



Sea Level Rise Workshop Series

Venice Local Coastal Program

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #4

Sea Level Rise Workshop #4 | May 22, 2018

Venice Local Coastal Program

SUMMARY

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WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The Local Coastal Program is a policy and regulatory document required by the California Coastal Act that establishes land use, development, natural resource protection, coastal access, and public recreation policies for the Venice Coastal Zone. The Planning Department of the City of Los Angeles is undergoing a multi-year effort to prepare, adopt, and certify the Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP) as the coastal planning tool for the area with public input.

The Venice LCP must include a section on coastal hazards related to sea level rise including policies and implementation measures to avoid or reduce risks. Sea level rise has the potential to significantly threaten coastal resources, critical infrastructure, transportation systems, canal and oceanfront communities, and public facilities, which could affect safety, health, economic, and environmental sustainability.



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An important component of sea level rise adaptation planning is conducting a vulnerability assessment to determine the range of projections relevant to the LCP planning area, identify potential physical sea level rise impacts in that area, and assess potential risks from sea level rise to coastal resources and development. To date, four workshops on sea level rise have been held to share technical information and analysis and to hear input, ideas, and questions from the community. The first three workshops are documented at www.venicelcp.org and addressed the following:

- Sea Level Rise Workshop #1 – Introduction of planning for sea level rise, regional modeling and planning, and initial implications for Venice.
- Sea Level Rise Workshop #2: - November 2017: Information about the role of sea level rise in the LCP Update, public input on community assets to consider in the vulnerability assessment.
- Sea Level Rise Workshop #3 – March 2018: Conclusions of the vulnerability assessments and initial adaptation concepts for Venice, and community discussion and questions.

This fourth workshop, held on May 22, 2018, focused on draft adaptation strategies for reducing or avoiding the risks identified in the vulnerability assessment. This summary documents the workshop objectives, outreach activities, format, and major themes from collected community input. Individual input received during the workshop is documented in the appendices.

The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning conducted the workshop, with support from sea level rise planning consultants for Venice, including Dudek, Moffat & Nichol, and Kearns & West.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop focused on three objectives:

- Reviewing the Local Coastal Program update process and recap the Vulnerability Results for Venice.
- Presenting the draft adaptation strategies.
- Facilitating the collecting of community input and discussion on the draft adaptation strategies.

WHERE AND WHEN

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 7:00-9:00 pm
Westminster Avenue Elementary School
1010 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, Venice 90291

OUTREACH AND ATTENDANCE

The City used multiple methods to inform community members about the workshop and encourage participation, as shown in the table on the next page. Approximately 36 people attended the workshop.



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Outreach Methods
E-mail announcements to community members using database of contacts.
E-mail invitations and phone calls to prioritized organizations, including canal area and affordable housing organizations, with request to forward invitation to members and constituents.
Announcement on Venice Local Coastal Planning and City Council District 11 website.
E-mail invitations and phone calls to local schools and churches to coordinate flyer distribution and digital posting.
Outreach via City's External Affairs Office on social media platforms (Facebook Calendar, Twitter, Instagram) and at City staff stakeholder meetings.
E-mail postings on Nextdoor to target Venice LCP subareas.
Flyers distributed to homes.
Coordinated with geography and climate change faculty at Santa Monica City College for student involvement.
Instagram Story video announcement on @planning4la.

FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES

The workshop consisted of three components:

- Registration
- Presentation
- Open House

A Spanish translator offered translation through a headset and transmitter system. None of the attendees required the use of the Spanish translation services.

Descriptions of the workshop components follow below.

Registration

Participants were welcomed at the registration table and provided information about the workshop format. They received a “passport” to document which stations they visited, a handout listing the draft



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adaptation strategies, and a FAQ sheet. These materials appear in Appendices A-C at the end of this summary.

Presentation

Joan Isaacson, Kearns & West, welcomed the attendees and introduced the project team from the Department of City Planning, Dudek, Moffat & Nichol, and Kearns & West. Ms. Isaacson provided an overview of the workshop purpose and format. She then introduced Molly Troup from Dudek, who reviewed important background information including the California Coastal Act, Local Coastal Program, and the sea level rise planning process. Ms. Troup then recapped the November 2017 and March 2018 workshops and summarized the Vulnerability Assessment results and risk matrix. There was a short break in the presentation and Hagu Solomon-Cary from the Department of City Planning invited attendees to participate in an informal, digital poll to gain insight into the opinions of some of the Venice community present and their reaction to sea level rise adaptation.

Ms. Troup then discussed the draft adaptation strategies, which were presented in the following four categories: increase resiliency, development and permit standards, community-scale adaptation, and build knowledge. She explained a few examples from each of the four categories. Ms. Isaacson then explained the open house purpose and format. Please refer to Appendix D for the presentation slides.

Open House

Six open house stations were set up in the room. Stations 1 and 2 supplied background information on the Venice Local Coastal Program and Sea Level Rise Mapping. Stations 3 through 6 were dedicated to draft adaptation strategies and community input. The table below lists the stations and their topics.

Station Number	Topic
1	Venice Local Coastal Plan Update
2	Sea Level Rise Mapping
3	Increase Resiliency
4	Development and Permit Standards
5	Community Scale Adaptation
6	Build Knowledge

The open house stations provided a chance for community members to ask questions and obtain answers about the draft adaptation strategies and sea level rise planning. Members of the project team were available at each of the stations to answer questions, provide information, and collect input from community members. Community members were encouraged to visit all six stations and provide input



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by filling out station input cards, attaching sticky notes to display boards, and scanning the QR codes and filling out the input forms online. In addition, the project team wrote notes summarizing the discussions at the stations on flip charts. As a fun incentive to visit all that open house stations, attendees were given a “passport”. After visiting a station and providing input, attendees received a stamp. Upon receiving stamps for all six stations, attendees could show their completed passport for a chance to win a door prize.

Transcriptions of the sticky notes and the flip chart notes can be seen in Appendix E. Scans of the completed station input cards are included in Appendix F. There were no completed online input forms.

INPUT THEMES

The themes below represent those that appeared the most frequently in the collected input. However, understanding the total breadth and depth of the discussions requires reviewing all the input (see Appendices E and F). The themes are listed alphabetically, and their order should not be taken to suggest anything about their priority or importance.

Funding Adaptation Projects

Station 5 included a draft adaptation strategy called “Financing Adaptation” which included examples of different ways homeowners could jointly fund adaptation projects, such as the Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts (GHAD). One note stated that Venice is too big for a GHAD. Another read that a GHAD might be appropriate for canal improvements rather than Venice-wide improvements. Some input expressed concern about residents not being able to afford involvement in a cost sharing program. Some suggested that adaptation project costs could be shared with neighboring communities or funded by the City or tourist tax dollars. One comment expressed concern that any tax money raised for adaptation measures would need oversight and accountability. Station 5 also discussed leveraging FEMA funding opportunities under the “Align LCP with Local Hazard Mitigation Plan” draft adaptation strategy. One comment stated that FEMA-related funding would be a good way to reduce the tax burden on the Venice Community. One suggested that funding be used to assist low-income seniors in making their homes compliant with any new sea level rise regulations.

Green Infrastructure

Many attendees expressed support for more open and permeable spaces to absorb or store storm water. Some notes suggested that green infrastructure could be created by requiring it for redevelopment. Notes suggested places that could be used for water storage such as the public right-of-way at Winward Avenue and Main Street or other historic inlets. One note stated that green infrastructure should be salt-water tolerant. Some input said green infrastructure could include more trees and green spaces generally in Venice. One comment advocated for green roofs. While some comments urged for large scale adoption of green infrastructure, one note said that it was important, but not relevant.



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Infrastructure Improvement

Participants provided input about infrastructure, including the tide gates, pumping stations, and stormwater systems. Most comments were recorded at Stations 3 and 6, which included the draft adaptation strategies “Upgrade Existing Public Infrastructure” and “Conduct Drainage/ Capacity Study.” Most of the input related to the current functioning of infrastructure. Feedback in flipchart notes and input card stated that infrastructure such as the tide gates, the Venice Pumping Plant, and the stormwater drainage system have existing operational deficiencies and need repairs. Some input advocated for a systems approach for improvements instead of repairing individual components.

Land Use and Buildings

Many comments focused on the construction and protection of buildings. Some comments noted certain building materials can contribute to the problem of sea level rise. A few called for a reduction or ban on the use of concrete in favor of other building materials to prevent the release of carbon dioxide. There was also concern that glass, steel, and concrete contribute to an urban heat island effect. One person stated that there should be a way to assign a flood risk “grade” to homes and that homeowners should be required to buy flood insurance based on that grade. One note suggested that consultants could advise homeowners on preventive measures related to sea level rise. Beyond buildings, some input commented on land use. One comment read that density should be limited in areas susceptible to sea level rise hazards. Another read that current development projects account and adjust for sea level rise projections. The adaptation strategy of managed retreat received several comments. One note asked who would determine fair market value if the City were to buy non-conforming structures from willing sellers. A couple of comments expressed concerns that such an approach would lead to eminent domain seizures.

Nature-Based Coastal Strategies

A few comments expressed support for dunes, noting that they are beautiful, and they serve as a barrier to slow erosion of the beach. One note read that the County of Los Angeles temporary dune program should be leveraged as a demonstration program. One comment questioned the implementation process for dune creation. Another note asked how beach nourishment might impact grunion.