



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE DEPARTMENT

**ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE DIVISION**

# **30-YEAR WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLAN**

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Parks & Recreation Commission

November 19, 2025

# Outline

1. Adaptation & Resilience Program
2. Project Overview
3. Work Program
4. Milestone Accomplishments
5. Current Focus
6. Next Steps
7. Questions

# ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE PROGRAM

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## Program Background

*The Adaptation & Resilience Program helps our community prepare for current and future climate-related hazards like sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and wildfires.*

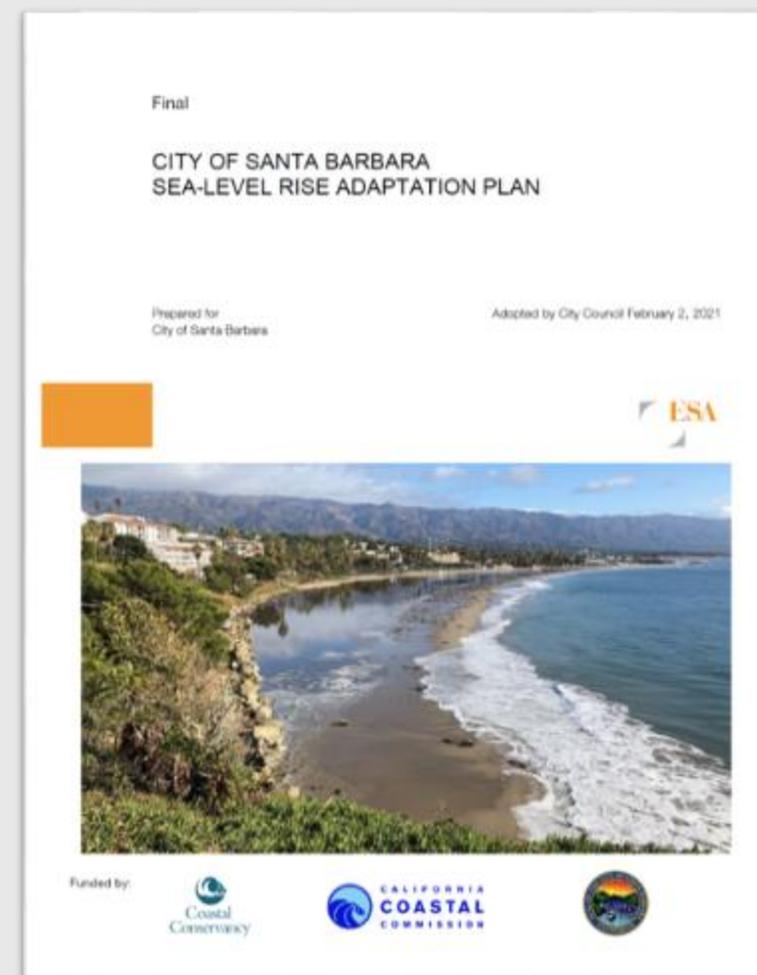


# Adaptation Program Approach

-  Incorporate climate changes into City planning and procedures
-  Reduce flood and erosion risks
-  Adapt City infrastructure and assets
-  Modify building standards
-  Provide community resources to adapt
-  Plan for future resources needed
-  Leverage regional partnerships

# Adaptation Planning

- Tier off foundational plans
- One cohesive City vision
- Prioritize actions based on guiding principles
- Phase planning based on monitoring and trigger-based actions



# Active Major Projects

- Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program
- Wastewater & Water Systems Climate Adaptation Plan
- **30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan**
- Stormwater Modeling
- Airport Climate Adaptation Plan



# 30-YEAR WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLAN

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## Project Overview

## Overall Plan Vision

*Develop a practical plan that prepares the Santa Barbara waterfront for increased storm surges, erosion, and flooding by providing solutions that preserve and enhance recreation, commerce, beach access, habitat, and critical infrastructure for the near term and future generations*

# Project Scope: The Waterfront Area

- Leadbetter to Clark Estate
- Central to SB identity
- Cherished coastal resources
- Publicly owned and managed



