



Recovery and Resilience

at Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches

About the Project

The Recovery and Resilience at Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches study increased understanding of coastal hazards at these beaches, evaluated the vulnerability of the beaches to these hazards, and recommends potential adaptations to increase resilience.

The study provides technical guidance and recommends potential actions. State Parks will use this technical guidance to inform future planning and design efforts to increase resilience at Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches.

Vulnerability Findings

The study found that beaches and cliffs at New Brighton and Seacliff are exposed to hazards that could impact park assets. At New Brighton, these exposed areas cover 17% of the park, while at Seacliff these areas cover 86% of the park. Potential impacts in these exposed areas are predicted to be more severe as sea level rises.

LOCATION	Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise				Influence of Coastal Processes				
	1' Sea Level Rise	2' Sea Level Rise	4' Sea Level Rise	6' Sea Level Rise	Wave Run-up	Wave Overtopping	Beach Erosion	Shoreline Retreat	Cliff Retreat
New Brighton Beach	Moderate	High	Severe	Severe	Moderate	High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate
Seacliff SB Campground	High	Severe	Severe	Severe	Moderate	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate
Seacliff SB Day-Use Area	Moderate	High	Severe	Severe	Moderate	High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate
Rio Del Mar (Esplanade and Platforms)	Moderate	High	Severe	Severe	Moderate	High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate

Vulnerability Rating

Low

Moderate

High

Severe

Influence of Coastal Processes

Slight

Moderate

High

Very High



What We Heard

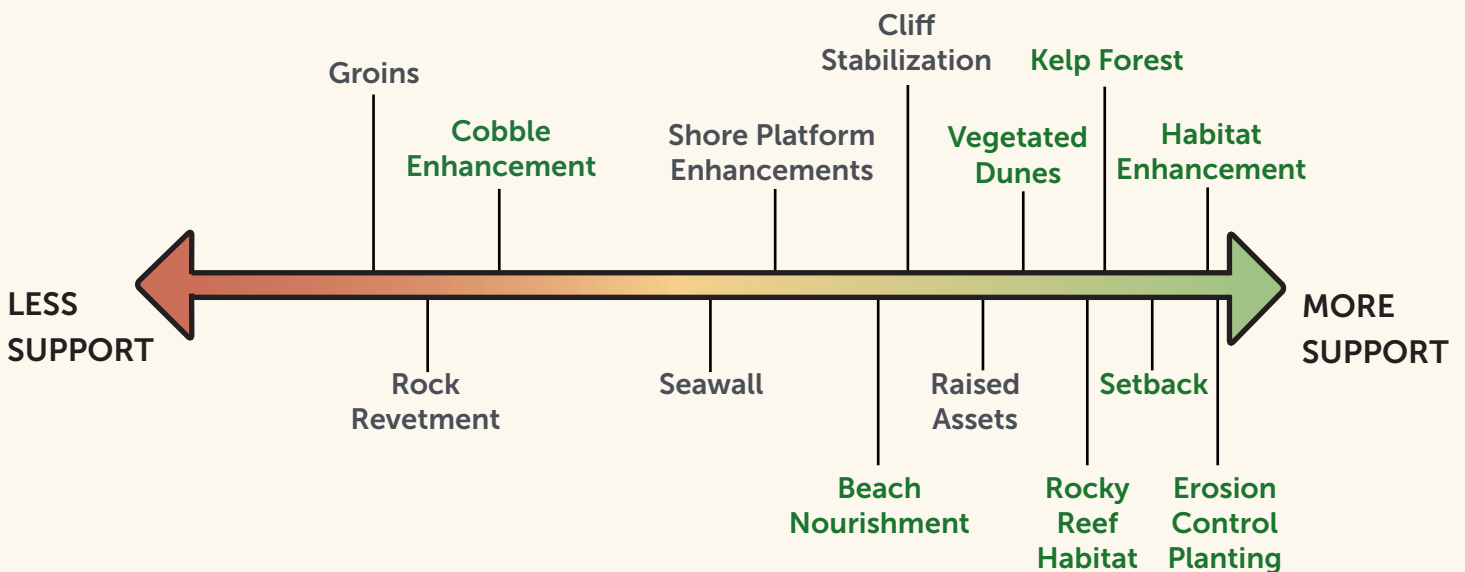
What do people value about Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches?

Nearly 4,000 survey respondents reported that they appreciate the beaches' beauty, physical and mental health benefits, and the activities that are available. Activities that people are most interested in enjoying in the future included beach recreation, running/walking/hiking, camping, and nature observation.



Which landscape elements (adaptations) would allow visitors to continue enjoying their favorite activities at these beaches?

Open house and survey participants indicated more support for landscape elements that feature green infrastructure and less support for landscape elements that feature gray infrastructure.



Learn more about these landscape elements at www.SeacliffResilience.org/resources



Increasing Resilience

Taking action to increase resilience will help ensure these beaches continue to balance protection of natural resources with opportunities for high quality recreation. Five locations at Seacliff and New Brighton with extensive exposure to hazards were prioritized for shoreline adaptation. Adaptation strategies based on three separate adaptation themes were developed at each location.

