



November 26, 2012

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SEA LEVEL RISE AND SHORELINE HAZARDS GRANT ROUND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND LOCAL COASTAL PLAN UPDATES

Secretary Laird:

On behalf of the Center for Ocean Solutions, I am writing to express support for the proposed grant round to fund technical assessments, data collection, climate change vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and updated Local Coastal Programs. This proposed program addresses a critical need in California's preparation for climate change and demonstrates the State's commitment to partnering with local jurisdictions.

Sea level rise and extreme storm events are already impacting our coastal communities. Local and regional entities need to begin to assess vulnerabilities and plan to adapt to our changing climate as soon as possible.

Planning for sea level rise and climate change must occur at the local/regional scale and through updates to Local Coastal Programs and general plans. It is important to provide assistance to help local entities develop the basic information about climate impacts and to update their planning documents accordingly. A recent California survey reveals that coastal professionals are generally unfamiliar with the full suite of adaptation strategies available to address impacts of climate change, inhibiting progress towards successful adaptation (Hart et al. 2012).

The state has developed both data and guidance that is extremely valuable for helping communities plan for sea level rise and other climate impacts. This project is a logical extension of that effort, providing resources to local entities to develop detailed vulnerability assessments and updated planning documents.

I applaud the leadership of the OPC in developing this project as a partnership effort that supports California's existing coastal management program. It is a great example of the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy and OPC working together on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Caldwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meg Caldwell, JD  
Executive Director  
Center for Ocean Solutions

Jerry Yang & Akiko Yamazaki Environment & Energy Building  
473 Via Ortega | Room 193 | Stanford, CA 94305-4205  
650.723.4057 T | 650.725.3402 F  
[www.centerforoceansolutions.org](http://www.centerforoceansolutions.org)



1444 9th Street  
Santa Monica CA 90401

ph 310 451 1550  
fax 310 496 1902

info@healthebay.org  
www.healthebay.org

November 21, 2012

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via email: [msmall@scc.ca.gov](mailto:msmall@scc.ca.gov)

**RE: Support for authorization of grant funds for coastal climate change adaptation planning**

Dear Secretary Laird and Ocean Protection Council Members:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, a non-profit environmental organization with over 13,000 members dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters and watersheds safe, healthy, and clean, I am writing to express support for the proposed authorization of grant funding for coastal climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning. The OPC and other state agencies have developed data and guidance that is extremely valuable for helping communities plan for sea level rise and other climate change related impacts along our coast. Authorization of grant funds for local climate change vulnerability assessments, data collection, and updates to Local Coastal Programs is an important next step in facilitating climate change adaptation efforts in California.

Climate change, including sea level rise and extreme storm events, is already impacting our coastal communities and coastal resources. While California must continue its effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, local and regional entities also need to begin assessing vulnerabilities and planning to adapt to climate change immediately.

As a member of Adapt LA, a local climate change adaptation workgroup in Los Angeles, Heal the Bay believes dedicated grant funding for vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation projects is imperative as California's coast is faced with sea level rise, increased storm intensity, ocean acidification, and other climate change related issues. This is of particular importance in areas where there are opportunities to protect coastal and wetland habitat, as well as developed areas with critical infrastructure that may need protection. We encourage the grant criteria to apply to vulnerability assessments and associated planning not just for sea level rise, but also for increased storm intensity, critical habitat threats, coastal infrastructure threats, and opportunities for conservation.

Much of the planning for climate change adaptation must occur at the local or regional scale and be codified in updates to Local Coastal Programs and general plans. It is important to provide assistance to help local entities to better understand potential climate change impacts and to develop forward looking plans. It is also important that these plans can be actualized, so we are pleased that staff recommends prioritization of projects that include policy and land-use solutions with implementable plans for addressing coastal threats related to climate change.

We appreciate the OPC's leadership in developing this project as a partnership effort that supports California's existing coastal management program. It is a great example of the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy and OPC working together on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [ssikich@healthebay.org](mailto:ssikich@healthebay.org) or 310.451.1500 x163.

Sincerely,

Sarah Abramson Sikich  
Coastal Resources Director



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**Coastal Services Center**  
2234 South Hobson Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

November 26, 2012

RE: Proposed grants for adaptation to sea-level rise and associated climate change impacts

Dear Secretary Laird,

I am writing to acknowledge NOAA Coastal Services Center's support for the proposed grant round for adaptation to sea-level rise and associated climate change impacts.

This proposal is timely as local, state, and national agencies and organizations attempt to plan for impacts of climate change on the coast, including sea level rise, amplified wave energy, and increased storm frequency and intensity. California's coastal communities are at the forefront of responding to and planning for these impacts. Enhancing coastal community resilience through adaptation planning must occur at the local level, and therefore must be incorporated into updates to Local Coastal Programs and general plans. The proposed grant competition will provide critical assistance to local coastal planners who are presently struggling to conduct vulnerability assessments for their communities and to integrate climate considerations into their planning processes. Because the impacts of climate change are being experienced today, these efforts cannot be delayed.

Since its establishment, the Ocean Protection Council has been a leader in providing data and guidance necessary for communities to plan for sea level rise and other climate impacts. Through the delivery of data, tools, and training, NOAA Coastal Services Center has been supporting several local and regional adaptation efforts across California. We are pleased to continue to align our work with that of the OPC and are enthusiastic about the partnership developed with this proposal supporting California's existing coastal management program. These grants are a necessary next step, providing local entities with the resources required to develop detailed vulnerability assessments and plans that incorporate adaptation considerations.

We are excited that you are considering this grant round to improve adaptation planning by local coastal communities and encourage its approval by the Council.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Smyth, Regional Coastal Services, Division Chief



**NOAA Coastal Services Center**  
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

[www.csc.noaa.gov](http://www.csc.noaa.gov)



November 27, 2012

The Honorable John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: [opc.comments@scc.ca.gov](mailto:opc.comments@scc.ca.gov)

**Re: Support for Sea Level Rise and Shoreline Hazards Grant Round Vulnerability Assessments and Local Coastal Plan Updates (Item 4)**

Dear Chair Laird and Ocean Protection Council Members:

On behalf of California Coastkeeper Alliance and Surfrider Foundation, we strongly support the disbursement of up to \$2,500,000 to fund competitive grants to help local governments plan for adaptation to sea-level rise and associated climate change impacts (Item 4 on Ocean Protection Council's November 28<sup>th</sup> agenda). Our groups work closely with Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to support local development and implementation of climate adaptation strategies, as described in Objectives 4.1 and 4.2 of OPC's Strategic Plan. OPC funding to support this work at the local level is urgently needed.

This funding will help local entities identify essential community resources that are subject to flooding due to climate change impacts. Understanding the resources at risk due to sea-level rise is the first step in developing adaptation strategies and in identifying needed amendments to Local Coastal Plans, including the land use plan and implementing ordinances. This project will also provide assistance to local and regional entities that are able to develop plans to address climate change impacts.

The OPC has an important role to play in helping state agencies understand and prepare for sea-level rise. Numerous state reports on climate change adaptation identify the need for coordination and partnership between local and state agencies. We support OPC's continued statewide leadership in understanding and planning for sea-level rise; and support this project which will allow OPC to advance its sea level rise work on a local and regional scale.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Aminzadeh".

Sara Aminzadeh  
Executive Director  
California Coastkeeper Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Geever".

Joe Geever  
Programs Manager  
Surfrider Foundation