



Staff Recommendation

June 4, 2024

Item 5

Action Item:

**Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds for Senate Bill 1
Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program**

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Recommended Action: Authorization to disburse up to \$5,614,785 to various grantees who submitted successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) for sea level rise adaptation planning or implementation projects, as follows:

- 5.1 Up to \$250,000 to the City of Sausalito for the “Sausalito Facility Vulnerability Assessment”
- 5.2 Up to \$1,499,285 to Contra Costa County for the “Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan”
- 5.3 Up to \$600,000 to the City of Santa Cruz for the “Resilient Coast Santa Cruz 2.0: Shoreline Adaptation Blueprint”
- 5.4 Up to \$1,200,000 to the Stinson Beach County Water District for the “Stinson Water Adaptation Plan for a Community Wastewater System”
- 5.5 Up to \$997,500 to the City of South San Francisco for the “South San Francisco Shoreline Protection and Connectivity Project”
- 5.6 Up to \$848,000 to the City of Imperial Beach for the “Imperial Beach Community Resilience Plan”
- 5.7 Up to \$220,000 to Orange County Parks for the “Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project at Capistrano Beach and Doheny State Beach

Location: Statewide

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives: Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change; Objective 1.1: Build Resiliency to Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Storms, Erosion and Flooding

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The SB 1 Grant Program meets many of the strategies and actions outlined in Goal 1 of OPC’s [Equity Plan](#), which is to establish and implement more equitable and sustainable community engagement and funding methods to expand and enhance opportunities for ocean and coastal projects, policies, and research. According to the [SLR Adaptation Criteria](#), each project, regardless of phase, must have outreach, education, and community engagement, especially to environmental justice (EJ) communities and tribes, as part of the project’s scope. Equity and EJ benefits include community engagement, locally driven adaptation priorities, improved coastal habitat, and safer coastal access.

Findings and Resolution:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), OPC hereby finds that:

1. The proposed projects are consistent with the purposes of Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, the California Ocean Protection Act;
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the Budget Act of 2022 which included a \$37.5 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation, Budget Act of 2023 which included a \$54.5 General Fund appropriation, for implementation of Chapter 236 of the Statutes of 2021 (SB 1), and an anticipated \$10 million in the 2024-2025 budget; and
3. The proposed projects are not ‘legal projects’ that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section, section 15378, except for 5.7 “Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project at Capistrano Beach and Doheny State Beach.”

Staff further recommends that OPC adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“OPC hereby approves the authorization to disburse up to \$5,614,785 to various grantees who submitted successful applications to the Senate Bill 1 Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program for sea level rise adaptation planning or implementation projects, as follows:

- Up to \$250,000 to the City of Sausalito
- Up to \$1,499,285 to Contra Costa County
- Up to \$600,000 to the City of Santa Cruz
- Up to \$1,200,000 to the Stinson Beach County Water District
- Up to \$997,500 to the City of South San Francisco
- Up to \$848,000 to the City of Imperial Beach
- Up to \$220,000 to Orange County Parks

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, each grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Director of the OPC detailed work plans, schedules, staff requirements, budgets, and the names of any contractors intended to be used to complete the projects, as well as discrete deliverables that can be produced in intervals to ensure the projects are on target for successful completion. All projects will be developed under a shared understanding of process, management, and delivery.”

Executive Summary:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council approve the disbursement of up to \$5,614,785 to fund seven projects submitted by local and regional governments that successfully met the requirements of the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) and will result in sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning or implementation projects. In August of 2023, [OPC approved](#) the disbursement of up to \$95.9 million for the SB 1 Grant Program to fund SLR adaptation planning or implementation projects. These seven projects will be the first to be funded through the recently launched SB 1 Grant Program.

The overall goal of the SB 1 Grant Program is to provide funding for coastal communities to develop consistent SLR adaptation plans and projects to build resilience to SLR along the entire coast of California and San Francisco Bay. To achieve this goal, the SB 1 Grant Program offers two tracks of funding: one for pre-planning and planning phases (Track One), and one for the project and implementation phase (Track Two). Track One (projects in the Pre-planning, Data Collection, and Planning Phases) officially opened for proposal submission in December of 2023, and accepts proposals on a non-competitive, rolling, quarterly basis, provided the proposals satisfy the program requirements. Track Two proposals (Implementation Project Phase) will be accepted through a competitive process starting in mid-late 2024, subject to availability of funding. However, recognizing the importance of funding timely implementation projects, OPC is accepting the submission of Track Two Letters of Intent (LOI) before the acceptance of Track Two proposals to advance urgent projects that address near-term SLR threats.

The total amount requested across all seven projects is \$5,614,785. These projects cover a variety of critical areas, including pre-planning, data collection, detailed adaptation planning, and an urgent implementation project that addresses near-term SLR threats, and span from the Southern California coastline up through the San Francisco Bay shoreline. All proposals and LOIs were reviewed by OPC staff, in collaboration with either California Coastal Commission (CCC) or San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) staff, depending on the project area location. Proposals were reviewed for their adherence to the [SLR Adaptation Criteria](#) and the evaluation criteria set forth within the solicitation. This resulted in the first set of projects recommended for funding under this program to meet the foundational purpose of equipping California’s coastal communities with robust, consistent, and comprehensive SLR adaptation plans to build resilience against the impacts of SLR and ensure that both local and regional efforts are well-coordinated and uniformly advanced statewide.

Track 1 (Pre-Planning, Data Collection, and Planning) Project Summaries:

5.1 Sausalito Facility Vulnerability Assessment

Project Summary:

The City of Sausalito is requesting funds to facilitate the Sausalito Facility Vulnerability Assessment under Phase 1 of SLR Planning. Rising water levels along the City’s 2.5-mile shoreline makes the City of Sausalito vulnerable to SLR and will affect critical physical assets, policy decisions and programs including infrastructure, housing, transportation, land uses, and economic growth. The City of Sausalito supports its bayfront recreation and tourism through its management of prolific City-owned properties which extend throughout the shoreline and operates or rents out many spaces for public enjoyment. A specific facility vulnerability assessment would accurately determine the full scope of potential damage that can be done to City infrastructure from predicted SLR. This assessment will inform a larger Shoreline Adaptation Plan for the City that is already underway.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The City of Sausalito’s shoreline is shown to be highly vulnerable to SLR. Additionally, many of the public facilities included in this project are key areas for coastal public access, including the Turney Street Boat Ramp, which is the only accessible boat ramp used by economically disadvantaged populations in the City.

About the Grantee:

The City of Sausalito, home to approximately 7,000 residents, is situated in Marin County. The City has demonstrated a commitment to addressing SLR through initiatives such as the Sausalito Shoreline Adaptation Community Engagement Plan. This foundational work is currently being expanded into a broader Sausalito Shoreline Adaptation Plan, aligning with [Senate Bill 272 \(Laird, 2023\)](#) requirements that mandate coastal local governments to develop comprehensive SLR plans. Sausalito's ongoing efforts in SLR planning and adaptation underscore their capability to effectively manage and implement projects that enhance coastal resilience, ensuring compliance with new state directives and contributing to regional and statewide environmental sustainability goals.

Project Timeline:

The project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$250,000 to the City of Sausalito for the Sausalito Facility Vulnerability Assessment. This project includes leveraged non-state funds of \$250,000 for a project total of \$500,000.

5.2 Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan

Project Summary:

This project would develop the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan (Plan) for the County's entire shoreline, inclusive of incorporated city and unincorporated County jurisdictional boundaries. The Plan would cover the entire 90 miles of Contra Costa County's shoreline from the San Francisco Bay to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The process would be centered around an extensive community participatory engagement campaign, beginning with a visioning process, and extending through the development of the Plan, and robust input from local agencies and stakeholders through the Resilient Shoreline Coalition (RSC). The County has initiated and will continue to convene the RSC, which is made up of public agencies, community-based organizations, and Individuals who are intent on engaging in collaborative SLR efforts. The Plan would include adaptation pathways and implementation actions at a more granular level than what has been developed previously through larger regional efforts, exploring natural and constructed infrastructure improvements.

