

OUTREACH STRATEGY FOR UPDATED STATE OF CALIFORNIA SEA-LEVEL RISE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

JUNE 28, 2013

Background

In March 2013, the Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the California Climate Action Team (CO-CAT) updated the [State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance Document](#) (*“Updated SLR Guidance Document”*), with science support provided by the Ocean Protection Council’s Science Advisory Team and the California Ocean Science Trust. The *Updated SLR Guidance Document* replaces the [State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document](#) that was developed by CO-CAT in October 2010. The *Updated Guidance Document* recommends use of the projections of sea-level rise that are in the June 2012 National Research Council report on [Sea-Level Rise for the Coasts of California, Oregon and Washington](#) as a starting place and to select sea-level rise values based on agency and context-specific considerations of risk tolerance and adaptive capacity.

Use of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* is supported by the [Resolution on Sea-Level Rise](#) that the Ocean Protection Council adopted on March 11, 2011. Through this resolution, the Ocean Protection Council affirmed the importance of taking action on sea-level rise and using the most current version of the state’s sea-level rise guidance document for decision-making by:

1. state agencies,
2. non-state entities implementing projects funded by the state, and
3. non-state entities implementing projects on state lands.

Outreach Strategy

Goal 1: The *Updated SLR Guidance Document* is included in top level state documents related to climate change.

Audiences: CA Climate Action Team, Communication Working Group of the Climate Action Team, California Environmental Protection Agency, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, California Energy Commission and other state agencies

Message: The Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the Climate Action Team and respected science advisors have developed a guidance document with projections and principles for evaluating risks from sea-level rise.

Action 1A: Contact the Communication Working Group of the Climate Action Team to raise awareness of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* and its availability as a tool.

Action 1B: Review key state documents (*e.g.* updated Climate Adaptation Strategy, State Hazard Mitigation Plan, etc.) and ensure that they reference the *Updated SLR Guidance Document*.

OPC Staff Time: 100 hours over two years¹

Goal 2: Key state regulators, infrastructure agencies, and state agencies administering significant grant programs recognize the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* and include it as part of evaluating sea-level rise impacts on projects and reducing risk.

Audiences: Coastal Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Coastal Conservancy, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, Department of Transportation, Department of Water Resources, State Lands Commission, Department of General Services and other state entities that are making decisions regarding projects that are especially vulnerable to sea-level rise (*e.g.* wastewater and stormwater facilities) and/or involve significant state investments.

Message: The *Updated SLR Guidance Document* provides a scientifically-defensible framework for evaluating sea-level rise impacts and can be cited as a source of information to support decision-making.

Action 2A: Meet with staff from key state agencies and review contents of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document*, identify barriers to implementation of recommendations and provide assistance in developing solutions.

Action 2B: Send correspondence to leaders of state entities to inform them of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* and ask them to provide update on how they are addressing sea-level rise (see Appendix A for list of state entities).

Action 2C: Conduct outreach to state agency staff administering state funding programs related to coastal or bay projects and request that they include information on the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* in their application process.

Action 2D: Ensure that the projects selected for funding through the OPC Local Coastal Program Sea-Level Rise grant round use the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* as part of project design.

OPC Staff Time: 150 hours over two years

Goal 3: Entities involved in the design of coastal and bay projects are aware of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* and use it to understand and reduce risk from sea-level rise.

Audiences: local government planners, private consultants and engineers, wetland restoration coordinating groups, regional sediment management groups, non-profit organizations involved in coastal and bay issues, federal coastal managers

Message: State of California has developed an updated SLR guidance document and entities implementing projects with state funds or on state lands should use this document to design projects and reduce risk from sea-level rise.

¹ OPC staff times are rough estimates that include work such as reviewing key state documents that would be done beyond the roll-out of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document*, but which integrate outreach on the *Updated SLR Guidance Document*.

Action 3A: Send announcements to various mailing lists for local planners.

Action 3B: Send announcements to professional associations and mailing lists for private consultants working in the coastal zone.

Action 3C: Communicate with coordinators of wetland restoration groups and request distribution of the updated guidance document.

Action 3D: Communicate with non-profit organizations involved in coastal and bay issues, to increase awareness of the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* and OPC SLR Resolution, so that they can use them as tools to encourage robust consideration of sea-level rise as part of project design and decision-making.

Action 3E: Conduct outreach to federal coastal land managers (e.g. Monterey Bay Sanctuary, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, etc.) to inform them of the updated guidance document.

Action 3F: Coordinate with State Lands Commission staff to conduct outreach to grantees of state lands.

OPC Staff Time: 70 hours over two years

Goal 4: The *Updated SLR Guidance Document* supports the incorporation of future inundation and flooding risks as part of flood planning and risk reduction activities.

Audiences: Local governments, flood control districts, Department of Water Resources, Coastal Conservancy, Coastal Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, California Emergency Management Agency, California Insurance Commissioner, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), tribal nations

Message: State of California has developed tools to support planning for future flooding and inundation and has identified this issue as a high priority for action.

Action 4A: Collaborate with FEMA Region IX staff to include an article about the updated SLR Guidance Document in FEMA's *Coastal Beat* newsletter which is distributed to approximately 1,000 individuals interested in FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Program in California.

Action 4B: Include information on the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* as part of outreach to tribal nations on climate change adaptation.

Action 4C: Collaborate with staff from state and federal agencies to develop mapping tools that use the *Updated SLR Guidance Document* to help local governments and other entities understand future flood and inundation risks and to take action to reduce risks.

OPC Staff Time: 70 hours over two years