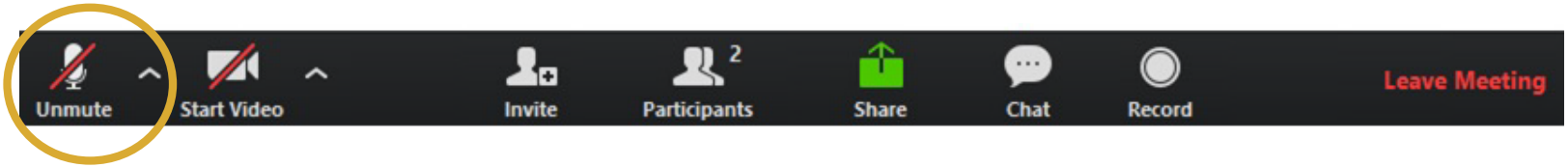
League Coastal Cities Group Sea Level Rise Discussion

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Housekeeping Notes

1. If you plan on speaking today, please make sure your audio is connected. You should have been prompted to connect your audio when joining the webinar, but you can confirm by clicking the arrow next to the microphone on your tool bar.

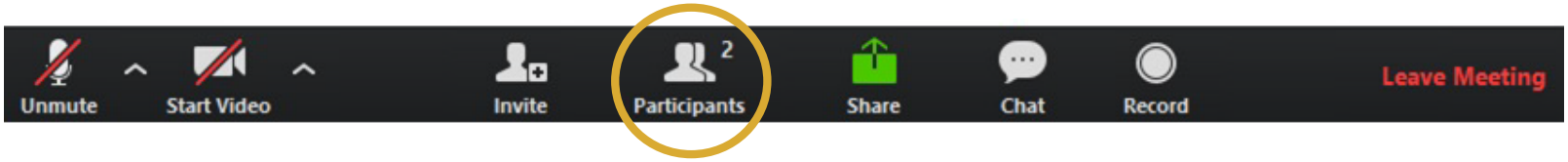


2. All attendees have been muted upon entry.

3. This webinar is being recorded.

How to Ask a Question

1. To ask a question or make a comment, use the 'raise hand' feature. First, click the participant button on your tool bar.



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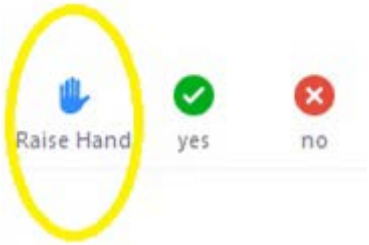

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Coastal Cities Group (CCG) Leadership Committee Update
- CCG Survey Results
- CCG Sea Level Rise Case Studies
- Coastal City Attorney Presentation
  - BB&K Attorney Christi Hogin
- Questions and Answers and General Discussion

Welcome and Introductions

Coastal Cities Group (CCG) Leadership Committee Members 2020

Chair - Mayor Ed Waage, Pismo Beach

Vice Chair - Mayor Pro Tempore Jill Hardy, Huntington Beach

- **North Coast** - Councilmember Heidi Messner, Eureka
  - Staff Designee - Miles Slattery, Interim City Manager, Eureka
- **North Central Coast** - Mayor Harvey Rarback, Half Moon Bay
  - Staff Designee - Bob Nisbet, City Manager, Half Moon Bay
- **Central Coast** - Mayor Ed Waage, Pismo Beach
  - Staff Designee - Jim Lewis, City Manager, Pismo Beach
- **South Central Coast** - Councilmember Eric Friedman, Santa Barbara
  - Staff Designee - Renee Brooke, City Planner, Santa Barbara
- **South Coast** - Mayor Pro Tempore Jill Hardy, Huntington Beach
  - Staff Designee - Jennifer Villasenor, Deputy Director of Community Development, Huntington Beach
- **San Diego** - Councilmember Ed Spriggs, Imperial Beach
  - Staff Designee - Andy Hall, City Manager, Imperial Beach

League Staff Contacts: Legislative Representative, Derek Dolfie, and Legislative Policy Analyst, Caroline Cirrincione

CCG Leadership Committee Work Plan

Objective 1: Develop relationships with Commissioners and staff

- The CCG seeks to develop positive relationships with Commissioners and staff as a means of establishing a collaborative working relationship to address issues of common importance to all coastal cities.

Objective 2: Educate CCG members on issues pertaining to all coastal cities

- The CCG intends to provide a forum for educating all coastal cities about legislative and regulatory matters.

Objective 3: CCG Networking & Communication

- A major function of the CCG is networking among coastal cities in order to share best practices and identify emerging issues that affect coastal cities on a regional or statewide basis.

Leadership Committee Application Process

- The Leadership Committee consists of one elected official and staff designee from each of the six regions within the coastal zone.
- Appointments to the Committee are made by the League President in conjunction with the League's Annual Conference.
  - This years annual conference is October 7-9.
- League staff will announce when applications open to serve on the 2021 CCG Leadership Committee.
  - This announcement will be made on the Coastal Cities Listserv.
- The term will be from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
- For more information, please visit the Coastal Cities Group website: www.cacities.org/CCG

Coastal Cities Sea Level Rise Survey Results

22 coastal cities participated in the SLR survey:

- 21 cities reported that sea level rise (SLR) is a threat to their community;
- 17 cities indicated their community has already been moderately impacted by SLR;
- 11 cities indicated they are addressing SLR through a draft local coastal plan (LCP) that is still in progress;
- 18 cities indicated that they support the use of thresholds as a planning tool for guiding response for potential SLR;
- To address critical public infrastructure along shorelines, 14 cities indicated that they plan to protect, 10 plan to relocate;
- With regards to addressing private property along shorelines, 12 cities plan to protect, 9 have not developed plans yet;
- 10 indicated that COVID-19 impacted potential SLR projects in their communities;
- Cities are addressing SLR in a multitude of ways, the most popular being sea walls and armoring; and
- When asked what webinar topic would be most interesting, most indicated SLR.