Other key components of the project include a strategic update to the County's existing vulnerability assessments to align with the 2024 State of California SLR Guidance and BCDC's forthcoming Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) Guidelines, recommendations for

potential land use planning changes, identification of partnership needs for implementation, alignment with local and regional plans, financing strategies, and metrics. The Plan would embody a community-driven vision centered on the values and priorities of environmental justice communities in the future of Contra Costa’s shoreline and chart an equitable path forward towards priority shoreline adaptation projects.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The County, in coordination with the RSC, will involve local communities and tribes in the development of a Community Education and Engagement Plan, with early consultations to inform how tribes prefer to engage in the project and ensure participation in the project is culturally informed. Additional steps include an assessment of community capacity, focusing on EJ and tribal representatives to empower participation within the planning process and directly integrate community input in the development of the Plan.

About the Grantee:

Located along the northern coast of the San Francisco Bay, Contra Costa County has an extensive shoreline that is vulnerable to SLR. The County has a strong foundation in managing coastal and environmental issues, integrating resilience into regional planning and adaptation initiatives. With the recent mandates from SB 272 (Laird, 2023), Contra Costa County is proactively working to align with BCDC guidelines, ensuring its SLR plans are comprehensive and integrated. This proactive approach to legislative compliance and community engagement makes the County a fitting recipient of funds aimed at improving shoreline resilience.

Project Timeline:

The project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$1,499,285 to Contra Costa County for the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan.

5.3 Resilient Coast Santa Cruz 2.0: Shoreline Adaptation Blueprint

Project Summary:

This project would build upon previous City of Santa Cruz planning work, creating implementation “blueprints” for 3 coastal subareas. The project integrates the City’s approach to develop adaptation pathways with new information, policy, planning guidance and diverse engagement to

produce community supported, fundable implementation plans: the East Cliff, Beaches, and West Cliff Shoreline Adaptation Blueprints. Blueprints will reference and build upon extensive prior work on existing conditions, future vulnerabilities, feasibility of adaptation alternatives, visioning, and equitable engagement. The blueprints, informed by technical, youth and equity advisors and deep and innovative engagement, will include adaptation pathways decisions, prioritized projects, next step funding and resource moves, and recommended Local Coastal Program Implementation Plan policies. Leveraging considerable momentum, existing partnerships, and new knowledge, this project aims to advance planning across the City’s coast, align local and regional plans, and catalyze Santa Cruz into implementation of its coastal community vision to increase resilience to the changing coastline. Overall, this project will enable the City to produce subarea blueprints with defined priority projects that will bridge the gap between the extensive planning conducted to date and project implementation.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The City of Santa Cruz is actively engaging its diverse community in shaping its coastal resilience strategies, particularly in the underserved neighborhood of Beach Flats. This area, characterized by high social vulnerability, has been a focal point of the City’s resilience planning. Over 1,780 interactions through various formats such as workshops, surveys, and public meetings have fostered community involvement in the development of the West Cliff 50-year Community Vision, emphasizing nature-based solutions. The City maintains a robust partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (AMTB), who are recognized as stewards of the land, and intends to build from prior partnerships to involve the AMTB as compensated equity advisors, ensuring that their unique perspectives and historical knowledge are integrated into the resilience planning.

About the Grantee:

The City of Santa Cruz, situated on the Central Coast of California, faces direct impacts from SLR, making its commitment to coastal resilience both critical and urgent. The City's ongoing efforts in climate adaptation, such as the Resilient Coast Santa Cruz initiative, are in alignment with SB 272’s requirements for developing and integrating SLR plans into local coastal programs (LCPs). Santa Cruz’s established track record of community-oriented, sustainable coastal management initiatives demonstrates its capability and readiness to utilize funding effectively to meet and exceed the state’s resilience planning directives.

Project Timeline:

The project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$600,000 to the City of Santa Cruz for the Resilient Coast Santa Cruz 2.0: Shoreline Adaptation Blueprint. This project includes leveraged non-state funds of \$85,200 for a project total of \$685,200.

