



City Manager Kevin Woodhouse contributed a column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the October 3, 2018 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on updates on sea level rise draft adaptation policies, changing to district-based City Council elections, and library planning.

Three Important Updates

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide important information about three distinct topics – sea level rise draft adaptation policies, changing to district-based City Council elections, and exciting library planning news.

The City has released for public review draft Local Coastal Program policies related to sea level rise. As was presented clearly at the recent public workshop on September 15th, the draft policies do not include “managed retreat.” The policies focus on protection and armoring of the shoreline in the near term and reassessment of the policies in the future if conditions change over time that exceed hazard thresholds that warrant different adaptation strategies. Future re-evaluation of policies as natural conditions change (whether several years from now due to a severe storm, or thirty or fifty years from now due to sea level rise) is a prudent policy for any long-term planning effort. And any future policy re-evaluation would be a process open to public review and input.

Public comments have suggested that “managed retreat” is hidden somewhere in the policies. It is not. While “managed retreat” was one of numerous strategies analyzed in the Final Draft Adaptation Plan as required by the Coastal Commission, that plan serves as background information to inform development of the draft policies. Now the draft policies have been developed for public input and Planning Commission and City Council consideration, and the policies do not include “managed retreat.” This recommendation is consistent with the City Council’s stated goals for the Local Coastal Program Update “to preserve existing neighborhoods, and promote environmental justice and local economic vitality.” I encourage anyone who is interested to review for themselves the source information about this important topic on the City’s website, www.cityofpacifica.org/sealevelrise.

At their September 24th regular meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution of intent to transition to district-based City Council elections as a result of a letter received from Kevin Shenkman of Shenkman & Hughes, a Southern California law firm, alleging violation of the California Voting Rights Act and challenging Pacifica’s at-large City Council election system. Challenges by Mr. Shenkman against hundreds of local governments across the state have left elected officials with virtually no choice but to transition to district-based elections. Within the next 90 days, there will be five public hearings scheduled to carry out the districting process. After the hearings and drawing of district maps, if the Council passes an ordinance to make this transition, 2020 would be the first year the City could implement district voting. A press release about this topic is available on the City’s website.

Also at the September 24th meeting the City Council adopted an innovative two-branch operating model for enhancing services at the Sanchez Library along with a full-service new library at the existing Sharp Park library site. The Sanchez Library is being proposed with an Open Access model and design combined with Community Center Annex space. Broad public input and survey responses about this innovative operating model and design will be sought beginning now through this winter. Please visit the City’s website to learn more.

As always, I encourage you to sign up for the weekly Connect With Pacifica e-newsletter through the [City Manager's page](#) on the City's website. It's a quick and easy way to learn about important updates, meeting and event announcements, and other City-related news items.