City of Imperial Beach

Councilman Ed Spriggs
City Manager Andy Hall
Community Development Dir. Tyler Foltz

Key Discussion Points

- LCP Process: Unclear Finish Line
- MR Exacerbates Competing Interests
- SLR and Community Survival
- Meaningful Progress Should Trump Perfection

The IB Story is Similar to Other Coastal Cities

May 2020 Survey Conducted, 22 Respondent Coastal Cities

Is SLR perceived as a threat to your community?

Yes 95%

How has your city been impacted by SLR?

Moderate or no impact 91%

How has your city addressed concerns related to SLR?

Armoring 30%; Managed Retreat 23%; Natural Shorelines, Dunes, Soft 20%; Sand 7%; Other 20%

How Does Your City Plan to Address Properties at Risk?		
Action	**Public Infrastructure**	**Private Property**
Protect	44%	44%
Relocate	31%	22%
No Plans Yet	25%	33%

HAS YOUR CITY ADDRESSED SLR THROUGH THE LCP PROCESS?

YES, IN OUR COMPLETED LCP APPROVED BY THE CCC: **14%**

YES, IN OUR DRAFT LCP THAT IS STILL IN PROGRESS: **52%**

NO, BUT WE PLAN TO DEVELOP AN LCP THAT WILL ADDRESS SLR: **29%**

NO, AND WE HAVE NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO DEVELOP A NEW OR AMENDED LCP: **5%**

San Diego Bay
Imperial Beach Pier
San Diego
Tijuana River
Estuarine
Research Reserve
Naval Base Coronado Naval
Outlying Landing Field
Tijuana River

Tijuana
Las Playas de Tijuana
International Border
Tijuana River
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How We Arrived Here: A Summary

- 2015-16 SLR Vulnerability/Risk Analysis developed with CA Coastal Conservancy funding
- Draft report shared at public workshop on preparation for late 2015 El Nino flooding, something community familiar with
- High and positive community interest (standing room only with overflow outdoors)
- 2017 Imperial Beach decided to proceed with CCC and internal funding to update 1994 LCP
- 2018-20 LCP addressing key policies of climate change, sea level rise, resiliency went through numerous drafts, CCC staff reviews, and community workshops until funds ran out

LCP Issues Encountered

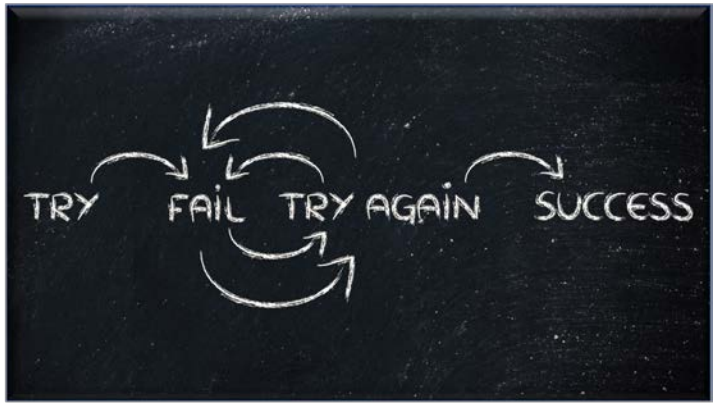
- Timing of CCC staff comments and additional issues raised during 3 cycles required backtracking:
- Emphasis on Managed Retreat negatively impacted all facets of public sentiment and involvement, particularly adaptation strategies, adding need for additional workshops to calm the public and draining consultant time
- ESHA: City recognized its importance and included an analysis on ESHA; numerous comments received from CCC staff showed that ESHA could not be resolved within scope or budget (outreach, reports, mapping)
- Each policy, whether new or old, heavily scrutinized by both CCC staff and public with different objectives

LCP Progress Made

- Numerous policy updates included in Draft
  - Sea level rise
  - Shoreline protection
  - Water Quality protection
  - Climate Change
  - Environmental Justice
  - Community Health
  - Economic Prosperity and Ecotourism
  - Circulation/Mobility

