



**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TYPE OF ITEM: Council Business

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 1

DATE: October 23, 2018

TO: City Council

FROM: Ashley Golden
Development Services Director

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Supporting the "Hope for the Coast" Initiative (5/5/5)

CONTACT: Ashley Golden, Development Services Director
Ashley.Golden@oxnard.org, (805) 385-7882

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopt a Resolution in support of the “Hope for the Coast” initiative that promotes the advancement of the City of Oxnard’s coastal ecosystem.

BACKGROUND

Hope for the Coast is an assessment conducted by The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with the California State Coastal Conservancy, after surveying the entire undeveloped coastline. The study, which was completed this past spring, showed that over half of the state’s coastal habitats are at high risk to sea level rise. The assessment quantifies and maps five strategies to maintain California’s iconic coastline in the face of sea level rise. The five strategies include: (1) maintain existing resilient conservation lands; (2) conserve resilient landscapes; (3) manage in place for resilience; (4) conserve potential future habitat areas; and (5) increase adaptive capacity through adapting the built environment. Conservation in the face of sea level rise requires an adaptive process that embraces the reality of a dynamic coastline. Hope for the Coast serves as a blueprint for state, local and federal agencies, and private conservation planners so that all can take coordinated and sustained action to protect the entire Californian coast from sea level rise.

The City of Oxnard is home to critical coastal habitats that provide important ecosystem benefits and services to our region and beyond. These benefits include: infiltration of runoff and pollutants, nesting areas for shore birds including endangered least terns and snowy plovers, nursery habitats for fish, support to commercial fisheries, buffers against wave and storm surge, carbon sequestration, and recreational opportunities. The beach and Ormond wetlands are a

Hope for the Coast (5/5/5)

October 23, 2018

Page 2

stopover on the Pacific Flyway and host more than 200 bird species. The City partners with The Nature Conservancy and the California State Coastal Conservancy to restore the largest coastal wetland area in Southern California at Ormond Beach, with the goal of linking together and restoring 1,500 acres of wetlands to enhance coastal habitat and provide room for the wetlands to migrate as sea level rises, and enhance coastal access to make Ormond Beach a community asset for current and future generations.

Combating climate change and its potential impacts to our communities, natural resources and infrastructure is a major concern and top priority for the City. As such, the Oxnard 2030 General Plan, Sustainable Community Chapter, seeks to better understand and address climate change mitigation and adaption, sea level rise, and energy conservation and generation. The 2030 General Plan presents goals, policies, and an implementation program that brings innovative sustainability practices into a singular document, engineering a coordinated approach to a healthy, humane, and harmonious way of life that respects and preserves the environment.

In recognition of the growing and urgent need to begin planning for the potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise on our coastline, the City is updating its Local Coastal Program. The Local Coastal Program helps protect natural and man-made coastal resources, maximize public access to the shoreline, assess vulnerabilities to sea level rise, and identify appropriate policy directives for adaptation. The City will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, having adopted the Energy Action Plan in 2013, which committed the City to significant reductions in energy consumption and increasing renewable energy production within City government and the community relative to planned growth by 2030.

To further these goals, the City will consider coastal habitat resilience in adaptation of our communities and infrastructure. The City will also consider the data results from the coastal habitat assessment to help inform resource protection, adaptation our ongoing sea level rise, coastal hazards planning, and policy development. The City will continue to provide leadership and coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to advance adaptation planning throughout the region while also encouraging partners to adopt the coastal vision and identify ways to achieve it.

These initiatives and goals coincide with the Federal and State legislative policies. Under the Federal policy, the City follows the Sustainability (Energy and Environment) guidelines of which “support legislation that provides statutory and regulatory protection from potential hazards to the environment, groundwater quality, air quality, seismic safety and public health.” Under the State policy, the City follows the Sustainability (Energy and Environment) guidelines of which “advocate for State funding sources that support the cleanup of contaminated soil and polluted water including underground fuel tanks, surfaces water, groundwater, and coastal areas and advocate for State funding sources to support local government to evaluate and address potential climate change impacts, including rising sea level.”

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Hope for the Coast (5/5/5)

October 23, 2018

Page 3

This agenda item supports the Quality of Life strategy. The purpose of the Quality of Life strategy is to build relationships and create opportunities within the community for safe and vibrant neighborhoods, which will showcase the promising future of Oxnard. This item supports the following goals and objectives:

Goal 3. Strengthen neighborhood development, and connect City, community and culture.