5.4 Stinson Water Adaptation Plan for a Community Wastewater System

Project Summary:

Stinson Beach County Water District (Stinson Water) provides drinking water and onsite wastewater services for the small coastal community of Stinson Beach which has no existing sewer system or regional wastewater infrastructure. All residential and commercial properties in Stinson Beach have onsite wastewater treatment systems (“OWTS”) buried underground. A previous study demonstrates that over 70% of Stinson Beach’s OWTS are either moderately or highly vulnerable to inundation from future SLR. Stinson Water plans to perform a reconnaissance or “pre-feasibility” study to assess design options, costs, and other issues pertaining to their future sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant and will develop an Adaptation Plan that will guide Stinson Water through the challenges of transitioning from septic systems to a community wastewater system that is both reliable and resilient to changing future conditions.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The proposed wastewater project aims to enhance resilience and provide equitable utility services, ensuring a safe, clean water system for all community members, regardless of socioeconomic status. As part of the project's community engagement strategy, Stinson Water will conduct extensive outreach to ensure that the voices of all community segments are heard and integrated into the development of the SLR Adaptation Plan. Scheduled public meetings at each project milestone will provide multiple opportunities for residents to contribute to and shape the project outcomes. This inclusive approach not only aligns with regional collaboration efforts with neighboring utility districts but also ensures that the proposed systems and services reflect the community's diverse needs and priorities, fostering resilience and sustainability in response to increasing environmental challenges.

About the Grantee:

Stinson Water serves the unincorporated and vulnerable coastal area of Stinson Beach in Marin County, providing critical water and wastewater services. Positioned in a region prone to environmental challenges such as SLR and coastal erosion, Stinson Water plays a pivotal role in maintaining essential infrastructure for both residents and the many visitors who frequent this

popular destination. While not directly governed by SB 272, which targets coastal local governments, Stinson Water’s initiatives align with broader regional and state coastal resilience goals. The special district’s commitment to enhancing water system sustainability and engaging in proactive regional collaborations ensures effective use of funding to protect its community against SLR impacts.

Project Timeline:

The project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize the disbursement of up to \$1,200,000 to the Stinson Beach County Water District for the Stinson Water Adaptation Plan for a Community Wastewater System.

5.5 South San Francisco Shoreline Protection and Connectivity Project

Project Summary:

This project will explore and inform conceptual solutions to address coastal flooding exacerbated by SLR and increased storm surge along San Francisco Bay near the outfalls of Colma Creek and San Bruno Creek in South San Francisco. This planning will include working collaboratively with multiple jurisdictional agencies to examine coastal flood protection alternatives that could benefit residences, businesses, critical transportation infrastructure (US-101, Caltrain, and SamTrans), and other key regional infrastructure, such as the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and the South San Francisco-San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant. The work will involve interagency coordination with Caltrans, SamTrans, One Shoreline, San Bruno, Caltrain, BCDC and SFO, and extensive outreach to community and environmental stakeholder groups. The planning will also include developing and applying feasibility criteria to analyzing the viability of the proposed solutions relative to technical, financial, environmental, and community-acceptance considerations. A community-driven design process will develop and analyze solutions culminating in a preferred alternative, all of which will be documented in a report with 10% conceptual design documents and order-of-magnitude cost estimates to inform future adaptation projects for this populated transportation corridor.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

This project will include robust and inclusive outreach efforts to communities within South San Francisco, communities with high pollution burden and significant portions of the population facing socio-economic challenges with high poverty rates, elderly, and non-English speaking

populations. The project involves the development of an Outreach Plan that aims to engage these communities through multilingual materials and accessible community meetings to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to understand, contribute to, and influence the project's design and outcomes.

The planned engagement process will involve three rounds of outreach, each designed to inform the community about the project, gather input on local priorities and concerns, integrate this feedback into the conceptual design effectively, and report back to ensure feedback is adequately reflected in the project to ensure that the outreach is thorough and considers the immediate and unique needs of the community, but also aligns with broader objectives to enhance regional resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change and other environmental risks.