LCP Result

- Grant funds and timing depleted due to addressing unanticipated issues
- Impossible to move forward without work plan
- Future work plan items
  - Sea Level Rise Monitoring
  - Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas and buffers
  - Long-Term Adaptation Strategies
  - Shoreline Management Plan
  - Detailed Implementation Plan
  - Updated SLR Assessments
- Many areas of concern will continue to be addressed through CDP, CEQA, FEMA, RWQCB requirements/permits
- Although not perfect; the City does not want to lose the substantial progress made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FAIL
TRY AGAIN
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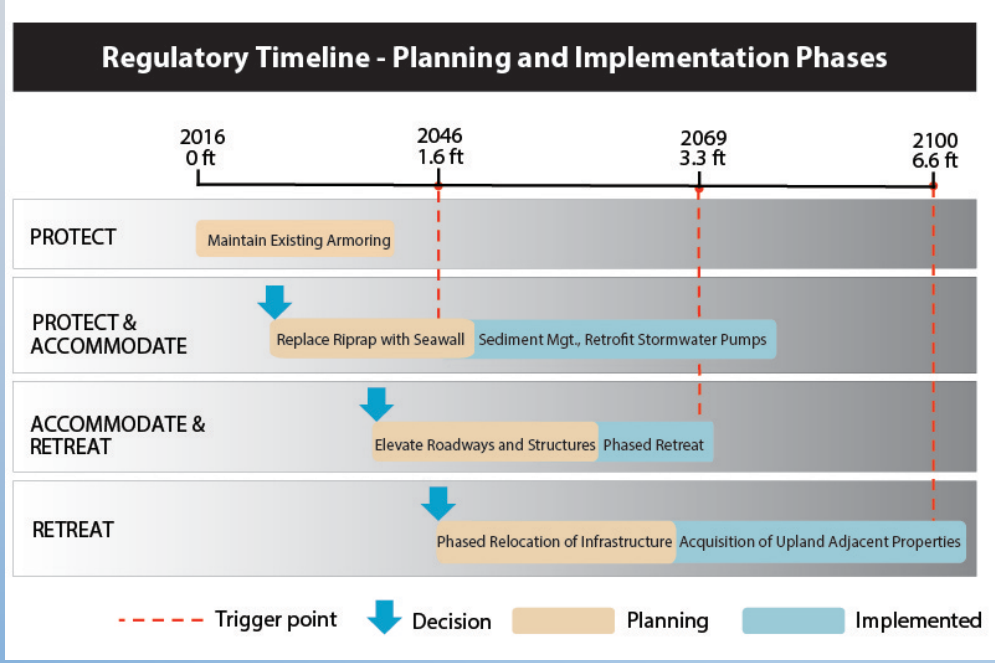


SLR Adaptation Decisions Can and Need to be Phased Over Time

Addressing Sea Level Rise is a <u>process</u> not a project

Imperial Beach has the Right to Survive

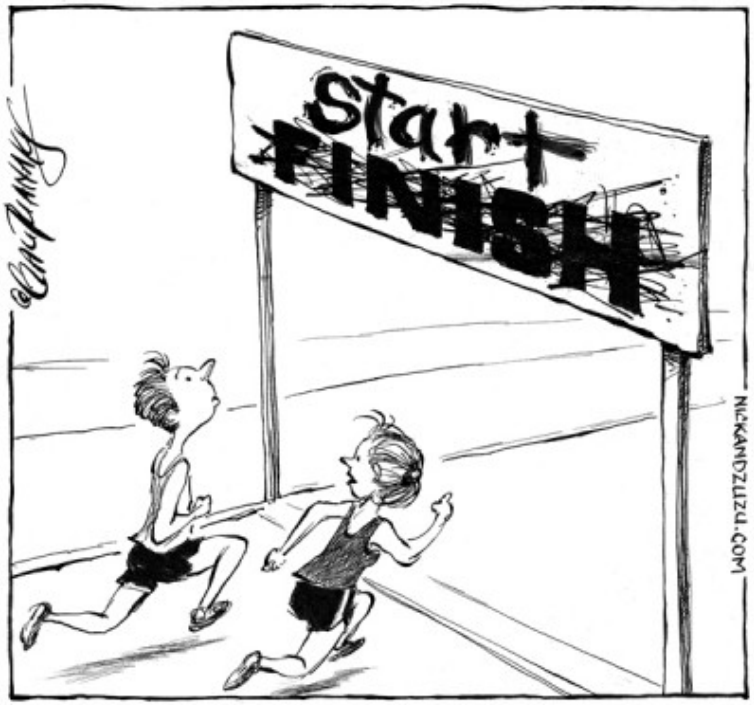
Recommendations for Managed Retreat, ESHA and other constraints essentially eliminate the financial viability of Imperial Beach

If the preferred or only option is Managed Retreat and your community is surrounded on three sides by water, your community will be essentially eliminated over time both physically and economically.

Experience Gained

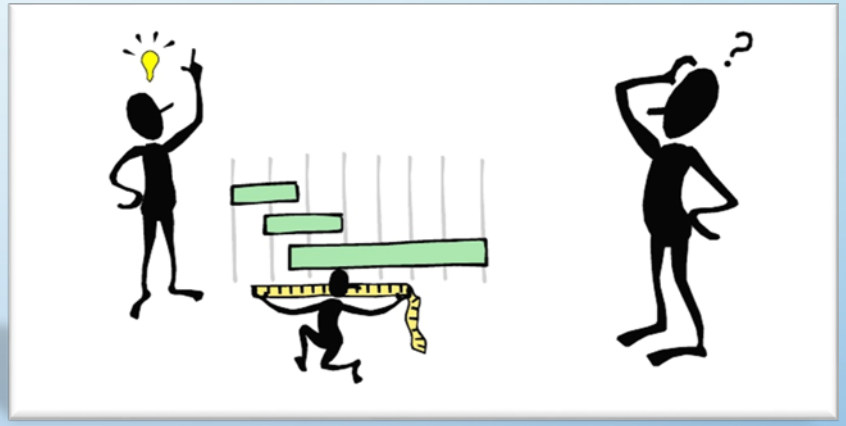
New or revised comments late in the process are problematic:

