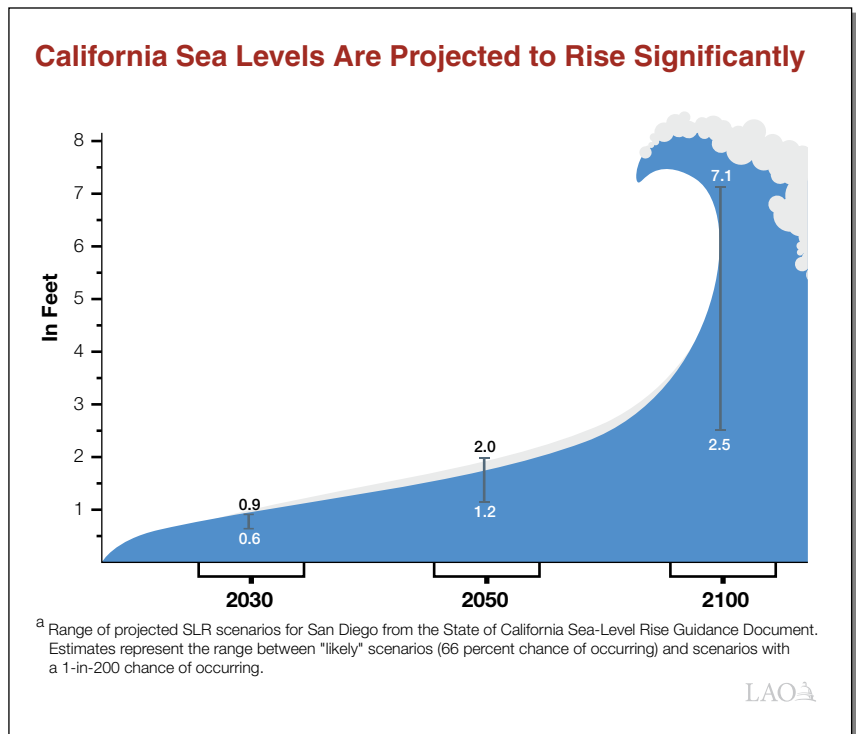


Summary of LAO Report

Preparing for Rising Seas: How the State Can Help Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts

Sea-Level Rise (SLR) Impacts Along California's Coast Have the Potential to Be Extensive and Expensive

- California could experience as much as 7 feet of SLR by 2100.
- SLR could have significant impacts on the state's residents, economy, and natural resources.
- Most responsibility for SLR preparation lies with local governments, however the state has a vested interest in ensuring the coast is prepared.
- Waiting too long to initiate adaptation efforts likely will make responding effectively more difficult and costly.



Key Coastal Adaptation Challenges for Local Governments

- Funding constraints hinder both planning and adaptation projects.
- Limited local government capacity restricts their ability to take action.
- Adaptation activities are constrained by a lack of key information.
- Lack of forums for shared planning and decision-making impede cross-jurisdictional collaboration.
- Responding to SLR is not yet a priority for many local residents or elected officials.
- Protracted process for attaining project permits delays adaptation progress.

LAO Recommendations



Foster Regional-Scale Adaptation

- Establish and assist regional climate adaptation collaborative groups to plan together and learn from each other regarding how to respond to the effects of climate change.
- Encourage development of regional coastal adaptation plans to address key vulnerabilities and risks that SLR poses to the region, as well as adaptation strategies the region will take to address them.
- Support implementation of regional adaptation efforts by contributing funding towards construction of projects identified in regional plans.



Support Local Planning and Adaptation Projects

- Increase assistance for cities and counties to conduct vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, and detailed plans for specific projects.
- Support coastal adaptation projects with widespread benefits such as those that pilot new techniques, protect public resources, reduce damage to critical infrastructure, or address the needs of vulnerable communities.
- Facilitate post-construction monitoring of state-funded demonstration projects to learn more about which adaptation strategies are effective.



Provide Information, Assistance, and Support

- Establish the California Climate Adaptation Center and Regional Support Network to provide technical support and information to local governments on adapting to climate change impacts.
- Develop a standardized methodology and template that local governments can use to conduct economic analyses of SLR risks and adaptation strategies.
- Direct the California Natural Resources Agency to review and report back regarding how regulatory permitting processes for adaptation projects can be made more efficient.



Enhance Public Awareness of SLR Risks and Impacts

- Require coastal flooding disclosures for real estate transactions to spread public awareness about SLR and allow Californians to make informed decisions about the risks of purchasing certain coastal properties.
- Require that state-funded adaptation plans and projects include robust public engagement efforts to help develop societal awareness about SLR, build acceptance for adaptation steps, and ensure the needs of vulnerable communities are addressed.
- Direct state departments to conduct a public awareness campaign about the threats posed by SLR to develop public engagement in and urgency for taking action.

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