

# **City of Oxnard Local Coastal Program Update**

**Community Meeting #2 – December 9, 2024  
Summary**

**Prepared for** City of Oxnard, Long Range Planning and Sustainability Division

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## Introduction and Overview

The City of Oxnard (City) is updating its certified Local Coastal Program (LCP). The LCP is a planning tool to guide future development in the City's coastal zone and protect coastal resources in compliance with the California Coastal Act. The LCP defines the City's policies, programs, land use regulations, and adaptation measures that address emerging threats and concerns related to climate change, such as Sea Level Rise (SLR). The City adopted its LCP in 1982, which includes the City's Coastal Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan (Chapter 17, Coastal Zoning Ordinance). Various components of LCP have been amended several times over the years to address the evolution of coastal planning in Oxnard and the changing needs of the City, and this current update process will focus on planning for coastal hazards associated with SLR.

As part of the LCP Update, on December 9, 2024, the City held an in-person community meeting at the City of Oxnard Library. The meeting was an opportunity to share information and gather community input and feedback on preliminary vulnerability assessment results and adaptation options. This summary provides an overview of the LCP Update engagement objectives, followed by a brief description of the meeting format, key themes identified from participants' input and comments. Questions and comments captured throughout the meeting and a summary of the input gathered during an open house activity are also included, additional feedback gathered from post-it notes can be found in Appendix A. The staff presentation can be found in Appendix B, followed by the adaptation measure boards presented at the meeting in Appendix C.

## Engagement Objectives

Community meetings are part of the comprehensive community engagement strategy to involve community members and other stakeholders in the LCP Update. Throughout the steps of the LCP Update process, input, feedback, questions, and ideas are collected and considered in the analysis and planning. The specific engagement objectives of the community meeting were to:

- Share information about the project and what work has been conducted to date, including the purpose, topics to be addressed, timeline, and upcoming outreach activities.
- Present preliminary results of the sea level rise vulnerability assessment and potential draft adaptation concepts, and gather questions, ideas, and concerns; input gathered throughout the engagement process will be used to fine-tune the vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures in the next steps of the planning process.
- Continue to build relationships and trust between the City, community members, and other interested parties.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and receive answers, with understanding that the answers to some questions may still be under study and exploration.

## Meeting Format

The in-person meeting was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the City of Oxnard Downtown Library, 251 S A Street. Approximately 15 members of the public attended. The agenda included an overview of the LCP and the LCP Update process, a question-and-answer session, and an open house activity with multiple stations dedicated to different

planning areas of the LCP. Participants were able to visit the various stations, provide feedback using sticky notes, and talk to project team members. The meeting was concluded by thanking everyone for their participation and encouraging them to visit the project website, [www.oxnard.gov/LCP](http://www.oxnard.gov/LCP), for updates and announcements of future participation opportunities. Attendees were also informed that the presentation would be posted on our LCP website, that comments could be provided via the LCP email address on the website and they were encouraged to share the presentation with those that could not attend.

## Key Themes

Major themes identified from participants' input and comments are noted below. Themes are listed alphabetically and the order does not indicate prioritization or importance:

- Immediate solutions needed to address existing flooding hazards
- Importance of continued community engagement in formulating the LCP Update and planned actions, and in implementation of the actions
- Integration of habitat restoration and protection in sea level rise adaptation
- Interest and support for nature-based adaptation options
- Reflection on the Ormond Beach Restoration and Access Plan and how sea level rise is being considered
- Restoration and habitat protection
- The importance of sea level rise adaptation options and planning collaboration across the region, including the County of Ventura, and other cities and agencies

## Presentation and Q&A

### Welcome & Overview

Joan Isaacson, facilitator from Kearns & West, welcomed attendees to the second community meeting for the City's LCP Update and introduced Kathleen Mallory, City of Oxnard Planning and Sustainability Manager. Mallory welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude for their participation, emphasizing the importance of community input throughout the LCP Update process.

Next, Isaacson reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives and introduced the project team. She highlighted that the focus of the meeting would be on sharing the preliminary results of the sea level rise vulnerability assessment and potential draft adaptation concepts, and gathering the community's input and priorities on these preliminary results and measures.

### Project Background, Sea Level Rise Scenarios, and Potential Adaptation Concepts

Isaacson introduced Carolyn Groves, Coastal Planner at Dudek, to provide an overview of the project background and scope. Groves described the 1976 California Coastal Act, defined the LCP, and explained why it needs to be updated to address SLR and meet state regulations. She highlighted the four coastal planning areas for the City's LCP and described how the LCP Update will address sea level rise and climate adaptation with consideration to community impacts and resilience.

Next, Groves described the sea level rise scenarios being studied in the LCP Update and how the California Coastal Commission's SLR Policy Guidance advises that a range of sea level rise scenarios be studied and used in planning for adaptation options. She explained that from the available modeling data, the City chose representative SLR amounts for mapping that meet the guidance of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and allow for coordinated planning with other jurisdictions. Groves continued with highlighting the State mandates related to SLR planning and coastal hazards being studied in the LCP Update, explaining that the focus of the discussion will be centered on storm and tidal flooding and erosion, which are anticipated to be the most consequential hazards for the City's shoreline.

Groves continued with an example of a vulnerability assessment and potential adaptation measures. Using maps of Planning Area 1 (McGrath/Mandalay Beach), she described the current shoreline conditions and resources, and the projected hazard impacts due to SLR over the next 100 years. Then, Groves presented potential adaptation measures that can help minimize impacts in Planning Area 1, noting that the options represent the variety of adaptation measures being evaluated and that the City has not made any final choices on which ones will be implemented. She emphasized the importance of public input on the adaptation measures being explored, before they are considered for approval by the City Council and the CCC.

## Questions and Answers

Isaacson facilitated a question-and-answer session. Recurring themes in participants' questions and comments centered on the adaptation measures being considered to address impacts of SLR and discussion about resiliency versus adaptation. Questions and comments captured during this discussion are compiled below.

**Question:** When will the draft vulnerability assessment be ready for public review?

**Response:** We are planning to have a combined draft of the vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan ready for public review around Spring 2025.

**Question:** Is there federal funding for this project?

**Response:** There are potential federal funding sources available depending upon the work involved. Funding mainly is available for projects focused on infrastructure improvements and upgrades. Funding is also available from the State, more specifically for SLR planning and adaptation, and LCP updates.

**Question:** What is the process if the CCC has edits on the LCP Update for the City to make?

**Response:** The CCC does usually provide suggested modifications after the LCP Amendment is formally submitted, and those would have to come back to City Council for adoption after CCC certification. However, our goal is to work with CCC staff throughout the LCP Update planning process to address any issues before the LCP Amendment is submitted. This will avoid any additional modifications. It is also possible that non-substantial CCC suggested modifications do not require City Council approval or when City Council approves the updated LCP the City Council authorizes staff to accept minor non substantial edits recommended by the CCC.

**Question:** Is the Ventura County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan available online?

**Response:** Yes, the plan can be found on the Ventura County Website. See - <https://www.readyventuracounty.org/county-plans/>

**Question:** Are there funding requirements for the types of adaptation measures that can be implemented?

**Response:** Federal funding does not often come with specific requirements on the types of adaptation measures that should be implemented. State funding has some implementation limitations like those from the CCC or Ocean Protection Council. The State and CCC generally prioritize nature-based solutions over hard engineering or new shoreline protective devices.

**Question:** Will there be an option to not implement any adaptation and wait until we see empirical data before we move forward?

**Response:** We are currently planning into the future with modeling projections that have inherent uncertainty, so we definitely want to use an adaptive management approach. The adaptation measures being proposed will have specific quantifiable triggers that will lead to specific actions. And as time passes, we can continue to modify and tailor our actions to respond to what's actually happening. We believe this approach will help the City of Oxnard the most.

**Question:** Is there a sand management plan being considered in the LCP?

**Response:** The City does have a Draft Sand Management Plan currently under review at this time. This plan has yet to be approved by the CCC and is currently under review. There are various City plans overlapping and happening at the same time, and we are considering all of those relevant to our coastal hazard planning efforts. The intentional placement of sediment is considered beach nourishment, which is an adaptation option under consideration by the City.

**Question:** In terms of community input, are workshops happening in other locations of the City?

**Response:** Yes, community engagement is planned to occur in several locations around Oxnard during the duration of the project. The project team is looking for broad and diverse perspectives from different communities, not just those residents that live in the coastal zone.

**Question:** Will there be a master plan for the entire coastline? How does this align with other projects happening in the region?

**Response:** There is an interagency group and regional collaboration happening with agency staff that area subject matter experts in this area within Ventura County. Each jurisdiction has its own LCP and SLR planning efforts, but coordination, collaboration, planning, and information sharing is occurring to help inform methods to address SLR, adaptation, sand management, and resilience within the Ventura County region. There are opportunities for multi-jurisdiction adaptation projects that address shared hazards. BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment) is another regional agency that looks specifically at sediment management for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

**Question:** Is the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County involved in the regional collaborative?

**Response:** Ventura County Planning Division and Harbor Department are involved. The Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County is comprised of a consortium of local cities, wholesale and retail water agencies, special districts, the County of Ventura, and non-governmental agencies interested in promoting and implementing integrated regional water management planning efforts in Ventura County. If and when appropriate, the consortium will be engaged.

**Question:** Is Ventura County working on this same process?

**Response:** The County is working on its own SLR planning and LCP update efforts and is farther along in the update process. The County has already completed their SLR vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan and have draft LCP policies under consideration by the County of Ventura Planning Commission on February 20, 2025. We are actively discussing with the County of Ventura opportunities to align LCP policies with the goal to collaborate, where feasible.

## Open House Activity

After the presentation and question-and-answer session, the meeting transitioned into an open house activity, where participants visited stations for the four coastal planning areas. Each station had maps of the vulnerability assessment for each planning area, including a board with the different adaptation measures that can be considered in the LCP Update, see Appendix C. Each station had a project team member that helped guide participants through the content, with consultant staff taking notes to memorialize key feedback and input on the boards.

The feedback for vulnerability and adaptation measures is summarized below, organized by planning area. A comprehensive report of the gathered input can be found in Appendix A.

## Summary of Comments from the Community by Planning Area

### Planning Area 1 – McGrath/Mandalay Beach (See Figures 1-3)

#### Vulnerabilities

Participants noted that the area faces significant risks from natural and environmental threats, including loss of natural habitats, SLR coastal storm flooding, and long-term erosion.

#### Adaptation Measures

Community members emphasized the desire to focus on aligning local planning efforts with other agencies, such as California State Parks, particularly for McGrath State Beach, aiming to restore natural habitats and protect seasonal campgrounds. Participants also noted concerns about land use near the river, and safeguarding critical infrastructure.

### Planning Area 2 – Oxnard Shores (See Figures 4-6)

#### Vulnerabilities

Oxnard Shores faces threats from flooding, storm erosion, and coastal storm hazards. Some participants highlighted the need for proactive measures to address these recurring and intensifying risks.

### **Adaptation Measures**

Participants identified various adaptation measures that can be implemented to address the hazards faced in this planning area. Proposed adaptations focused on sand management, assessing the durability of existing hard engineering structures, and addressing the pollution from storm drains and channels in certain parts of Oxnard. Some participants noted that it is important to continue looking at projections and data to determine which adaptation measures will have the greatest benefit for the city.

### **Planning Area 3 – Channel Islands (See Figures 7-9)**

#### **Vulnerabilities**

Participants noted concerns about flooding, public safety, and long-term impacts to navigability in the area.

#### **Adaptation Measures**

Based on the potential adaptation measures, some participants highlighted installing storm drain systems at lift stations to mitigate flooding and developing immediate solutions to address the current flooding hazards that are prevalent in the area. One participant expressed the need to evaluate the potential compromise of navigability and safety in inner harbor channels, and plan mitigation strategies accordingly.

### **Planning Area 4 – Ormond Beach (See Figures 10-12)**

#### **Vulnerabilities**

Key concerns included impacts to Ormond Beach resources, ongoing flooding, accessibility challenges, and coastal zone hazards. A few participants noted how vulnerabilities at Ormond Beach will impact ecological and community resilience.

#### **Adaptation Measures**

Participants addressed the need to ensure the Ormond Beach Restoration and Access Plan focuses on SLR and protects Ormond Beach natural resources. Some participants also highlighted exploring artificial reefs, supporting a balance for habitat creation and dune restoration, and evaluating managed retreat and its impacts. A few of the participants noted the importance of involving Neighborhood Councils, schools, and other organizations through programming to improve accessibility.



