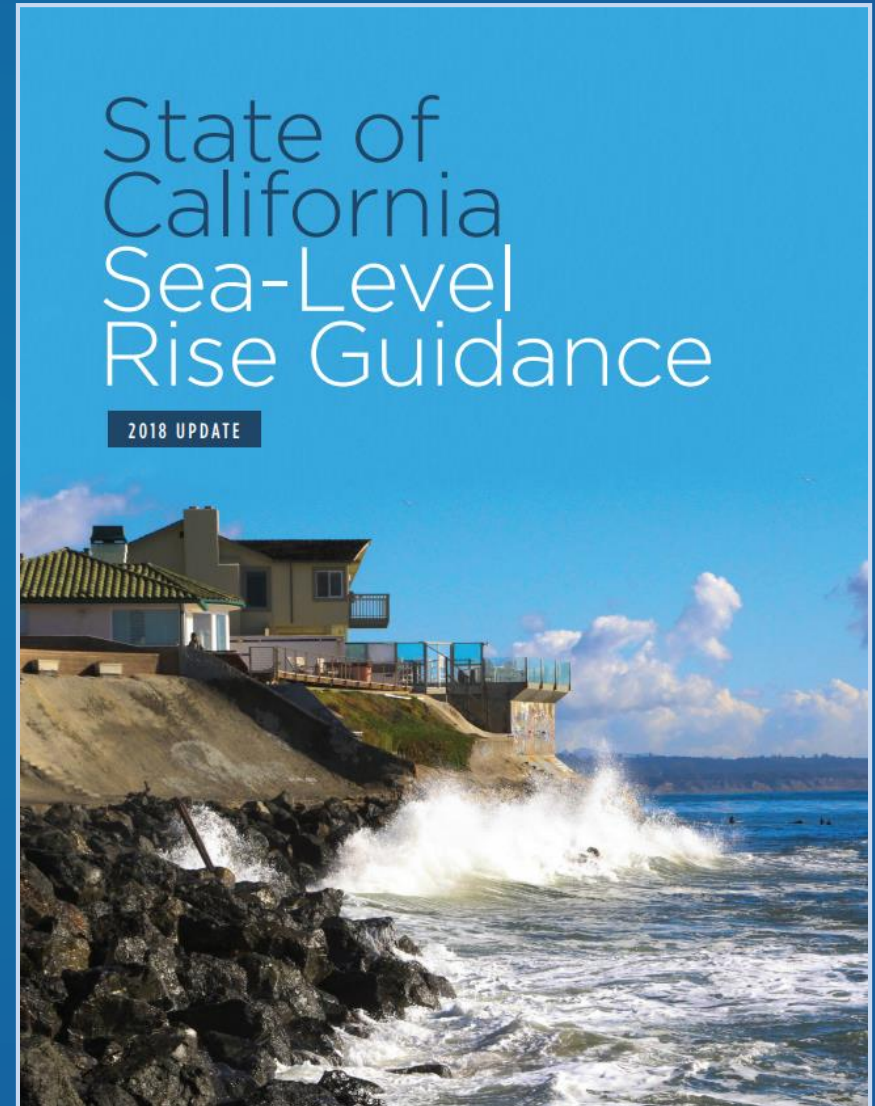


- Released April 2017 by a working group of the OPC Science Advisory Trust
- Synthesis of state of the science on sea level rise
- Significant findings:
  - Potential for extreme SLR
  - Probabilistic SLR projections



# UPDATED SLR PROJECTIONS

- Update to the 2013 OPC State SLR Guidance
- Updated SLR projections, and recommendations for identifying appropriate projections
- Preferred coastal adaptation approaches







# UPDATED SLR PROJECTIONS

## Projected Sea Level Rise (in feet): *Monterey*

	Probabilistic Projections (in feet) (based on Kopp et al. 2014)		H++ Scenario (Sweet et al. 2017)
	Low Risk Aversion	Medium-High Risk Aversion	Extreme Risk Aversion
	<i>Upper limit of "likely range" (~17% probability SLR exceeds...)</i>	<i>1-in-200 chance (0.5% probability SLR exceeds...)</i>	<i>Single scenario (no associated probability)</i>
2030	0.5	0.8	1.0
2040	0.8	1.2	1.7
2050	1.1	1.9	2.7
2060	1.4	2.6	3.8
2070	1.8	3.4	5.1
2080	2.3	4.4	6.6
2090	2.8	5.5	8.2
2100	3.3	6.9	10.1
2110*	3.4	7.2	11.8
2120	4.0	8.5	14.0
2130	4.5	9.9	16.4
2140	5.1	11.3	18.9
2150	5.7	12.9	21.8



# UPDATED SLR PROJECTIONS

**Identify appropriate projections based on project type, risk tolerance, potential consequences:**

## Low risk aversion scenario

Use for projects that would have limited consequences or a higher ability to adapt

## Medium-high risk aversion scenario

Use for projects with greater consequences and/or a lower ability to adapt

## High risk aversion scenario

Use for projects with little to no adaptive capacity that would be irreversibly destroyed or significantly costly to repair, and/or would have considerable public health, safety, or environmental impacts

Map of Tide Gauge Locations







# ADAPTATION IN ACTION



Project Denial  
Morro Bay WWTP





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION



New development with conditions  
Monterey Bay Shores Resort





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION

Address existing hazards  
Hwy. 1 realignment, Piedras Blancas





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION



Removal of Stillwell  
Hall and armoring,  
Monterey





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION

## CCC LCP Grant Program

6 grant rounds have awarded...

