

Coastal Resilience in the West: Scientific & Policy Innovations
Strengthening Communities and the Environment

Resilience Planning & Adaptation On California's Outer Coast

Charles Lester

Ocean & Coastal Policy Center

Marine Science Institute, UCSB

December 4, 2019

C. Lester, EESI Wash. DC 12.04.2019



California's Coastal Management Program

- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
- California Coastal Commission (Outer Coast)
- State Coastal Conservancy

The Adaptation Challenge is great: Most urban footprints established before modern CZM

Santa Cruz Co, Opal Cliffs -- 1943

Santa Cruz Co, Opal Cliffs -- 1967









C. Lester, EESI Wash. DC 12.04.2019

Pacifica, CA – 1940s







Coastal Act Hazards Management

PRC 30253 requires that new development minimize risks to life and property and not require the construction of shoreline protective structures.

PRC 30235 requires the Commission to approve shoreline structures for endangered **existing development** if it is the least environmentally-damaging, feasible alternative and sand supply impacts are mitigated.

→ 76 local coastal government must complete a Local Coastal Program (LCP) to implement the Coastal Act.

Change can be Sudden and Episodic -- Pacifica

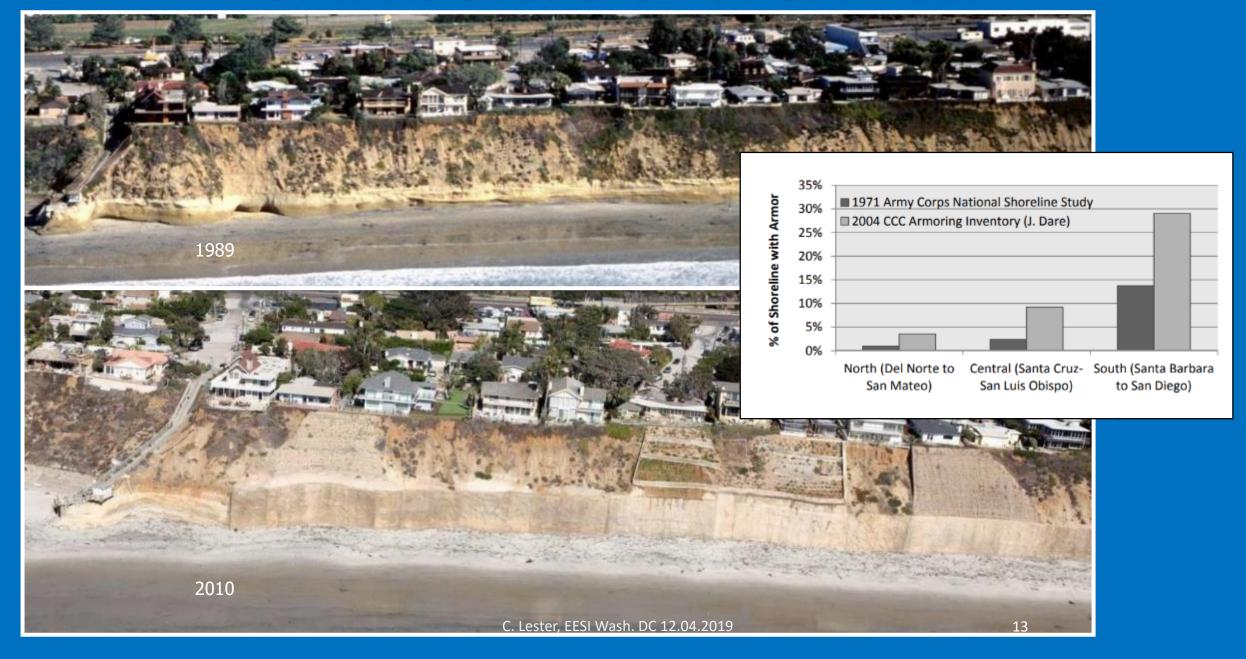


Change can be Sudden and Episodic -- Pacifica





Inevitable Seawalls – Solana Beach







Interpretive Guidelines for Addressing Sea Level Rise in Local Coastal Programs and Coastal Development Permits



UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED - AUGUST 12, 2015

11

2014







2003 **Fort Ord**

Protect:

· Hard protection

Accommodate:

Siting and design standards
 Retrofit existing structures

· Stormwater management

- · Soft protection/living shorelines
 - Protect agricultural barriers for flood protection

Hybrid:

- Accommodate over short-term, relocate over long-term
 - Update land use designations and zoning ordinances
 - · Redevelopment restrictions
 - · Permit conditions

Retreat:

- Limit new development in hazardous areas and areas adjacent to wetlands, ESHA, other habitats
- · Removal of vulnerable development
 - Promote preservation and conservation of open space

Projected Shoreline at Goleta Beach – SB County:



Beach Widths Going to Zero

	Width (m)						Risk						
	Base- line	Scen 1	Scen 2	Scen 3	Scen 4	Scen 5	Base- line	Scen 1	Scen 2	Scen 3	Scen 4	Scen 5	
SLR Amount	0 cm	25 cm	25 cm	50 cm	100 cm	200 cm	0 cm	25 cm	25 cm	50 cm	100 cm	200 cm	
Bolinas	22	9	9	3	0	0	Low	High	High	High	High	High	
Marshall	There are few beaches in the Marshall area, each is currently less than 10 meters wide						High	High	High	High	High	High	
Seadrift	38	29	29	14	0	0	Low	Low	Low	Med	High	High	
Stinson	53	48	48	32	9	2	Low	Low	Low	Low	Med	High	

Del Mar

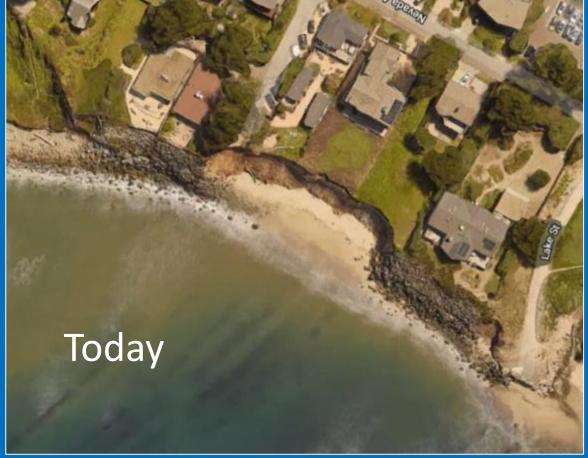
Marin County

TABLE 4 BEACH WIDTHS OVER TIME WITH SLR

Beach Width (ft)	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080	2090	2100
Historic Rate (no SLR)	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
Historic Rate + Low SLR	95	92	88	84	79	73	66	57	48	38
Historic Rate + Mid SLR	95	84	76	67	55	41	26	9	0	0
Historic Rate + High SLR	95	69	53	34	12	0	0	0	0	0



