

Coastal Resilience Network
 Coastal Agency Engagement
 March 11, 2015
 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting Notes & Summary

Agenda:

1. Welcome, review agenda, open call (quick round-robin introductions)
2. Actions since last call <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNC Review of SCC Prop 1 Guidelines • DFW Guidelines • Others?
3. Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visionary Action Plan • Sea Level Rise Database • Hanna Beth Jackson Bill • CA Coastal Commission Draft SLR Guidance Document • Others?
4. Round-robin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your experience working with State coastal management agencies on SLR adaptation issues. • What has been your usual forum for communicating? • What have been the biggest obstacles and greatest successes?
5. Needs Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As practitioners are we happy with the opportunities that we have to weigh in on state policy issues, or is there a need for a more coordinated and formalized protocol. • If yes, what would that look like and what can we – as a Network - do to improve the situation
6. Summarize, action items, close meeting

In Attendance:

Lily Verdone	TNC
Kelly Leo	TNC
Sarah Newkirk	TNC
Alex Leumer	TNC
Heather Allen	Santa Barbara Co
Katie Hentrich	Santa Barbara Co
Megan Herzog	UCLA Law
Carey Batha	CCC
Hilary Papendick	CCC
Becky Smyth	NOAA
John Rozum	NOAA
Sarah Stoner-Duncan	CCWG
Ross Clark	CCWG
Sam Veloz	Point Blue
Eric Hartge	COS
Joel Gerwein	SCC
Phyllis Grifman	USC SeaGrant
Bill Tippetts	SIWA
David Revell	Revell Coastal
Chandra Slaven	City of Goleta
Rosie Dyste	City of Santa Barbara

Goal of this meeting: The Network recognized a gap in connecting local action on SLR adaptation to State action. The goal of this call was to discuss how we can meaningfully engage with California's

coastal State agencies on high priority activities, including how we can allow local experience to inform State level action in a meaningful and measurable way.

Notes

- If you would like to participate in the SCC Prop 1 Guidelines Hearing tomorrow 3/19 from 2-4PM via Webinar, here is that information:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/945803717>
Meeting ID: 945-803-717
The conference call number will be: Dial 1-888-363-4734; Participant code – 804443
- The next Network call is on April 2nd from 2:00 – 3:30PM to discuss Green Infrastructure Financing. If you have any agenda items to add for that call, please email them to kleo@tnc.org prior to the 2nd.
- Suggest language improvements to [SB 379](#) and reach out to TNC if you would like to collaborate on comments.
- Stay tuned to Sea Level Rise Database data solicitation opportunities and encourage local governments to submit data voluntarily.
- When it is released, provide & coordinate on comments for the OPC's Visionary Action Plan.
- Joel Gerwein will share drafts report from California Collaborative for Coastal Resiliency Humboldt County Pilot Project with Network when it is available.
- Provide additional feedback to CCC in the upcoming 30 day review period and continually let them know how to update the SLR Guidance document so it is most useful.
- Megan Herzog will share drafts model legal language for implementation ordinances.
- TNC & COS will work to track down and share exemplary LCP update language.
- Stay tuned to CCC's upcoming Typology Project for examples of policy language for different coastlines.
- CCC staff who participated on call will share concerns over timing: State guidance for SLR is arriving for some later than grant deadlines for LCP updates; municipalities are fearful of spending lots of resources to create innovative language for adaptation if they do not know if Commission will endorse it; municipalities have significant concerns over lack of resources to actually implement the adaptation work after this round of planning.

The Network will continue this conversation in the future. Additionally, during the call we tabled an additional idea for future discussion: there is a gap between what agency or municipal staff understand and what elected commissioners and council members understand. How can we address this proactively to promote resilience?

A. Action since last Network Call

TNC is putting together comments on SCC Prop 1 Guidelines (sent out with this email). If anyone is interested in either signing on, or sending another comment letter from the Network, please let us know. TNC anticipates submitting written comments at end of the month.

If you would like to participate in that hearing remotely, use this GoToMeeting information:

SCC Webinar for the Mar 19th Prop 1 hearing via gotomeeting, follow this link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/945803717>

Meeting ID: 945-803-717

The conference call number will be: Dial 1-888-363-4734; Participant code - 804443

B. Current opportunities for engagement in State coastal management efforts

i. **OPC Visionary Action Plan**

Yoon Hui Kim, Science Integration Fellow at the CA Ocean Science Trust, is coordinating the State's Sea Level Rise Leadership Team (SLC, BCDC, OPC, & CCC) to develop this Action Plan. This plan is not mandated but was designed to make the Safeguarding CA Plan into something a bit more implementable. The State has recognized that its management agencies need to be better coordinated on SLR adaptation. It is difficult to make a plan with practical actions that all agencies can agree upon and most feel agree that a practical plan is better than a visionary one.

