

Summary of Local Coastal Programs

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LCP Snapshots

Of the 76 cities and counties with Local Coastal Programs (LCPs), approximately 15 incorporate some language addressing sea level rise. This language ranges from mentioning sea level rise as a hazard that should be considered to more focused policies regarding preferred adaptation approaches. However, there are not yet any LCPs that comprehensively address sea level rise in a way that ensures adequate analysis of vulnerability, thorough evaluation of adaptation strategies, and consistent implementation of preferred adaptation approaches over a variety of future planning horizons. Many jurisdictions are in the process of developing LCP amendments to ensure sea level rise is more comprehensively addressed in their jurisdictions.

Approximately 45 (or over half) of the local jurisdictions in the coastal zone are currently working on planning for sea-level rise and climate change to update their LCPs. The local jurisdictions are at different points in the planning cycle. Many of these local jurisdictions have received (or are currently receiving) funding support through the Coastal Commission's LCP Local Assistance Grant Program and/or the Ocean Protection Council's LCP Grant Program, both of which provide funds to support local governments in completing or updating LCPs consistent with the California Coastal Act, with special emphasis on planning for sea-level rise and climate change.

The Coastal Commission has awarded four rounds of LCP Local Assistance grants to 34 local jurisdictions between fiscal years 2013/2014 and 2016/2017. A summary of the current status of work underway through the grant program provides a snapshot in time of sea-level rise planning efforts for these 34 cities and counties.

- **Over half of the recipients have completed vulnerability assessments and/or adaptation planning** and moved into drafting or submitting revisions to their land use and/or implementation plans.
- **A little less than half are in the process of completing their vulnerability assessments or adaptation planning.**

Note that vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning phases ideally occur before local governments draft new or updated land use policies to address sea level rise in the LCP.

Background on LCPs

Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) are planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission. LCPs contain the ground rules for future development and protection of coastal resources in the 76 coastal cities and counties. The LCPs specify appropriate location, type, and scale of new or changed uses of land and water. Each LCP includes a land use plan (LUP) and an implementation plan (IP) or measures to implement the plan such as zoning

ordinances. Prepared by local government, these programs govern decisions that determine the short- and long-term conservation and use of coastal resources. While each LCP reflects unique characteristics of individual local coastal communities, regional and statewide interests and concerns must also be addressed in conformity with Coastal Act goals and policies. Following adoption by a city council or county board of supervisors, an LCP is submitted to the Coastal Commission for review for consistency with Coastal Act requirements.

Many of the 76 coastal counties and cities have elected to divide their coastal zone jurisdictions into separate geographic segments, resulting in some 126 separate LCP segments. As of 2016, approximately 73% of the LCP segments (93) have been effectively certified, representing about 87% of the geographic area of the coastal zone, and local governments are issuing coastal permits in these areas.

After an LCP has been finally approved, the Commission's coastal permitting authority over most new development is transferred to the local government, which applies the requirements of the LCP in reviewing proposed new developments. The Commission retains permanent coastal permit jurisdiction over development proposed on tidelands, submerged lands, and public trust lands, and the Commission also acts on appeals from certain local government coastal permit decisions. The Commission reviews and approves any amendments to previously certified Local Coastal Programs.