



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning &
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: October 6, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and
Director(s) Development,
568-2085
Contact Info: Matthew Schneider, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,
568-2072
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project Briefing; First, Second, and
Third Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

Staff recommends that your Board take the following actions:

- a. Receive and file the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project Briefing; and
- b. Determine that this action is not a project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Summary Text: During the July 21, 2015 Board Hearing Administrative Agenda, Planning and Development requested the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services for consultant services associated with coastal hazard modeling and mapping. At that hearing, the Board of Supervisors asked Planning and Development to provide a briefing on the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project (Coastal Resiliency Project, Project). This Board Letter serves to present a brief overview of the Project and timeline, information on the Project funding sources, and regional collaboration and benefits of the Project.

The Coastal Resiliency Project evaluates sea level rise and other coastal hazard impacts along the County's entire coastline. The Project involves four steps, which include 1) modeling and mapping these impacts, 2) developing a vulnerability assessment, 3) creating an adaptation plan, and 4) amending the County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) to include new or enhance existing

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

coastal hazard policies. The Project is funded through grants from the California Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program, the California Coastal Commission's LCP Assistance Grant Program and the Ocean Protection Council's LCP Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program.

The County is working closely with the Cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara and Goleta as well as staff from University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), The Nature Conservancy, University of Southern California Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy. The Project was initiated in July 2014 and the LCP Amendment is anticipated to be presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in early Spring 2017 with the final LCP Amendment submitted to the Coastal Commission in the Summer of 2017.

Background:

Coastal Resiliency Project Overview

The Coastal Resiliency Project is a multi-year effort to evaluate sea level rise and other coastal hazard impacts (including short-term and long-term storm induced beach and coastal cliff erosion; coastal flooding from storms; inundation during high-tide events; and wave impact zones) along the County's entire coastline, excluding the Channel Islands and Vandenberg Air Force Base. The goal of the Project is to identify and plan for mitigation of potential coastal hazards associated with climate-related impacts on important infrastructure, ecological resources and community assets. The Project includes two phases.

Phase I is a technical component that includes modeling future coastal hazard scenarios, visually mapping these zones, and drafting a vulnerability assessment for the unincorporated county. All modeling is based on the best available science and includes three sea level rise scenarios (e.g. low, medium, high) over three planning time horizons (e.g. 2030, 2060, 2100). The coastal hazards modeling will provide useful information for making high resolution planning level decisions, e.g. parcel scale. Hazard zone maps created from the models will illustrate potential future conditions and uncertainties associated with the sea level rise projections. Results from the coastal hazards modeling along with stakeholder engagement will help with the creation of the vulnerability assessment and enable staff to analyze impacts to the County's Coastal Zone under different climate scenarios. Critical habitats, endangered species, at-risk populations, and important resources and infrastructure will be identified within the County. The maps of future scenarios and vulnerable resources will inform long-term policy decisions and short-term permit decisions by staff, decision-makers, and stakeholders.

Phase II involves adaptation planning and a coastal hazards LCP amendment. The results of the vulnerability assessment will help develop adaptation strategies as well as identify appropriate management options for dealing with coastal hazards. These adaptation strategies and management options will provide information needed to develop new or enhance existing LCP policies and implementing ordinances. County staff will engage stakeholders to help draft these new and enhanced LCP policies that will update the Coastal Land Use Plan and future Community Plan efforts. Additionally, the County's Coastal Zoning Ordinance will be updated to include development and land use regulations to guide new and remodeled development projects to moderate coastal hazard risks. The proposed LCP Amendments will be developed consistent with the adopted *California Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance*.

Current Project Status

Modeling and mapping coastal hazards along the south coast's coastline from Rincon Beach Park north to Jalama Beach County Park was completed in September 2015. Modeling and mapping coastal hazards along the coastline from Jalama Beach County Park north to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park began in August 2015 and will be completed in June 2016. The initial south coast modeling results for the 2030 planning time horizon did not show significant impacts; however beginning around the 2060 planning time horizon, future cliff and beach erosion as well as coastal storm flooding was shown to start having noteworthy impacts on coastal resources and infrastructure. However most hydrodynamic models, including the one used for the Coastal Resiliency Project, do not include existing coastal armoring in the model's analysis. After reviewing the initial modeling results with key stakeholders, staff found the modeling required further refinement to account for existing coastal armoring. Therefore, a task was added to this next north coast modeling phase to include coastal hazard modeling with existing coastal armoring (e.g. seawalls, revetments, and riprap) along the entire County's coastline.

