



**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, JULY 21, 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 Gabe Buhr. Council members Don Mosier and Dwight Worden were present. Joseph Smith from the Planning Department and Nick Garrity of ESA were present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June 9, 2016)

Brinner motioned for approval, Handzel seconded. June 9, 2016 meeting minutes were approved unanimous without changes.

4. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF UPDATES

Smith noted his last day with the City will be August 8. Handzel updated the Committee on a forthcoming report from SANDAG on the bluffs and future stabilization; Gaasterland discussed a recent visit to Tangiers Island and observed sea-level rise and impacts experienced in that community; Crabtree shared a concern that more outreach and notification should be done by the City on its sea-level rise work to beachfront and beach community homeowners; Smith described the public outreach efforts to-date, past notification and future notification to occur during the

public hearings in early 2017 with the Planning Commission and City Council; general Committee discussion on how the City's sea-level rise policy work would utilize triggers and phased implementation of adaptation measures; Handzel requested how the planned City Local Coastal Program Amendment would be evaluated for consistency with the City's Community Plan (Handzel provided a one-page copy from the Community Plan (reference pg 31 of Environmental Management Element); Smith described that as part of the City's work program, a consistency review with City documents including the Community Plan and Municipal Code would be completed.

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.

Several members of the public were in attendance; however, staff was unable to collect names. Julia Chunn-Heer of the Surfrider Foundation introduced herself and advised the Committee to focus on what priorities are most important for the community as part of their sea-level rise work. Adam Young from Scripps Institute of Oceanography was in attendance (Dr. Young is part of the City's project team as a sub-consultant to ESA).

7. ONGOING PREPARATION OF AN ADAPATION PLAN (TASK 3.1) AND FINAL 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 and June 9, 2016 meetings and obtained further input for consideration in the Plan. The following summarizes key points made as part of Garrity's presentation, Committee feedback, public input, and **consensus and formal motions made by the Committee (in bold)**.*

- 1. Garrity presented guiding principles for the preparation of the Adaptation Plan and noted the first which considers acceptable flood risk, noting that 5% would be used as the recommended acceptable level of risk to include in the Plan; Bekkar requested information on how the City would monitor sea-level rise for purposes of the adaptation triggers; Garrity discussed methodology could be provided in the Plan as well as achieved through partnerships with Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Garrity noted existing (and future) data is held by Scripps already and could be accessed; Giddings discussed Scripps' vision and plan to create a*

- climate change center which would have a primary focus to communicate with local jurisdictions and provide data.*
2. *Garrity discussed other guiding principles including a minimum beach width (30 feet noted) and maintaining horizontal and vertical beach access; Bekkar inquired where the recommended 30 feet came from and noted a request to maximize beach width greater than 30 feet; Garrity discussed why 30 feet was recommended but noted that he would go back to the data and look at the average beach width at high tide to reconsider; Garrity summarized the Committee's desire to maintain a useable beach in the summer for recreational use; Crabtree noted that the priority should be to maintain the beach from as long as possible.*
 3. ***Committee consensus was to modify the guiding principle to “maintain a useable beach during the summer for recreational use.” Garrity summarized the Committee consensus to “maintain a walkable beach for recreational use and economic benefit as long as possible and to minimize flooding.”***
 4. *Public comment on guiding principles was received from James Peeler of Coastal Environments who noted that once the ocean rises and meets the bluffs, there will be no beach regardless if the bluff is kept in its natural state. Mr. Peeler noted that the only way to keep a walkable beach was by sand nourishment. Brinner objected to this statement during public comment as inaccurate since natural bluffs will retreat if the ocean meets the bluff, thus creating more beach. Adam Young provided a comment that there is a challenge to maintaining a minimum beach width and recommended avoiding the use of a standard to maintain such width.*
 5. *Garrity summarized revisions made to the draft Adaptation Plan based on past Committee feedback, including removing timeframe from the trigger exhibits, added flexibility for the implementation of adaptation strategies, ability to allow the preferred adaptation pathway to be chosen by City decision makers at a future time, and how the Plan will incorporate a framework that identifies adaptation scenarios, decision points and lead times needed, and potential impacts of strategies.*
 6. *Garrity summarized the proposed framework for Bluff Adaptation including various options previously presented at the June 9, 2016 meeting; Mosier discussed options for NCTD track alignment along the bluff, including the proposed tunnel alternative and bluff stabilization options; general Committee discussion about how bluffs erode and various causes for erosion, including discussion of impacts on erosion resulting from public access down bluff faces, weight and vibration of trains, and rain fall; Bekkar summarized the issues under discussion and inquired as to what the Committee was prioritizing – walkable beach or ongoing rail corridor; as an alternate to a walkable beach seaward of the bluffs, Handzel described that public access is a key component of the California Coastal Act and that there is a future desire to create a bluff-top park in the rail corridor in the event the train were to relocate; Handzel summarized that there may not be a walkable beach, but there could be lateral public access along the top of the bluff; general Committee discussion about what priorities were important to the Committee; Gaasterland applied the guiding principles of maintaining flood risk, maintaining a beach, and maintaining public access.*
 7. *Public comment was received from Dahvia Lynch of North Coast Transit District (NCTD) who discussed that public access on the bluffs is not legally allowed; Ms. Lynch did recognize the community's sentiment and desire to create access, both laterally along the bluff and vertically across the bluff; Ms. Lynch invited future dialogue on this topic and possible options to consider. Additional comment was received from Julia Chunn-Heer of the Surfrider Foundation who discussed concerns for public safety when accessing and/or using*