## **Appendix A: Additional Feedback, Topics, and Themes Captured in Open House**

### **Planning Area 1 – McGrath/Mandalay Beach**

- Can City SLR planning coincide with State Parks' plans to restore McGrath State Beach and the campground?
- Restore McGrath/Mandalay Beach to natural habitat
- It will be important to plan for potential impacts from catastrophic events, such as tsunamis, earthquakes, and wildfires
- Losing natural habitat is a concern
- Hazard risks associated with sea level rise are present
- Coastal storm flooding is a concern
- Historic erosion rates over the years should be taken into account
- Include State plans for the seasonal McGrath campground in City planning efforts
- Is land near the Santa Clara River being treated differently?
- Ensure generating stations are kept safe from catastrophic events

### **Planning Area 2 – Oxnard Shores**

- Flooding is a concern
- Storm erosion is a concern
- Coastal storm hazards are present
- Sand management strategies and giving/selling excess Oxnard sand to other entities should be explored
- The City should continue looking at the probability of occurrence for the projected SLR modeling data
- Could locks be considered as an adaptation measure at the North End of the Edison cooling Canal and Channel Island Blvd Bridge?
- Assessing the remaining lifespan of hard engineering infrastructure already implemented elsewhere would help inform the City's plans
- Should there be a move/relocation for residents in Oxnard Shores, and/or a limit on further development?
- How do SLR modeling projections correlate to empirical data?
- How will the City coordinate adaptation measures for areas of Oxnard that are adjacent to County areas, for example Hollywood Beach?
- How will additional flooding from the Ventura River after the removal of Matilija Dam increase the sand supply to Oxnard Shores?
- There are concerns regarding an existing Major drain along Channel Island Blvd and Victoria Ave that drains into the Harbor and adds pollutants, and how that infrastructure will be impacted by SLR
- Poorly maintained storm drains are currently causing flooding
- The City should prioritize investment in stormwater pumps and drainage improvements

### **Planning Area 3 – Channel Islands**

- Flooding is a concern
- Erosion is a concern

- Potential SLR Impacts to navigability should be accounted for in the vulnerability analysis and adaptation measures
- The City could install storm drain systems at lift stations
- Assessing the remaining lifespan of existing hard engineering infrastructure should be a part of the SLR risk analysis and adaptation planning
- Flooding is already a hazard now in this area; a solution is needed
- Will the navigability/safety of the (inner) Harbor channels be compromised with SLR? Are there any mitigation measures planned for this?

#### **Planning Area 4 – Ormond Beach**

- Impacts to Ormond Beach resources should be avoided
- Erosion is a concern
- Accessibility concerns already exist in this area
- Coastal zone hazards are present in this area
- Will the Ormond Beach Restoration and Access Plan address SLR and protect the Ormond Beach resources?
- If the government acquires land through managed retreat, could it eventually be sold for private development? Could a requirement be established to avoid this and its gentrification risks?
- Maps, photos, and illustrations are important tools for community communication and case studies are helpful as well
- Creation of an Artificial reef/container could be pursued
- Are there any lessons learned or examples from Port of San Diego?
- Neighborhood Councils can include news about the LCP update process in their regular communications with residents
- Nature-based adaptation strategies should acknowledge Predator and prey balance and include habitat creation
- Dune restoration is a possible adaptation option
- How would Managed retreat work relative to the existing wastewater treatment plant?
- Social programs could be implemented in this area
- Access is already an issue and should be improved
- The City could Connect to local programs, high schools and colleges to increase community participation
- Would any eco-transition in the area be a benefit or detriment (or neutral) to the area?
- How is infrastructure impacted by managed retreat?
- Ormond Beach restoration plans could involve collaboration with CSUCI student programs
- Unhoused individuals are in need of deep, long-term support

## Appendix B: Presentation

## **Appendix C: Adaptation Measures Board and Planning Area Maps**

### **Adaptation Measures Board**

Planning Area 1, Maps Attachment: Figures 1-3

Planning Area 2, Maps Attachment: Figures 4-6

Planning Area 3, Maps Attachment: Figures 7-9

Planning Area 4, Maps Attachment: Figures 10-12