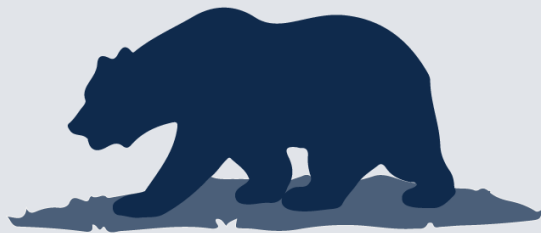


Preparing for Rising Seas: How the State Can Help Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts

LAO Report (December 2019)



Presented to:

**Assembly Select Committee on Sea
Level Rise and the California Economy**

February 7, 2020

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About This Report

- **Undertaken in Response to Increasing Legislative Interest in Climate Adaptation**
- **Focuses on How State Can Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts**
- **Has a Statewide Perspective**
- **Findings and Recommendations Informed by Extensive Interviews and Research**

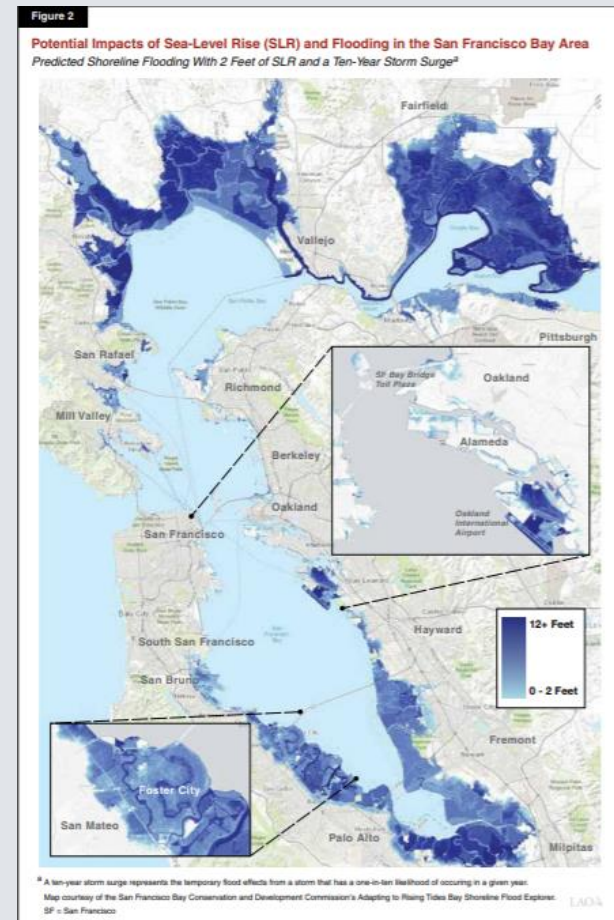
California Faces Threat of Rising Seas and Tides

- **Magnitude of Sea-Level Rise (SLR) Projected to Be About 1 Foot in 2030 and as Much as 7 Feet by 2100**
- **Storms and Future Climate Impacts Could Raise Water Levels Further**

SLR Could Have Extensive and Expensive Impacts

Could affect:

- Public infrastructure.
- Natural resources.
- Vulnerable communities.
- Private property.
- State and local economies.



Local Responses Will Be Key to Statewide Preparedness

- **Most Responsibility for SLR Preparation Lies With Local Governments**
- **The State, However, Has a Vested Interest in Ensuring the Coast Is Prepared**
- **Taking Early Action Could Yield Many Benefits**

Local SLR Preparation Efforts Are in Early Stages

- **Many—But Not All—Coastal Jurisdictions Across the State Have Begun Planning for SLR**
 - Conducting vulnerability assessments.
 - Developing adaptation plans.
 - Beginning to develop detailed project plans and policies.
- **Few Communities Have Progressed to Implementing Projects**

Key Challenges for Local Adaptation Efforts

Six Key Challenges Facing Local Adaptation Efforts

- **Funding Constraints Hinder Both Planning and Projects**
- **Limited Local Government Capacity Restricts Their Ability to Take Action**
- **Adaptation Activities Are Constrained by a Lack of Key Information**

Six Key Challenges Facing Local Adaptation Efforts

(Continued)

- **A Lack of Forums for Shared Planning and Decision-Making Impedes Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration**
- **Responding to SLR Is Not Yet a Priority for Many Local Residents or Elected Officials**
- **The Protracted Process for Attaining Project Permits Delays Adaptation Progress**

Recommendations for Legislative Steps

Foster Regional-Scale Adaptation

- **Establish and Assist Regional Climate Adaptation Collaborative Groups**
- **Encourage Development of Regional Coastal Adaptation Plans**
- **Support Implementation of Regional Adaptation Efforts**

Support Local Planning and Adaptation Projects

- **Increase Assistance for Cities and Counties to Plan for SLR**
- **Support Coastal Adaptation Projects With Widespread Benefits**
- **Facilitate Monitoring of State-Funded Demonstration Projects**

Provide Information, Assistance, and Support

- **Establish the CA Climate Adaptation Center and Regional Support Network**
- **Develop a Standard Methodology for Economic Analyses of SLR Risks and Responses**
- **Require a Review of How Regulatory Permitting Processes Can Be Made More Efficient**

Enhance Public Awareness of SLR Risks and Impacts

- **Require Coastal Flooding Disclosures for Real Estate Transactions**
- **Require That State-Funded Adaptation Plans and Projects Include Robust Public Engagement**
- **Direct State Departments to Conduct a Public Awareness Campaign About SLR**

Next Steps

- **Various Avenues Available for Legislative Action:**
 - Policy bills.
 - Budget act.
 - Bond proposition (would need voter approval).
 - Direction to state departments.
 - Oversight and informational hearings.

Additional Issues Will Need Legislative Attention in Future

- **Clarifying Uncertain Legal Questions**
- **Defining Statewide Priorities and Responsibilities**
- **Rethinking How and Where We Build**
- **Responding to Changes in Insurance Markets**
- **Addressing Additional Climate-Related Risks and Challenges**

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