



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 3, 2022

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Energy and Climate Division, Sustainability and Resilience Department

SUBJECT: Adoption Of Resolution And Status Report On Implementation Of The Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan And Acceptance Of Grant Funds

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Receive a status report on implementation of the Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan;
- B. Accept three grant awards totaling \$2,115,000 from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) Round 7 Local Coastal Program (LCP) Grant Program;
- C. Adopt, by reading of title only, a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Resolution No. 21-045, Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, for Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Grants;
- D. Increase revenue appropriations and expenditure appropriations by \$630,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 Sustainability and Resilience Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget for the Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program, \$1,240,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 Sustainability and Resilience Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget for Waterfront Adaptation Planning, and \$245,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 Airport Department Grants Fund budget to fund the Airport and Goleta Slough Climate Adaptation Plan;
- E. Authorize the Sustainability and Resilience Director to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) to undertake the Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program; and
- F. Disband the Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee, with the intention that the Sustainability Council Committee will advise staff on implementation of sea-level rise and other climate adaptation projects moving forward.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In February 2021, Council approved the City's Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan (Adaptation Plan). Since then, staff have been further refining project scopes and applying for grant funds for the highest priority actions identified in the plan. In March 2022, CCC awarded the City \$2,115,000 in LCP Grant Funds for three projects: 1) Creation of a Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program to be undertaken by BEACON in partnership with the City; 2) Waterfront Adaptation Planning, including feasibility studies for moving or flood proofing infrastructure; and 3) Creation of an Airport and Goleta Slough Climate Adaptation Plan. Staff recommends that Council accept the grant funds and authorize staff to execute a memorandum of understanding with BEACON to implement the monitoring program.

Furthermore, now that the Adaptation Plan is complete and adopted, staff recommends that Council disband the Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee with the intention that, moving forward, implementation of the Adaptation Plan and other climate adaptation matters be guided by the Sustainability Council Committee, with input from other Commissions as needed.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The City has been undergoing several major sea-level rise planning efforts in order to modernize the City's Local Coastal Programs (LCPs), prepare the City for increased flooding and erosion, and satisfy State permitting requirements. Specifically:

- 1) In 2015, the Goleta Slough Management Committee completed the Goleta Slough Area Sea Level Rise and Management Plan, which analyzes vulnerabilities and potential adaptation options for the Goleta Slough area including the Airport;
- 2) In 2018, a Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment was completed for the City;
- 3) In 2019, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and Council certified a comprehensive update to the City of Santa Barbara Coastal Land Use Plan that factors sea-level rise into development review standards; and
- 4) In February 2021, Council adopted a City of Santa Barbara Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan (Adaptation Plan) that recommends a phased approach to planning for sea-level rise, based on monitoring of changing conditions and taking actions to reduce vulnerabilities once defined thresholds are reached. Forty-two actions are designated as high priority to start in the next five years, with eight of these considered the highest priority to initiate as soon as possible.

Recently, the City began implementation of the Adaptation Plan and is coordinating all climate adaptation matters out of the Sustainability and Resilience Department's Energy and Climate Division. The City also has a Climate Adaptation Interdepartmental Staff

Team that guides prioritization, funding, and implementation of climate adaptation projects. Staff has been in the process of further scoping out the highest priority implementation projects and applying for grant funds as opportunities arise.

In November 2021, CCC announced the availability of Round 7 LCP Planning Grant funds to support local government coastal resiliency efforts. The grant time period is from 2022 through 2025, with a possibility of extension to 2027. In December 2021, City staff submitted three grant applications for sea-level rise implementation projects at the Waterfront and Airport and a Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program as described below. On January 25, 2022, Council supported the grant applications and authorized the City Administrator to enter into grant agreements with CCC should the applications be successful. On March 9th, the CCC unanimously voted to award a total of \$2,115,000 in grant funds to the City of Santa Barbara, fully funding all three applications.

Grant Funded Projects

Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program

The highest priority action item identified in the City's Adaptation Plan is development of a regional shoreline monitoring program. The monitoring program is key to implementing the City's Adaptation Program with a data-driven approach, including tracking how soon actions are needed and the effectiveness of adaptation projects as they are implemented. Establishment of thresholds for action based on monitoring is central to the phased implementation of the City's Adaptation Plan. This project consists of the development of a Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program for the coastal areas spanning Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, in order to provide consistent data and analysis to implement sea-level rise adaptation plans in the region. Following development of the program, two years of pilot monitoring will be conducted.