CALIFORNIA  
**COASTAL**  
COMMISSION





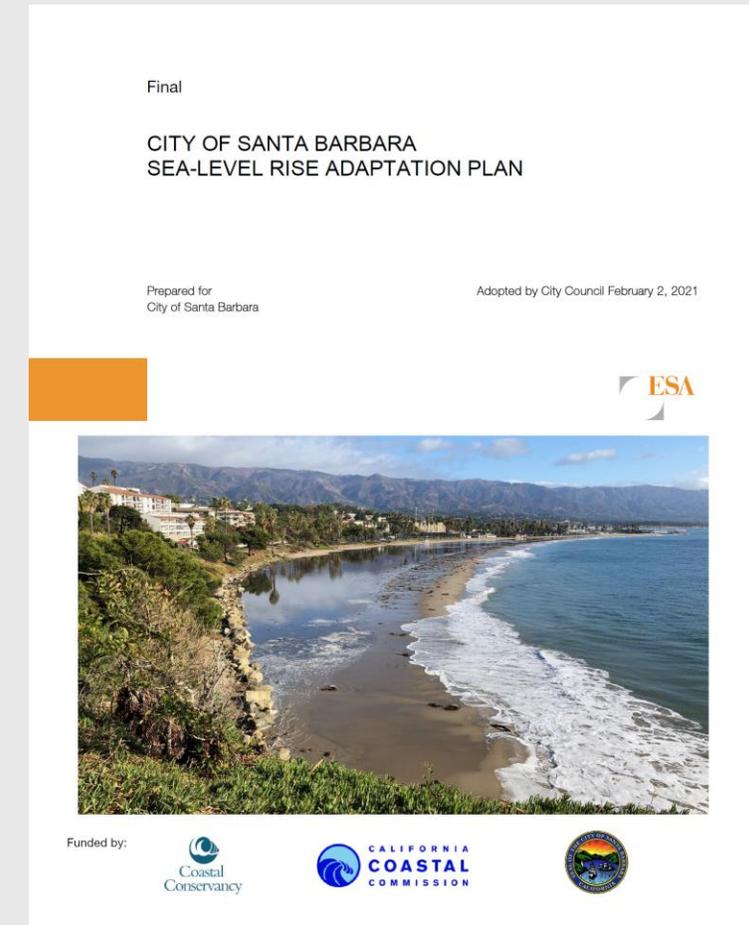
# Project Need

- Experiencing impacts during storms today
- Will get worse over time



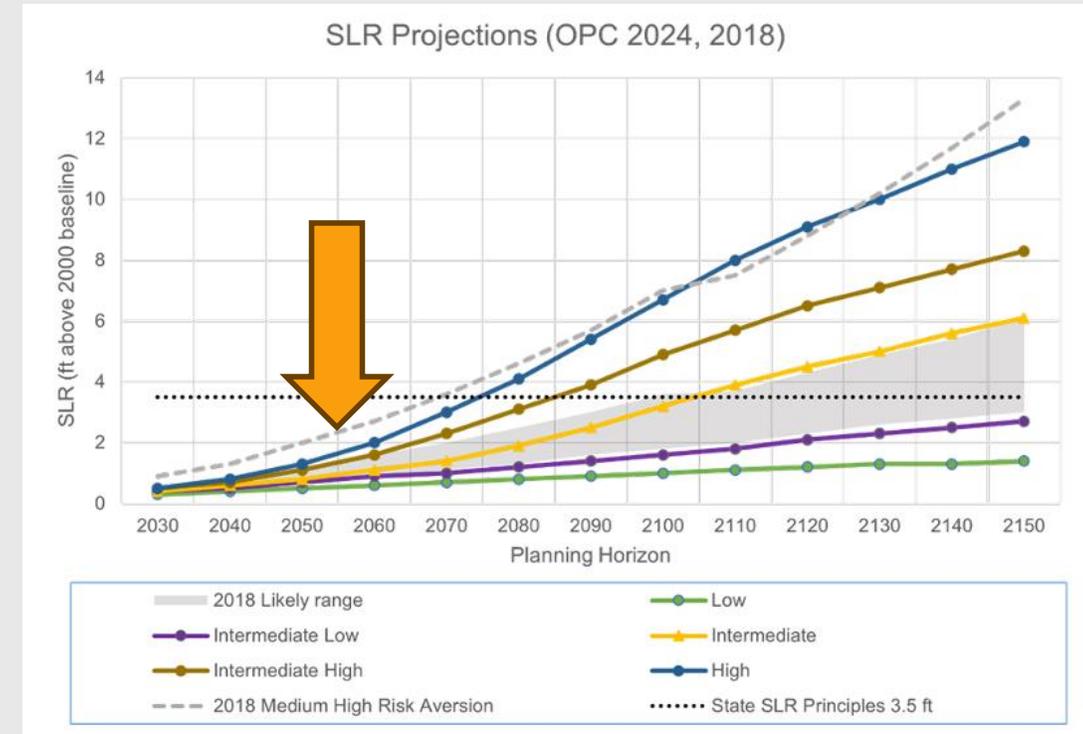
# Project Need

- Implements 2021 Adaptation Plan High Priority item
- Will lose bluff-backed beach access -> need to retain sand
- Required for permitting and redevelopment
- Funding benefit



# Why 30 years?

- SLR projections are more certain
- Broad range of adaptation options
- Doesn't require large-scale flood control measures



# WORK PROGRAM



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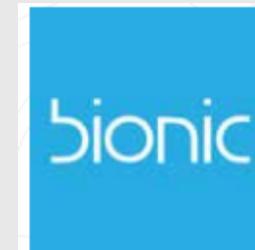


Coastal  
Conservancy

# Staff Team



# Consultant Team



# Key Project Elements

- New hazard modeling and vulnerability assessment
- Comprehensive adaptation strategy & implementation plan
- Construction drawings for Beachway & Harbor Commercial Area
- Bilingual community engagement