- Existing studies become stale
- Public trust is eroded
- Funding is exhausted
- Consultant scope of work is exceeded



Each LCP and Approval Process must be Unique

- Many <u>variables</u> will result in cities making progress at a different pace
  - Available science
  - Funding
  - Community education and support
  - Competing public interests
  - Community challenges
  - Community vision and values
  - Physical attributes
  - Existing development patterns
  - Environmental and economic stability



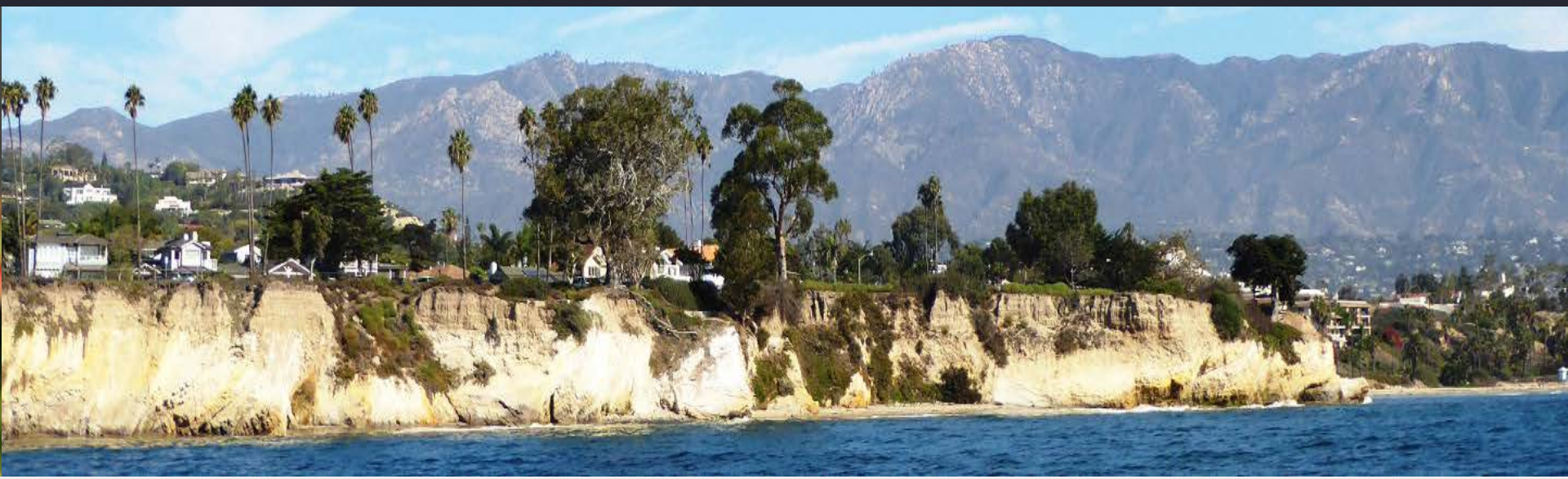
- One set of rules for cities will result in **repetition** & **eliminate innovation**
  - A single process would be like every City having the same Zoning Ordinance

The LCP Amendment Process should be modified to encourage more regular and incremental updates

- Rather than a major time and financial undertaking, the amendment process for LCPs should be modified to encourage regular updates to accommodate:
  - New studies and science
  - Changing climate of acceptance
  - More regular updates rather than massive change
  - **Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good – progress is positive!**

“Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in mind.”

