

Adapting to Rising Seas: Updating California's Sea Level Rise Guidance Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is developing the updated guidance document?

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Ocean Science Trust (OST), are coordinating a process to update the *State Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*. The California Ocean Protection Council is partnering with the California Ocean Science Trust, which has been charged with leading the scientific component of the update and convening an *OPC Science Advisory Team Working Group*. The Working Group, comprised of subject-matter experts, will compile and review the latest climate research, including considering the implications of recent scientific advances on ice loss dynamics for updating sea-level rise projections. A Policy Advisory Committee, comprised of OPC, CNRA, OPR and the California Energy Commission, will prepare a draft guidance document for public comment, and will ultimately finalize the guidance document for scheduled adoption by the OPC in January 2018.

2. Who are the intended users of the updated *State Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*?

The updated guidance document will focus on the needs of state agencies *and* local governments. It will help cities and counties as they comply with a new law that requires them to incorporate climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in the Safety Element of their General Plans.¹ The updated guidance document also will assist state agencies prepare for, and adapt to climate change, as directed by Governor Brown's recent Executive Order.² The State of California is updating this guidance document to reflect recent advances in ice loss science and projections of sea-level rise, and to make this guidance actionable to those at the state and local levels to adaptively manage our regions and resources.

3. When and where can stakeholders provide input into the process?

Input from users of the guidance document will be solicited at multiple points throughout the update process. In February, March and April 2017, an Engagement Team led by Susanne Moser Research & Consulting and Climate Access, a not-for-profit organization, will conduct interviews and five listening sessions with representatives of local governments, state agencies, consultants, planners, and other stakeholders to better understand the needs of those who will use the guidance document. This input will help ensure that the updated guidance is understandable and useful for planning and decision-making. In summer 2017, OPC and OST, with support from

¹ SB 379 (Jackson), Land use: general plan: safety element. Available here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB379

² Executive Order B-30-15 (2015). Available here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938>

the Engagement Team, will convene a series of public workshops with state, regional, and local stakeholders to share the science findings and to solicit feedback on how stakeholders will utilize the guidance document. Public input on the guidance framework will help shape the updated draft policy guidance document. The Policy Advisory Committee will prepare the updated draft guidance document, which will be circulated for a formal public comment period in the fall of 2017. The final updated *State Sea-level Rise Guidance Document* is scheduled for adoption by the OPC in January 2018.

4. How can I stay updated about the process?

For additional details, updates on the guidance document process, and opportunities for stakeholder input, you can subscribe to OPC's public listserv, "CNRA OCEANS PUBLIC" at www.opc.ca.gov, as well as visit the websites below.

5. Where can I find more information?

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.oceansciencetrust.org/projects/updating-californias-sea-level-rise-guidance>, and
<http://www.opc.ca.gov/climate-change/updating-californias-sea-level-rise-guidance/>

You can also contact:

Liz Whiteman, Director of Science & Strategy, California Ocean Science Trust,
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or

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Timeline & Opportunities for Engagement:

Now-April 2017: State agency, local government and stakeholder engagement: interviews and five listening sessions

April 26th 2017: OPC Meeting, 1-4pm (Sacramento and webcast): Science summary presented to the OPC

May-June 2017: Series of public workshops to solicit feedback on a draft framework for the *State Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*

September-October 2017: 30-day public comment period on a draft update to the *State Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*

January 2018: OPC Meeting (Sacramento and webcast): Scheduled adoption by the OPC of the *State Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*