



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE DEPARTMENT

SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

June 4, 2026



Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
3. Public Comment
4. Introduction of New City Climate & Resilience Cabinet and Proposed Enhancements to the Sustainability Council Committee
5. Feedback Received on Options for Waterfront Adaptation Plan
6. Input from Committee on Topics of Interest
7. Adjournment



ROLL CALL

Agenda Item 1



APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Agenda Item 2



PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Item 3



INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY CLIMATE & RESILIENCE CABINET AND PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 4



Background

- Sustainable City Program and Committee established by CAR in 2006
- Emphasized the value of:
 - *Organizational culture change*
 - *Cross-departmental coordination*
 - *Integration of sustainability into City operations*
 - *Collaboration across boards, commissions, and the community*



Potential Updates

- Scale and complexity of work, as well as ambition of goals has expanded
- Need to further integrate and formalize:
 - *Climate & Resilience Cabinet*
 - *Sustainability Council Committee Liaisons*
 - *Formalizing Committee purpose and purview*



Climate & Resilience Cabinet

- Internal Leadership Group
- Focus on:
 - *Strategic Coordination and Implementation*
 - *Culture Building*
 - *Embedding sustainability into all City operations and decisions*
 - *Policy development, alignment, and understanding*
 - *Co-ownership of Sustainability Council Committee Agenda*



Sustainability Committee Enhancements

- Committee Liaisons: existing board and commission members
- Requesting feedback on:
 - *The value of a formalized liaison structure*
 - *Which boards and commissions should be prioritized*
 - *Appropriate levels of coordination and formality*
 - *How such a structure could best support integrated City policy development and implementation.*



Sustainability Committee Enhancements Cont.

- Proposed Sustainability Committee Resolution
 - Establish the Committee's:
 - *Purpose*
 - *Purview*
 - *Procedures*
 - *Membership (Liaisons)*

Purview Questions

- Flexibility is nice, but can come at a price
- Formal criteria can help clarify what needs to come before the committee
- What would the Committee like to see?
 - *Budget work session?*
 - *Large construction projects?*
 - *CIP Climate Overlay?*
 - *Specific policies?*

Potential SCC Item Criteria

Ex: Mandatory Referral Criteria

- Sustainability policy
- Related fees and funding sources
- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plans
- Significant impact to emissions, energy, waste, water quality, habitat, or resilience targets
- Involves State, regional, intergovernmental sustainability policy

Ex: Discretionary Referral Criteria

- Meaningful sustainability co-benefits
- Item raises significant tradeoff between sustainability, cost, community, equity, etc
- Benefit from early Council guidance
- Substantial community interest or controversy related to sustainability outcomes



Potential Liaisons

- Airport Commission
- Creeks Advisory Committee
- Harbor Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Transportation & Circulation Committee
- Water Commission
- Youth Council*



Recommendation

That the Sustainability Council Committee:

- A. Receive an update on the formation of an internal climate and resilience cabinet and discuss a potential liaison structure to broaden community engagement and participation; and
- B. Direct staff to bring back a resolution establishing the Committee's bylaws based on the Committee's input.



QUESTIONS & PUBLIC COMMENT



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE DEPARTMENT

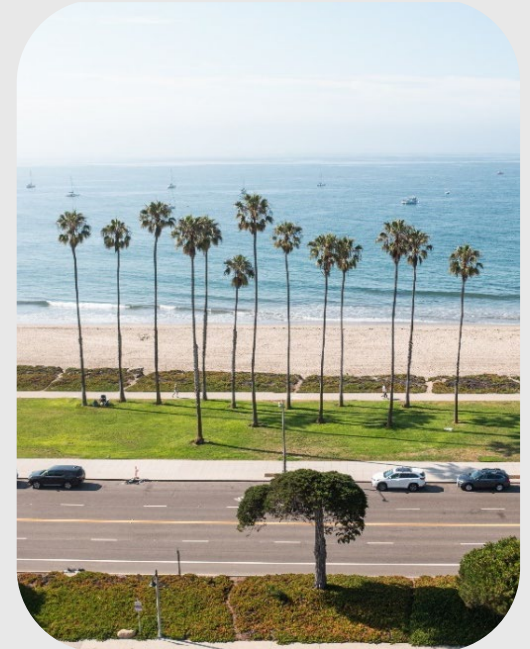
ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE DIVISION