## 30-Year Adaptation Plan

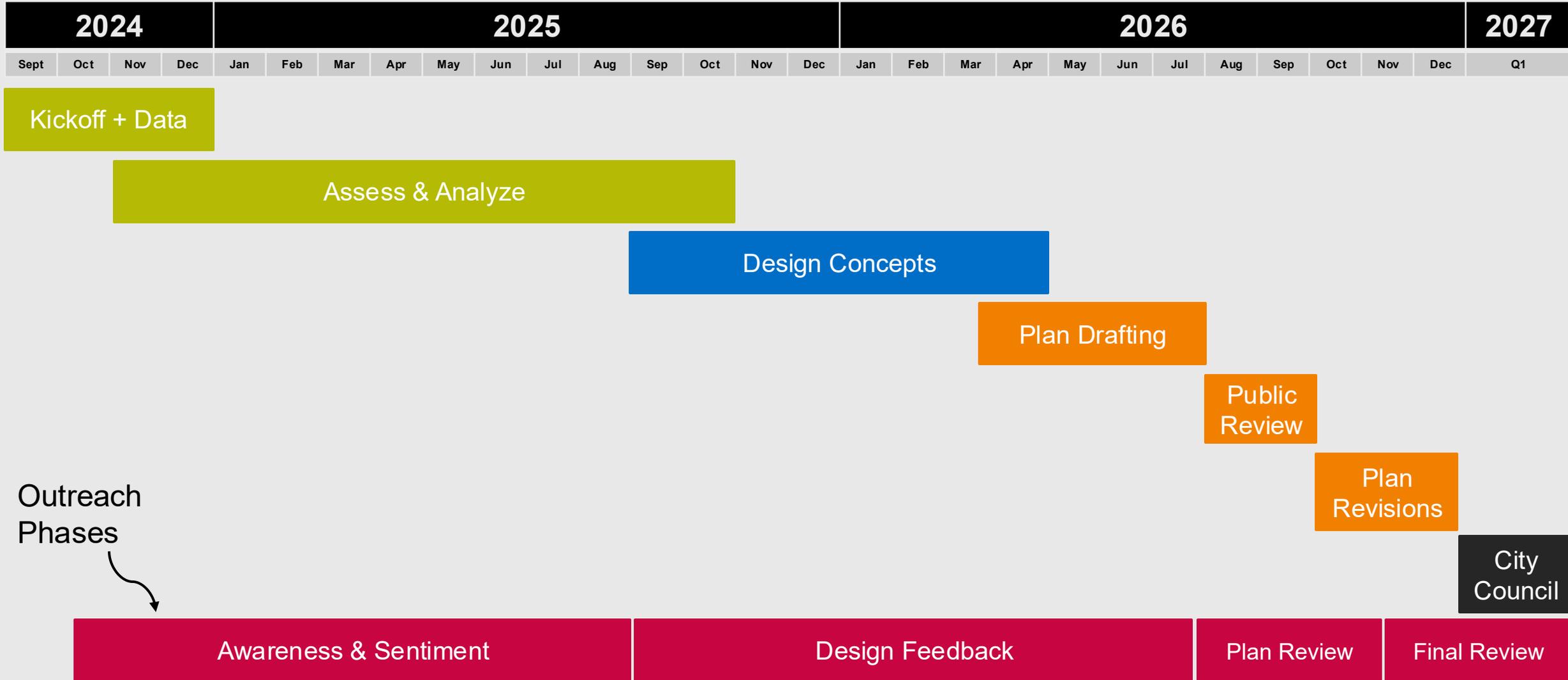
Actionable

Adoptable

Permittable

Inspirational

# Schedule Overview



# MILESTONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Project Launch, Awareness & Sentiment Outreach,  
Community Survey, Modeling, Assessment, and Analysis.

# ☑ Initial Stakeholder Engagement

- Not just doom and gloom
- Known opportunities to better utilize areas, with co-benefits



West Beach Drainage Issues, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Opportunity: New bike & walking path



Opportunity: Address hazard vulnerability



Multi-benefit solution:  
Elevated pathway

Elevated Multi-modal Path

Transportation Conflicts in Harbor West Parking Lot

Flooding & Damage to Harbor West Parking Lot

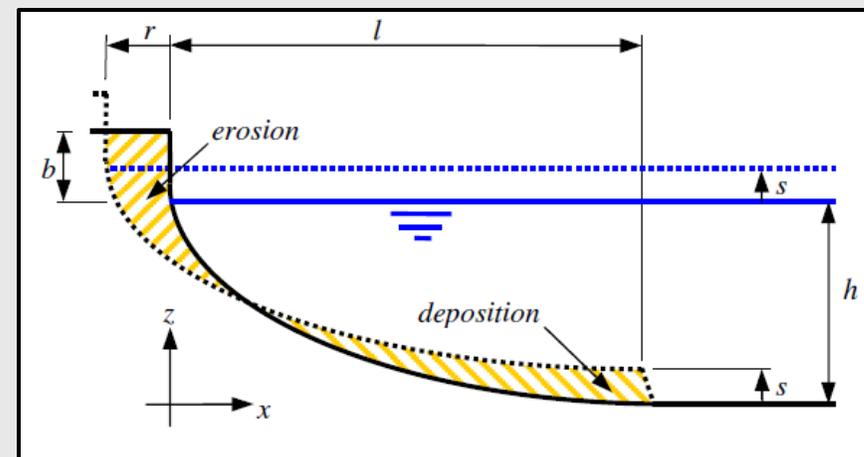
# ☑ Project Awareness & Sentiment

- >170,000 potential touch points:
  - Newsletters + press
  - Stakeholder emails
  - Social media
  - Posters + a frames
- ~800 survey responses

