



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront

Subject: Grant Application: Ocean Protection Council SB1 funds for the University Ave Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit a grant application to the Ocean Protection Council SB1 program for the University Ave Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan for up to \$500,000; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

In December of 2025, the City will submit a grant proposal in the amount of \$500,000 to develop a Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan for the shoreline area located south of University Ave just west of Frontage Road at the Berkeley Waterfront. While OPC does not require matching funds, leveraging additional funding sources is encouraged when feasible.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2021, Governor Newsom signed [Senate Bill 1 \(Atkins, 2021\)](#) into law. Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) directs the state to provide funding to local and regional governments to develop sea level rise (SLR) adaptation plans and implementation projects. In 2022, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) awarded \$37.5 million to OPC to support the implementation of SB 1. As of June 2025, \$14.14 million is available for funding SB 1 projects. The grant program accepts grant proposals on a quarterly basis in March, June, September, and December of each year. The next available deadline is December 19, 2025, when the City will submit a grant proposal in the amount of \$500,000 to develop a Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan for the shoreline area located south of University Ave just west of Frontage Road at the Berkeley Waterfront.

## BACKGROUND

In 2019, the City commissioned the Berkeley Marina Sea Level Rise AB 691 Assessment Study” as required by Assembly Bill 691.<sup>1</sup> The Study identified three locations in the Berkeley Waterfront that are most susceptible to intermittent inundation in the future due to Sea Level Rise from the time horizon of mid to end of century: (1) the Virginia Street Extension at Marina Boulevard; (2) the South shore of University Avenue between Frontage Road and Marina Blvd; and (3) the north-east side of the Berkeley Inner Harbor. In 2025, the City received funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to address the Virginia Street location, and the Inner Harbor location is within the leased boundary of the Doubletree Hotel and will require additional analysis before a project can be designed. As a result, the University Ave location will be the subject of this grant proposal.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This project will develop a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan for the south shore of University Ave between Frontage Road and Marina Blvd at the Berkeley Waterfront. The plan will produce feasible alternative solutions that will protect University Ave and the Bay Trail at that location from the impacts of Sea-level Rise as well as develop nature-based solutions.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The project will help the City advance the following long-term strategic goals: (1) Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment; (4) Provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities; and (6) Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

## CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront, 981-6700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019-8-30%20Draft%20Sea%20Level%20Rise%20Assessment%20Study\\_0.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019-8-30%20Draft%20Sea%20Level%20Rise%20Assessment%20Study_0.pdf)

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION – OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL SB1 FUNDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY AVE SEA-LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLAN AT THE BERKELEY WATERFRONT

WHEREAS, in 2021, Governor Newsom signed [Senate Bill 1 \(Atkins, 2021\)](#) into law. Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) directs the state to provide funding to local and regional governments to develop sea level rise (SLR) adaptation plans and implementation projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) awarded \$37.5 million to OPC to support the implementation of SB 1. As of June 2025, \$14.14 million is available for funding SB 1 projects; and

WHEREAS, the grant program accepts grant proposals on a quarterly basis in March, June, September, and December of each year. The next available deadline is December 19, 2025, when the City will submit a grant proposal in the amount of \$500,000 to develop a Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan for the shoreline area located south of University Ave just west of Frontage Road at the Berkeley Waterfront; and

WHEREAS, while OPC does not require matching funds, leveraging additional funding sources is encouraged when feasible.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or his designee is authorized to submit a grant application to the Ocean Protection Council SB1 program for up to \$500,000 to develop a Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan for the shoreline area at University Ave; accept the grant; execute all necessary agreements, contracts, and documents required to secure and administer said funds; and the City Council authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

