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**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION AWARDS \$780,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY'S SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

September 11, 2023 – Santa Cruz, CA – The Community Development and Infrastructure Department is pleased to announce that the California Coastal Commission awarded \$780,000 in Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance grant funds to support the County's sea level rise vulnerability assessment and technical analysis study.

The grant funding will support the completion of a series of technical studies on future sea level rise hazards, economic impacts and adaptation pathways, with a unique focus on the impacts to coastal environments concerning public access and lower-cost recreational opportunities, particularly for historically marginalized communities that would be disproportionately affected by sea level rise.

This comprehensive analysis will encompass coastal zones spanning approximately 32 miles of the unincorporated Santa Cruz County shoreline ultimately leading to a crucial LCP amendment on sea level rise.

"This grant will play a pivotal role in Santa Cruz County's efforts to plan its coastal resiliency and adapt to the challenges posed by sea level rise." Community Development & Infrastructure Resource Planner David Carlson said. "This funding will propel our efforts to make informed decisions through public outreach and will support future mandates to protect our coastal resources."

An extensive outreach component will educate the public, decision-makers and other stakeholders about the expected future impacts of sea level rise to ensure that

decisions made reflect a comprehensive understanding of these impacts, addressing the needs of all members of the community. A range of adaptation options will be examined, using economic and fiscal information to demonstrate the relative costs and benefits of each strategy.

Throughout the project, ongoing coordination with Coastal Commission staff will be maintained to foster a collaborative partnership that results in an LCP Amendment addressing coastal hazards. The vulnerability assessment will be conducted at both the neighborhood and regional scales, and the final phase of the project will include recommendations for policy updates necessary for an LCP Amendment addressing coastal hazards. These recommendations will be incorporated into an update to the LCP Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan provisions.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development & Infrastructure serves the unincorporated towns in the county including Aptos, Ben Lomond, Bonny Doon, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Corralitos, Davenport, Felton, Freedom, La Selva Beach, Rio Del Mar, Soquel and Zayante. The department's mission is to improve customer service, streamline projects, and to align public infrastructure and private development to further County goals in attainable housing, reliable transportation and sustainable environment. For more information, visit <https://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us> or follow the department on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Nextdoor](#).

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