



City of Santa Barbara

Community Development Department

Memorandum

DATE: June 14, 2018

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Division Staff

SUBJECT: Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee Appointment

On June 21, 2018, Planning Commission will be selecting two Planning Commission members to participate in a new Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee (see Lunch Meeting Item A.2). The following provides information on the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan and the new subcommittee to aid that discussion.

BACKGROUND

Since 2014, when the City received grant funds from the California Coastal Commission (CCC), the Planning Division has been working to update the City's Local Coastal Program (LCP). This work has been done in collaboration with other City departments, a LCP Update Subcommittee (comprised of members of the Planning Commission, Harbor Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission), and CCC staff. The focus of the LCP Update work effort has been on a comprehensive update to the City's existing 1981 Coastal Land Use Plan. The Draft Coastal LUP includes interim policies that begin to address sea level rise in permitting decisions for the next few years. However, a comprehensive Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Plan is needed to provide details on the City's vulnerabilities to sea level rise and to analyze adaptation strategies.

In 2016, City Council accepted grant funds from the CCC to prepare the SLR Adaptation Plan. In February 2018, City Council approved a professional services agreement with Environmental Science Associates for the SLR Adaptation Plan. Since that time, staff have been working with the consultant on technical work associated with the plan.

The SLR Adaptation Plan is a first order study that will analyze the City's vulnerabilities to coastal hazards (coastal flooding, wave impacts, bluff erosion, bluff slope failure, and beach erosion) factoring in the effects of sea level rise in the near term (2030), midterm (2060), and long term (2100). The plan will then analyze the feasibility, effectiveness, economic and fiscal impacts, environmental consequences, recreation impacts, and other costs and benefits of various adaptation strategies to avoid and/or mitigate these coastal hazards over time. The information in the plan will be used to amend policies of the Coastal Land Use Plan to implement adaptation strategies.

The overall process for the plan is currently scoped to include:

- General guidance from a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Plan Subcommittee
- Technical guidance from a City Staff Interdepartmental SLR Team;
- Consultations with the CCC, Santa Barbara County, and other agencies; and
- Public outreach and public workshops.

SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

On June 12, 2018, City Council formed a SLR Adaptation Plan Subcommittee, appointed three Councilmembers to the Subcommittee, and directed the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Harbor Commission, and Water Commission to appoint their own members to the Subcommittee.

Purpose

The purpose of the Subcommittee is to provide overall program guidance and input on the social, economic, political, and public outreach aspects of the SLR Adaptation Plan. The consequences of sea level rise and adaptation strategies may result in significant changes to the City's shoreline and especially the City-owned Waterfront facilities. Up to this point, the LCP Update has not involved revisioning of the shoreline area (the Draft Coastal LUP has, to the degree possible, followed the direction and intent of existing plans and policies). The SLR Adaptation Plan could challenge the direction and intent of existing plans and policies. City Council, therefore, decided that the SLR Adaptation Plan Subcommittee should involve members of City Council, Planning Commission, Harbor Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Water Commission.

Members of the subcommittee will gain a deeper knowledge of the details of the City's vulnerabilities to sea level rise and potential adaptation strategies and will act as liaisons to the City Council and their respective commissions in matters related to the SLR Adaptation Plan. The subcommittee will meet in accordance with the Ralph. M. Brown Act and meetings will be open to the public and appropriately noticed.

Tasks

Tasks of the subcommittee will include:

- Assist with scoping of the SLR Adaptation Plan, including providing input on guiding principles and potential adaptation strategies to study;
- Review major deliverables (Draft Vulnerability Assessment, Draft SLR Adaptation Plan, and Draft Local Coastal Program Amendment);
- Advise on preferred adaptation strategies for City;
- Provide input on the public and stakeholder outreach process;
- Assist with public outreach; and
- Report back to City Council and respective commissions.

Commitment

At this time, staff anticipate approximately 6-7 Subcommittee meetings spread out over the course of the next year (through Summer 2019), with each meeting being about 1.5 hours and scheduled during business hours on Mondays or Wednesdays. Outside of the Subcommittee meetings, there will be materials to review and potential attendance at public and stakeholder outreach events.

Composition

According to City Council direction given on June 12th, the Subcommittee will include eight members: three Councilmembers, two Planning Commission members, one Harbor Commission member, one Parks and Recreation Commission member, and one Water Commission member.

For the last four years, a LCP Update Subcommittee composed of seven members of the Planning, Harbor, and Parks and Recreation Commissions have been working on a LCP Update Subcommittee. The LCP Update Subcommittee has been involved in the comprehensive update of the City's Coastal Land Use Plan. Members of the LCP Update Subcommittee have gained a preliminary knowledge of the potential impacts of sea level rise and the LCP update process. Staff, therefore, recommends that the Planning, Harbor, and Parks and Recreation Commissions choose members for the SLR Adaptation Plan Subcommittee from the existing LCP Update Subcommittee.