This agenda item supports the Infrastructure and Natural Resources strategy. The purpose of the Infrastructure and Natural Resources strategy is to establish, preserve and improve our infrastructure and natural resources through effective planning, prioritization, and efficient use of available funding. This item supports the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1. Ensure Master plans for all City infrastructure are current, synchronized and consistent with the General Plan.

Goal 2. Develop an asset management program that includes fleet, facilities, parks, streets, alleys, water, wastewater and storm water.

Goal 4. Ensure proper construction and maintenance of infrastructure to provide maximum benefit with lowest life cycle cost following CIP plans.

Goal 5. Ensure orderly development and long-range conservation and management of our natural resources and coastal assets.

Objective 5a. Develop and implement a sustainability program.

Objective 5b. Protect ocean and waterways.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

Prepared by Sarah Rowley, Administrative Assistant.

ATTACHMENTS:

Hope for the Coast Resolution

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF OXNARD AGREEING TO ADOPT AND ADVANCE A
VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S COASTAL FUTURE "HOPE
FOR THE COAST"**

WHEREAS, the coastal habitats in the City of Oxnard provide important ecosystem benefits and services to our region and beyond, including filtration of runoff and pollutants, nesting areas for shore birds including endangered least terns and snowy plovers, nursery habitats for fish, support to commercial fisheries, buffers against wave and storm surge, carbon sequestration and recreational opportunities.

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard, with partners at The Nature Conservancy and the California State Coastal Conservancy, are working to restore the largest - and some experts say the most important - coastal wetland area in Southern California at Ormond Beach, with the goal of linking together and restoring 1,500 acres of wetlands to enhance coastal habitat and provide room for the wetlands to migrate as sea level rises, and enhance coastal access to make Ormond Beach a community asset for current and future generations.

WHEREAS, the Oxnard 2030 General Plan, Sustainable Community Chapter, seeks to better understand and address the cutting edge environmental and energy issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation, sea level rise, and energy conservation and generation, and presents goals, policies, and an implementation program that bring leading edge and innovative sustainability practices into one place, leading to a coordinated approach to a healthy, humane, and harmonious way of life that respects and preserves the environment.

WHEREAS, in recognition of the growing and urgent need to begin planning for the potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise on our coastline, the City of Oxnard is updating its Local Coastal Program to protect natural and man-made coastal resources, maximize public access to the shoreline, assess vulnerabilities to sea level rise, and identify appropriate policy directives and approaches for adaptation.

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard is dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, having adopted its Energy Action Plan in 2013, which committed the City to significant reductions in energy consumption and increasing renewable energy production within City Government and the community (residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial) relative to planned growth by 2030.

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, statewide habitat assessment by the California State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, "*Conserving California's Coastal Habitats: A Legacy and A Future with Sea Level Rise*," found that over 59% of current habitat by area throughout California is highly vulnerable to five feet of sea level rise. The study presents a blueprint for conservation and adaptation of coastal habitat in the face of sea level rise, through which it is possible to achieve no net loss of habitat with five feet of sea level rise in California,

Resolution No.
Page 2

but only with concerted, coordinated and sustained action. Ventura County will be critical to maintaining the statewide extent of coastal habitats. The County supports a large extent of coastal marsh in the region, and represents a significant opportunity for adaptation, as 46% of potential future habitat in the South Coast is in Ventura County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Oxnard hereby resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Oxnard will adopt the following coastal vision:

“In science-guided, collective action, we will maintain and enhance California’s coastal habitats in the face of sea level rise, other climate change-induced challenges, and development, ensuring a protected coast for future generations to enjoy, replete with as much or more habitat and wildlife, as well as social, economic, and recreational benefits, as we have today.”

SECTION 2. The City of Oxnard reaffirms its commitment to the conservation of its coastal natural resources and will commit to the following actions to advance the coastal vision:

- A. Consider coastal habitat resilience in adaptation of our communities and infrastructure.
- B. Consider the data and results from the coastal habitat assessment to help inform resource protection, adaptation and our ongoing sea level rise and coastal hazards planning and policy development.
- C. Provide leadership and coordinate with neighboring cities and counties to advance adaptation planning throughout the region and encourage partners to also adopt the coastal vision and identify ways to achieve it.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23rd day of October, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Tim Flynn, Mayor

Resolution No.

Page 2

ATTEST:

Michelle Ascencion, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen M. Fischer, City Attorney