

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

"Shrinking Shores" Event at Poplar Beach Illustrates Coastal Impacts of Climate Change

Redwood City, CA - On Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the City of Half Moon Bay and the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability will host an informational event at Poplar Beach about sea-level rise, as part of a statewide campaign called Shrinking Shores. It's one of many events around the state that will be held around World Oceans Day, (June 8), a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future.

On June 9, visitors can preview future versions of Poplar Beach across different ocean levels through the end of the century. In the near term, researchers project sea levels in San Mateo County to rise 6 inches to 1 foot by 2030 and 1 to 3 feet by 2050. Temporary signs will be placed into the sand and on the bluffs to depict scenarios of future sea level rise and bluff erosion. City and County staff will be on site to provide information, answer questions, and discuss the science behind the predicted changes.

"The Shrinking Shores event is a way to experience and consider the effects of higher sea levels on the people, places and services that the coastside supports, and that all of our county relies on. We are honored to join the City of Half Moon Bay to promote solutions to protect these vital resources and habitats," said San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley who represents District Four where Poplar Beach is located.

Half Moon Bay, the County of San Mateo, and other agencies on the California coast from San Diego to Humboldt County, are working to create awareness of this critical issue.

"Sea level rise will profoundly affect San Mateo County's bay shore and Coastside communities," said Dave Pine, President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. "It is critical that San Mateo County, together with its cities, develop and implement adaptation strategies to address this challenge."

The county is highly vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels. If left unmanaged, future flooding and coastal erosion could pose considerable risks to life, safety, critical infrastructure, the county's natural and recreational assets, and the economy. In collaboration with partner agencies, community organizations, and scientific consultants, the County completed a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, published in March

2018, to provide an overview of what is at risk from current and future flooding and erosion in the county. The report serves as the first step of the Sea Change SMC Initiative, which has the purpose of increasing the resilience of the County's economy, environment, and communities through collaborative planning and projects. More information is also available at SeaChange San Mateo County: <http://seachangesmc.com>.

San Mateo County residents are invited and encouraged to come out on June 9 to the 'Shrinking Shores' event, to learn more and better visualize these impacts. Poplar Beach is located at the end of Poplar Street, past Railroad Avenue in Half Moon Bay.

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