CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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Sea-level Rise Estimates in the *State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*Abe Doherty, Climate Change Policy Advisor, OPC October 19, 2015

The current (2013) version of the <u>State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document</u> ("State Guidance Document") includes a table showing ranges of sea-level rise estimates for the future, based on the 2012 National Research Council's report, <u>Sea-Level Rise for the Coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington</u> ("NRC Report"). In the attached memo, the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) provided the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) with information on the <u>projection</u> values that fall within those <u>ranges</u>, and which are included in the NRC Report, but which do not appear in the State Guidance Document. The <u>Coastal Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance Document</u> includes both the projections and the ranges of estimates of future sea-level rise¹. The Ocean Protection Council is providing the attached memo from OST as additional information that may assist people using the State Guidance Document to understand the ranges and the projections that were in the NRC Report.

The *OPC Sea-level Rise Resolution* calls on state agencies, as well as non-state entities implementing projects or programs funded by the state or on state property, including on lands granted by the Legislature, to generally assess potential impacts and vulnerabilities over a <u>range</u> of sea-level rise estimates. Refer to the State Guidance Document and OPC Sea-level Rise Resolution for more information on selection of sea-level rise estimates using a risk based approach. Note that <u>Governor Brown's Executive Order B-30-15</u>, issued on April 29, 2015, calls for state agencies to take climate change (including climate change impacts such as sea-level rise) into account in planning and investment decisions and to use flexible and adaptive approaches to prepare for uncertain climate impacts.

The OPC will coordinate with the Ocean Science Trust, the OPC Science Advisory Team and the Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the Climate Action Team (CO-CAT) to develop a process in 2016 for the next update to the *State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document*.

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¹ The May 27, 2015 public review draft of the <u>Coastal Commission's Sea-level Rise Policy Guidance</u> presents this information in table A.2 in Appendix A.