While the Sustainability and Resilience Department sponsored the application and will manage the grant funds, this project will be conducted by BEACON, a joint power authority with member agencies from the coastal cities and counties between Point Mugu and Point Conception. The program will be developed through a stakeholder process involving multiple jurisdictions within Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and a science advisory team. The grant award amount is \$630,000 for consultant, BEACON, and City staff time. Staff is requesting that Council authorize the Sustainability and Resilience Director to execute a memorandum of understanding with BEACON to undertake this project as described in the attached work plan and pursuant to the terms of the grant.

Waterfront Adaptation

The Adaptation Plan identified a number of high priority actions needed for critical infrastructure at the Harbor and Waterfront area south of Cabrillo Boulevard. This project is a shoreline master planning effort for the Waterfront that includes many of these highest priority actions. A Wastewater and Water Systems Vulnerability and Adaptation Options Report will be prepared to identify alternatives for relocating and floodproofing major

sewer mains and water lines currently located under the beach and mid- and long-term adaptation options for the overall wastewater and water systems.

A 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan will also be developed that will include an analysis of increased use of seasonal beach berms, sediment availability analysis, and other near-term options for adaptation along the Waterfront and a feasibility study for raising or modifying the existing Harbor Breakwater and groins. The project will be managed by the Sustainability and Resilience Department with assistance from the Waterfront, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation Departments. The grant award includes \$1,240,000 for consultant and City staff time.

Airport and Goleta Slough Climate Adaptation Plan

This project includes an infrastructure vulnerability assessment, sea-level rise adaptation plan, and LCP update for the Airport segment of the City of Santa Barbara's coastal zone. The Airport LCP was last updated and certified by the CCC in 2003 and needs to be modernized to meet new State requirements and consider issues such as sea-level rise. The Airport area was not included in the 2021 Adaptation Plan as at the time of funding of the plan the focus was on updates to the City's main LCP segment, as the Airport was separately engaged in a multi-agency planning effort for the Goleta Slough area. This project would add a chapter to the Adaptation Plan to address hazards at the Airport, building upon the 2015 Goleta Slough Area Sea-Level Rise and Management Plan and the 2017 Airport Master Plan. The project will be led by the Airport Department in coordination with the Climate Adaptation Interdepartmental Staff Team and Sustainability and Resilience Department. The grant award is \$245,000 for consultant work.

Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee

In June 2018, Council formed the Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee (Subcommittee) for the purpose of guiding development of a sea-level rise vulnerability assessment, economic analysis, socioeconomic analysis, and adaptation plan for the City. The Subcommittee included three members of Council and members of the Water, Harbor, Parks and Recreation, and Planning Commissions. The Subcommittee was very successful at guiding the development of the adaptation plan, particularly with recommending guiding principles for the City to prioritize adaptation actions and in development of the overall phased approach to sea-level rise planning contained in the plan.

City staff have been in the process of trying to reduce the number of separate, single-issue subcommittees the City maintains. Now that the Adaptation Plan is complete, staff recommends that Council disband the Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee with the intent that the Council Sustainability Committee take on the role of guiding implementation of the sea-level rise adaptation plan, along with other climate adaptation efforts. Staff will still regularly update the other relevant City commissions on sea-level rise implementation and will directly engage with commissions in development of specific projects within their purview.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

In total, the three grant awards are \$2,115,000 that will fund consultants and City staff time managing the projects as described above. The grant work programs identify approximately \$519,500 in additional matching funds in the form of staff time and overhead using existing City appropriations in the Airport, City Attorney, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Waterfront, and Sustainability and Resilience Departments.

Staff recommends that Council accept the grant funds and increase revenue appropriations and expenditure appropriations for the three grants as follows:

- \$630,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 Sustainability and Resilience Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget for the Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program;
- \$1,240,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 Sustainability and Resilience Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget for Waterfront Adaptation Planning; and
- \$245,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 Airport Department Miscellaneous Grant Fund for the Airport and Goleta Slough Climate Adaptation Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The subject projects advance goals contained in the General Plan, LCP, Climate Action Plan, and Adaptation Plan to address both the causes and impacts of climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Feasibility studies and LCP Amendments are statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15262 and 15265.

ATTACHMENTS: Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Grant Work Programs

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hetrick, Acting Energy and Climate Program Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Alelia Parenteau, Acting Sustainability and Resilience Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office