

Sea Level Rise & California King Tides

#### Presentation Outline

- Sea level rise adaptation in California
- Impacts to marinas
- King Tides Initiative
- Discussion

## Sea Level Rise Adaptation in California

- OPC Interim Sea Level Rise Guidance (2010)
  - Establishes SLR projections for state agencies

#### **OPC Sea Level Rise Projections:**

2030: 7 inches

2050: 14 inches

2100: 40 - 55 inches

 Uncertainty based future greenhouse gas emissions and ice-sheet melt





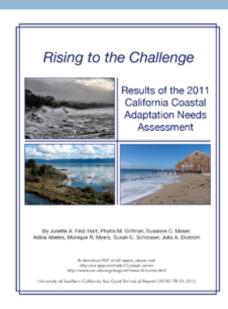


## Sea Level Rise Adaptation in California

- National Academy of Sciences California Sea Level Rise Study (Late June 2012)
- Updated CA Adaptation Strategy (Dec 2012)
- State agency SLR guidance (on going)
  - BCDC, Cal Trans, State Lands Commission, Coastal Conservancy, etc.
- California Coastal Adaptation Needs Assessment (released May 2012)

## Coastal Adaptation Needs Assessment

- Adaptation is a high priority
- Majority accept reality of climate change & are concerned about impacts
- 93% of respondents taking action
- Respondents are quite knowledgeable about impacts
- In early stages of planning and implementation
- Info must be easily accessible
- Greatest barriers are lack of staff capacity and resources



#### Coastal Commission & Sea Level Rise

- Permit modifications and LCP policies
  - Incorporate SLR adaptations on a case-by-case basis

- SLR Guidance for Commission staff and local governments
  - □ Draft guidance by fall 2012

# Sea Level Rise Impacts to Marinas

- Inundation of low-lying areas
- Increased storm surge, flooding, and related property damage
- Loss of public access
- Decrease in need for dredging

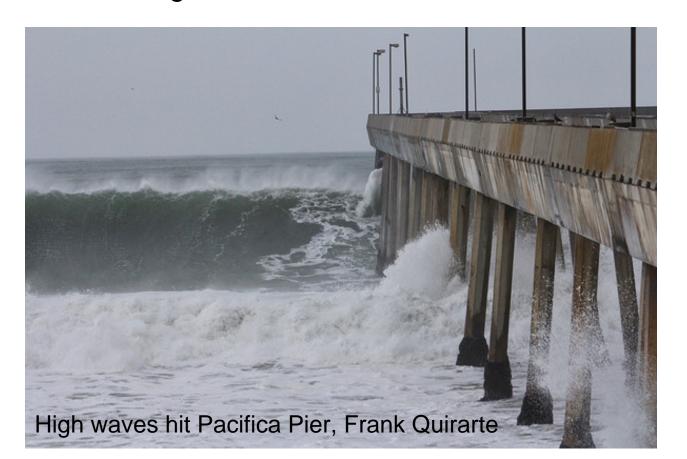






### Wharves

□ Can experience more uplift from waves → increase in storm damage



# Cargo Facilities & Docks

- □ Ships will be higher than docks → decrease in efficiency of cargo facilities
- □ Tidal prism will increase → greater scour of all foundations





# Seawalls & Other Engineered Structures

- More regular exposure to wave energy → increased storm damage
- Exposure to deeper water greater foundation
  scour





#### Channels

□ Channels will be deeper → decreased need for dredging





#### Breakwaters and Jetties

#### □ Less freeboard → increased storm damage

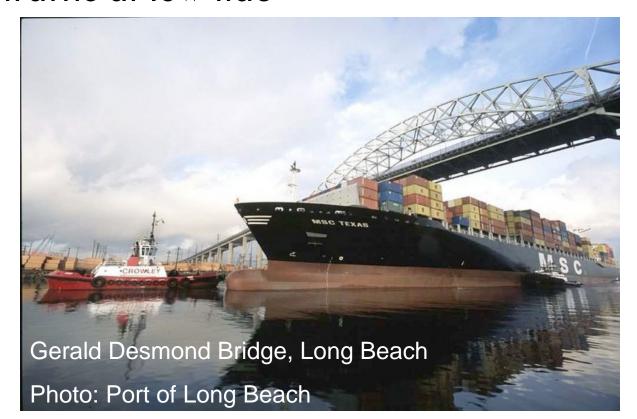




Santa Cruz breakwater

# Bridges

□ Decrease in vertical clearance under bridges → will need to increase height of bridges or only allow boat traffic at low tide



#### Beaches

□ Loss of beach area → reduced boating and public access





Mother's Beach, Marina Del Rey, Photo: Aaron McLendon

# Other Sea Level Rise Impacts

#### Wetlands

- Inundation and inland migration
- Greater scour and removal of sediment

#### Groundwater

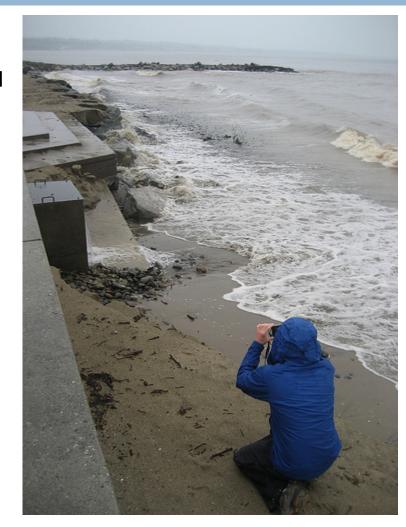
Increased salt water intrusion to coastal aquifers

#### **Coastal Bluffs**

- Increased bluff retreat
- Greater scour and undercutting

# California King Tides Initiative

- Document and chronicle
  vulnerable areas of California
  coastline
- Raise awareness about sealevel rise and coastal hazards
- Garner support for sea level rise policy and local adaptation efforts



Michael Fox, Capitola

# California King Tides Initiative

- Began as pilot in SF Bay in 2010, quickly expanded to statewide effort
- Run through a collaborative partnership of state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations





Photo: Mike Baird

# CA King Tide Organizing Partners



## 2011-2012 Accomplishments

- Over 500 photos on Flickr from 28 cities spanning CA coast
- Social media campaign: Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- New partners: Thank You Ocean, Sierra Club of California, Friends of Five Creeks, Surfrider Foundation, and Surfpulse.
- □ Showcased photos at ~10 events
- State and national media coverage, stories by <u>Energy</u>
  <u>& Environment's ClimateWire</u>, and <u>NPR's KQED</u>

# **Engaging New Audiences**



Talking about king tides at the

**Academy of Sciences Night Life** 

#### Nerd Nite SF

It's like the Discovery Channel . . . with beer!



Strange Waters: King Tides + Sea Level Rise, Rollin' up to a Coast Near You

BRENDAN MAURO

LEGO° and Grown-Ups: Instructions Not Included











Photo: Yanna B



Photo: Frank Quirarte

#### Get Involved!

- Take photos and post them online
- Spread the word!
- Upcoming King Tides
  - □ Nov 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>
  - □ Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>
  - □ Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>



http://californiakingtides.org/

http://www.flickr.com/groups/cakingtides/

# Questions?



#### Thank You



