

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Ocean and Coastal Resources Working Group (“CO-CAT”)

Complete a Statewide Vulnerability Assessment Every Five Years

Near-Term Implementation Plan

CO-CAT Working Group Overview:

The Coastal and Ocean Resources Working Group for the Climate Action Team (“CO-CAT”) was established with the following objectives:

- Develop consolidated mitigation measures and adaptation strategies list.
- Develop Climate Action Team Near Term Implementation Plan.
- Identify mechanisms and support to implement mitigation measures and adaptation strategies.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate across agencies.
- Inform subgroup agencies of mitigation actions that are relevant for coastal management and develop partnerships to support implementation of mitigation actions such as land use planning and green building in coastal areas

The agencies/departments/boards/commissions that are represented on this working group include the following:

- Ocean Protection Council (“OPC”)
- California Natural Resources Agency (“Resources Agency”)
- State Coastal Conservancy (“SCC”)
- California Coastal Commission (“CCC”)
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (“BCDC”)
- State Lands Commission (“SLC”)
- Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”)
- Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency (“BTH”)
- California Department of Transportation (“CalTrans”)
- State Water Resources Quality Control Board (“SWRQCB”)
- Department of Water Resources (“DWR”)
- Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”)
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (“DTSC”)

Consolidated Mitigation Measures and Adaptation Strategies

The CO-CAT members reviewed the State Adaptation Strategy and the mitigation measures from the AB32 Scoping Plan and other state documents and recommended that CO-CAT work on implementing all of the near-term strategies in the Ocean and Coastal Resources chapter of the State Adaptation Strategy. The CO-CAT members also recommended that the working group support implementation of one mitigation measure – enhancing carbon sequestration of coastal habitats. The CO-CAT members identified the following adaptation strategies as the top three priorities:

1. Strategy 6 (support essential data collection and information sharing),
2. Strategy 5 (complete a statewide vulnerability assessment every five years) and
3. Strategy 1 (establish state policy to avoid future hazards and protect critical habitat).

Implementation Plan for Adaptation Strategy 5: Complete a Statewide Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Every Five Years

The California Energy Commission is leading an effort to complete a statewide vulnerability assessment, with the OPC as part of the steering committee for this project. The State Adaptation Strategy calls on OPC to coordinate with other state agencies to produce a coastal and ocean vulnerability assessment every five years that consolidates and builds upon existing efforts by the California Energy Commission and other agencies. This is a long-term strategy which will be supported through initial near term actions, which are discussed below. Each new assessment will discuss the most recent knowledge about climate impacts to ocean and coastal resources, inventory coastal natural and man-made assets, and assess what is at risk (including an economic valuation). The data from these assessments will be periodically incorporated into state agency adaptation plan updates.

Agencies involved in implementing Strategy 5: OPC, DWR, SCC, CCC, BCDC, SWRQCB and Caltrans.

This implementation plan encompasses the following near-term strategies from the Climate Adaptation Strategy: ocean and coastal resources strategy 5a (vulnerability assessment)

Metrics for Defining Success:

Completion of tasks by timeline outlined below.

Task 1: National Academies of Science (NAS) Sea Level Rise Assessment Report

A) Purpose: The purpose of the NAS project is to provide an evaluation of sea level rise for the years 2030, 2050 and 2100. The evaluation will cover both global and local sea level rise. In particular, the committee will:

1. Evaluate each of the major contributors to global sea level rise (e.g., ocean thermal expansion, melting of glaciers and ice sheets); combine the contributions to provide values or a range of values of global sea level rise for the years 2030, 2050, and 2100; and evaluate the uncertainties associated with these values for each timeframe.
2. Characterize and, where possible, provide specific values for the regional and local contributions to sea level rise (e.g., atmospheric changes influencing ocean winds, ENSO [El Nino-Southern Oscillation] effects on ocean surface height, coastal upwelling and currents, storminess, coastal land motion caused by tectonics, sediment loading, or aquifer withdrawal) for the years 2030, 2050 and 2100. Different types of coastal settings will be examined, taking into account factors such as landform (e.g., estuaries, wetlands, beaches, lagoons, cliffs), geologic substrate (e.g., unconsolidated sediments, bedrock), and rates of geologic deformation. For inputs that can be quantified, the study will also provide related uncertainties. The study will also summarize what is known about:

- a. climate-induced increases in storm frequency and magnitude and related changes to regional and local sea level rise estimations (e.g., more frequent and severe storm surges)
- b. the efficacy of coastal habitats and coastal restoration (e.g., watershed restoration) in increasing the resilience of communities and ecosystems along the west Coast.

- B) Deliverables: Report from NAS covering the scope of work summarized above.
- C) Agencies: DWR is the lead agency coordinating funding of the NAS project, with OPC, Caltrans, SWRQCB, California Energy Commission serving as a California State Agency Steering Committee.
- D) Timeline: NAS panel is expected to meet in fall of 2010 for the first of four meetings, with the report expected to be released in spring of 2012.
- E) Crosscutting Issues: Sea level rise has the potential to affect all sectors. An accurate assessment will be relevant for most, if not all CAT subgroups

Task 2: Transportation Hot Spot Map

- A) Purpose: identify specific areas of the state’s highway system, railroad system and key local streets that are susceptible to sea-level rise.
- B) Deliverables: a map identifying susceptible transportation infrastructure
- C) Agency roles: Caltrans is the lead agency.
- D) Timeline: The project is anticipated to start in June 2011 and be completed by June 2012.
- E) Crosscutting Issues: Transportation – Strategies 5, 6, 7 and 8

Task 3: Statewide Vulnerability Assessment

- A) Purpose: Assess the state’s vulnerability from climate change impacts.
- B) Deliverables: Statewide synthesis report and individual reports and maps for related studies including wave run-up projections and a case study on planning for sea-level rise.
- C) Agency roles: CEC is the lead agency, with OPC serving on the steering committee and BCDC providing guidance on the San Francisco Bay Area case study.
- D) Timeline: Draft reports for the synthesis document and the individual reports are due in December 2010, with final reports due in June 2011.
- E) Crosscutting Issues:
 - a. Water - Strategy 9: Plan for and Adapt to Sea level Rise
 - b. Transportation – Strategies 5, 6, 7 and 8

Summary Table:

<u>Deliverable</u>	Agencies	Deadline
NAS Sea Level Rise Assessment Report	DWR, OPC, SWRQCB, CEC	Spring 2012
Transportation Hot Spot Map	Caltrans	June 2012
Statewide Vulnerability	OPC, BCDC, CEC	June 2011

Ocean and Coastal Resources-CAT Near-term Implementation Plan
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Assessment		
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