About the Grantee:

The City of South San Francisco, located within San Mateo County on the San Francisco Peninsula, is an urban area that combines a dense industrial sector with significant residential communities. The City encompasses critical infrastructure that is integral to both local and regional economies and are particularly vulnerable to SLR along its bayshore boundaries. The City's proactive engagement in climate adaptation planning, especially through the current feasibility study, aligns with SB 272's requirements for comprehensive SLR planning. By integrating robust community feedback into resilience strategies, South San Francisco is protecting both its industrial base and residential areas, reinforcing its capability to manage adaptation funding effectively.

Project Timeline:

The project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$997,500 to the City of South San Francisco for the South San Francisco Shoreline Protection and Connectivity Project.

5.6 Imperial Beach Community Resilience Plan

Project Summary:

This project will address the City of Imperial Beach's urgent need for proactive planning and implementation of coastal flooding adaptation strategies. The proposed project includes an actionable, regulatory-aligned coastal adaptation plan titled the Community Resilience Plan (CRP) that will address coastal flooding and the protection of vulnerable communities and infrastructure. As the City of Imperial Beach faces significant financial exposure to flood risks, the CRP will

examine the liability concerns for the property owners and the City surrounding nature-based flood protection measures. The CRP will also include an evaluation of financing mechanisms and development of a sustainable funding framework. The proposed effort also includes substantial data collection through focused technical studies, including hydraulic/hydrology, cultural/paleontology, wetland delineation, and benefit-cost analyses that will support the community and agencies demand for science-based information to assist them in identifying and prioritizing coastal flooding adaptation strategies.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

This project will benefit the underserved communities of Imperial Beach by planning for future effects of climate change and improving resiliency to SLR and associated hazards. The project will actively engage with the communities of Imperial Beach that face significant environmental and socioeconomic challenges, exacerbated by severe pollution impacts from the Tijuana River. The project team will facilitate neighborhood level workshops, intercept surveys, and online surveys to understand the localized resident’s concerns and goals for resiliency and allow the Project team to better understand community needs and preferences and inform how the development of insurance products and financing mechanisms, such as a Climate Resilience District framework, can make the community more resilient. Tools for gathering, visualizing, and evaluating information for these participatory efforts will be provided in the predominant language(s) of the community.

Additionally, the project incorporates substantial tribal engagement, with the intention to host the San Diego Tribal Working Group in Imperial Beach and present information to the Southern California Tribal Chairman Association. This collaboration aims to protect sacred spaces, incorporate tribal art, and inform narratives for educational signage about tribal traditions.

About the Grantee:

The City of Imperial Beach is a residential coastal city. Located in San Diego County, the City is the southernmost city in California, located just 5 miles northwest of Tijuana, Mexico. The City has experience managing similar multijurisdictional projects, including a previous [Prop 68 award funded by OPC](#). The City has assembled a team of planners, scientists, and engineers with technical expertise on similar projects addressing SLR, coastal resiliency, public engagement, and public access to ensure successful completion of this project. This project directly aligns with SB 272’s requirements for comprehensive SLR planning.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over two years.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$848,000 to the City of Imperial Beach for the Imperial Beach Community Resilience Plan. This project includes leveraged non-state funds of \$250,000 for a project total of \$1,098,000.

Track 2 (Urgent Implementation) Project Summary:

5.7 Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project at Capistrano Beach and Doheny State Beach

Project Summary:

The Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project will construct a 1,150-foot system of vegetated dunes over a buried cobble berm along the shoreline of Capistrano Beach Park, a County-owned property, and Doheny State Beach, a California State Parks property, in the City of Dana Point, Orange County, California. The project will be designed to stabilize the eroding shoreline, maintain public access amenities, protect critical infrastructure from erosive events, and create habitat for plants and coastal wildlife. The OPC funded portion of this project would be used for final design and permitting, as well as community and tribal consulting services. The California Coastal Commission approved the proposed project's [Coastal Development Permit \(CDP\)](#) with conditions in November 2022 to mitigate the escalating erosion. The project and accompanying Capistrano Beach Master Plan must be completed by November of 2029 in accordance with CDP conditions of approval.