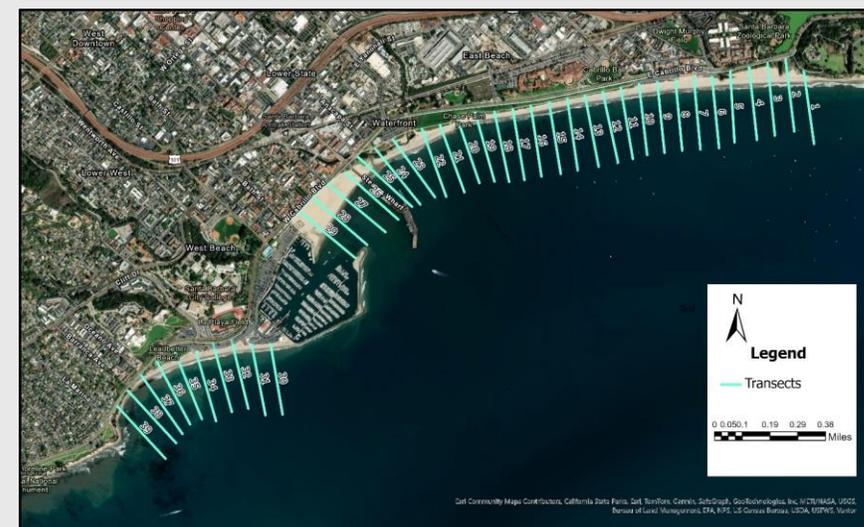


## ☑ Assessed & Analyzed

- New modeling
  - Sediment movement
  - Coastal erosion
  - Coastal flooding
- Analyzed
  - City asset vulnerabilities



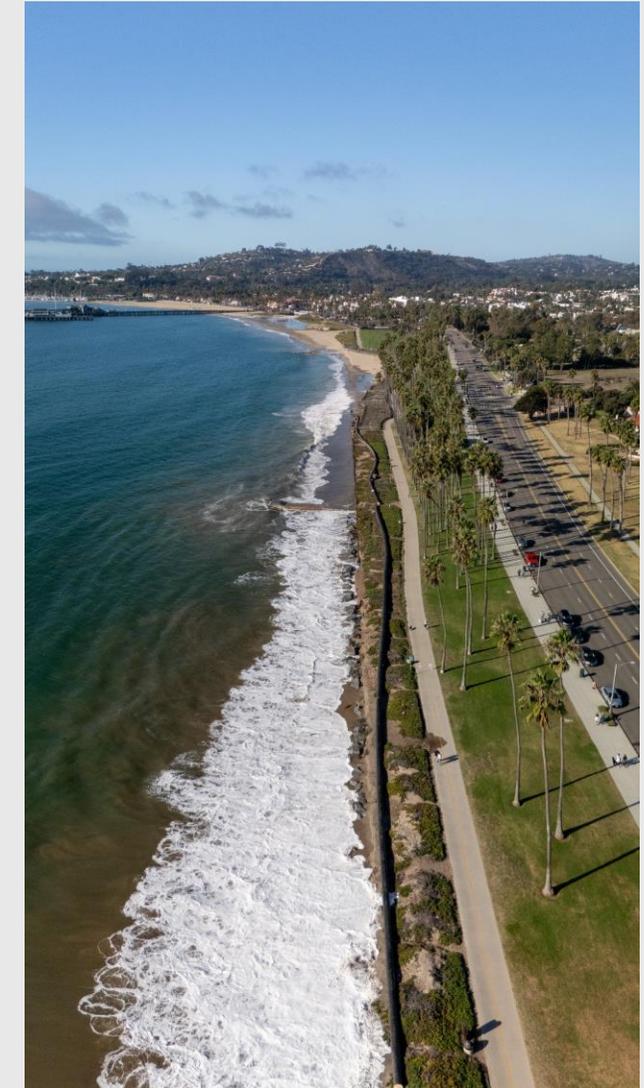
The Bruun Rule.



