



# SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## NEED FOR A NEW STRATEGY

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) manages nearly 1/4 of the California coastline with 128 coastal units, providing coastal access and recreational opportunities to over 50 million visitors each year from all over the world. Many coastal park units have already experienced impacts to resources and facilities due to coastal flooding and erosion. This challenge will significantly

increase in cost and scope if no further action is taken to plan, prepare, and respond to this emerging threat. Driven by updated science and policy considerations, as well as lessons learned from prior adaptation actions, State Parks has developed a Strategy to articulate its recommended approach to coastal management in an era of sea level rise.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Strategy identifies six guiding principles intended to guide State Parks' response to sea level rise. All sea level rise adaptation and coastal resilience planning at State Parks will align with these principles.



### INTEGRATION

State Parks will integrate sea level rise adaptation into coastal projects, planning, and funding decisions



### SCIENCE

State Parks will translate best available science into practicable, long-term solutions



### PARTNERSHIPS

State Parks will work collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit partners, community organizations, and Tribes to create and sustain an aligned response to sea level rise



### BALANCE

State Parks will balance the need for coastal access while protecting recreational, natural, and cultural resources in a holistic response to sea level rise



### ALIGNMENT

State Parks will align its approach with Coastal Act provisions to improve the coastal permitting and compliance process



### AWARENESS

State Parks will increase public and staff awareness and understanding of sea level rise through education, training, and engagement with visitors

## ACTION ITEMS AND SUPPORT TOOLS

The Strategy emphasizes the need to ensure future sea level rise adaptation planning integrates State Parks’ multiple resource types and roles in a holistic manner to meet different aspects of its mission. Data driven, science-based and innovative decision support tools will promote effective, adaptive and integrated decision making.



### PLANNING

Review and develop plans; vulnerability assessments



### FACILITIES

Inventory assets; condition reports



### NATURAL

Restore resilient habitats and ecological processes



### CULTURAL

Inventory assets; engage Tribes and other groups



### INTERPRETATION

Develop programs, signs, and training; engage public

**13** support tools are recommended to guide staff in integrating sea level rise into projects and plans. Tools address management needs, including: emergency response, sea level rise viewers, management alternatives, trigger points, economics, vulnerability, plan development, monitoring, case studies, and interpreting sea level rise.

### ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY

Principles and goals guide the department's response to sea level rise

An approach that drives sea level rise into existing processes across major functions, including:  
 action items  
 support tools  
 + training

6-year review cycle involving implementation metrics and reporting

Organizational, staffing, and implementation recommendations

Recommendations for addressing broader climate adaptation needs

## INVESTING FOR A FUTURE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE

Adapting to sea level rise will be a costly endeavor for the department; however, the cost of inaction and reaction is much greater than an investment in proactive adaptation. The Strategy seeks efficiencies by focusing efforts on existing processes and multi-disciplinary action. The Strategy makes a number of recommendations to support the successful implementation of these efforts.

