



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 December 5, 2018 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on upcoming major project milestones.

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## **Major Project Milestones Upcoming**

If there is a principle that holds true in public outreach and public communications, in all communications for that matter, it is to repeat information multiple times to increase the chance of your message being heard. So, although I have many new City of Pacifica updates to report, I will repeat critical information I have reported previously in this monthly column and elsewhere about the City Council elections districting process and the sea level rise draft adaptation policies.

In September the City Council began the process to consider transitioning to district-based City Council elections. The background and information about this process is available at [www.cityofpacifica.org](http://www.cityofpacifica.org), and information was mailed to every resident in Pacifica. Four public hearings have been held about this topic and to receive input on the drawing of five councilmember districts. Members of the public also have been invited to provide input on maps through an on-line tool at [www.drawpacifica.org](http://www.drawpacifica.org). At the regular City Council meeting on December 10, 2018, the City Council will consider an ordinance to change to district City Council elections beginning in 2020. If the ordinance is passed, what this means is that in the November 2020 City Council election, Pacifica voters will only be voting for Council candidates in their district and, if a Council seat is not up for election in your district, you will not get to vote for a candidate that year. This change will not affect the three council candidates recently elected for four-year at-large terms. They can remain in their at-large council seats until 2022. I anticipate, come 2020 elections, many voters will express surprise at this change, so the City is being thorough about public information now within the tight timelines created by the law, and will continue to inform voters leading up to the 2020 elections.

Also on December 10 the City Council will provide direction on draft Local Coastal Program policies related to sea level rise adaptation, an important milestone in this project which began 18 months ago and will continue into 2019 as the policies get incorporated into the rest of the LCP document and return to the Planning Commission and City Council for review and adoption later in 2019, before being officially submitted to the California Coastal Commission for review. As the City has stated numerous times before, the draft policies under consideration do not include “managed retreat.” Instead, 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. Any future policy re-evaluation would be a process open to public review and input. I encourage anyone who is interested to review the source information about this important topic on the City’s website, [www.cityofpacifica.org/sealevelrise](http://www.cityofpacifica.org/sealevelrise). With direction from City Council about these protective policies, the City can move forward with completing the LCP Update and will be better positioned to seek regional, state, and federal funding for implementation of projects to protect against sea level rise.

Please keep your eyes out for forthcoming information this winter about numerous other major projects, including Wet Weather Equalization Basin progress, paving of Linda Mar and Oceana Boulevards, public input on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Two Library Operating Model, planning of the Manor Overcrossing and Hwy 1 On-Ramp project, plastic utensils and straw ban, West

Sharp Park/Palmetto area planning, the Beach Boulevard Hotel project, the Ohlone/Portola Heritage Trail, and more. There is no shortage of the significant number of projects/initiatives the City has underway.

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.

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