CoastSat Transects

# Shoreline Erosion Findings

- Maintaining sandy beach along East beach will be a challenge
- Significant opportunity to re-envision and better utilize West beach
- Leadbetter provides another opportunity area



East Beach during King Tide, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Coastal Flooding Findings

- A lot of assets in project area
- Some at risk today
- More exposed soon and over time
- Can't protect or adapt all in isolation
- Need a comprehensive Adaptation Strategy



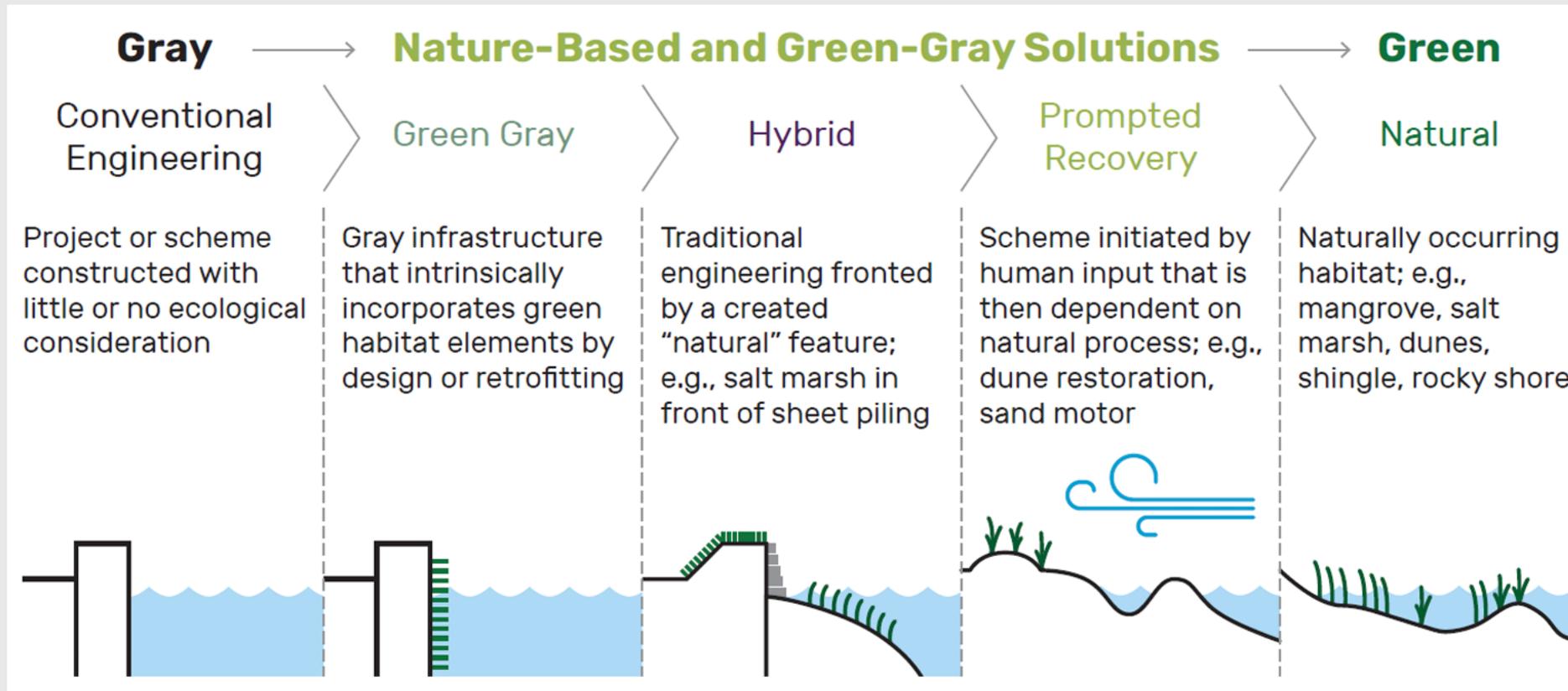
Leadbetter Parking Lot (December 2023 Event)

