

## **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 18, 2021  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Facilities Management Report**

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#### **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

The existing underground storage tanks (UST) that supply fuel to the Santa Barbara Fuel Dock are mandated by the State to be replaced before December 31, 2025. The UST's are located in the Harbor Business District under Harbor Way, and just southeast of the Santa Barbara Fish Market. McCormix Oil Corporation (MOC) owns and operates the fuels dock at the end of the City Pier, and has contracted B&T Service Station Contractors to complete the project.

The UST project originally started in February 2020, but was soon halted after an underground high voltage line was identified next to the fuel tanks. The Waterfront District has since relocated the utility line, and now construction can resume on March 8, 2021 for up to 90 days.

The UST Replacement Project will replace four 10,000 gallon fuel tanks with two new 20,000 gallon fuel tanks for gasoline and diesel. The project design was reviewed and approved by the County's Environmental Health and Air Pollution Control District, as well as the City's Building and Safety Division, and Waste Water Management Division.

#### **SAND BERM UPDATE**

Sand berms are commonly constructed along the Southern California shoreline to protect coastal infrastructure. These berms are constructed seasonally in anticipation of large waves associated with winter storms. As opposed to seawalls, breakwaters, or other "hard" coastal structures commonly discouraged by regulatory agencies such as the California Coastal Commission, sand berms are considered "soft" structures and acceptable solutions in dealing with coastal erosion. On November 11, 2020, Cushman Contracting Corporation was contracted by the Waterfront Department to construct a sand berm at Leadbetter Beach, and another one at the mouth of Mission Creek on East Beach.

Mission Creek's sand berm will have some preventative rebuilding on February 24, 2020 after a couple of storm events and King tides caused some erosion. Storrer Environmental Services conducts avian and environmental surveys prior to, and during any beach construction activities.

## SEA-LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLAN UPDATE

The City Council approved the Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan on February 2, 2021 that identifies City areas of vulnerability to sea-level rise and recommends potential actions that the City could take to adapt over time.

In 2019 the City's [Coastal Land Use Plan](#) was updated to set in place interim development review policies to address the issue of sea-level rise while the more comprehensive Adaptation Plan process occurs.

The first phase of the Adaptation Plan included a [2018 Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment](#) that identified areas of the City potentially at risk from increased hazards related to sea-level rise through the year 2100 without any intervention.

The Sea-Level Adaptation Plan recommends actions that the City could take to mitigate the impacts of sea-level rise. The Plan outlines a phased approach to planning for sea-level rise based on monitoring changing shoreline conditions and taking actions to reduce vulnerabilities when defined thresholds are reached. The Adaptation Plan also includes detailed recommendations for necessary actions in the next ten years and a structure for future decision-making.