Moss Beach Loss



Accommodating the Public Trust







Adaptation Strategy: Unplanned Retreat? Gleason's Beach, Sonoma County











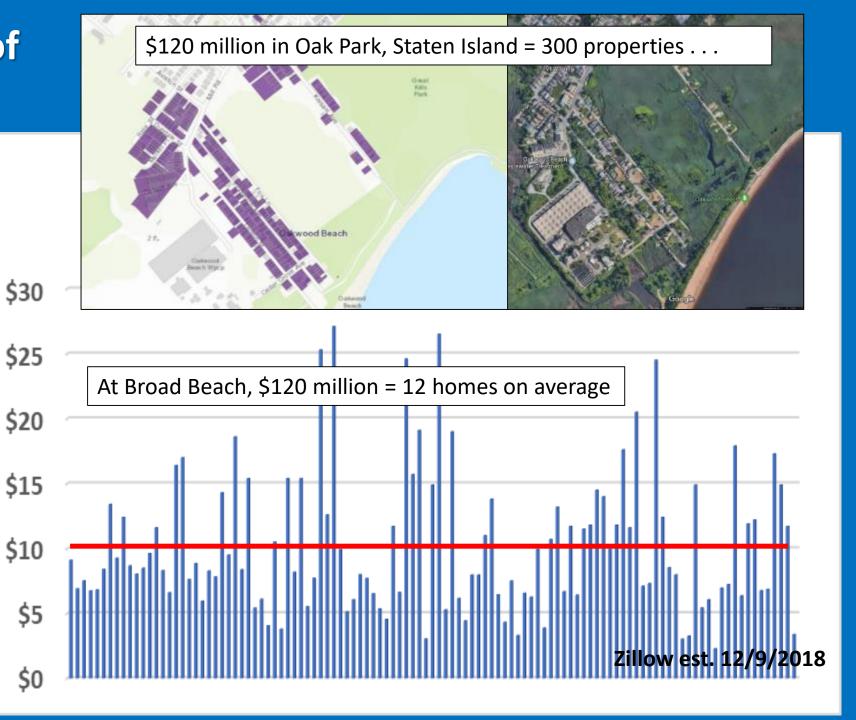
C. Lester, EESI Wash. DC 12.04.2019

Defend, Elevate, Replenish, Retreat?





The Cost of Retreat







Broad Beach GHAD:

"DEDICATED TO RESTORING AND PROTECTING MALIBU'S HISTORIC BROAD BEACH"



Environmental Justice Impacts of Eroding Beaches



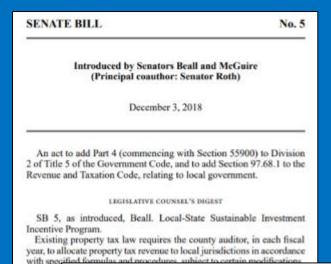






SB 5: Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program





educati

infrastr

authorit housing This

by the authoriz

revitaliz district (E) Protecting communities dealing with the effects of sea level rise, which is one of the most significant threats of climate change, including the construction, repair, replacement, and maintenance infrastructure related to protecting communities from sea level rise.

PROP 68 -- California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.

CHAPTER 10. Climate Preparedness, Habitat Resiliency, Resource Enhancement, and Innovation

80130. The sum of four hundred forty-three million dollars (\$443,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as competitive grants for projects that plan, develop, and implement climate adaptation and resiliency projects.



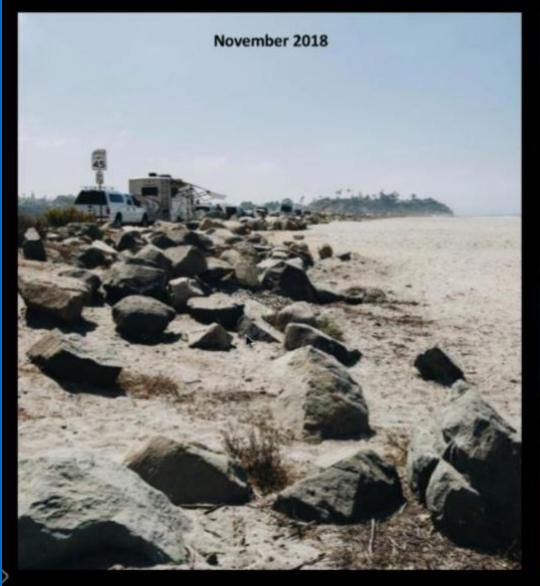
Surfer's Point, Ventura





Judge, J., Newkirk, S., Leo, K., Heady, W., Hayden, M., Veloz, S., Cheng, T., Battalio, B., Ursell, T., and Small, M. 2017. Case Studies of Natural Shoreline Infrastructure in Coastal California: A Component of *Identification of Natural Infrastructure Options for Adapting to Sea Level Rise* (California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment). The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. 38 pp.