the ocean seaward of a reinforced bluff; Ms. Chunn-Heer also discussed the excessive costs associated with removal of bluff reinforcements at a future date. Gaasterland noted options to provide two vertical crossings at 7th and 11th Streets where there is ample room for a landing on the bluff seaward of the tracks. Ms. Lynch invited future dialogue on the option.

8. *Fletcher left the meeting; seven Committee members remaining.*
9. ***Crabtree motioned, Handzel seconded a motion to include Scenario 1 (relocate railroad; no bluff sea wall) as one of the options in the Plan. Motioned passed unanimous 7-0.***
10. ***Crabtree motioned, Handzel seconded a motion that Scenario 2 (bluff sea wall with access) be included as one of the options in the Plan. Crabtree motioned an amendment, with Gaasterland seconding, that if approved, the Plan would include a warning that Scenario 2 would be extremely damaging and is not the preferred option of the Committee. Motion, as amended, failed 2-3-2 (Crabtree and Handzel approve; Gaasterland, Bekkar and Brinner decline; Giddings and Fuller abstain).***
11. ***Bekkar motioned, Brinner seconded a motion that Scenario 1 is the only and preferred option for bluff adaptation. Motion passed 5-2 (Bekkar, Brinner, Gaasterland, Giddings and Fuller approve; Crabtree and Handzel decline).***
12. *Garrity summarized the proposed framework for River Adaptation. Fuller provided an overview of current restoration efforts underway by the Fairgrounds to the area referred to as the South Overflow Lot (SOL) that was part of a recent Coastal Commission action. Fuller also provided an overview of the Fairgrounds' outlook on future development/redevelopment. Giddings discussed coastal resiliency and setting priorities for adaptation to high priority structures (e.g., Fire station and Public Works yard – when to adapt to flood risk, when to be relocated).*
13. *Public comment on river adaptation was received from Laura Engeman of the Climate Collaborative who inquired on how the proposed Hodges Dam Reservoir management strategy would work and its feasibility. Additional comment was received from Julia Chunn-Heer of the Surfriider Foundation who advised pursuing the path of least resistance where priority structures are first moved (e.g., Fire station, Public Works yard, pump stations) and then consideration for other strategies is considered (e.g., levee).*
14. *Brinner noted the need for an economic analysis as part of the river strategies in order to inform decisions/recommendations to be made by the Committee. Fuller noted a preference for 'protection with partial retreat' option as presented by Garrity in lieu of adaptation/relocation of existing structures. Fuller provided an overview of the constraints associated with existing Fairgrounds structures in the event of an adaptation strategy requiring removal or elevating structures.*
15. ***Fuller motioned, Gaasterland seconded a motion that Scenario 1b (protection with partial retreat) be included in the Plan. Motion passed 5-0-2 (Fuller, Gaasterland, Bekkar, Crabtree, Handzel approve; Giddings and Brinner abstained due to not having enough information on the environmental impacts or construction methods of potential structures such as a levee).***
16. ***Gaasterland motioned, Brinner seconded a motion to remove Scenario 1a (protection) as an option in the Plan. Motion passed unanimous 7-0.***
17. ***Handzel motioned, Bekkar seconded a motion to include Scenario 2 (relocate structures) as an option in the Plan. Motion passed 6-1 (Handzel, Bekkar, Gaasterland, Brinner, Crabtree, Giddings approve; Fuller decline).***
18. *Garrity summarized the proposed framework for Wetland Adaptation.*

19. Handzel motioned, Bekkar seconded a motion to include Scenario 1 (protect with sediment placement) and Scenario 2 (wetland expansion/restoration) in the Plan. Motioned passed unanimous 7-0.

8. SELECTION OF A SUBCOMMITTEE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO STAFF AND THE CITY'S TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, AS NEEDED, DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT ADAPTATION PLAN AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Nominations for a four-member subcommittee were made for Crabtree, Brinner, Gaasterland, and Handzel, in addition to City Council liaisons Mosier and Worden. Fuller motioned, Giddings seconded. Subcommittee appointed with the member noted above (unanimous 7-0).

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Next (and final) STAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2016 from 4-6:30pm (Del Mar Temporary City Hall, 2010 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Suite 100, Del Mar) to formalize the Committee's recommendations to the City Council for amendments to the Local Coastal Program, Community Plan, and Municipal Code related to sea-level rise, coastal-flooding and storm-surge. Public hearings on the draft amendments with the City's Planning Commission and City Council are scheduled for the first quarter of 2017, with a final submittal of the City's LCP Amendment to the Coastal Commission by May 2017.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Handzel motioned, Giddings seconded. Unanimous 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.