The climate is changing at an increasingly rapid rate



Wildlife can only react

But humans can anticipate



Climate Adaptation Planning

- Santa Cruz has experienced a number of hazards including floods, droughts and earthquakes in our past.
- Rising sea levels, storms of increasing intensity and an alternating series of more severe floods and drought threaten the City of Santa Cruz in the coming decades.
- Climate Adaptation Planning is a process that provides a framework to build a more climate resilient community under the City's 2007 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local governments to develop and submit Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) for FEMA approval as a condition of receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project grants or Pre-Disaster Mitigation project grants

Congress wants to make sure federal tax dollars are spent wisely!

Mitigation vs. Adaptation

Climate mitigation is any action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce the long-term risk and hazards of climate change to human life and property.

Climate adaptation is the ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes) to moderate potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to cope with the consequences.

The IPCC* defines adaptation as the, "adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment. Adaptation to climate change refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

*The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Adaptation Planning Process

STEPS

- Vulnerability Study risks and vulnerabilities
- Identify and prioritize adaptation actions
- -Community participation
- Approval and adoption of Adaptation Plan
- Implement Adaptation Plan
- Actively monitor Adaptation Plan
 - Use most current climate science data to make decisions
 - Review identified action items and priorities

This Plan is a step in our ongoing efforts to Build Resilience

GOALS:

- Protect our natural and built environment and our quality of life
- Minimize harm to people, property and our economic well being
- Take advantage of opportunities available as a result of being proactive

Building a Climate Resilient Community

Create a framework for community decision makers to understand the impacts and make decisions informed by the best available scientific data - continually integrating new scientific information as it becomes available.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTIONS

- 41 actions have been identified
- Three Citywide highest priority actions:
 - Upgrade/Relocate City buildings and infrastructure to prepare for sea level rise, flooding and storm events from climate change
 - Prepare for potential sea level rise throughout the City
 - Evaluate decisions through a climate change impact lens

To Learn More

◆ <u>Cal-Adapt.org</u>

Provides a variety of tools and resources that enable you to visualize climate change data throughout California. The data populating Cal-Adapt's tools have been developed by a variety of research centers and institutions, sponsored by the Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program.

For more information

City website: www.cityofsantacruz.com

Environmental Programs

- Climate Action & Energy
 - ◆ Climate Adaptation Plan
 - Executive Summary
 - Body of Plan
 - Vulnerability Study
 - Appendices

Questions or comments:

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