



**APPROVED MINUTES
SEA-LEVEL RISE STAKEHOLDER-TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC)
CITY OF DEL MAR**

**DEL MAR (TEMPORARY) CITY HALL
2010 JIMMY DURANTE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100, DEL MAR 92014
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016 – 4:00 PM
City Council Liaisons: Don Mosier, Dwight Worden**

COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT OF MISSION/PURPOSE:

Oversee the Sea-Level Rise Local Coastal Program Amendment process to make sure that the process is open, inclusive and develops consensus amongst the many stakeholders; to assist City staff and the consultant with the sea-level rise planning process; to assist in the review of technical studies and sea-level rise planning scenarios; to assist the community in prioritizing vulnerable coastal resources; to discuss and provide advice and policy recommendations to the Del Mar City Council; and to provide input to the Del Mar City Council on the Local Coastal Program Amendment process. (Ref. City Council Resolution 2015-10)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Anyone may address the Committee for three minutes on any items listed on the agenda. If there are several speakers on an item, your time available to speak may be limited to two minutes. When the Committee Chairperson recognizes you, please step forward and state your name and address of residence clearly for the record. The Committee may ask questions of you, to which you may respond.

For items not on the agenda, please see: *Oral Communications*.

1. CALL TO ORDER (4:00 pm)

2. ROLL CALL

All members were present except Kim Fletcher. Council member Don Mosier was present. Council member Dwight Worden was absent. Joseph Smith from the Planning Department and Nick Garrity of ESA were present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 5, 2016)

Brinner motioned for approval, Handzel seconded. May 5, 2016 meeting minutes were approved unanimous without changes.

4. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Mosier gave an update on the recent City Council approval of the Del Mar Climate Action Plan. Bekkar provided an overview of the Climate Action Plan.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF UPDATES

Giddings described the need for economic analysis as part of the City's work program for the Local Coastal Program Amendment. Smith provided an update on the items being prepared by the San Diego Climate Collaborative as part of the NOAA grant, of which includes an economic and legal-risk analysis of possible adaptation strategies. Smith discussed that the analysis to be

prepared by the Climate Collaborative would be available for use by the City as guidance on future policy decisions.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

State law precludes the Committee from acting on any topic which is not an action item on the posted agenda. Your information may be received, placed on the next agenda, or referred to the Committee Chairperson.

Public members present included Del Mar residents Jim McMenamin, Tensia Trejo, and Joe Sullivan; a civil engineer associated with a project at 929 Border Avenue (name unknown); Allan Pearson, Leucadia resident; Shauna Anderson, San Dieguito River Valley Joint-Powers Authority; Sarah Richmond, California Coastal Commission; Joe Ellis, civil engineer associated wetland restoration; David de Cordova and Carl Stiehl, City of Carlsbad Planning Department; Laura Engeman, San Diego Climate Collaborative; and Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider Foundation.

7. PRESENTATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS KRISTIN BRINNER AND MARK HANDZEL ON SHORELINE SAND SUPPLY

Brinner gave a presentation on shoreline sand supply, impacts to sand supply associated with armored bluffs and river dams, sea-cliff erosion acceleration resulting from sea-level rise, and back-beach erosion being restricted by bluff armoring. Handzel gave a presentation on shoreline sand supply, contributions to beach sand from river sediment and bluff erosion, impacts to sand supply associated with river dams, Oceanside littoral cell processes and sand contribution from Del Mar sources. Handzel also provided information on the three bluff stabilization projects in Del Mar completed by North County Transit District and long-term vision to remove the railway from the bluff which would promote natural erosion process.

There was Committee discussion on cliff monitoring, sand replenishment and borrow sites, future availability of sand from borrow sites, and unintended consequences associated with sand replenishment projects. Public comment was received from Julia Chunn-Heer. Ms. Chunn-Heer discussed an option to replenish offshore Del Mar borrow sites from the San Elijo Lagoon restoration, described bluff armoring and impacts to back-beach erosion, and indicated the ultimate goal is to keep a beach in Del Mar.

8. ONGOING PREPARATION OF AN ADAPATION PLAN (TASK 3.1) AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADAPTATION STRATEGIES RELATED TO BEACH EROSION, BLUFF EROSION, AND RIVER FLOODING [ESA]

Garrity gave a presentation on the status of the Adaptation Plan (Task 3.1) preparation. The Plan will be based on the findings of the draft Vulnerability and Risk Assessment. The Plan will serve as the City's long-range planning guide for sea-level rise management and will be integrated into the City's Local Coastal Program, and will draw from the prior work completed under previously-completed tasks. Specifically, the Plan will identify and require effective shoreline Accommodation, Protection, and Retreat strategies through a rigorous analysis of sea-level rise and community/stakeholder input.

Garrity continued the discussion on adaptation planning from the Committee's May 5, 2016 meeting and obtained further input for consideration in the Plan. The following summarizes key points made as part of Garrity's presentation and Committee feedback.

