City of Santa Barbara  
Public Works Department  
Memorandum

DATE: February 21, 2019

TO: Water Commission

FROM: Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Sea Level Rise Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Water Commission receive a presentation on the impacts of Sea Level Rise on Water Resources infrastructure.

DISCUSSION:

Sea Level Rise has the potential to have catastrophic impacts to the community if no actions are taken to prepare. As such, the Council assembled a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee to begin work on development of an adaptation plan. Commissioner Davis was appointed to represent the Water Commission on this Subcommittee. When it comes to essential services, there are few more important the community’s Water Resources. In December, I was asked to speak to the Subcommittee on the high-level impacts to Water Resources infrastructure. Given the magnitude of the issue, Commissioner Davis recommended that I provide the same presentation to the Water Commission.

BACKGROUND:

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Process

The City has begun the process of developing a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan that will evaluate the City’s vulnerabilities to sea level rise and analyze the feasibility, economic impacts, and environmental consequences of various adaptation strategies to address impacts in the low-lying and coastal bluff areas of the City. Findings from the plan will be incorporated into the policies and development standards in the City’s Local Coastal Program. The plan is part of a program funded by the California Coastal Commission and California Coastal Conservancy to assist local governments in meeting new State requirements addressing sea level rise. Development of the plan involves stakeholder involvement, a public outreach program, and input from a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee.

The first phase of the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan is the preparation of a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. The Draft Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment identifies areas of the City that are at risk from sea level rise and related hazards through
the year 2100 without any intervention. The assessment will inform the development of the Adaptation Plan that will analyze potential adaptation strategies to address coastal hazards associated with sea level rise.

The Draft Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, along with associated draft hazard maps, is available here.

The City hosted a Public Workshop on the Draft Vulnerability Assessment on December 5, 2018. More information on that workshop can be found here.

**Project Schedule**

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<td>Public release of the Draft Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public release of the Draft Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan</td>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Public, stakeholder, Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee, and California Coastal Commission review of the Draft Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan</td>
<td>Spring/Summer 2019</td>
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<td>City Council consideration of the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
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<td>Local Coastal Program Amendment Process</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
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**Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee**

The Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee has been formed to provide overall program guidance and input on the social, economic, political, and public outreach aspects of the SLR Adaptation Plan. Information on that subcommittee, its agendas, meeting schedule, and meeting minutes can be found here.