

Pacific Grove Shoreline Management Plan Stakeholder Interviews

Overview

The City of Pacific Grove is in the process of preparing a Shoreline Management Plan. The plan will consider public access, natural and cultural resources, public infrastructure and private property along the city's shoreline, and look at ways to protect these resources and investments from coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

As one way to learn about the community's differing perspectives on the project, the City's lead consultant interviewed representatives of agencies, groups and organizations considered stakeholders in Pacific Grove's shoreline. The representatives were asked about their particular areas of interest and concerns, as well as their ideas and suggestions for achieving the plan's objectives. The interviews were conducted mostly between late September and mid-October 2018. Below is the list of stakeholders, while a summary of the main issues and concerns expressed by the interviewees is provided on the back side.

Stakeholders interviewed

Federal, state and tribal agencies

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- California Coastal Conservancy
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State Parks
- Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation

Regional and local agencies

- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Monterey Regional Park District
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- City of Monterey

Nonprofits and community organizations

- Bay Net
- California Central Coast Black Oystercatcher Monitoring Project
- Hopkins Marine Station
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce
- Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sustainable Pacific Grove*

Utility and service providers

- California American Water
- Monterey One Water
- Monterey Stormwater and Education Alliance
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Pebble Beach Community Services District

* Rather than interview representatives of Sustainable Pacific Grove, the City's consultant met with the group at their September 2018 meeting.

See at left the names and full list of stakeholders interviewed

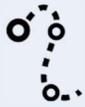


Key issues and concerns

Below is a summary of the main issues and concerns expressed by the stakeholder representatives that might be relevant to the development of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). The issues are listed roughly from more general (or conspicuous) to more specific, rather than in order of priority or importance. Some of the issues and concerns conflict, since they were compiled from different individuals, with differing opinions.



The shoreline is **Pacific Grove's top asset** and a gathering place for the community. It is also the main visitor destination and, as such, a key driver of the city's economy.



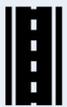
The SMP is an opportunity to **look at shoreline issues holistically**; for example, public access is disjointed and there is no comprehensive approach to the seawalls and other armoring structures.



The SMP is also an opportunity to **plan with a long-term view** by developing adaptation strategies for sea-level rise and coastal erosion.



Armoring is expensive, has negative impacts and eventually fails. Instead, accept the natural processes, gradually relocate infrastructure inland and **keep the shoreline as natural as possible**.



Continue to armor the shoreline where necessary to preserve public access and **protect public infrastructure and amenities**. These include roads, trails, parks, parking areas, utility lines and sewage pump stations.



Provide better interpretation of the shoreline through signage, mobile apps and art installations. Use these tools to promote opportunities for recreation, education and conservation, and to foster enjoyment and appreciation of the coast.



Improve public access by providing **continuous walking trails and bikeways**, ideally separated from traffic.



Protect natural habitats and wildlife, especially black oystercatchers and harbor seals. Human trespassing, off-leash pets and drones are particularly damaging. Restrict coastal access through fencing, roping, signage and designated access points.



Rethink the approach to coastal restrictions to **better balance wildlife protection and public access**. Look for solutions that engage and educate the public—for example, about seasonal beach closures—rather than steer visitors away.



Protect archaeological and cultural resources, in particular tribal human remains and artifacts.



Balance the trade-off between parking as a public access amenity and its environmental and aesthetic impacts. Improve the surface of the **parking and turnout areas** without paving them.



Eradicate non-native plants and replace them with native vegetation that is also more erosion-resistant.



Protect the coast's water quality by reducing polluted stormwater flows and sedimentation into the bay and ocean.



For more information or questions about the Shoreline Management Plan, visit PGshoreline.org or contact Joyce Halabi (City of Pacific Grove) at (831) 648-5722 or at info@PGshoreline.org.