Staff began work on the County's Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment in August 2015. Part of the vulnerability assessment includes developing a regional GIS database for social (e.g. Census derived demographic data, vulnerable populations), economic (e.g. County Assessor data based property loss and building damage estimates), coastal armoring, water control structures (e.g. storm drains, tide gates, levees, culverts), and ecological resources critical to Santa Barbara County. This regional GIS database will be completed in the Fall of 2015 and will be shared with the incorporated Cities and other interested jurisdictions. The GIS database will be useful when preparing for all hazards including drought, wildfire, and earthquakes. The Vulnerability Assessment will be completed in January 2016 and updated in August 2016 to incorporate the results from the north coast coastal hazard modeling and mapping. Staff is also developing a webpage to display the coastal hazard modeling results. Members of the public will be able to use the website's interactive mapping tool to visually compare social, economic, and ecological resources as well as infrastructure's vulnerabilities under different potential future conditions. The webpage and interactive mapping tool will be completed in the Fall of 2016. The Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara and UCSB's Office of Budget and Planning are also currently in the process of completing vulnerability assessments for their jurisdictions and are using the results of the coastal hazards modeling effort to inform their assessment and associated LCP Amendments or Long Range Develop Plan, in the case of UCSB.

Next Steps

The County will lead a series of public meetings to review the vulnerability assessment results, identify adaptation strategies, and provide input on new and enhanced existing LCP policies starting in the Fall of 2015. The County will also begin holding regular coordination meetings with Coastal Commission district staff to discuss the County's development of new and enhanced existing policies that may be included in the Coastal Hazards LCP Amendment. The proposed LCP Amendment will be presented to the County and Montecito Planning Commissions for their recommendations to the BOS in early Spring 2017 and to the BOS for adoption in late Spring 2017. The LCP Amendment application will be submitted to Coastal Commission for certification after BOS review and adoption.

Coastal Resiliency Project Funding

The County received funding from the California Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program in the amount of \$200,000 as well as \$158,186 from the Ocean Protection Council LCP Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program (SLR Adaptation Grant Program) for a total of \$358,186 in grant funding in order to implement Phase I (coastal hazard modeling and mapping, and associated vulnerability assessment) of the Project. The County received funding from the California Coastal Commission's LCP Local Assistance Grant Program (LCP Assistance Grant Program) in the amount of \$8,000 and \$16,814 from the SLR Adaptation Grant Program for a total of \$24,814 in grant funding in order to accomplish Phase II (adaptation planning and associated LCP Amendment). Funding from the LCP Assistance Grant and SLR Adaptation Grant Programs will only support development of a qualitative adaptation plan. Therefore, the County will pursue grant funding for a quantitative evaluation of the costs and benefits of potential adaptation strategies as part of a future work effort for adaptation planning.

Coastal Resiliency Project Regional Collaboration and Benefits

Planning and Development is collaborating with the County's Office of Emergency Management; County Departments including Public Works, Fire, Community Services, and Public Health; the Cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara and Goleta; UCSB; The Nature Conservancy; University of South California Sea Grant; California Sea Grant; Coastal Commission; and Coastal Conservancy in addition to community groups to model and map coastal hazards and prepare the associated vulnerability assessment.

The adaptation strategies and management options will be consistent with the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* (MJHMP) as well as help inform the County's MJHMP update. This is due to the fact that starting in 2016, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requiring all state's hazard mitigation plans (HMPs), and thus local jurisdiction's HMPs, to address climate change in order to receive disaster preparedness FEMA funds. The County's 2011 MJHMP does not address climate change and OEM is currently updating the MJHMP to include a risk assessment of climate change (including sea level rise) and mitigation strategies.

Lastly, the Project follows the recommendations in the *California Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance* for addressing sea level rise in LCPs. The Project's coastal hazard modeling and mapping, vulnerability assessment, and qualitative adaptation plan will also help inform individual Coastal Development Permits (CDPs) applications to meet the Commission's guidance for evaluating sea level rise and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Development projects specifically located within areas currently subject to inundation, flooding, wave impacts, and beach or cliff erosion applying for CDPs will benefit greatly by using the County's coastal hazard modeling and mapping analysis to determine which impacts may constrain their project site at no cost to them. Individual CDP applications can utilize the County's Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment as well as use adaptation strategies indentified as part of the County's Coastal Hazard LCP Amendment when analyzing their coastal development's impacts to coastal resources.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

- Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: Staff salaries and consultant costs are included in the County's budget under Planning and Development Department, Long Range Planning Budget Program on page D-295 of the *Santa Barbara County Recommended Operational Plan, Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17*. The California Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program will fund \$23,514 of the project costs (\$10,514 in consultant costs and \$13,000 for staff time). The Ocean Protection Council SLR Adaptation Grant Program will fund \$167,460 of the project costs (\$142,000 in consultant costs and \$25,460 for staff time). Total grant funding for the Project is in the amount of \$190,974. The General Fund will contribute \$51,987 as part of a required match for both grant programs (\$21,147 match for the Climate Ready Grant and \$30,840 match for the SLR Adaptation Grant). Of the \$51,987, approximately \$41,987 is for staff time and \$10,000 is for consultant costs.

Special Instructions:

There are no special noticing requirements.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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