IMPERIAL BEACH

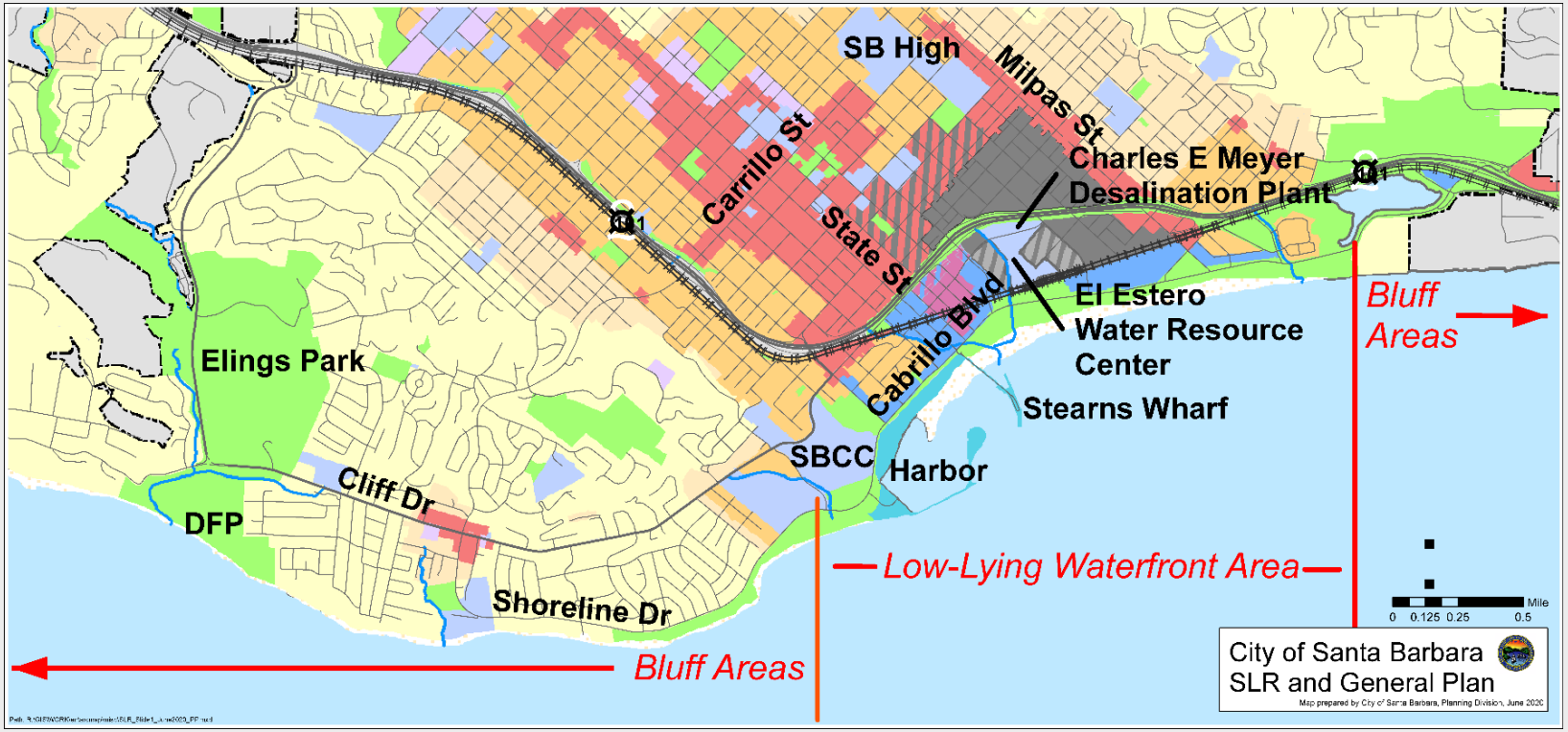


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA SEA-LEVEL RISE PLANNING

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SLR

The Santa Barbara Shoreline

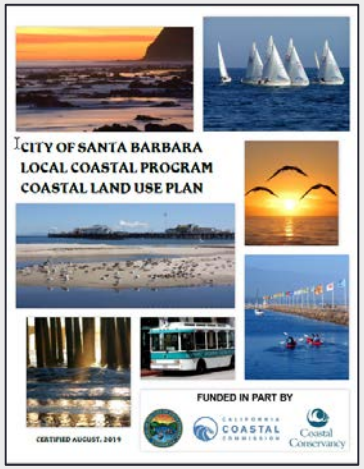


Sea-Level Rise Planning Process

- City Staff Interdepartmental Team
- Consultants (*ESA and AECOM*)
- SLR Adaptation Plan Subcommittee
- Consultations with Coastal Commission (CCC), County, and other agencies
- Meetings with public stakeholders
- Website (**www.SantaBarbaraca.gov/SLR**)

Previous SLR Work

- 2011 General Plan Update
- 2013 Climate Action Plan
- 2015 Goleta Slough Area SLR Plan
- 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- 2019 Updated Coastal Land Use Plan:
  - Includes interim policies addressing SLR in permitting while Adaptation Plan prepared



Adaptation Plan Process

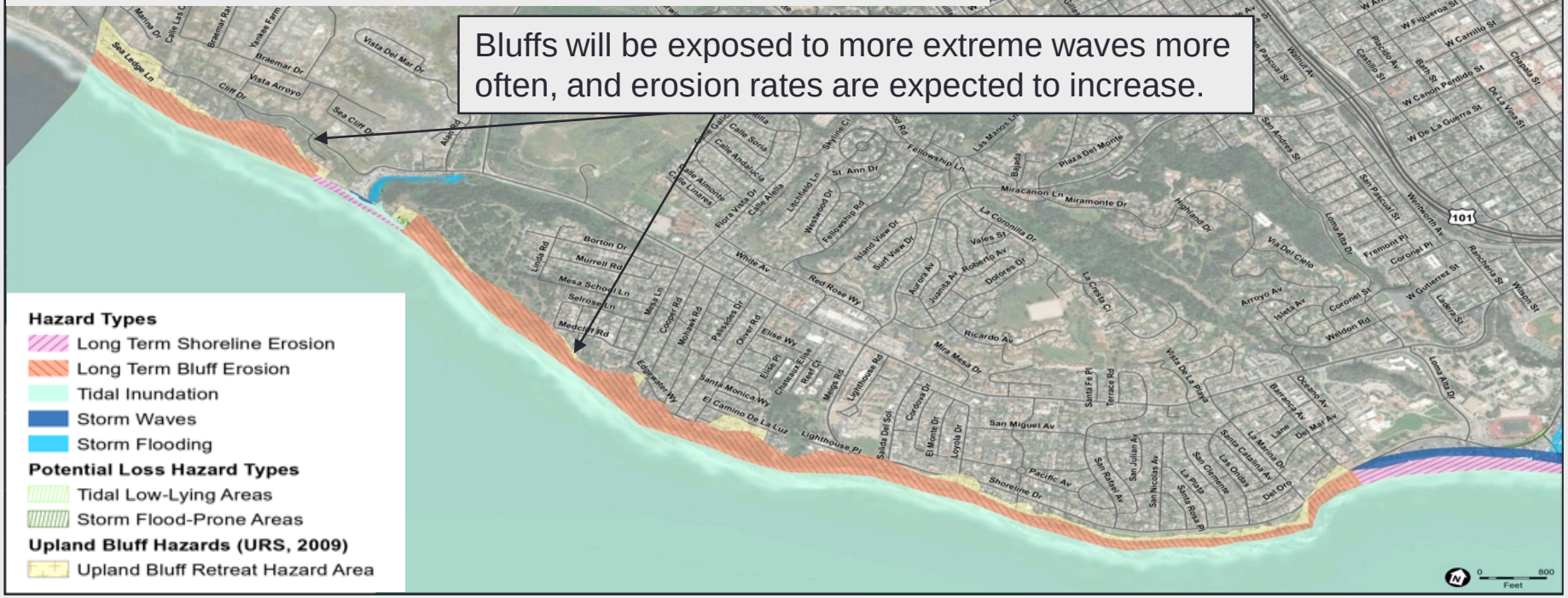
- Draft Vulnerability Assessment (2018)
  - What would happen if we do nothing?
  - Considers: 0.8’ by 2030; 2.5’ by 2060, 6.6’ by 2100; and H++
- Draft Adaptation Plan (August 2020)
  - Provides framework for future planning
  - Includes guiding principles for prioritization of actions
  - Analyzes adaptation options (protect, accommodate, retreat)
  - Considers economic and fiscal impacts

