



Regional Adaptation for Climate Resilience of Monterey Bay Coastal Communities

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF)?

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1995. We are dedicated to protecting and enhancing coastal and marine environments, focusing on marine conservation, water quality, climate change adaptation, and coastal restoration. We support dozens of conservation projects throughout the state in partnership with other NGOs, research institutions, universities, Tribes, and state and federal agencies.

While we work closely with NOAA and all of California's National Marine Sanctuaries, we are not organizationally affiliated, but partner when programmatic opportunities arise.

2. What is the main goal of the “Regional Adaptation for Climate Resilience of Monterey Bay Coastal Communities” project?

The primary goal is to enhance the resilience of coastal communities in the Monterey Bay region against sea level rise, storm surges, river flooding, and wildfires.

3. Which areas are targeted by this project?

The project focuses on Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, specifically addressing the needs of coastal communities impacted by storm surge, sea level rise, and flooding from the San Lorenzo, Pajaro, Salinas, and Carmel rivers, as well as areas prone to wildfire in the coastal watersheds.

4. What are the main climate risks addressed by the project?

The project aims to mitigate risks associated with sea level rise, storm surges, river flooding, and wildfires.

5. What are the key adaptation strategies of the project?

The project employs four main adaptation strategies:

1. Regional Collaboration and Capacity Building
2. Workforce Development
3. Flood Risk Reduction
4. Wildfire Risk Reduction

6. How does the project promote regional collaboration?

CALIFORNIA MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 8346, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

californiamsf.org



The project establishes the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network (MBCAAN) to coordinate and plan for future adaptation and resilience actions in the Monterey Bay region. MBCAAN will ensure broad and inclusive participation of local and regional governments, educational institutions, researchers, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

7. What is the role of the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network (MBCAAN)?

MBCAAN serves as a forum for active information sharing and planning among jurisdictions, develops regional climate adaptation strategies, identifies and pursues funding for projects, and monitors the implementation and effectiveness of adaptation actions.

8. How will the project build capacity and workforce development?

The project includes training programs for young adults, undergraduates, graduate students, and Monterey Bay regional professionals in climate adaptation and resilience skills, focusing on recruiting trainees from disadvantaged communities and ensuring job placement in relevant fields.

9. What actions are included in the Flood Risk Reduction strategy?

The strategy involves restoring and enhancing wetland and floodplain areas, constructing living shorelines, raising low-lying infrastructure, and restoring estuarine wetlands to retain floodwaters that would otherwise cause damage, thereby increasing the adaptive capacity of communities and agricultural lands.

10. How does the project address wildfire risks?

The project implements shaded fuel breaks, fuel load reduction, prescribed fire, and cultural burning practices to reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfires in vulnerable areas, improving the safety of communities and ecosystems.

12. Who are the main partners and collaborators in this project?

The project involves local, regional, and state agencies, resource districts, land trusts, academic institutions, foundations, and non-profits with expertise in community and Tribal engagement. The main partners and collaborators include: California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (lead), Big Sur Land Trust, California State Parks, California State University Monterey Bay, Central Coast Climate Collaborative, Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association, Central Coast Wetlands Group, City of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, Coastal Conservation & Research, Collaborative for Right Relations, Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, Ecology Action, Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Four Directions, Groundswell Coastal Ecology, Hartnell College, Land Trust Santa Cruz County, Monterey Bay Climate Justice Collaborative, Monterey Bay Climate Project Working Group, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency, Pajaro Storm Drain Maintenance District, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Regeneración, Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, Santa Lucia Conservancy,



CMSF CALIFORNIA
MARINE
SANCTUARY
FOUNDATION

University of California Santa Cruz, and Watsonville Wetlands Watch. Numerous subcontractors will also be hired to assist in implementing the activities in this grant.

13. How is the project funded?

The project is funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022. The project's 5-year budget totals \$71.1 million.

14. How will the project's success be monitored and evaluated?

The Central Coast Wetlands Group will lead a regional monitoring effort to track the effectiveness of flood-risk reduction actions, while MBCAAN will conduct performance evaluations to gauge the extent to which project goals are met.

15. How can the public get involved or learn more about the project?

The public can participate in community meetings, provide feedback through MBCAAN, and stay informed through the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation's communications and outreach efforts. For more information visit www.CMSFclimate.org.