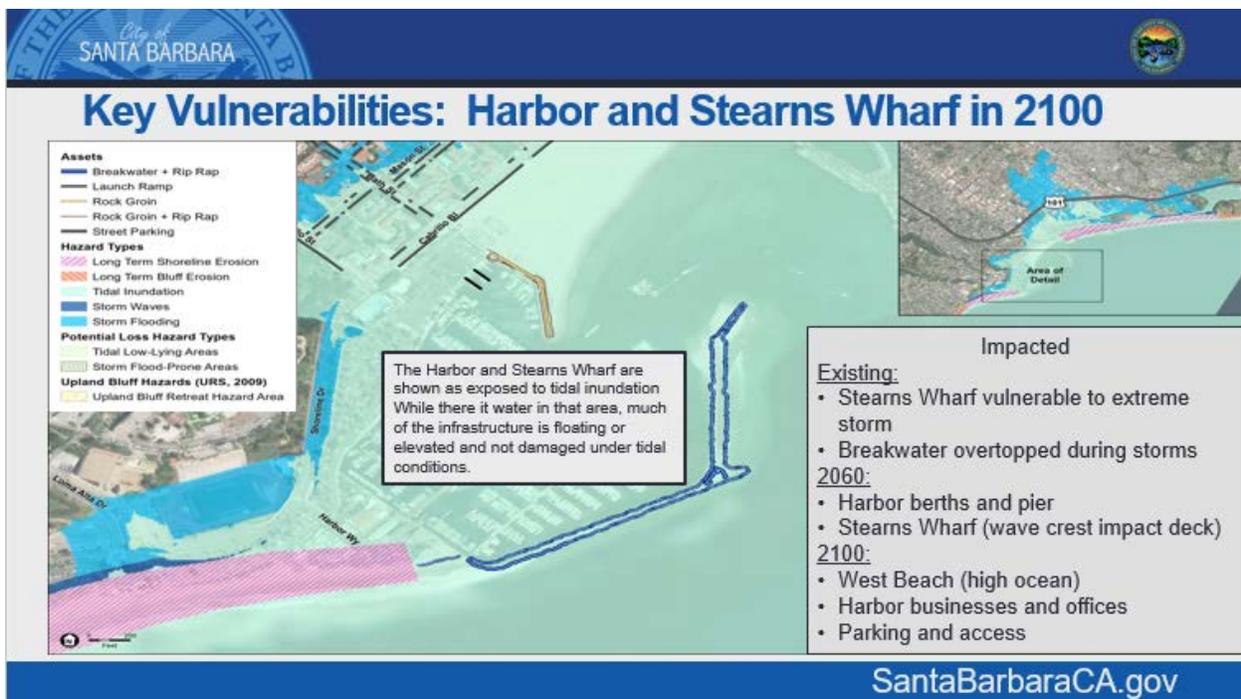


Image 1: Key Vulnerabilities - Harbor and Stearns Wharf in 2100

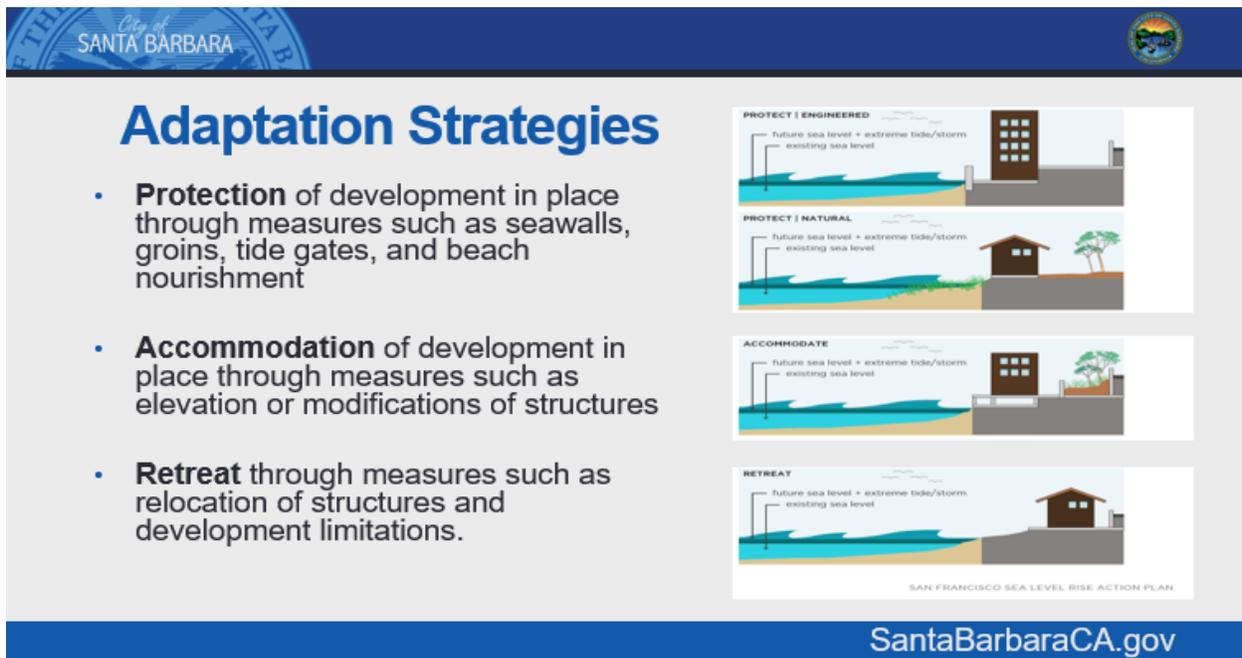


Image 2: Adaptation Strategies

Highest Priority Adaptation Actions:

The following actions are identified in the Adaptation Plan as the highest priority to initiate in the next few years:

- Develop and implement a Shoreline Monitoring Program in collaboration with regional, state, and federal partners.
- Study and implement options to optimize and expand existing sand bypassing, beach nourishment, and sand berm or dune projects at City beaches including East Beach, Leadbetter Beach, and Arroyo Burro Beach.
- Study and implement raising or otherwise modifying the Harbor breakwater, rock groin, sandspit, and the walkway and wall spanning from the breakwater to the Harbor commercial area.
- Raise and renovate marina facilities and the City Pier in phases.
- Study appropriate triggers for temporarily closing Stearns Warf during hazardous storm events and other potential safety measures that may be needed in the near- and mid-term.

- Update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate risks associated with sea-level rise and potential adaptation projects so that these projects are available for federal hazard mitigation funding.
- Study and implement a redesign of the Laguna tide gate and pump system that factors in potential changes in extreme rainfall runoff and creek discharge flooding in Laguna Channel with climate change and sea-level rise.
- Study and implement, as needed, options for relocation and/or flood-proofing of major wastewater, water, and utility lines and infrastructure south of Cabrillo Boulevard.

### Mid- and Long-Term Decision

The City will need to conduct further studies in the near-term to prepare for eventual decisions on adaptation actions needed in the mid-and long-term. Some key decisions that should occur at around 1.0 to 1.5 feet of sea-level rise to prepare for long-term impacts include determining:

- Whether to raise the grades around the Harbor to retain the Harbor commercial area or begin to relocate certain Harbor facilities.
- Whether to reconstruct, redesign, or remove Stearns Wharf.
- Whether to allow rock revetments and slope stabilization along the bluffs on a larger scale to protect Shoreline Drive or plan for rerouting this road and associated infrastructure.
- Whether to pursue large-scale flood protection measures for the low-lying areas of the City such as: shoreline protection devices or levees along the city's Waterfront; levees or floodwalls along lower portions of major creeks; groundwater dewatering wells; stormwater pumps; and relocation and flood proofing of critical facilities.
- How to effectively and efficiently adapt and/or relocate portions of the City's wastewater system and El Estero Water Resource Center in the long-term.

### Implementation

Staff have incorporated the highest-priority near-term measures into the next Capital Improvement Program to be reviewed by Council in the spring. During implementation of the Adaptation Plan, it is proposed that each department of the City undertake the adaptation projects specific to their area of expertise with assistance from a central staff team that would coordinate the Adaptation Program out of the Sustainability and Resilience Department. This central coordination would include: leading studies; developing the Shoreline Monitoring Program; developing the Five-Year Implementation

Plan to further prioritize and track progress on actions and pursuing funding; consulting to Federal, State, and Regional entities; sharing relevant information across departments; and conducting public education and outreach. Given that additional staff resources in the Sustainability and Resilience Department would be needed to implement the Adaptation Program, Council will need to consider funding for the program in future budget deliberations.

Website: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/slr](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/slr)

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