Phased Approach Proposed in Draft Plan

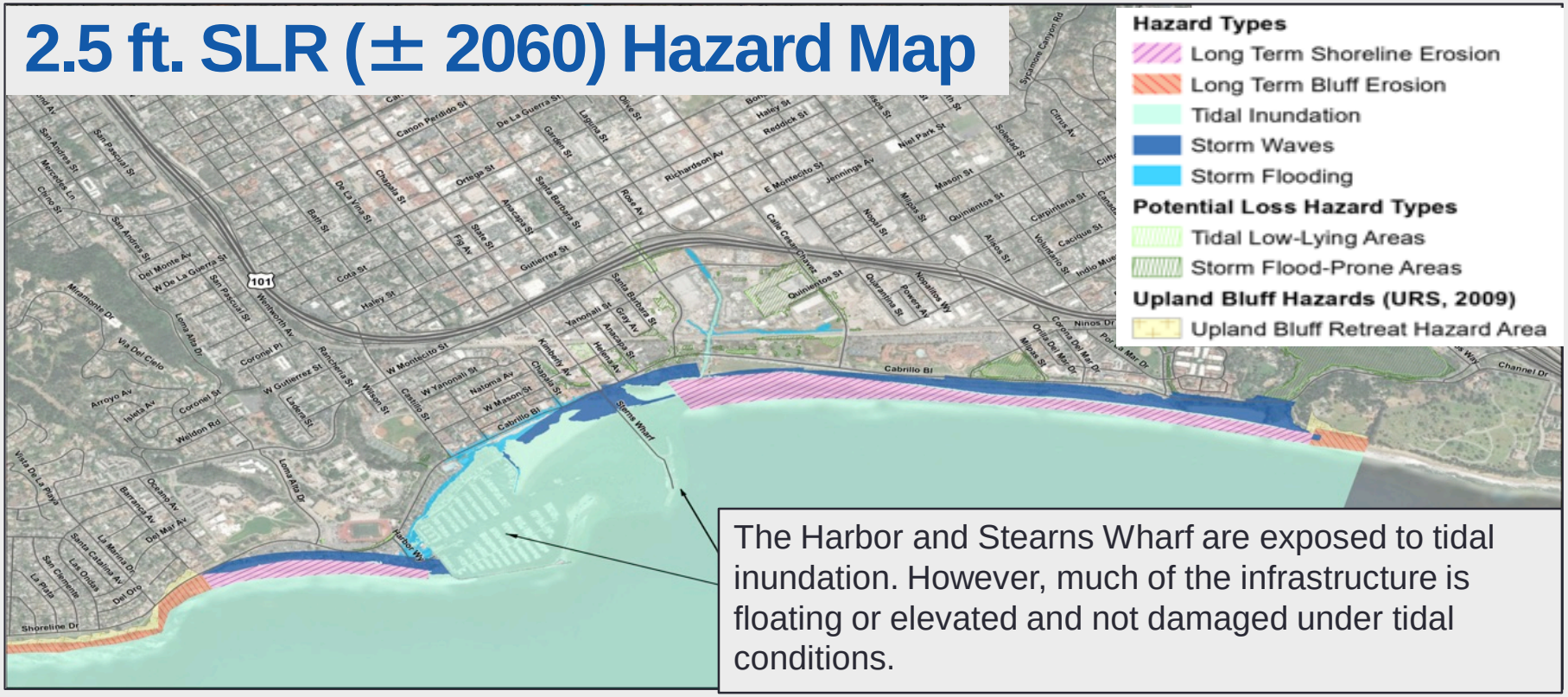
- Based on monitoring of changing conditions and trigger-based actions when certain thresholds are reached
  - Recommends specific near-term (ten-year) actions
  - Proposes structure for decision making in mid- and long-term
- Five-year Implementation Plan
  - Would further prioritize near-term actions and Identify costs, funding, timelines, and required resources
  - Incorporates actions into capital improvement program
- Shoreline Monitoring Program
- Re-evaluation of overall adaptation plan every ten years

2.5 ft. SLR (± 2060) Hazard Map

Bluffs will be exposed to more extreme waves more often, and erosion rates are expected to increase.