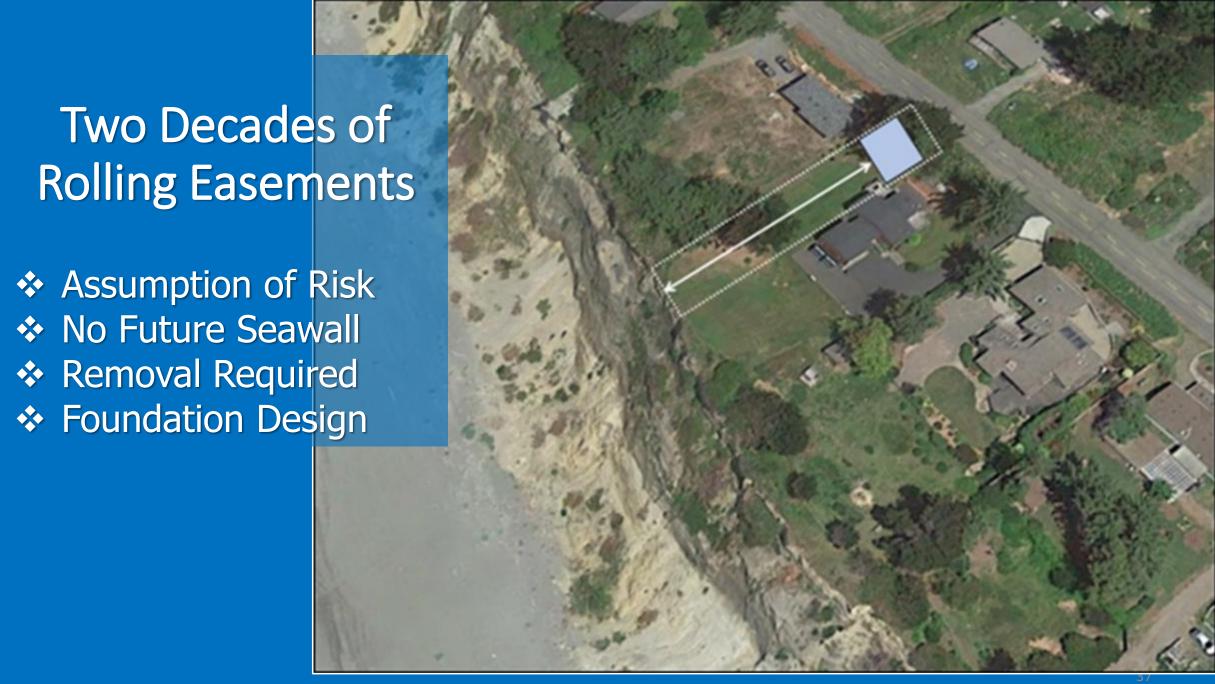
Cardiff Beach Before & After











Isla Vista Managed Retreat













Planned Retreat of Infrastructure: Relocation of the Morro Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant to Water Reclamation Facility site.



Regulating Realignment of Highway One – Piedras Blancas







Monterey – Window on the Bay



Monterey – Window on the Bay







Planned & Managed Retreat begins at the Half Moon Bay Ritz Carlton...



Concluding Observations

- ✓ Context Matters -- no single strategy is right
- ✓ Planning takes time and investment, and meaningful engagement
- ✓ Phased implementation with monitoring, thresholds for action
- ✓ Combination of strategies to structure incentives and provide options
- ✓ Fed, state, local partnerships are essential
- ✓ Social cost benefit assessment of alternatives
- ✓ Significant \$\$ is needed for adaptation
- ✓ Managing change over decades in a dynamic, complex system
- ✓ Resilience is balance of cost effective risk reduction, environmental protection & stewardship and social equity.

