SUSTAINABILTY & RESILIENCE DEPARTMENT

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE DIVISION

WATERFRONT ADAPTATION AT THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

CSBPA – May 11, 2026

Adaptation & Resilience Program

Helps our community **prepare for current and future** climate-related hazards like sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and wildfires.

Santa Barbara's Shoreline

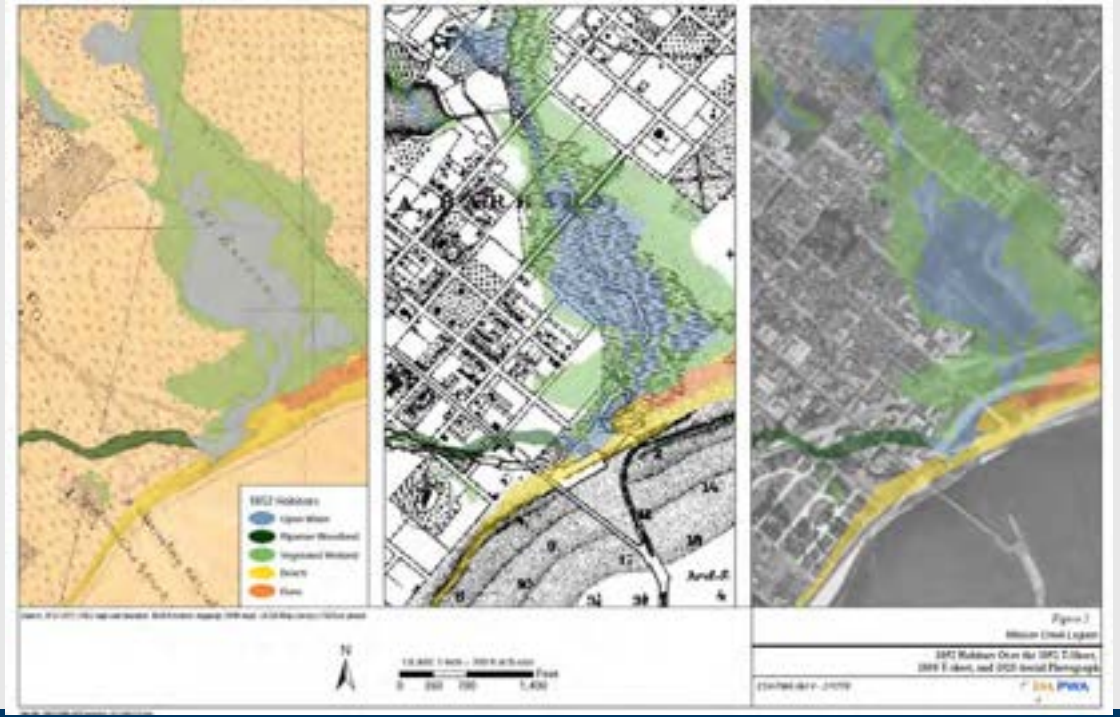
Storm Damage

March 1983

Source: Santa Barbara Newspress

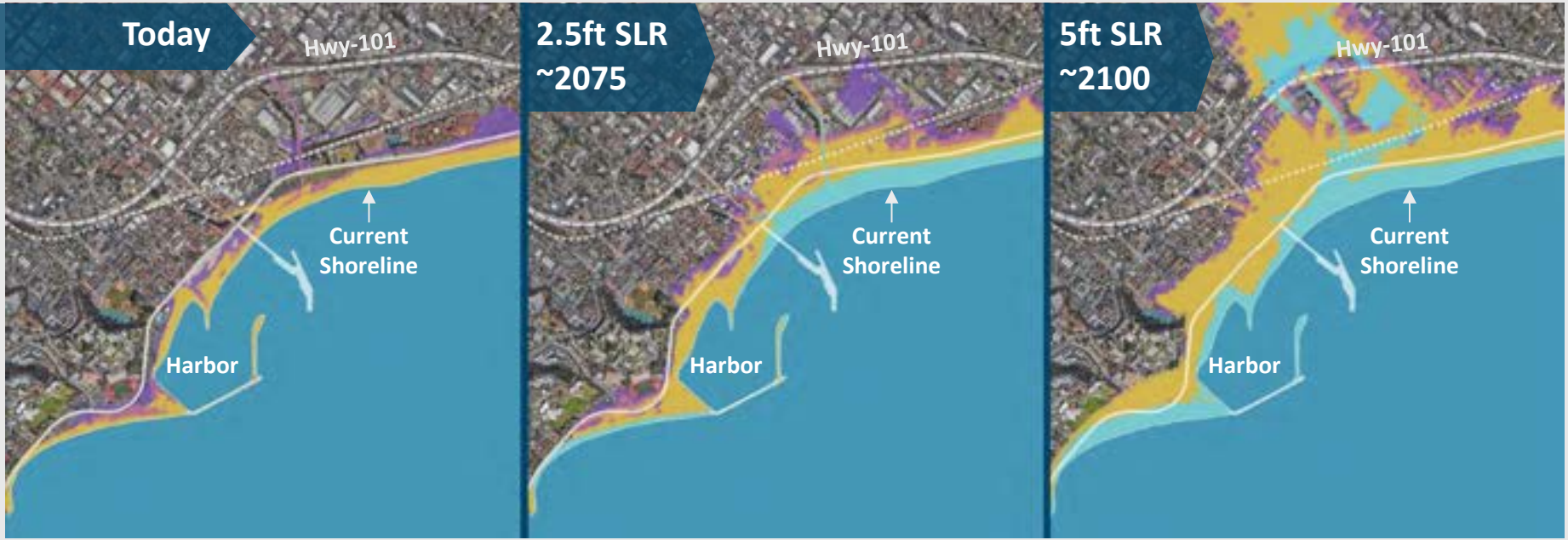
January 2023

Historic El Estero



Major Creeks and Flood Zones

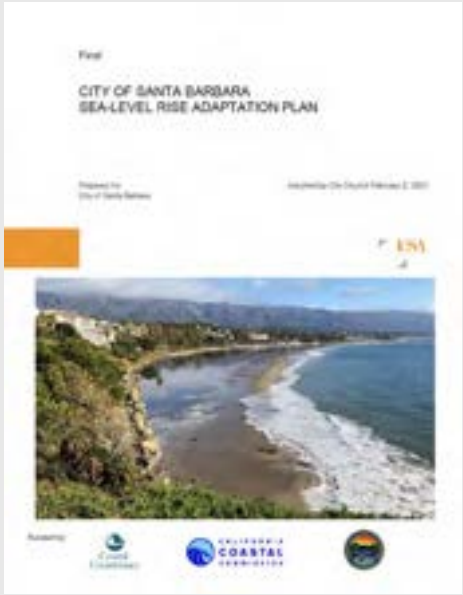
Sea Level Rise Flooding Hazards



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

2019 Coastal Land Use Plan & 2021 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan

- Incorporates slr into development regulations
- Guiding principles for adaptation
- Phased planning based on monitoring and trigger-based actions
- Specific near-term (ten-year) actions
- Decision structure for mid- and long-term
- Relies on Shoreline Monitoring Program



City Implementation

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
Coastal Conservancy

- Creation of Adaptation and Resilience Division
