



Planning Commission Agenda Report



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SUBJECT: Discuss the Draft City of Monterey Transportation Adaptation Plan, Provide Input, and Gather Community Feedback (Not a Project under CEQA per Article 20, Section 15378 and Under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

RECOMMENDATION:

This agenda item is for discussion purposes only. The Draft City of Monterey Transportation Adaptation Plan (hereinafter “Draft Plan”) is before the Planning Commission for discussion of sea level rise adaptation strategies, and so that the community can weigh in. Staff recommends that the Planning Commission discuss the Plan, provide input, and gather community feedback.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The City of Monterey determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity to discuss the adaptation strategies. There are no alternatives considered.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Monterey applied for a Caltrans Adaptation Grant to study the effects of sea level rise on the City’s transportation network and develop transportation adjustments. The Draft Plan built upon the City’s “Sea Level Rise and Vulnerability Analyses, Existing Conditions and Issues Report” completed in 2016 (https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Policies-Procedures/Planning/WorkProgram/LCP/16_0316_FINAL_Monterey_ExistingConditions_wAppendixA_WEB.pdf). While this report identified existing vulnerabilities, it did not provide tools, strategies or projects to address these vulnerabilities. The Draft Plan will fill this knowledge gap by providing transportation improvements and sea level rise adaptation strategies. By way of an RFP process, the City hired Kimley-Horn & Associates and GEI Consultants (hereinafter “consultants”) to develop the Plan.

First, consultants and City staff conducted a stakeholder meeting with the following representatives: City department heads, federal agencies (U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey and Naval Support Activity Monterey), and state agency (California Coastal Commission). The purpose of this exercise was to discuss various sea level rise and flooding scenarios and identify potential impacts and their timing, which informed the types of adaptation strategies that were presented at the first community workshop.

The first community workshop was held on May 13, 2020. The City invited all of its neighborhood and business associations; City boards, commissions, and committees; local stakeholders, such as Monterey-Salinas Transit, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Caltrans, Army, Navy, Coastal Commission; and more. The workshop was advertised on the City's website in English and Spanish, and a media release was sent to local media outlets. In addition, the City mailed a workshop postcard invitation in English and Spanish to every property owner in the Coastal Zone (600+ owners). Thirty-two people attended the virtual workshop, including representatives from Fisherman's Wharf Association, Naval Postgraduate School, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, New Monterey Neighborhood Association, Coastal Commission, City of Seaside, Caltrans, City of Pacific Grove, Monterey One Water, California State University Monterey Bay, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Monterey Bay Air Resources District. The consultants presented an overview of the project, sea level rise projections, consequences, and solutions. Then, workshop attendees asked questions and gave comments for about one hour. After that, participants were encouraged to take an online survey to choose the transportation alternatives that they prefer for a flood protection scenario vs. a managed retreat scenario. Eighty-one people took the survey, with most preferring a managed retreat scenario with improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The consultants incorporated the survey results and preferred alternatives into the Draft Transportation Adaptation Plan.

The Draft Plan is available here:

https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Reports/ForPublicReview/20_1208-Monterey-Adaptation-Report-DRAFT.pdf

The Draft Plan Appendices include cost analyses, traffic model results, preliminary adaptation options presented at the first community workshop, first community workshop presentation slides, and public survey results:

https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Reports/ForPublicReview/20_1208-Monterey-Adaptation-Appendix.pdf

A recording of the first community workshop is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cMGb3qk7SI>

An interactive map that shows the preliminary adaptation options discussed at the first community workshop and included in the public survey is available here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1M1LGjjm8LzmYj-iHcrjb1uhE5UfD7jkT&oid=0&ll=36.61127326969092%2C-121.87123450000001&z=13>

The second community workshop will take place at 7:00 PM on December 8, 2020, during the Planning Commission Meeting. The purpose of the second workshop is to present the Draft Plan, which includes conceptual plans and preliminary estimates, and continue to solicit feedback for public comments to shape the Final Plan. The Final Plan will be scheduled for City Council adoption in February 2021.

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission discuss the Draft Plan, provide input, and gather community feedback.

Links:

Draft Plan:

https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Reports/ForPublicReview/20_1208-Monterey-Adaptation-Report-DRAFT.pdf

Draft Plan Appendices:

https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Reports/ForPublicReview/20_1208-Monterey-Adaptation-Appendix.pdf

First community workshop recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cMGb3qk7SI>

Interactive map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1M1LGjjm8LzmYj-iHcrjb1uhE5UfD7jkT&oid=0&ll=36.61127326969092%2C-121.87123450000001&z=13>

“Sea Level Rise and Vulnerability Analyses, Existing Conditions and Issues Report” completed in 2016:

https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Policies-Procedures/Planning/WorkProgram/LCP/16_0316_FINAL_Monterey_ExistingConditions_wAppendixA_WEB.pdf

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All Neighborhood Associations
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