# CURRENT FOCUS

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Design Viable Solutions

# Adaptation Spectrum of Options

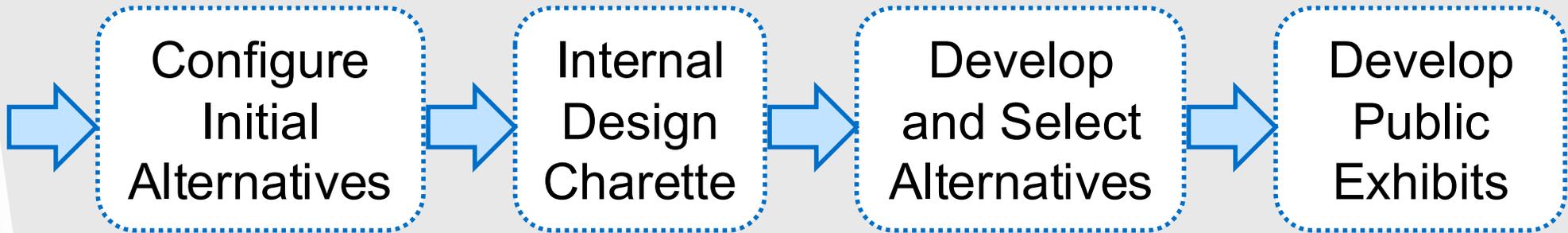


Source: USACE and Port of San Francisco; USACE International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management

# Develop & Select Adaptation Alternatives



Starting with the  
2021 Adaptation  
Plan



*3 to 5 Waterfront-  
Wide Alternatives*

*2 to 3 Waterfront-  
Wide Alternatives*

*Up to 3 Beachway  
and Commercial  
Area Alternatives  
(5% & 10% designs)*

# NEXT STEPS

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## Community Engagement

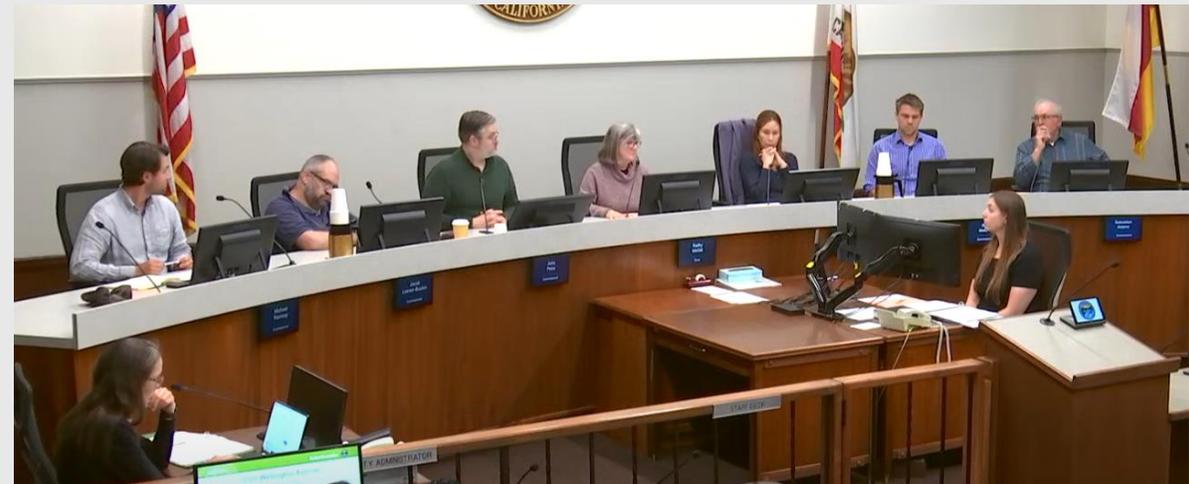
# Community Engagement

- Launch:
  - February for 2-3 Months
- Purpose:
  - Guide design selection
- Includes:
  - General Outreach
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Board & Commissions



# Commission's Roles

- Review major deliverables
- Help guide adaptation strategy development
- Support community engagement
- Make a recommendation to Council on the final plan



# QUESTIONS?

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