



Institute of Marine Sciences  
Earth & Marine Sciences Bldg  
Ph. (831) 459-2464 • fax (831) 459-4882

Santa Cruz, California 95064

September 28, 2016

California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ocean Protection Council members,

Sea-level rise may be the greatest challenge that human civilization has ever faced, with 150 million people on Earth living within three feet of high tide and eight of the world's ten largest mega-cities sited on coastlines. In California, millions of people and billions of dollars in infrastructure and development now lie within a few feet of a sea level that is rising. About two-thirds of California's 38 million people live in coastal counties.

This threat is not going to go away and the risks will increase in the decades ahead, regardless of anything we do. California needs to adapt to both long-term sea-level rise, as well as short-term or extreme events. These include large El Niños and the combined effects of very high (King) tides and large storm waves. Coastal communities need assistance in responding to these hazards and the USGS Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) is a tool that has been developed, refined and tested and has been shown to provide a solid basis for cities and counties in their future coastal planning.

While sea-level rise and coastal hazard maps have now been developed for southern California, the central coast has no such maps so adaptation efforts are limited by the available data and staffing. I encourage the Ocean Protection Council's support of funding for the United States Geological Survey to extend their Coastal Storm Modeling System to the Central Coast.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Griggs".

Gary Griggs  
Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences  
Director Institute of Marine Science