MONTEREY BAY
CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

Ross Clark
Central Coast Climate Collaborative
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MONTEREY BAY SLR VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

Project Goals

- Identify what critical coastal infrastructure may be compromised due to SLR and estimate when those risks may occur;

- Identify how fluvial processes may increase flooding risk to coastal communities in the face of rising seas; and

- Define appropriate response strategies for these risks and discuss with regional partners the programmatic and policy options that can be adopted within Community Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, and LCP updates

Reports at CentralCoastWetlands.org – climate change
QUESTION?

How can SLR Hazard analysis and vulnerability reporting lead to strategic adaptation planning?
CURRENT PLANNING TO ADDRESS COASTAL RISKS

City of Santa Cruz update to Climate Adaptation Plan complete, references within LHMP, Safety Element of General Plan, West Cliff management plan, LCP update in development

Santa Cruz County LHMP and Climate Adaptation Plans complete, LCP update in progress

Capitola LCP amendment in progress, LHMP update soon, Safety Element in 2022

Monterey County will use findings for LHMP update (to include Climate Change Chapter), Moss Landing Community Plan (North County LCP)

City of Monterey: serving as the foundation of LCP Update. Draft LCP is at the Coastal Commission for review
Adaptation Response Recommendations: 2017-2030

**Support Dune Restoration Activities:**
- Future wave run-up is projected to undercut dune faces and funnel waves inward.
- Ensure adaptive capacity of these natural dunes through proper management and habitat enhancement.

**Evaluate Tide Gate Upgrades to Improve Flood Release:**
- Tide gates have restricted discharge during large rain events, exacerbated by rising tides.
- Upgrades to these gates that allow overflow during large events.
- Define secondary discharge pathway during watershed flooding events should be studied.

**Establish Managed Retreat Policies to Support Future Adaptation:**
- Facilitate and regulate the gradual move away from areas vulnerable to flooding or erosion.
- Define appropriate areas to investigate retreat options.

**Improve Flood Attenuation through Creek and Wetland Restoration:**
- Wetlands can act as a critical buffer for waves, tides, and erosion.
- Support restoration activities within the watershed to improve climate resiliency along the coast.
Adaptation Response Recommendations:
2030-2060

Tide Gate Upgrades:
- Flood management may be significantly reduced due to the predicted 14-38 inch increase in water elevations.
- Further analysis is necessary to determine the expected reduction in service and the likely increase in water elevation behind the tide gate structures.

Hard Armor Protection:
- Strategies should be developed that identify where coastal armoring is feasible and appropriate and areas where redevelopment and retreat are more appropriate.

Identify Priority Areas for Managed Retreat:
- Protection of all properties and infrastructure identified at risk during each time horizon is likely infeasible, therefore
- Establish adaptation strategies that best meet local long-term goals. Public cost considerations, longevity of adopted strategies, and resultant changes to the community should be considered.
Where we need to go…

Integrate / Coordinate Adaptation Planning among departments and agencies

Extrapolate results of potential adaptation strategies through applicable time horizons
  Document costs and consequences of selected strategies
  Repeat for other adaptation strategies
  Describe the resulting coastlines

Initiate Public discourse (willingness to pay)

Identify future adaptation actions that support current coastal resource goals.
ADDITIONAL COORDINATION OPPORTUNITIES
MOVING TOWARDS STRATEGIC ADAPTATION PLANNING

Virtual Reality
Municipal/Community Engagement
Cost Benefit Analysis
Coastal Resource Implication Evaluation
Willingness to Pay