



## California Coastal Commission

455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2421  
Voice (415) 904-5200  
[www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)

# FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on

## Environmental Justice Updates to Sea Level Rise Guidance

### What is the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance Project?

The Coastal Commission is working to integrate the principles of environmental justice (EJ) into the agency's sea level rise (SLR) policy and adaptation work. The work builds upon the Commission's existing [Environmental Justice Policy](#) and intends to provide information on how to address EJ communities, impacts, and benefits when planning and analyzing for sea level rise. The final product of this work will be an environmental justice update to the Commission's existing sea level rise policy guidance and will support consideration of EJ and SLR in coastal development permits as well as Local Coastal Program (LCP) updates, including in vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, and draft LCP policies on sea level rise.

### What is the California Coastal Commission?

The Coastal Commission is a state government agency that preserves and protects California's coast and ocean for the people. The Commission does this by looking at how development affects the environment and public coastal access. Agency staff makes recommendations to a board, which makes a final vote.

### When will the Commission review the EJ Updates to the Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance?

Commission staff anticipate opening public comment period, and holding a public hearing on the draft policy guidance in 2024. During the hearing on the draft, the Commission will hear from its staff, government representatives, and members of the public, all of whom can participate in person at the hearing or virtually by Zoom or telephone. You can also provide written comments to the mailing or email addresses below. Staff will consider and incorporate the public's verbal and written comments into the subsequent draft updates to the policy guidance. The Commission is expected to adopt the final Environmental Justice Updates to the Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance at a subsequent public hearing. The Commission's public hearings on the draft and final versions of the Guidance are an opportunity to make your voice heard. All are welcome.

### What does environmental justice have to do with sea level rise in California?

The impacts of sea level rise are far reaching - it can reduce the functionality of roads and transportation routes, create failures to critical facilities such as power plants, contribute to environmental pollution and harm human health, impede coastal access, and increase displacement. Moreover, because many of these systems are connected, failures or adverse impacts are not isolated. Importantly, adverse impacts from sea level rise are not distributed equitably among vulnerable populations. For example, low-income communities and those who live in rental units are more likely to be displaced by flooding or related impacts as compared to property owners due to lack of funds and/or abilities to rebuild and often have limited access to insurance. Additionally, loss of local public beaches or a reduction in public access would disproportionately affect low-income communities that have few alternative lower cost recreational opportunities. Whatever harms result from the impacts of sea level rise will exacerbate burdens already felt among environmental justice communities who have a higher social vulnerability to climate change.

### How can I participate?

- Email comments to [EnvironmentalJustice@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:EnvironmentalJustice@coastal.ca.gov). Mail comments to 445 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105.
- For general questions about the project, email Ashley Reineman, Federal Programs Manager, at [Ashley.Reineman@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Ashley.Reineman@coastal.ca.gov).