THREE ADAPTATION THEMES:

FORTIFY & PROTECT

Prioritizes protecting existing features in place

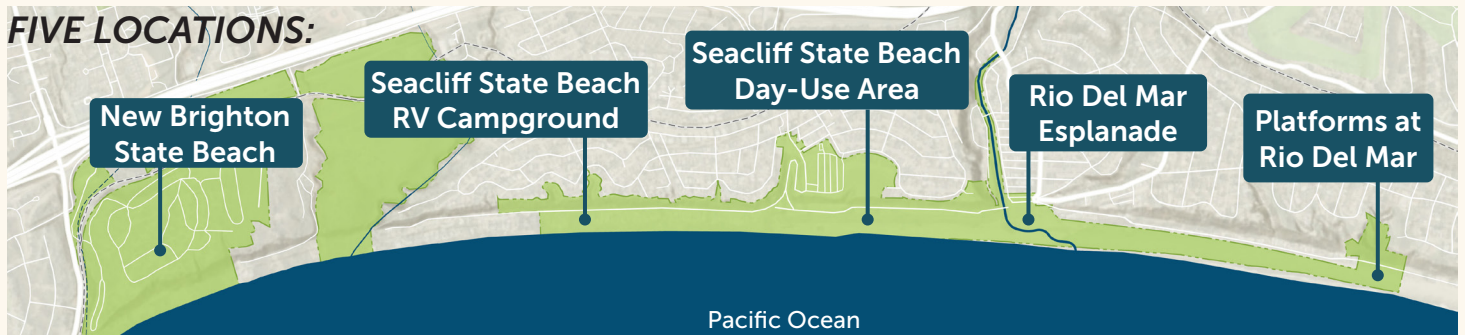
HYBRID

Balances keeping recreational access and making room for coastal processes

RESTORE & RELOCATE

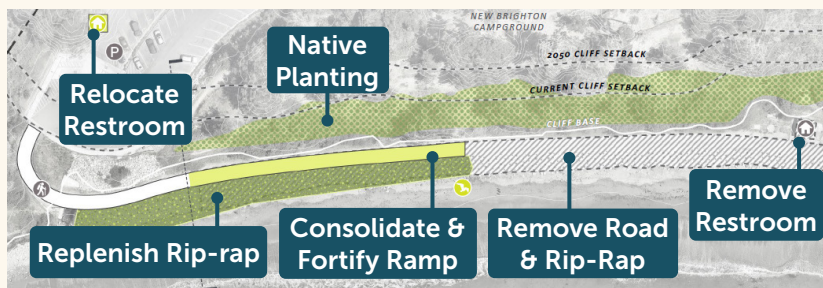
Prioritizes natural resource restoration and relocates assets to make room for coastal processes

FIVE LOCATIONS:



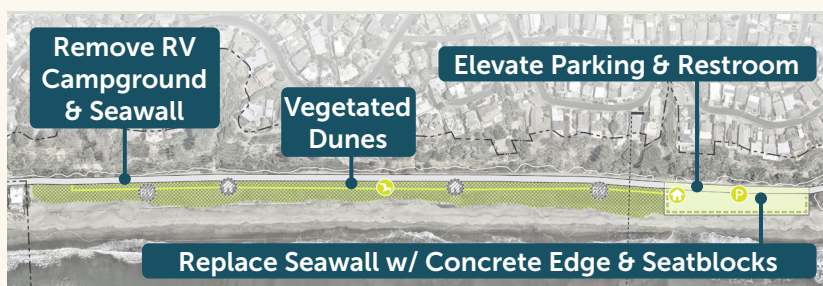
At each location, three theme-based adaptation strategies were evaluated based on a near-term expectation of one foot of sea level rise by 2050. Evaluation criteria included costs, permitting, resource protection, public access, public support, and resilience. A theme-based adaptation strategy and associated recommended preferred actions were identified for each location.

RECOMMENDED PREFERRED ACTIONS:



New Brighton State Beach: Hybrid

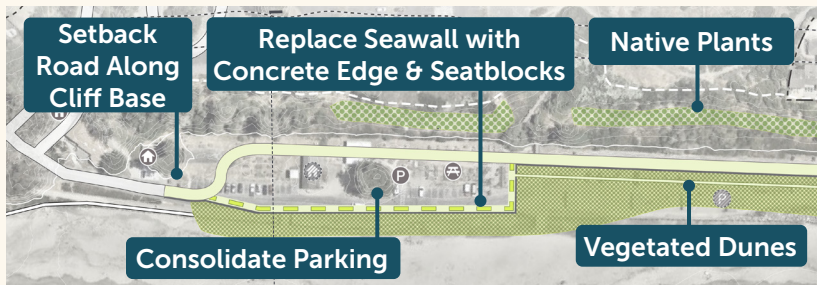
- Relocates exposed facilities away from coastal processes
- Increases beach space for recreation and habitat, increasing local biodiversity
- Maintains emergency vehicle access



Seacliff RV Campground: Hybrid

- Maintains public access along beach
- Increases beach space for recreation and habitat, increasing local biodiversity
- Relocates Recreational Vehicle (RV) campground recreational use





Seacliff Day Use: Hybrid

- Consolidates facilities to decrease exposure to coastal hazards
- Increases beach space for recreation and habitat, increasing biodiversity
- Supports picnicking and other activities
- Helps sand retention by moving back seawall



Rio Del Mar Esplanade: Restore & Relocate

- Removes facilities exposed to coastal processes and Aptos Creek
- Supports native restoration adjacent to Aptos Creek



Platforms at Rio Del Mar: Fortify & Protect

- Maintains existing facilities and access
- Existing beach width reduces exposure of existing facilities in near-term

Interested in Learning More?

The complete Recovery and Resilience at Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches study is available on the project website's Resources page. The report contains additional information, analyses, and technical details.



Scan QR code to visit
www.SeacliffResilience.org

Next Steps

California State Parks will use the technical guidance from this study in a future planning process. This process will include a camping feasibility study, development of a Coastal Facilities Management Plan (CFMP), and additional opportunities for public participation. The camping feasibility study will determine the most feasible location for replacing the campsites lost at Seacliff, and the CFMP will advance the design of the recommended preferred actions for the five locations identified in this study.

Questions or comments? Email us at:
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