In addition to this, the **Safeguarding California Implementation Coalition** (Program) is planning to establish regular meetings of the State agencies that contributed to the plan.

SCC is working with CCC, OPC, & SLC, on a practical companion to that effort, known as the **California Collaborative for Coastal Resiliency Humboldt County Pilot Project**. This pilot project is an effort to determine how agencies can best coordinate to assist a region in adaptation implementation. SCC conducted a survey that will identify what people in Humboldt think the State can do more practically to assist with adaptation planning and implementation. A draft of the report will be available in a few months - Joel Gerwein will share with the group. This will ultimately be used as a case study for adaptation implementation in other regions.

Opportunity for Network engagement: *limited now - may increase with release of draft OPC Visionary Action Plan; Joel Gerwein will circulate draft report from California Collaborative for Coastal Resiliency Humboldt County Pilot Project to Network.*

ii. **Sea Level Rise Database**

Assembly Bill 2516 requires the California Natural Resources Agency and OPC to make a publically accessible database of State data and information on sea level rise; local government data and knowledge is noticeably absent from this. The law is drafted broadly, affording agencies discretion to request any relevant materials from the targeted agencies.

Megan Herzog of UCLA Law is working to see how we can use this bill to help track progress and make it a really useful tool for monitoring coastal adaptation over time. The State agencies were not given any additional funding associated with this bill, so no additional staff time has been allocated to this. The bill is a short, limited effort, only requiring entities to provide information within the next two years. The hope is to develop a tool that is a model going forward for other jurisdictions outside of CA. There are opportunities for voluntary submission of data for the database.

Opportunity for Network engagement: *When appropriate, provide local data and encourage partners to do the same to ensure that the tool is worthwhile and robust.*

iii. **Hanna Beth Jackson Bill**

[SB 379](#) mandates climate resilience to be included in the next revision of the safety element of general plans starting January 1, 2017; plans would then be reviewed and updated as necessary and tied to housing element revisions. Not specific to coastal climate change but has very detailed SLR & climate change language.

***Opportunity for Network engagement:** Suggest additional - or changes to - bill language. The Nature Conservancy will be working with staff at Jackson's office to suggest improvements to the bill language. TNC can share its recommendations - if there is interest, please contact kleo@tnc.org.*

iv. **CCC Draft Sea Level Rise Guidance Document**

The CCC is in the final stages of updating the SLR Guidance document; they received over 100 public comments, which translated to over 800 actual comments. There is an upcoming 30 day State agency review period before they take it before the Commission in late spring (May hearing). The Commission may want to have a few public hearings on the document before they adopt it. It will be a living document that will be updated as needed as new science and adaptation ingenuities arise. The CCC welcomes feedback about how they can best update the document so people can really use it.

***Opportunity for Network engagement:** 30 day review period prior to delivery to Commission. CCC welcomes continual feedback about how they can best update the document to make it most useful.*

C. Obstacles & needs for improved engagement with State management agencies

Although participants expressed that **local municipalities have generally good working relationships with State agency staff**, there are several opportunities for improvement.

Local adaptation practitioners have concerns about being “guinea pigs” to test out new adaptation language when they update their coastal plans. They are investing significant time and resources into updating plans and would feel more confident if the uncertainty over the CCC's reactions were removed from the equation through **State endorsement of model SLR adaptation language for plans**.

As much as the SLR Guidance has been useful already in interpreting State policy, adaptation really needs to be translated into **everyday tools that planners can use** at the local level.

There were concerns that the **State's guidance is coming too late because municipalities are tied to grant deadlines** for updating plans that end before the more detailed guidance will be released – they need interim guidance.

Local municipalities need guidance and assistance in understanding how to implement the actions they are adding to their plans; local **municipalities do not have the resources to implement the**

actions necessary to guard against the damages that these vulnerability models suggest are going to happen.

The **Typology Project** is an upcoming CCC initiative that **will provide guidance on specific policy options for shoreline types with various development patterns**. Out of that will come examples of policy language; CCC sees local entities as on the front lines, leading the way hand-in-hand with CCC. Grants are designed to encourage up-front coordination with staff as they develop LCP updates – CCC has additional staffing to help with the LCP planning process to avoid the torpedo effect at the end of the process. The Commission's reaction is beyond staff control. CCC staff who participated on the call will bring some of today's conversation points up with senior staff at CCC.

Model Ordinance Project: UCLA Law Institute is working to **develop model legal language for LCP implementation ordinances** that will help local governments to implement LCP language and take advantage of existing tools and regulations. They are working with Sonoma Co and the City of Oxnard to help test the language they are developing. The project will be completed by this time next year; Megan Herzog will share drafts with other jurisdictions in the meantime (as requested). **The group expressed concern that they need model LCP language prior to the implementation ordinance language and need all of this information sooner as their LCP updates are tied to grant deadlines that will arrive before the project will be completed.**