Equity and Environmental Justice Benefits:

The project at Capistrano and Doheny Beaches enhances access to natural spaces for over 3.1 million Orange County residents and millions of annual visitors, including economically diverse populations from the Inland Empire and beyond. With no-to-low entry costs and coastal access, this project will promote inclusivity and broad public benefit. Additionally, the project will utilize the South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan, which further supports this inclusivity through stakeholder engagement, ensuring community voices shape long-term coastal resilience strategies.

Orange County Parks maintains an ongoing working relationship with Acjachemen tribal elders and representatives. As part of this project, Orange County Parks intends to initiate consulting services

with tribal representatives to integrate traditional knowledge and cultural values into the project design. This partnership enriches the project’s approach to land acknowledgment, ecological restoration, and educational content, reinforcing a commitment to honoring and involving Native perspectives in regional planning efforts.

About the Grantee:

Orange County Parks manages a wide range of public lands and recreational facilities throughout Orange County, California, including the highly visited Capistrano and Doheny Beaches. With a strong commitment to preserving and enhancing public access to natural resources, the department is experienced in managing large-scale environmental and coastal resilience projects. Orange County Parks has successfully collaborated with multiple stakeholders, including local communities, the California Coastal Commission, and various environmental and civic groups, to promote sustainable use and conservation of coastal areas. These efforts underscore their capability to effectively utilize funding for crucial SLR adaptation projects.

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed over one and a half years (July 2024 – February 2026).

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that OPC authorize disbursement of up to \$220,000 to Orange County Parks for the Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project at Capistrano Beach and Doheny State Beach. This project includes leveraged non-state funds of \$9,800,000 for a project total of \$10,020,000.

Project Financing:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council authorize encumbrance of up to \$5,614,785 to the following:

Recommended SB 1 Grant Program Projects	OPC	Non-OPC
Track 1 (Pre-Planning, Data Collection, and Planning) Projects		
5.1 City of Sausalito	\$250,000	\$250,000
5.2 Contra Costa County	\$1,499,285	-

5.3 City of Santa Cruz	\$600,000	\$85,200
5.4 Stinson Beach County Water District	\$1,200,000	-
5.5 City of South San Francisco	\$997,500	-
5.6 City of Imperial Beach	\$848,000	\$250,000
Track 2 (Urgent Implementation) Projects		
5.7 Orange County Parks	\$220,000	\$9,800,000
TOTAL	\$5,614,785	\$10,385,200

The anticipated source of funds will be from the Budget Act of 2022, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation (Fiscal Year 2022/2023) to OPC for implementation of Chapter 236 of Statutes of 2021 (SB 1, Atkins). Pursuant to SB 1, funding is designated “for the purpose of making grants to local and regional governments to update local and regional land use plans to take into account sea level rise and for directly related investments to implement those plans.” Consequently, all projects under the SB 1 Grant Program will focus on SLR Adaptation and fall within the pre-planning, planning, or implementation project phases. These projects will follow the SLR Adaptation Criteria, developed in accordance with SB 1 and in consultation with the SLR Collaborative.

Consistency with California Ocean Protection Act:

The proposed project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Act, Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, because it is consistent with trust-fund allowable projects, defined in Public Resources Code Section 35650(b)(2) as projects which:

- Eliminate or reduce threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems, habitats, and species.
- Allow for increased public access to, and enjoyment of, ocean and coastal resources, consistent with sustainable, long-term protection and conservation of those resources.
- Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.

- Provide funding for adaptive management, planning coordination, monitoring, research, and other necessary activities to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on California's ocean ecosystem.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

The various proposed projects under Track 1 (Pre-Planning, Data Collection, and Planning) are not 'legal projects' that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15378. If a project were determined to be a 'legal project' under CEQA, the proposed projects are statutorily exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations section 15262 as feasibility and planning studies.

The portion of project 5.7 Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project at Capistrano Beach and Doheny State Beach under Track 2 (Urgent Implementation) proposed for funding by OPC only includes design and engineering components that do not trigger CEQA, however, the project will include preparation of CEQA and other permitting documents. The County of Orange, the lead agency for CEQA compliance, will prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), which will be completed by 2027.