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Support And Adopt Hope For The Coast Vision For California's Coastal Future

The County of Los Angeles is home to critical natural resources such as its iconic beaches, diverse coastal bluffs and dunes, mountain ranges, and urban wilderness that provide important benefits to the community, are cherished by residents and visitors, provide habitats for biodiversity, and make Los Angeles a must-see destination for tourists from around the world. The coastal areas in the County are an engine of the so-called "Blue Economy," providing important recreational and commercial economic benefits as well as critical ecosystem benefits and services. According to the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, coastal and marine resources contribute over \$2 billion to GDP annually. The coast also provides filtration of runoff and pollutants, nursery habitats for fish, support to commercial fisheries, buffers against wave and storm surge, and carbon sequestration.

The critical coastal resources in Los Angeles County are threatened by a number of stressors, including overfishing, pollution from urban runoff, conflicts between humans

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and marine life that may result in injury or mortality, and climate change. A comprehensive, statewide habitat assessment by the California State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, “*Conserving California’s Coastal Habitats: A Legacy and A Future with Sea Level Rise*,” found that 59% of current coastal habitat by area throughout California is highly vulnerable to up to five feet of sea level rise. In the County, nearly 70% of our beaches are highly vulnerable to 5ft of sea level rise by the year 2100. The long-term protection of our remaining precious coastal habitats is critical to the economic, environmental, and social health in Los Angeles. The study presents a blueprint for conservation and adaptation of coastal habitat in the face of a changing climate, through which it is possible to achieve no net loss of habitat with five feet of sea level rise in California. But, such a goal will only be achieved with concerted, coordinated and sustained action. A growing coalition of California cities, counties, state agencies, and regional and federal organizations are signatories to The Nature Conservancy’s *Hope for the Coast* initiative, adopting a bold vision for California’s coastal future and making specific commitments to maintain and enhance California’s coastal habitats.

The County operates and maintains 20 non-contiguous public beaches between Nicholas Canyon in the City of Malibu and San Pedro in the City of Los Angeles, and has conducted a sea level rise vulnerability assessment, which includes short and long-term adaptive management strategies for its public beach facilities. The County is developing the first-ever Sustainability Plan to outline a bold, inclusive vision for the future that balances the co-equal values of environment, equity, and economy, and present a comprehensive pathway to sustainability addressing a wide range of subjects including climate change, water, energy, resource management, land use,

transportation, open space, biodiversity, public health, economy and workforce development, housing, resilience, and governance. The County also serves as a regional and global leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, natural resource preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles take the following actions:

1. Adopt the following Hope for the Coast vision to reaffirm our commitment to the conservation of our coastal natural resources:
Los Angeles County pledges to maintain and enhance Los Angeles' coastal habitats through science-guided, collective action in the face of sea level rise, other climate change-induced challenges, and development, ensuring a protected coast for future generations to enjoy, replete with as much or more habitat and wildlife, as well as social, economic, and recreational benefits, as we have today.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, through the Chief Sustainability Office, to work with County departments to use the most current science-based studies, including the *Conserving California's Coastal Habitats: A Legacy and A Future with Sea Level Rise study and vision* to:
 - a. Help prioritize opportunities to advance coastal resource protection and sea level rise adaptation planning and policy development in the County Sustainability Plan;

- b. Incorporate coastal habitat resilience in the adaptation of the communities, resources and infrastructure in the County under the Sustainability Plan and other relevant planning efforts; and
 - c. Continue to advance dialogue among partners and with the community around coastal regional sediment management, nature-based adaptation, and long-term strategies to ensure our beaches continue to provide the region with the important recreational, economic, and ecological benefits for future generations; and provide regional leadership and coordinate with cities and partners to advance adaptation planning throughout the region and encourage partners to also adopt the Hope for the Coast vision and identify ways to achieve it.
3. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, through the Chief Sustainability Office, to include policies and programs in the Sustainability Plan that:
- a. Acknowledge and elevate the singular value of our region's marine and coastal resources as part of the Blue Economy; and
 - b. Prioritize the protection, restoration, and preservation of our coastal and marine resources from other human-caused stressors, including reducing land-based marine pollution, supporting a sustainable aquatic food system, and reducing or mitigating impacts to wildlife.