

Policy Summit
"One California, One Coast"

Smart Coast CA

2022 Sea Level Rise Policy Summit

Coastal Plans at the Local Level – Santa Barbara County



one
COUNTY
one
FUTURE

First District Supervisor
Das Williams



History of LCPA

- ❑ 2014 – 2018: Development of (1) Vulnerability Assessment (VA) and (2) SLR policies/programs
 - CCC staff-administers grant for VA
- ❑ December, 2018: Board approves SLR LCPA
- ❑ February, 2019 – June, 2021: Negotiations with CCC staff
- ❑ June, 2021: Board defunds SLR LCPA activities in FY 2021 – 2022
- ❑ August, 2021: CCC staff clarifies that SLR LCPA must be certified or withdrawn by September, 2021

History of LCPA

- September, 2021: Planning Director withdraws application on behalf of the Board
 - CCC staff recommended 20 (multi-part) modifications to the Board's SLR LCPA
 - P&D supported 4 of the modifications without further revision; 16 required revisions for P&D support
 - There are 6 general areas of significant disagreement between County and CCC staff involving 12 of the modifications

1. Public Resources Code (PRC) § 30235 - definition of "existing structures" subject to shoreline protection

- CCC staff – only development existing as of January 1, 1977
- Board - development existing as of SLR LCPA effective date
- CCC staff's proposed "compromise" - stay silent

2. PRC § 30235 - requirement for property owners to waive rights to future shoreline protection for new structures or redevelopment

- CCC staff – require property owners to waive rights to future shoreline protection
- P&D – forecloses future shoreline protection options allowed pursuant to PRC § 30235

3. Require reassessment of Coastal Development Permits (CDPs) for shoreline protection structures every 20 years

- CCC staff - require reassessment of CDPs for shoreline protection structures every 20 years
- P&D –
 - CDPs do not have time limits
 - CDPs should remain valid until shoreline protection structures become ineffective or obsolete

4. Mandatory minimum bluff edge building setback of 25'

- CCC staff – mandatory minimum bluff edge setback of 25'
- P&D –
 - Setback has no basis in science, engineering, etc.
 - Setbacks should be based on site-specific geologic and/or engineering studies, subject to Chief Building Official's review and approval

5. CCC staff's expectation that local jurisdictions must use "Best Available Science" without an LCPA to reflect the new standards

- CCC staff – use of Coastal Commission-determined “Best Available Science” (BAS) without an LCPA to reflect the new standards
- P&D –
 - BAS development standard determination should require an LCPA
 - Board input on BAS necessary

6. Require removal, relocation, or modification of development if new and/or augmented shoreline protection is required

- CCC staff - require removal, relocation, or modification of development if new and/or augmented shoreline protection is required
- P&D –
 - Unduly limits future options for property owners
 - Compromises ability to protect public health and safety

Rejection of Sea Level Rise Projections

- California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff rejected the Board-approved Sea Level Rise (SLR) scenario
 - County modeled SLR scenarios during Vulnerability Assessment (VA)
 - Board adopted the “high” SLR scenario instead of more likely “moderate” SLR scenario
 - Affects more properties than moderate scenario
 - CCC staff’s request for use of new, “best available science” (BAS)
 - BAS became available after Board-adoption of “high” SLR scenario
 - Affects more properties than “high” SLR scenario

Next Steps

- Continued negotiations with CCC staff
- Senate Bill 1 – California SLR State and Regional Support Collaborative
 - New SLR administrative guidelines for local jurisdictions
- Use of other administrative guidelines (e.g., recently published guidelines for critical infrastructure)
- Board may fund additional activity in FY 2022-2023