...~\$7 million for...

...62 projects to...

...40 local jurisdictions.





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION

Setbacks/project design that incorporate SLR

Deed restrictions/real estate disclosures







# ADAPTATION IN ACTION

Location-specific adaptation strategies

Alignment of LCPs, LHMPs, GPs, etc.



## Santa Cruz County





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION

## Triggers for additional requirements in the future

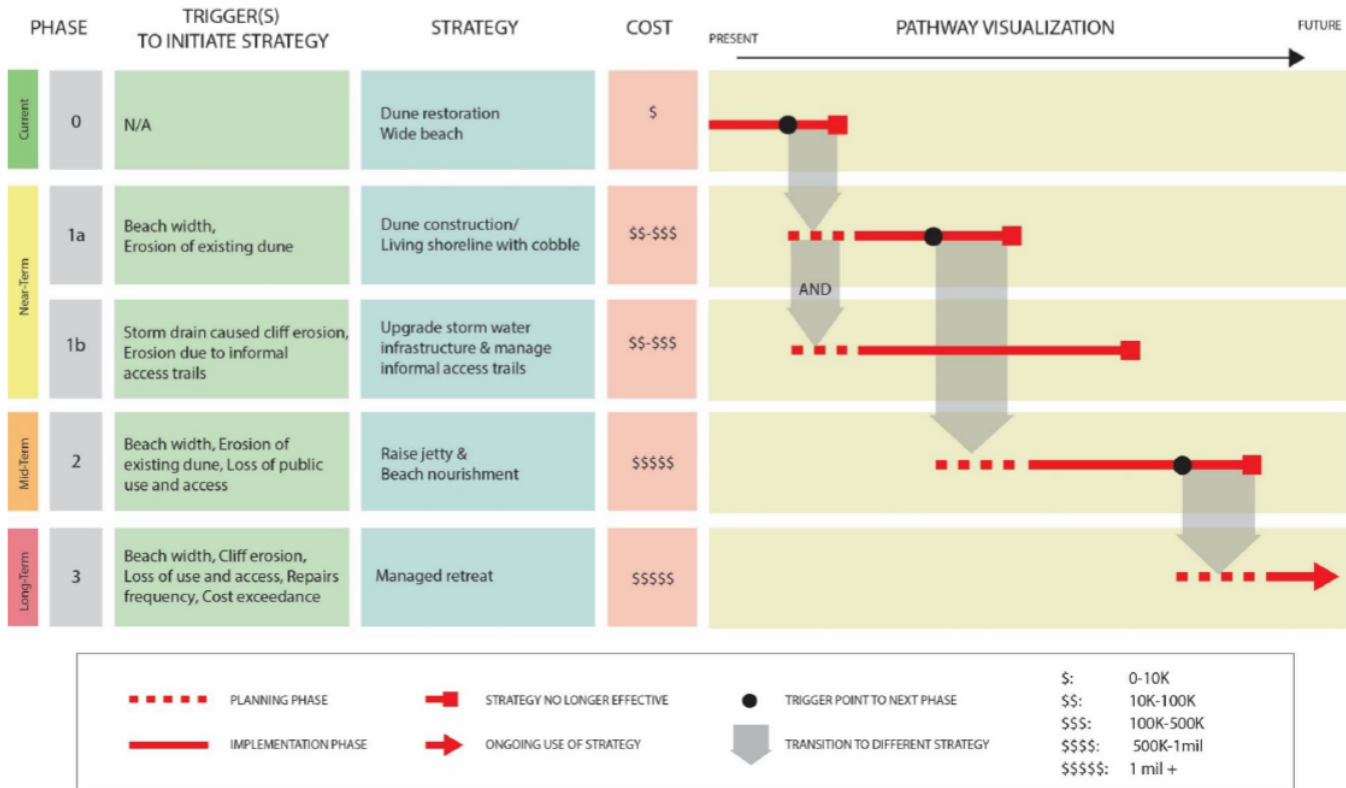


Figure 77. Seabright adaptation pathway: moratorium on new armoring





# ADAPTATION IN ACTION

## CCC and Local Government SLR Working Group



- Members from CCC, CSAC, & League of Cities
- Joint Statement on Adaptation Planning adopted Nov. 2020
- Shared principles for addressing SLR through LCP policy development, adaptation planning, and project decision making



# ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE



## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION RESIDENTIAL ADAPTATION POLICY GUIDANCE

*Interpretive Guidelines for Addressing Sea  
Level Rise in Local Coastal Programs*



Oceanside



King Salmon



Ventura



Solana Beach

Photo Credit: Mary Matella

MARCH 2018

REVISED

## Critical Infrastructure at Risk: Planning Guidance for California's Coastal Zone



# Coming Soon!

This document was prepared with financial assistance from grant agreement number 150270 under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).





# THANK YOU!



[coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr](https://coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr)

[kelsey.ducklow@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:kelsey.ducklow@coastal.ca.gov)