FEEDBACK RECEIVED ON OPTIONS FOR WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLAN

Agenda Item 5

Today's Presentation Topics

- Waterfront Adaptation Plan Overview
- Community Outreach Overview
- Key Community Feedback Themes
- Highlighted Feedback from Stakeholders & Groups
- Discussion



WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLAN OVERVIEW



We're Facing Impacts Today

Erosion from waves



Flooding from ocean



Storms today are causing damages and disruption: \$3M for 2023 storm alone

These Challenges Will Grow Over Time



High tide today Future High tide 1-year storm 20-year storm 100-year storm

Waterfront Adaptation Plan Vision

Develop practical solutions to address coastal flooding and erosion for the next 30 years, **while enhancing beach access, recreation, boating, and habitat.**

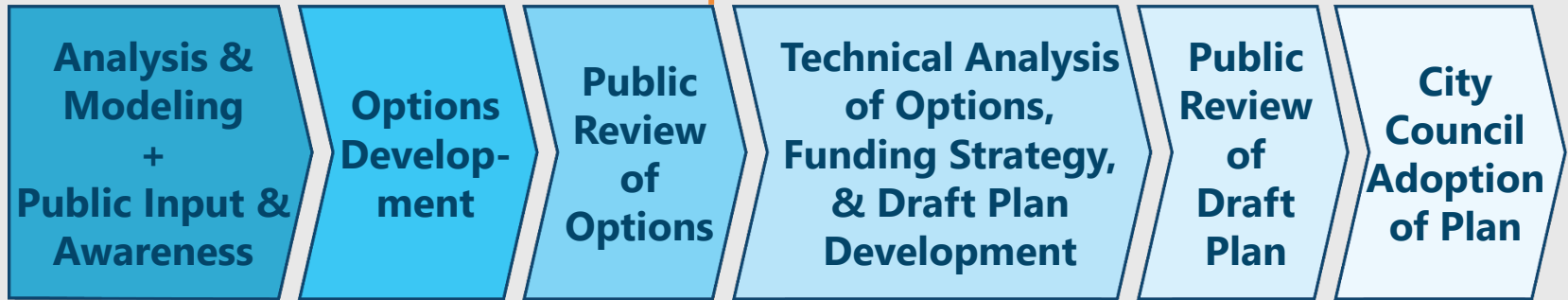
Project Schedule

2024

2025

2026

2027



Today



Question: Thoughts on Project Direction?

Save the sandy beach and enhance recreation

Protect the working harbor

Protect inland areas from ocean flooding

Provide continuous walk, roll, and bike paths



COMMUNITY OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Spreading the Word

30 Digital Blasts

> 1,300 Mailers

City News in Brief - April 27, 2026

City of Santa Barbara <communication>
To: **Timmy Bolton**

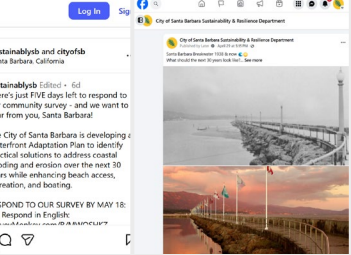
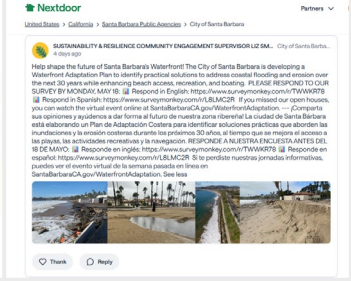
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Waterfront Adaptation Plan Open Houses

Attend one of the open houses starting this week, with in-person events on April 29 and April 30 and a virtual option on May 6. Your input will help guide the Draft Waterfront Adaptation Plan, which aims to address coastal flooding and erosion over the next 30 years while enhancing beach access, recreation, boating, and habitat.

[Read more... En español](#)



Help shape the future of Santa Barbara's Waterfront
Ayúdanos a dar forma al futuro de la zona costera de Santa Bárbara



Learn more / Más información
SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterfrontAdaptation

Input Needed!
Help shape the future of Santa Barbara's Waterfront

The City of Santa Barbara is developing a Waterfront Adaptation Plan to address coastal flooding and erosion over the next 30 years, focusing on protecting and enhancing the Waterfront, and we want to hear from you!