- 1. Garrity described the two main components of the Adaptation Plan: 1) physical/engineering measures; and 2) Local Coastal Program (LCP) policies and regulations to guide future development and redevelopment. Garrity gave an overview of the LCP process and California Coastal Act. Garrity noted that there are some projects that are not subject to the Del Mar LCP but would still be subject to the California Coastal Act.*
- 2. Buhr provided an overview on the Coastal Commission's Federal Consistency Review for projects that are subject to the Coastal Act and how the Del Mar LCP could still provide guidance as part of that review.*
- 3. Handzel inquired how the Coastal Act deals with development that pre-existed the adoption of the Coastal Act.*
- 4. Buhr described the Coastal Act's process for new development and pre-existing development prior to the Coastal Act, such as the rail way along the Del Mar bluffs.*
- 5. Garrity provided a summary of adaptation options, including preparation of a Sediment Management Plan and optimizing beach nourishment. Garrity noted that the current Del Mar LCP does not have any formal retreat strategies. Garrity presented an approach to implementing strategies that would rely upon triggers.*
- 6. Bekkar inquired about what types of triggers would be used to implement the next adaptation strategy in a given area and recommended avoiding 'timeframe' as a trigger (e.g., by 'x' date, the next strategy to be implemented). Bekkar suggested using observed sea-level rise measures as a trigger.*
- 7. Committee had discussion on the removal of 'timeframe' from triggers for all components and to utilize observed sea-level rise and risk instead.*
- 8. Garrity confirmed that the Vulnerability Assessment projects vulnerability based on risk, not on timeframe. For purposes of the Adaptation Plan, a trigger based on risk means that the City will need to decide what the acceptable level of risk is before the next adaptation strategy is implemented.*
- 9. Brinner inquired as to when it would be appropriate for a retreat strategy to be implemented at beach areas. Brinner noted that the tables project out a 0-foot beach width and inquired if an observed 0-foot beach width would be the trigger for retreat.*
- 10. Buhr discussed the need for an economic analysis to assist in implementation of retreat options.*
- 11. Smith clarified that the current grant scope did not provide funding for an economic analysis of adaptation strategies. However, as part of the NOAA grant scope under preparation by the San Diego Climate Collaborative, an economic and legal-risk analysis of possible adaptation strategies would be prepared. Smith discussed that the analysis to be prepared by the Climate Collaborative would be available for use by the City as guidance on future policy decisions.*
- 12. Giddings discussed that removing timeframe as a trigger was appropriate but still recommended referencing timeframe somewhere in the document for general context.*
- 13. Garrity summarized that the 'trigger' could be a combination of the amount of observed sea-level rise, unacceptable risk of flooding, measurable width of beach, and/or rate of seawall failure.*

14. *Committee voted to formally remove ‘timeframe’ as a trigger and allow it to be referenced elsewhere in the Adaptation Plan with applicable caveats (Handzel motion, Gaasterland second; vote unanimous).*
15. *Garrity presented a discussion on the bluff adaptation component and described two options – no sea wall, and sea wall with public access. Garrity described back-bluff (inland side of the bluffs) erosion Best Management Practices including current NCTD efforts to address back-bluff erosion caused by surface drainage from the east.*
16. *Crabtree discussed an accommodation option that results in revisions to the City’s regulatory documents, such as the Design Review Ordinance, to allow for modified design standards before a retreat strategy is implemented.*

Public comment was opened by the Chair. Public comment was received from Julia Chunn-Heer. Ms. Chunn-Heer recommended the Committee consider restructuring the types of adaptation options from a linear progression of implementation to a hybrid methodology that allows varying options to be implemented simultaneous if need be. Ms. Chunn-Heer discussed bluff adaption including a provision to allow sea walls as the future removal of sea walls could be infeasible, poses risks and could result in impacts to the surf, wave, and public safety of users crashing into sea walls.

Smith reminded the Committee that their final meeting to review and recommend Adaptation Strategies will be on July 21, 2016. Smith noted that the submittal deadline for the draft Adaptation Plan to the Coastal Commission is August 31, 2016 based on the grant work program schedule.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

*The Committee decided to extend the ending time for their next meeting from 6pm to 6:30pm in order to allow sufficient time to get through the material. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 21, 2016 from 4-6:30pm** (Del Mar Temporary City Hall, 2010 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Suite 100, Del Mar) to finalize STAC’s discussion and recommendations on the preparation of the draft Adaptation Plan (Task 3.1).*

Buhr noted that he will be absent from the July 21, 2016 meeting.

As scheduled in the Work Program, the last regularly scheduled STAC meeting will occur on Thursday, September 24, 2016 from 4-6pm (Del Mar Temporary City Hall, Suite 100, Del Mar) to formalize the Committee’s recommendations to the City Council for amendments to the LCP, Community Plan, and Municipal Code related to sea-level rise, coastal-flooding and storm-surge. Public hearings with the City’s Planning Commission and City Council are scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Handzel motioned, Gaasterland seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.