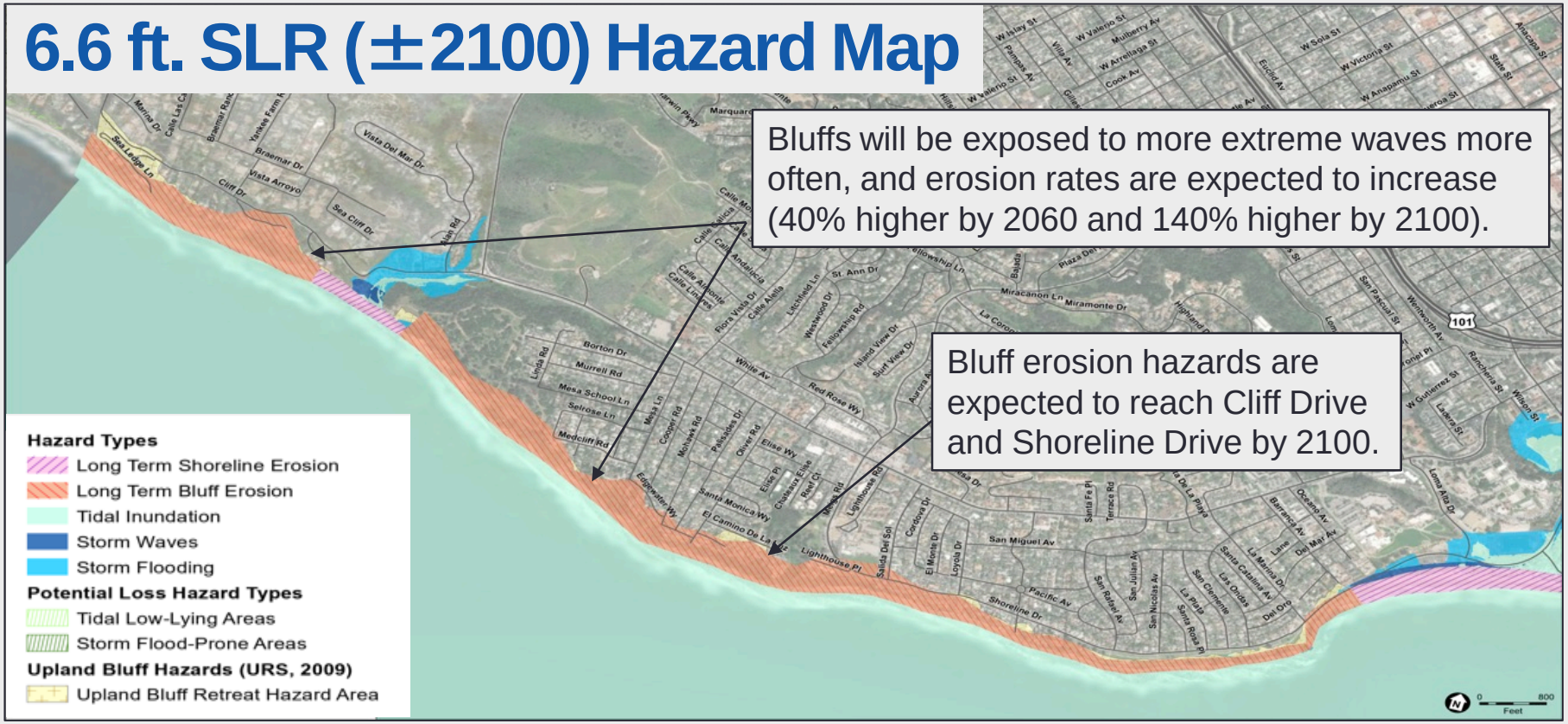


2.5 ft. SLR (± 2060) Hazard Map

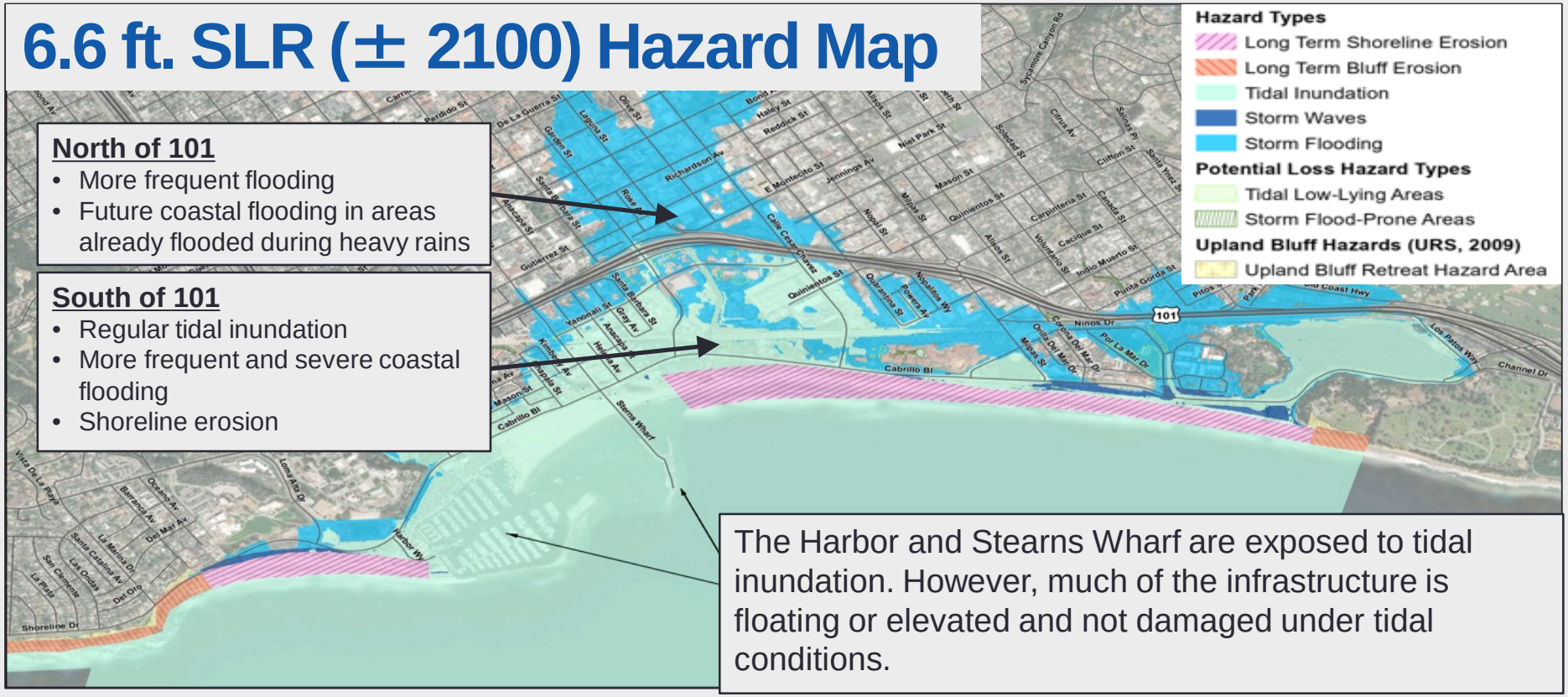


The Harbor and Stearns Wharf are exposed to tidal inundation. However, much of the infrastructure is floating or elevated and not damaged under tidal conditions.

6.6 ft. SLR (±2100) Hazard Map



6.6 ft. SLR (± 2100) Hazard Map



North of 101

- More frequent flooding
- Future coastal flooding in areas already flooded during heavy rains

South of 101

- Regular tidal inundation
- More frequent and severe coastal flooding
- Shoreline erosion

The Harbor and Stearns Wharf are exposed to tidal inundation. However, much of the infrastructure is floating or elevated and not damaged under tidal conditions.

Draft Plan Near-Term Recommendations

- Bluff Areas
  - Continue to require bluff setback factoring in SLR
  - Plan for relocation of assets in Shoreline Park
- Low-Lying Areas
  - Increased sand replenishment and dune formation
  - Relocation of major wastewater mains under the beach
  - Raise Laguna Tide Gate
  - Revise floodplain regulations factoring in SLR
  - Raise Harbor breakwater, groins, and walkways

ADAPTATION PLAN SCHEDULE	
Public outreach and comment period	August 11 – September 30
- Commission and stakeholder meetings	
- September 24th Public Webinar	
Revisions to Draft Plan	October 2020
Subcommittee recommendation	October/November 2020
Council consideration of Final Plan	November/December 2020

Webpage: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SLR

- Executive summary and full document
- Notification list sign up and meeting information