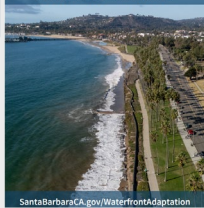


The Waterfront faces beach erosion, flooding, and rising sea levels, narrowing our beaches and disrupting recreation. The City is considering adaptation options to prioritize sandy beaches, prevent flooding, create safe walking and biking paths, and improve the overall experience.

Help guide the planning process by completing a brief survey by **Monday, May 18** at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterfrontSurvey or scan the QR Code here.

To learn more and to sign up for news, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterfrontAdaptation or contact Timmy Bolton at (805) 730-0836 or tbolton@santabarbara.gov.

The City of Santa Barbara is preparing a Waterfront Adaptation Plan that will address coastal flooding and erosion for the next 30 years.



SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterfrontAdaptation

The City of Santa Barbara is preparing a Waterfront Adaptation Plan that will address coastal flooding and erosion for the next 30 years, focusing on protecting and enhancing the Waterfront, and we want to hear from you!

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Reaching People Where They Are

10 Community Events

12+ A Frames



Reaching Targeted Audiences

12 City Advisory Body Meetings

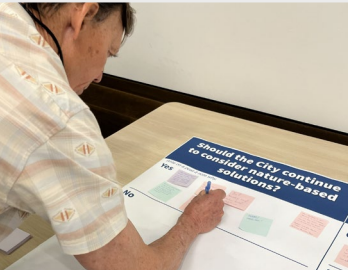


**28 Stakeholder Meetings
+ Spanish Outreach**



Getting Structured Input

3 Open Houses



1,404 Survey Responses



City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Adaptation Plan

[Responde a esta encuesta en español](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR WATERFRONT?

Santa Barbara's Waterfront - from Leadbetter Beach to East Beach - is facing increasing coastal erosion and flooding that is disrupting recreation, impacting businesses, and costing millions in repairs.

If we do nothing, these impacts will worsen as sea levels continue to rise.



About This Survey

The City is developing a [Waterfront Adaptation Plan](#) to identify practical solutions to address coastal flooding and erosion for the next 30 years while enhancing beach access, recreation, boating, and habitat.

KEY COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES

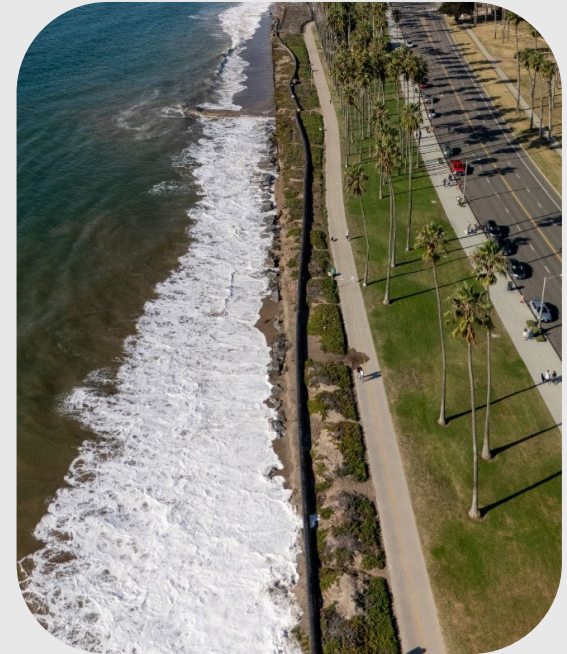
People Cherish the Waterfront Today

- Desire to preserve character, views, and access
- Support for modest amenity improvements and resident-serving uses



There is Awareness & Acknowledgement

- Awareness of East Beach erosion and storm impacts
- Acknowledgement that sea level rise must be addressed
- Appreciation that the City is advancing planning efforts



Most Support Project Direction

Most thought:

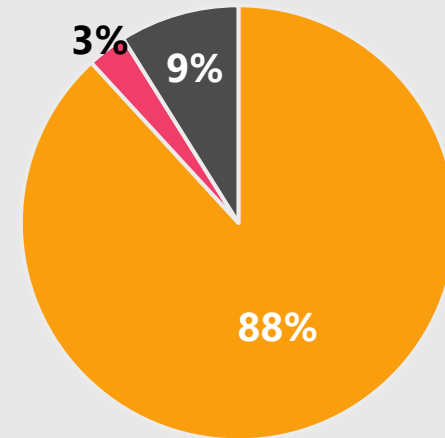
- Project generally headed in the right direction
- Potential options should continue to be evaluated



Most Support Nature-Based Solutions

- Overwhelming support for reef, kelp, habitat, & dune restoration
- Emphasized ecological, recreational, tourism, and “blue economy”

Should the City continue to consider nature-based solutions?



