



Local Coastal Program FAQ

What is a certified Local Coastal Program?

Local Coastal Programs are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission. The Local Coastal Programs specify appropriate location, type, and scale of new or changed uses of land and water. Each Local Coastal Program includes a **Land Use Plan**, which outlines policies, and an **Implementation Plan**.

The Local Coastal Program reflects the unique characteristics of individual local coastal communities; however, regional and statewide interests and concerns must also be addressed in conformity with Coastal Act goals and policies. Following adoption by a City Council, a Local Coastal Program is submitted to the Coastal Commission for review for consistency with Coastal Act requirements, and ultimately, certification by the Commission.

Why does the City need a certified Local Coastal Program?

The California Coastal Act of 1976 ushered in an era of significant new land use planning in California. Based on Coastal Act requirements of Section 30500, local governments prepare and implement Local Coastal Programs to carry out the Act's mandate to protect coastal resources and maximize public access to the shoreline. The City is completing the process that was started in 2000.

Why is a certified Local Coastal Program important and what are the implications?

A Local Coastal Program allows local government bodies to make decisions that govern conservation and use of coastal resources. Property owners and residents are not subject to a separate Coastal Commission permit process and are not required to meet with Coastal Commission staff, or attend Coastal Commission hearings, unless a permit is appealed.

What is the Coastal Commission's permitting role once the Local Coastal Program is certified?

After a Local Coastal Program is certified, the Commission's coastal permitting authority over most new development is transferred to the local government. The local government applies the requirements of the Local Coastal Program, both the Land Use Plan and the Implementation Plan, in reviewing and making decisions about proposed developments.

The Commission retains permanent coastal permit jurisdiction over development proposed on tidelands, submerged lands, and public trust lands. The Coastal Commission is the appeal body for certain Coastal Development permits and reviews and approves any amendments to previously certified Local Coastal Programs.

What is climate change?

Human-induced climate change is a consequence of increased greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels that accumulate in the atmosphere and insulate the earth from outgoing long-wave radiation. As this atmospheric emissions blanket gets thicker, more heat is trapped in the earth's atmosphere, warming the earth and triggering a series of climate changes related to different feedback mechanisms. Once set in motion, many of the climate change feedbacks take centuries to millennium to stabilize.

What are the effects of climate change?

Climate change and rising global temperatures have been accompanied by significant changes in weather. Many places have seen changes in rainfall, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced some big changes - oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising.

What is sea level rise?

Globally, sea levels are rising as a result of two factors related to increasing temperature caused by human-induced climate change. The first factor is the thermal expansion of the oceans. As ocean temperatures warm, the water in the ocean expands and occupies more volume, resulting in a sea level rise. The second factor contributing to global sea level rise is the additional volume of water added to the oceans from the melting of mountain glaciers and ice sheets.

How much will sea levels rise?

Consistent with the California Coastal Commission Guidance policy guidance, the City of Marina is evaluating a worst-case scenario: the 62.6 inches by 2100 scenario projected by the National Research Council (NRC) for South of Cape Mendocino. This includes a regional assumption of 1.5 mm of subsidence annually. The City is also considering projected sea level rise of 8.8 inches by 2030 and 28.3 inches by 2060.

COMING SOON...What potential climate change vulnerabilities have been identified for Marina?