- Comments or questions: **SLRPlan@SantaBarbaraCA.gov**

Lessons Learned

- Phased implementation is crucial
  - Rapidly changing conditions
  - Many legal and technical unknowns
  - Focus on achievable near-term actions provides starting point and is inspiring instead of doomsday.
  - If we have to design/permit for 6.6’ of SLR now our only option right now on private property is to armor the coast.
  - Design life of structures is no longer 75 or 100 years.

Lessons Learned

- Property rights and takings cases are a huge concern.
  - Requirements and planning approach need to be real about these limitations.
  - When worst case development buffers lead to huge amounts of takings approvals, the regulations become useless.
- Almost every LCP Amendment takes a long time and a lot of resources.

Needs from State and Regional Partners

- SLR and shoreline monitoring so that all jurisdictions use same parameters and data.
- Funding for all type of projects.
- Technical guidance for how to incorporate SLR into setback and design calculations that is achievable and realistic given takings concerns.

Needs from State and Regional Partners

- Formal regional coordination entity for SLR.
- Designation of one central state agency to coordinate unified state response to SLR and assist local jurisdictions.
- State legislation revising requirements for real estate hazards disclosure.

Coastal City Attorney Presentation

Best, Best, & Krieger Attorney Christi Hogin

Questions?

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

Visit our Coastal Cities Group Webpage:

www.cacities.org/CCG

Thank You!