■ Yes. ■ No. ■ Maybe.

Most Support Transportation Safety

- Support to separate users, improve connections, and close network gaps
- Interest in transit and the Waterfront Shuttle
- Support for ADA and all-ages-and-abilities improvements

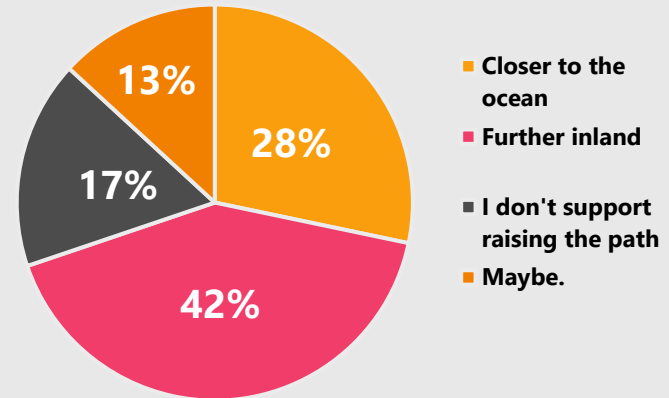


Most Support Elevated Path Option

- General support to improve safety and reduce flooding
- Mixed thoughts on location



Where should the path be located?



Leadbetter Potential Core Measures:

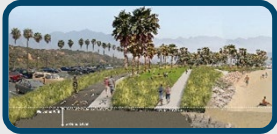
Keep sandy beach by moving things back

1



Move parks, paths, & assets inland to keep sandy beach

2



Raise path to limit flooding

3



Relocate when replacement facilities available or flood & erosion risk reach set limits



4



Relocate parking to new parking garages at existing surface lot

5

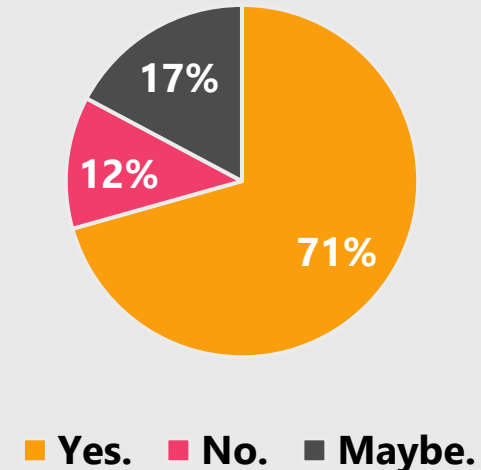


Improve stormwater drainage

Most Support Leadbetter Beach Options

- Broad support to move things back to save sandy beach
- Mixed feedback on new parking structures
- Top priorities: sandy beach, walking/biking paths, habitat areas, park space, and restrooms

Should the City continue to consider these options?



Harbor Potential Core Measures:

Flood protection, prioritize public access & boating



1

Pedestrian promenade on raised revetment for flood protection & better access



2

Protect & improve Harbor Commercial area for better public access & boating



3

Enhance & raise paths for better access & flood protection



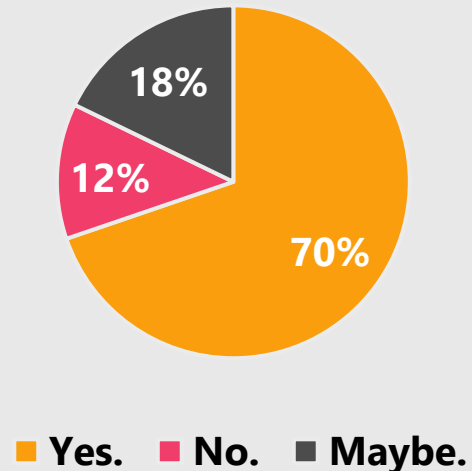
4

Explore converting some parking for economic development

Most Support Harbor Area Options

- General support to protect area, improve boating & access
- Strong support (74%) for rock revetment with promenade
- Top priorities: Walking/biking paths, boating facilities, food/bev, parking, sandy beach

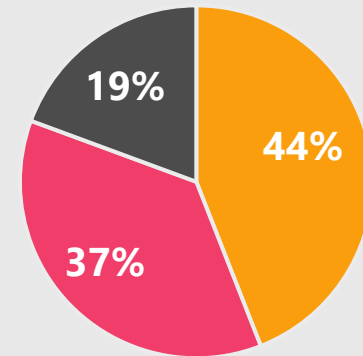
Should the City continue to consider these options?



Mixed Feedback on Economic Development

- Mixed feedback on converting some Harbor Main parking to other uses
- Ongoing concern about parking availability and affordability

Should the City continue to consider this option?



■ Yes. ■ No. ■ Maybe.

West Beach Potential Core Measures:

Premier sandy beach experience



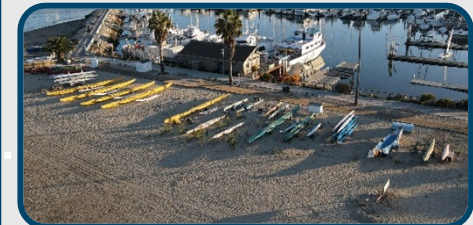
- 1 Relocate storm drain to improve sand quality



- 2 Add restrooms, showers, café, beach concessions



- 3 Raise walking & biking path with new park

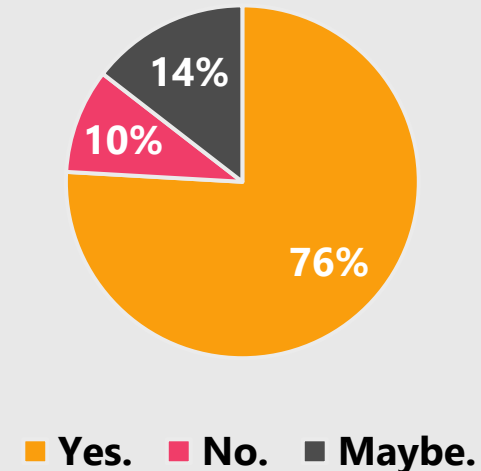


- 4 Retain space for small boats, outriggers, & tomols

Most Support West Beach Options

- Strong support to reimagine area as premiere destination
- Concerns about water quality, Harbor proximity, and parking
- Top priorities: sandy beach, walking/biking paths, habitat areas, volleyball courts, and restrooms

Should the City continue to consider these options?



East Beach Potential Core Measures:

Preserve as much sandy beach as possible & protect critical infrastructure



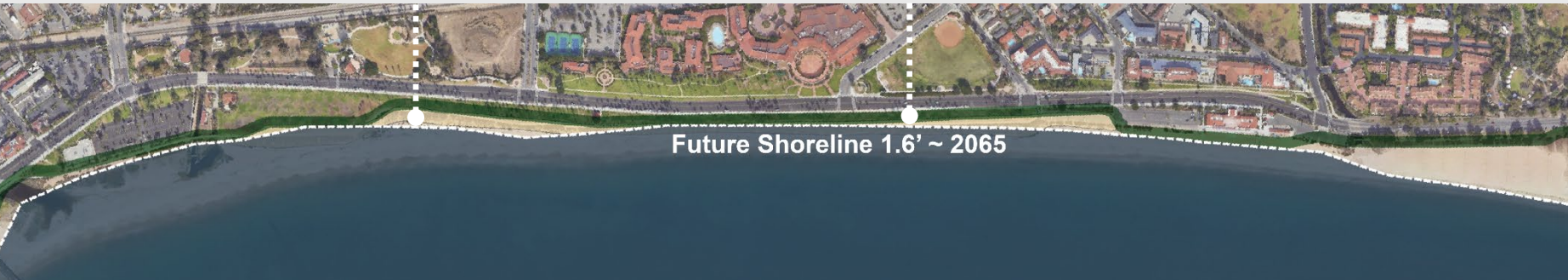
1

Keep sandy beach and park for as long as possible by moving parks, paths, & facilities inland



