



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 13, 2018

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## **Sea Level Rise Presents Challenges for Coastal Communities; King Tides Show us those Challenges**

(San Francisco, CA) - The year's highest tides, known as "king tides," will hit California shorelines December 22 & 23 and again January 20 & 21, providing a glimpse of what we expect as sea levels continue to rise.

The public can contribute to the California King Tides Project, an important citizen science initiative to help California communities prepare for an uncertain future, by first visiting [california.kingtides.net](http://california.kingtides.net). The project asks Californians to observe the ultra-high tides and share their photographs in order to illustrate how homes, harbors, beaches, wetlands, seawalls, and public access to the coast are affected and will continue to be affected by sea level rise.

**“To see the change that happens with a single foot of sea level rise along the California coast, you can visit a site one week before or after a King Tide event, observe the water level, and then compare that to the same site *during* a King Tide. The King Tide levels will show our future normal high tides after sea level rise.” – Lesley Ewing, Senior Coastal Engineer, California Coastal Commission**

The images shared by the public are used by State and local officials as well as climate change researchers to validate sea level rise models and better assess local flood vulnerabilities. Understanding the impacts of sea level rise is essential to finding the best way forward that balances all communities’ interests.

According to the California Ocean Protection Council’s updated Sea Level Rise Guidance, the seas are rising more, and faster, than previously anticipated, with significant consequences for the State. While the height and rate of sea level rise will vary along the coast of California, San Francisco for example is projected to see a rise in sea level between 1.1 and 2.7 feet by 2050. By 2100, San Francisco could experience between 2.4 and 6.9 feet of sea level rise, depending on how strongly we curtail our use of fossil fuels, with a potential for more than 10 feet of rise if there is extreme melting of the West Antarctic ice sheet.

**“King tides provide a snapshot view of the impacts of sea level rise we can anticipate in the coming decades. Sea level rise is real; it is happening now and will continue to threaten homes, critical infrastructure, public health, the environment and access to the coast. We must prepare for the consequences – lives, livelihoods, the coastal economy, coastal habitat and wildlife are in the balance.” – Deborah Halberstadt, Executive Director, California Ocean Protection Council**

California is working to fight climate change and reduce future sea level rise. The State of California recently passed the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act which calls for 100 percent of total retail sales of electricity in California to come from eligible renewable energy and zero-carbon resources before 2046.

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Visit [california.kingtides.net](http://california.kingtides.net) for a calendar of community King Tides events, a map of king tide times, resources for educators teaching about sea level rise, and to learn how to submit your king tides photos to the project.

Engage on social media: facebook: [cakingtides](https://www.facebook.com/cakingtides) • twitter: [CA\\_king\\_tides](https://twitter.com/CA_king_tides) • instagram: [ca\\_king\\_tides](https://www.instagram.com/ca_king_tides) #kingtides

Review the California Coastal Commission’s draft Residential Sea Level Rise Adaptation Policy Guidance at [www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr/vulnerability-adaptation/residential](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr/vulnerability-adaptation/residential).

Read the 2018 update of the California Ocean Protection Council’s [State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slr/vulnerability-adaptation/residential).

California State Parks will broadcast live on the morning of January 21 to explore King Tides from a number of different state parks along California's coast. Tune in to the webcast on the [California State Parks Facebook](#) page.

Senate Bill No. 100: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180SB100](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100)