- Regional Shoreline Monitoring Program
- Adaptation projects initiated:
  - Wastewater and Water Systems Adaptation Options Study
  - 30- Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan
  - Laguna Flood Resilience Study (stormwater model)
  - Lower Sycamore Creek Flood Mitigation and Restoration
  - Airport Adaptation Plan and Drainage Master Plan

WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLAN

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
Coastal Conservancy

Santa Barbara Waterfront

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.**

Waterfront-Wide Goals & Priorities

Save the sandy beach and **enhance recreation**

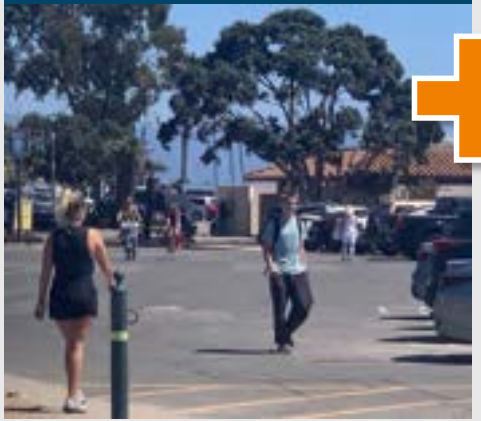
Protect the **working harbor**

Protect inland areas from ocean flooding

Provide continuous **walking and biking path**

Multi-Benefit Elevated Path

Opportunity: **Add walk, roll, & bike paths**	Opportunity: **Address hazard risk**	Multi-benefit Solution: **Elevated & separated walk, roll, & bike paths**



LEADBETTER BEACH OPTIONS

A sandy beach & recreation destination

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

HARBOR OPTIONS

A commercial fishing, recreation, & public access destination

Harbor Potential Core Measures:

Flood protection, prioritize public access & boating

Pedestrian promenade on raised revetment for flood protection & better access

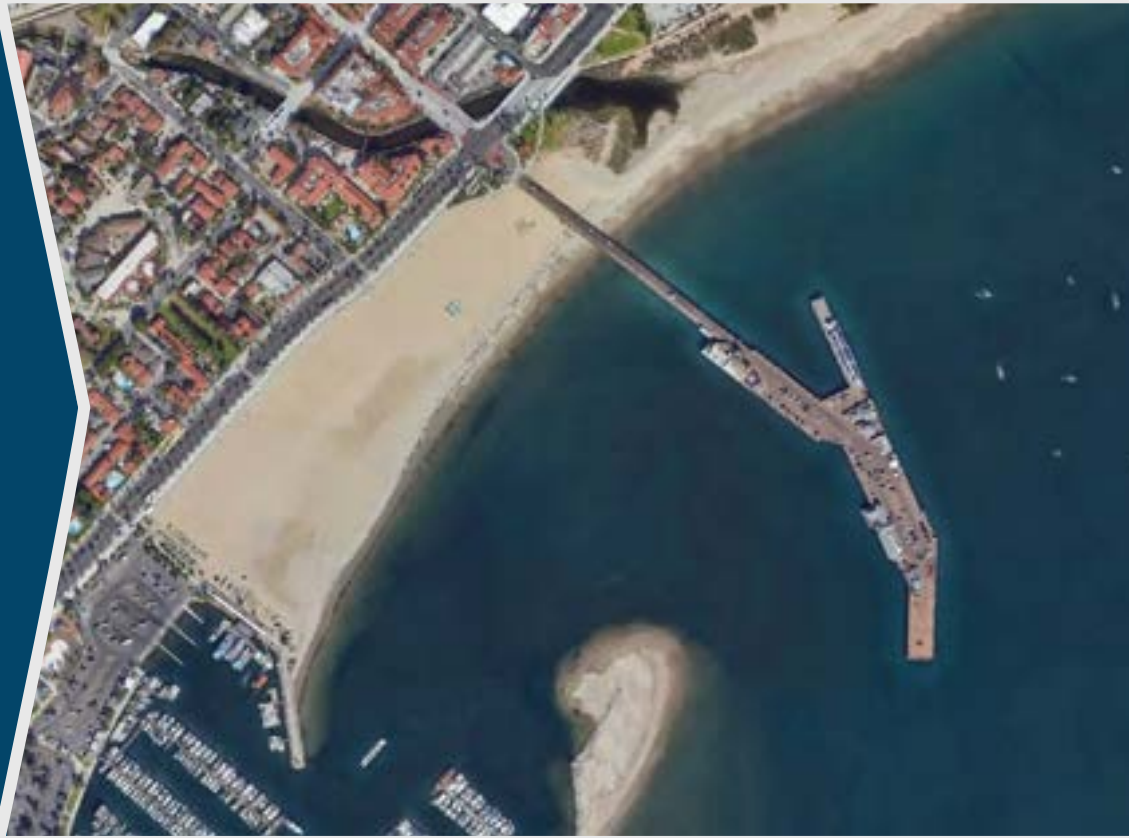
Protect & improve Harbor Commercial area for better public access & boating

Enhance & raise walking & biking paths for better access & flood protection

Explore converting some parking for economic development

WEST BEACH OPTIONS

A premier sandy beach destination



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 & bike path with new adjacent park

4 Retain space for small boats, outriggers, & tomols

EAST BEACH OPTIONS

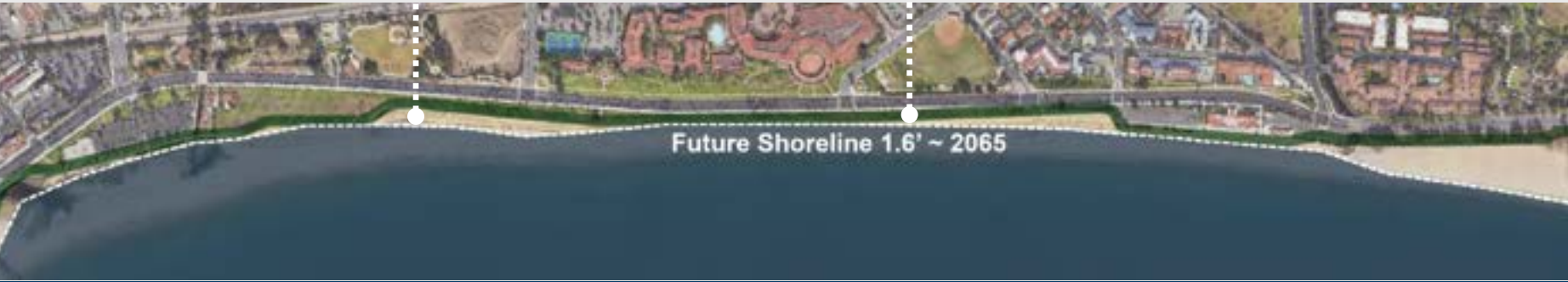
A sandy beach & recreation destination

East Beach Potential Core Measures:

Preserve as much sandy beach as possible & protect critical infrastructure

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

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



Visit the Website for Email List & More Info

- SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterfrontAdaptation

Take the Survey

- SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterfrontSurvey

Contact & Submit Comments

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- Melissa Hetrick, Adaptation & Resilience Manager (805-991-2447) or Mhetrick@SantaBarbaraCA.gov