2

Raise & locate walking & biking path to protect Cabrillo Pavilion & inland areas

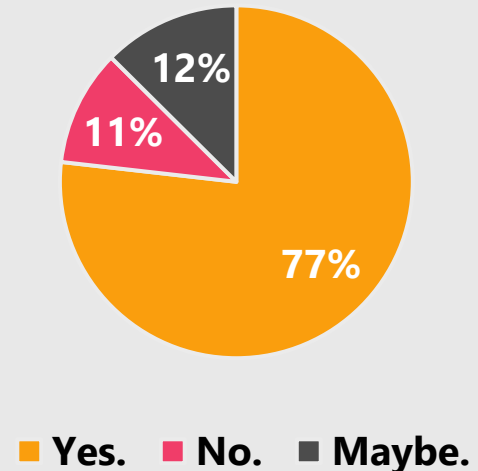


Future Shoreline 1.6' ~ 2065

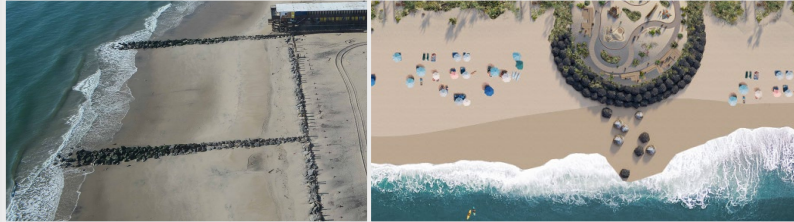
Most Support East Beach Options

- Strong support to move things back to save sandy beach
- Top priorities: sandy beach, walking/biking paths, habitat areas, volleyball courts, and park space

Should the City continue to consider these options?

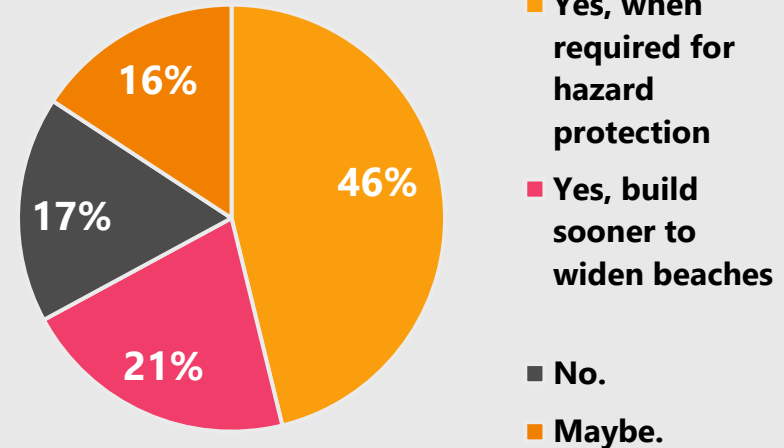


Most Support Groins & Headlands



- Support for methods to address erosion and widen beaches
- More prefer waiting until necessary for hazard protection

Should the City continue to consider this option?



Funding & Feasibility are Key Concerns

- Most common questions: cost, funding, feasibility?
- Concerns about City budget challenges and loss of federal funding



HIGHLIGHTED FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS & GROUPS

Caveat: There are other known stakeholders and groups

Coastal Commission & Conservancy Feedback

- Support strategic relocation to save sandy beach
- Accept that the Harbor Commercial Area needs to be protected with a rock revetment
- Desire for more nature-based solutions and sand dunes
- Recognize need for raised paths, but prefer siting to avoid narrowing sandy beaches



Chumash Community Feedback

- Prioritize natural solutions like kelp forests & offshore reefs
- Create facility for education & meeting, with tomol and equipment storage
- Create space for Chumash sculptures, art, murals, and educational materials



Environmental Nonprofit Feedback

- Minimize armoring
- Prioritize native dunes, habitat restoration, and strategic relocation
- Treat stormwater at West Beach
- Prefer native species over lawn additions at West Beach
- Consider estuary areas
- Consider beach's role during extreme heat events



Harbor User Feedback

- Improve parking, especially during weekends, holidays, and high demand times
- Add more storage and facilities that support boating
- Improve the boat launch ramp facilities, including the washdown station and additional parking for boat trailers



Recreational User Feedback

- Preserve volleyball courts at East Beach
- Preserve existing surf breaks at Leadbetter Beach and Sandspit
- Preserve shower, changing, and bathroom facilities at Leadbetter Beach for ocean swimmers
- Preserve small boat, canoe, and tomol storage at West Beach



SBCC Leadership Feedback

- Locate multi-story parking on west side of Loma Alta, consider a dining component for students
- Prioritize options that protect the stadium and SBCC facilities



NEXT STEPS

Next Milestone Steps



QUESTIONS & PUBLIC COMMENT



INPUT FROM COMMITTEE ON TOPICS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 6



ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Item 7