

DTSC ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Toxic Substances Control – DTSC's Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

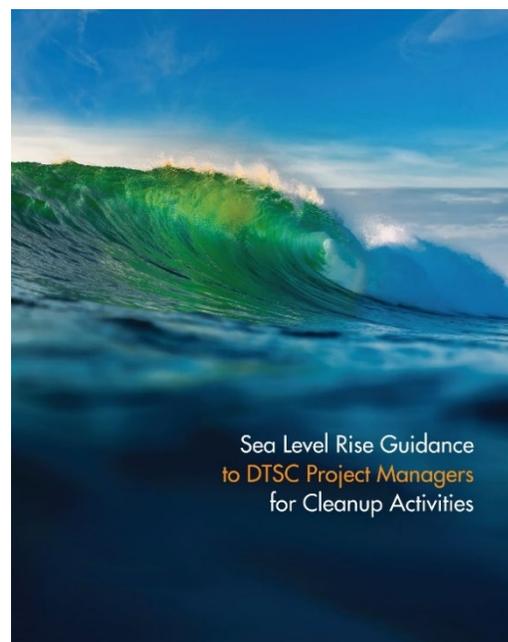
DTSC Formalizes Sea Level Rise Guidance

Who: The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

What: DTSC is publishing a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Guidance so that those interested can become familiar and engage as DTSC continues considering SLR in our cleanup remedies. The Guidance will support a consistent and transparent approach to mitigating the impacts of SLR on the contaminated properties where DTSC oversees cleanup.

When: The SLR Guidance is an ongoing process. Public comment will be open from now until October 31, 2023. A Public Information Session will be scheduled later this calendar quarter (before March 31, 2023).

How/Where: This is a statewide guidance that DTSC project managers use at all project sites when deciding on and evaluating cleanup remedies.



About Sea Level Rise

Climate change is causing Sea Level Rise (SLR) to negatively impact communities all along California's coastline. SLR is an increase in the water level of the Earth's oceans resulting from the thermal expansion of ocean water and melting of land ice. SLR threatens human health and the environment for several reasons. **At DTSC we're focused on mitigating the impact Sea Level Rise can have on contaminated properties we're tasked with cleaning up or overseeing.**

Without proper protections, SLR may adversely affect public health and the environment by altering environmental conditions at contaminated sites, and increasing the threat of release of hazardous contaminants in surface water, ground water, air, soil, and sediment. This protection is at the core of DTSC's mission to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

While DTSC has expertise in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites, DTSC partners with other experts for the most up-to-date science on sea level rise. DTSC is collaborating with other state agencies to identify, assess and, to the extent feasible, mitigate impacts of SLR. The Ocean Protection Council finalized the [State Agency Sea Level Rise Action Plan for California](#) (California SLR Action Plan) in February 2022.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice. Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor database](#).



DTSC Guidance

DTSC has developed guidance to support consistency in addressing sea level rise across all phases of the DTSC cleanup project life cycle. We're publishing the guidance so that those interested can become familiar and engage with us as we continue considering SLR in our cleanup remedies at contaminated sites. This Guidance ensures that DTSC Project Managers evaluate remedies at contaminated sites using a consistent process, so that remedies are resilient both now and into the future. DTSC will continue to require Responsible Parties to account for SLR by assessing sites most vulnerable to SLR by developing adaptation plans where potential issues with remedy resilience are identified. The Guidance provides information on sea level rise and related phenomena which can result in damage to remedies and mandates that **DTSC project managers consider SLR in the remediation process consistent with the [California SLR Action Plan](#) and California Ocean Protection Council guidance**. DTSC will determine whether a **SLR vulnerability assessment (SLRVA)** needs to be conducted at all sites. A SLRVA is conducted at each stage of the remediation process to specifically evaluate the resilience of the wastes and remedy at the site to future SLR impacts.

Timeline

Planning for SLR is an everchanging process because scientific discoveries and changes in the multitude of factors that influence SLR projections can evolve. DTSC plans to update this SLR Guidance after one year and consider updates as needed annually after that. Shortly after publishing the Guidance, DTSC will host a workshop to provide stakeholders and community members with more context and an opportunity to provide feedback. Check the DTSC SLR website at <https://dtsc.ca.gov/climate-change> for updates and to sign up for notifications regarding the workshop. Additionally, there will an opportunity to provide feedback through an online portal through October 31, 2023.

Questions

If you have questions or concerns regarding the SLR Guidance, please contact:

DTSC_SeaLevelRise@dtsc.ca.gov

