The BEACON COAST: Coastal Resilience and the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell
BEACON Purposes

- Address coastal erosion
- Address clean oceans
- Address climate change planning, regional mitigation and adaptation
The BEACON Coast: Building Resilience

IMPORTANT COASTAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

• Restoring Natural Systems
  • Ventura River Watershed: Matilija Dam and Surfers’ Point

• Sustainable Shoreline Management
  • Regional Coastal Sediment Management

• Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation
  • Living Shorelines and Green Infrastructure
Conception Coast Watersheds
The Ventura River Watershed
Surfers Point Managed Retreat and Living Shorelines Project
Graphic: Stopping beach erosion at Surfer’s Point

Stepping back from the sea

Faced with mounting sea levels and shoreline erosion, Ventura is removing structures from Surfers Point in what state officials call the first “managed retreat” project in California.

Accommodating future erosion

An 8-foot-thick berm of cobblestones is being buried beneath the former parking lot. When the beach erodes from future swells, it is hoped this will provide natural shore protection.
Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation- BEACON Regional Coastal Sediment Management Plan
California Coastal Adaptation Planning

- Oct 2010 CO-CAT publishes Sea Level Rise Interim Guidance Document
- Third CA Climate Change Assessment completed 2012
- Nov 2012 NAS publishes Sea Level Rise Analysis for West Coast, inc. California
- March 2013 CO-CAT Updates Interim Guidance Document
- Oct 2013 CCC Draft Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance
California Coastal Adaptation Planning

• 2013-2015 Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready Grants
• 2015 CCC Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance
• 2017 OPC publishes update to NAS Sea Level Rise Analysis for California
• Fourth CA Climate Change Assessment to be completed 2017-18
Threats for the Future with Climate Change

• Increased Coastal Erosion
• Increased Watershed-based coastal runoff
• Sea Level Rise inundation effects
• Increased Frequency and Strength of Extreme Storm Events
CRSMP and Sea Level Rise

• CRSMP completed prior to NAS Study on Sea Level Rise Projections (CA Gov EX Order 8-05; completed 2012); OPC SLR Review 2017
• Does not address Climate Change or Sea Level Rise (SLR)
• Can build on existing work and be informed by Ventura and SB county and coastal cities Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Analyses
CRSMP Sea Level Rise Update

• Effectiveness of Implementing CRSMP could be enhanced by including Sea Level Rise impacts in an updated plan
• SLR impacts will have to be addressed and resilience policies and program developed
• BEACON is most cost-effective agency to address regional problems and solutions spanning two counties, six coastal cities
Current BEACON Climate/SLR Initiatives

• Establish vision, goals and objectives for addressing projected climate change and sea level rise along BEACON coast
• Discuss and evaluate best process for successful adaptation planning
• Update CRSMP to incorporate sea level rise impacts
• Continue to support integrating living shorelines, natural systems, into restoration programs under Resilient Shorelines Strategy
Resilient Shoreline Policy

• Living Shorelines
  • Kelp, eelgrass, oyster beds, beaches and dunes, etc.

• Habitat and Coastal Resources Restoration
  • Coastal beach and wetland restoration

• Green, or Natural, Infrastructure
  • Geo-engineered cobble beaches

• Managed Retreat
  • Surfers Point Managed Retreat Project
  • Goleta Beach 2.0
BEACON: Next Steps

• BEACON has support of agency staff to carry out robust regional coastal erosion/sediment management policy and projects
• Agency staff support BEACON increasing activities in several complementary activities
• BEACON member agency staff already involved in climate and sea level adaptation activities
• BEACON can provide important policy, technical, funding, and partner roles in regional adaptation efforts
• BEACON should increase outreach and partnership efforts
The BEACON Opportunity: Fitting It All Together

- Education
- Communication and Outreach
- Staff and Consultant Resources
- Member Agency Support: Staff and Funding
- Best Science and Technical Information
- Partnerships and Integrated Projects
Contact: Brian Brennan

Brian.Brennan@BEACON.Ca.Gov

805-746-5999