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**Sea-level Rise is the Leading Coastal Management Concern in California**

*New study provides a snapshot of climate change and adaptation challenges, attitudes, and actions*

Los Angeles - A new study, released today as part of California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, provides a snapshot of the current state of coastal adaptation across California. Sea-level rise has emerged as the dominant present-day coastal management concern across California. This is a notable shift among all types of survey respondents compared to 2011 survey results, when sea-level rise was mostly seen as a future coastal management challenge.

The study, *Growing Effort, Growing Challenge: Findings from the 2016 California Coastal Adaptation Needs Assessment*, was conducted by USC Sea Grant, U.S. Geological Survey, and Susanne Moser Consulting. The 2016 needs assessment is the third in a series of surveys assessing the changing needs of California coastal professionals; previous surveys were administered in 2011 and 2006. These new results provide insight across 10 years of shifting climate change and adaptation challenges, attitudes, barriers, actions, and training and funding needs in coastal California. The surveys were administered to local, regional, state, federal, private sector, and NGO professionals involved in coastal management and adaptation.

2016 survey results also reveal that progress, barriers, and needs vary across regions. For example, sea-level change ranks as the highest concern in Northern California and the Bay Area; coastal and shoreline erosion is of greatest concern along the Central and San Diego coasts; and water quality concerns are seen as the greatest current challenge in Southern California.

There is also a notable shift in information needs: while coastal professionals' dominant information needs focused on becoming more familiar with sea-level rise-related risks in 2011, the greatest needs now are options for solutions and how to implement them.

"By understanding changing needs and barriers at the regional level, these results can help inform how to move coastal adaptation forward," said Nick Sadrpour, Science, Research and Policy Specialist at USC Sea Grant. "We can determine where more guidance, financial resources, and science resources are needed."

Find the full study and highlights here: <http://bit.ly/2Pav4Ly>

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