Capitola City Council

Agenda Report

Meeting: August 27, 2026

From: Public Works Department & Community and Economic Development Department

Subject: OPC SB 1 Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant

Recommended Action: Authorize staff to submit an application to the Ocean Protection Council's SB 1 Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program.

Background: In 2017, the City completed a Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment that evaluated coastal flooding, storm surge, erosion, and other hazards and identified initial adaptation strategies. In 2023, Senate Bill 272 passed, requiring all local jurisdictions within the coastal zone to adopt a sea-level rise adaptation plan by 2034.

On June 26, 2025, the City Council authorized an OPC SB 1 grant application to comprehensively update the 2017 assessment and prepare an adaptation plan consistent with SB 272. OPC did not fund the application, finding the proposed comprehensive update was likely duplicative of the 2017 assessment. However, OPC encouraged the City to pursue targeted updates, concrete implementation steps, and LCP policy development in coordination with Coastal Commission staff.

Discussion: Staff recommends the City submit a revised application that builds on, rather than replaces, the 2017 assessment. Before submitting, staff would meet with Coastal Commission and OPC staff to confirm the remaining technical and policy gaps. The preliminary scope would:

- Identify usable portions of the 2017 assessment and identify where targeted updates are required.
- Complete only the technical work needed to support adaptation and LCP decisions.
- Use community engagement and Tribal consultation to inform priorities and strategies.
- Develop adaptation pathways, triggers, responsible parties, priority projects, planning-level costs, funding options, and monitoring.
- Prepare an adaptation plan and related draft LCP policies or policy framework.

The City would procure qualified consultants after the scope is refined. The selected team could include academic institutions or other specialized partners, but this action would not designate a particular consultant, university, or individual.

The current program allows requests from $200,000 to $1.5 million, has a standard two-year project period, and does not require a local match. Staff recommends authorization to request up to $700,000; the final request may be lower based on agency consultation and consultant cost estimates.

Fiscal Impact: The grant request will fully cover consultant costs associated with the adaptation plan. City staff time for grant administration and coordination will be absorbed within existing workload. No General Fund contribution is anticipated. Having an SB 272-compliant sea-level rise adaptation plan will likely expand future grant funding opportunities for the City.

Attachments:

1. OPC SB 1 Grant Solicitation: https://opc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/SB1-Grant-Program-Solicitation-508.pdf
2. Preliminary Scope of Work and Budget Framework

Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority: Community Safety; Economic Opportunity; Healthy Families, Community, and Environment; Sustainable Infrastructure

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Reviewed By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager