City of Monterey 2016 Local Coastal Program Update
Summary Highlights of Community Workshop #5: Policies
Thursday, September 22, 2016 at Monterey Youth Center

Participants: Representatives from shoreline area neighborhood/home owners, property owners, City staff, and EMC Planning Group Inc./project consultants (EMC, Ingram)

Workshop Topic: Policy Development
1. Considerations and concepts in developing policies regarding coastal hazards
2. Priority areas to consider in developing policies for adaptation strategies
3. Challenges and considerations in creating adaptation methods and recommendations
4. Approaches in developing new policies
5. Existing policies - what might be important to maintain, discard, update
6. Other considerations

Workshop Format:
• Introduction and purpose of meeting: Elizabeth Caraker, Principal Planner, City of Monterey
• Overview/review of process and current status: Polaris Kinison Brown, EMC
• Policy Development process: Consider current and potential future policies for Adaptation Strategies to address anticipated affects of Sea Level Rise and coastal and storm impacts
• Community Discussion

General Topics Covered:
• Review of LCP Update purpose and progress to date
• Information regarding purpose for developing policies in the LCP process
• Community input regarding Policy Development related to Adaptation Strategies

Discussion Comments:
A. Participant Comments Regarding New Policy Development
• Focus on near term impacts, critical infrastructure and key vulnerabilities
• Preserve Del Monte Beach; consider natural and dredging as primary options
• Focus on Del Monte Beach with sand replenishment, possible artificial reef or groins, stay away from armoring as long as possible
• Enforce existing policies (particularly regarding Del Monte Beach area - beach fires, etc.)
• Would be helpful to have some type of document comparing Land Use Plans -- what we have now in policy, what is being considered in new policy) when consolidating LUPs and policies; also consider some type of comparison or table in document showing existing and proposed policies, by area, and what policies are common to all areas, which policies differ by area
• Armoring creates erosion/sand loss problems; there are existing exposure problems; don't exacerbate
• Use a regional approach in educating, involving and addressing potential strategies & policies
• Important to allow permits for City to dredge to sustain beach areas
• Use replenishment as initial policy & strategies even if not fully sustainable into future
• Be proactive in considering appropriate location and relocation of infrastructure as current projects are proceeding or in planning phases now; don't just wait for future LCP approvals
• Have strategies and a policy regarding new infrastructure placement
• Consider accommodation, natural methods and retreat as policy/strategies wherever possible
• Low-lying and likely flooding, high wave action, and inundation areas need to be priority in near term
• Sand mining: Need to discontinue. Can this be policy?
• Consider policies that are flexible but reasonably comprehensive -- but with an understanding that there are differing areas of the City coastline that will be affected differently and need to be considered separately for adaptations and policies that apply to specific areas based on geology and potential impacts and severity of impacts by area
• Need policies to direct considerations by areas and additional studies of methods and economic impacts; need continuous monitoring and additional studies (and by areas) over time for determining best strategies and applying best information (also noted in prior workshops)
• Retain public and recreational access
• Use "trigger points" and monitoring of actual occurrences in developing policy rather than simply specifying a certain date or year
• Del Monte road plan needs to consider and incorporate adaptation considerations in projects such as infrastructure repair, road widening or consolidation, transit planning
• Eliminate train plans where area would be at risk, or would require raising tracks, or would cause view impacts

B. Participant Comments Specific to Existing Policies
• Look at existing policies in the context of future risks -- consider infrastructure, recreation, access, transit, roads, properties, visual impacts, natural environment, Sanctuary effects, types of uses (particularly as required by the Coastal Commission)
• Possibly change existing policies based on identifying priority segments related to vulnerability assessment -- low areas need to be a priority
• Keep what we have
• Sediment management priority
• Would like to see differences between existing LCPs in addition to new policies (perhaps in table form)

Additional Public Input Opportunities: Meetings and opportunities for public input were announced and comment sheets were provided. It is requested that additional comments specific to Policy Development be sent to the City, ideally by the end of September. Submit comments by mail to the City, by email to caraker@monterey.org, or call 646-1739 with questions or for additional information. Also check the City website for continued updates. Policy development will be considered by the Planning Commission on Tuesday, October 11 and by the City Council on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 should you wish to attend those meetings.