



# Natural Capital Project

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California Coastal Commission  
c/o Sea-Level Rise Work Group, attn.: Hilary Papendick  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Email: [SLRGuidanceDocument@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:SLRGuidanceDocument@coastal.ca.gov)

## Re: Comments on the Draft Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance

Dear Hilary,

The Natural Capital Project appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the *California Coastal Commission Draft Sea-level Rise Policy Guidance* (“Draft”). The Natural Capital Project aims to integrate the values of nature into all major decisions affecting the environment and human well-being. We develop simple, use-driven approaches to valuing nature, work closely with decision makers, and provide free, open source ecosystem service software tools to a broad community of users. We are a partnership among Stanford University, the University of Minnesota, The Nature Conservancy, and the World Wildlife Fund.

The Center for Ocean Solutions’ (COS) letter provided to the Work Group draws in part from work we have done together and we fully endorse their comments. We have been working with COS to assess the role that natural habitats play in providing coastal protection and other important benefits (such as recreational opportunities, fish nursery habitat, and improved water quality) to coastal communities that are protected under the Coastal Act. We recently completed vulnerability assessments for the Greater Monterey County and Santa Cruz County Integrated Regional Water Management planning process evaluating the role of natural habitats to reduce vulnerability to ocean storms and sea-level rise.

We particularly endorse the COS recommendation to assess the benefits provided by intact ecological systems (Recommendation #4). We are currently working with COS and local jurisdictions in Sonoma, Marin and Monterey/Santa Cruz to assess the benefits provided by ecological systems in the face of sea-level rise as part of the counties’ Local Coastal Program Sea-level Rise Adaptation Grant programs. Our hope is that the approach developed in these counties can be transferred and applied to other coastal counties to fully incorporate the value of these natural systems in their coastal planning and climate adaptation decisions.

The Natural Capital Project appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the *California Coastal Commission Draft Sea-level Rise Policy Guidance*. We commend your efforts and look forward to seeing how this guidance is implemented throughout the state. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



Mary Ruckelshaus, Director



Anne Guerry, Lead Scientist

Suzanne Langridge, Ecologist

