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## **Climate Collaborative Completes Two-Year Project to Protect San Diego Coastline from Sea Level Rise**

SAN DIEGO– Acting on the latest climate science regarding sea level rise, the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative in partnership with the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Climate Science Alliance – South Coast has completed the “Resilient Coastlines Project,” a two-year project that connected and supported more than 14 local sea level rise initiatives in the San Diego region. The Collaborative launched the project in 2015 with almost \$700 thousand dollars of support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Regional Coastal Resilience Program.

The collaboration represents one of the most robust and coordinated regional planning efforts to adapt to sea level rise in California. “Our region continues to be a national leader in tackling these tricky issues,” says Cody Hooven, Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of San Diego and current Chair of the Regional Climate Collaborative. “Sea level rise is a long-term, complex, and science-based issue that does not know jurisdictional boundaries. We are working together to leverage one another’s efforts and create tools that can advance our strategy as a region.”

Collaboration on sea level rise planning builds off the region’s successful track record of forward-thinking planning for climate change. Eleven jurisdictions in San Diego now have Climate Action plans that help mitigate impacts from climate change, many are also advancing climate adaptation and resiliency plans.

The Resilient Coastlines Project consisted of several components to advance sea level rise planning including:

- **Building Local Leadership** – A Regional Sea Level Rise Working Group coordinated coastal resilience activity across jurisdictions and 12 public agencies, the U.S. Navy, and 14 other technical assistance partners.
- **Applying Science to Planning** – Numerous professional trainings connected local planners to latest sea level rise science, which increased understanding of how coastal storms and flooding are affected by climate change.
- **Developing Legal and Economic Tools** – Reports described legal opportunities and risks for various adaptation strategies, investigated the costs and benefits of different approaches, and most recently, assessed the potential regional economic impact of sea level rise.
- **Advancing Natural Infrastructure** –150 regional leaders convened in San Diego, Costa Mesa, and Santa Barbara to discuss how to enhance natural coastal landscapes by con-

For more information about the project visit the notification website at [resilientcoastlines.org](http://resilientcoastlines.org). For more information about the Climate Collaborative, visit their website at [www.sdclimatecollaborative.org](http://www.sdclimatecollaborative.org).

necting broader long-term community planning efforts with living shoreline and restoration projects.

- **Enhancing Community Engagement** - Various initiatives engaged youth, the general public and decision-makers on coastal resilience through storytelling and art. The project inspired a traveling student art show that has been featured in public libraries throughout the County.

The Resilient Coastlines Project also laid the groundwork for other cities and jurisdictions in the region to engage in sea level rise planning. Oceanside, Carlsbad and Del Mar all specifically participated in various sea level-rise planning efforts including conducting bluff erosion surveys, developing vulnerability assessments and updating local coastal plans. Imperial Beach, the Port of San Diego and the San Diego Regional Airport Authority are also engaged in various planning efforts.

"The Resilient Coastlines Project provided us with tools we need to move forward with sea level rise planning as a city," says Amanda Lee, Senior Planner at the City of Del Mar. "The project was really valuable in helping us clarify that the choice of no action is the most costly option for our city moving forward. We are in a much better position now to communicate this reality."

All products and decision-support tools emerging from the Resilient Coastlines Project can be found at: <http://www.resilientcoastlines.org/>