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# RELATING FUTURE COASTAL CONDITIONS TO EXISTING FEMA FLOOD HAZARD MAPS

## Technical Methods Manual

Prepared for  
California Department of Water  
Resources and  
California Ocean Science Trust

October 2016



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Prepared by  
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# CHAPTER 1

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## Introduction

The purpose of this Technical Methods Manual (TMM or Manual), Relating Future Coastal Conditions to Existing FEMA Flood Hazard Maps, is to help planners and engineers approximately adjust FEMA coastal flood maps to account for higher sea levels anticipated to occur in the future. This project is focused on California where the State has provided guidance to account for sea level rise in coastal zone planning and permitting, future coastal hazards are being mapped throughout the State, and municipalities are struggling with application of the future conditions maps. While focused on California, the “gap” between existing and future coastal hazard mapping will emerge for other coastal states in the near future. This TMM is focused on part of this “gap”: Specifically, relating future conditions flood maps to existing conditions FEMA maps for planning purposes. Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) provided future wave and water level projections and wave runup calculations to support this study. These data were compared to historic data to discern the predicted change in coastal flood levels that result from secular sea level rise as well as meteorological and climatic effects on short-term ocean water levels and wave conditions. This TMM is organized as follows:

**Chapter 2. Coastal Flooding Parameters** provides a description of sea levels, wave runup and total water levels used in coastal flood hazard mapping, along with definitions and equations.

**Chapter 3. Methods to Adjust FEMA Maps for Sea Level Rise** describes how flood hazards shown on FEMA maps can be approximately adjusted for sea level rise.

**Chapter 4. Examples** provides examples of applications of the methods described in Chapter 3.

**Chapter 5 Recommendations** identifies actions to improve reporting of existing and future coastal hazards to facilitate their combined use in planning.

**Appendix A. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)** provides a summary description of FEMA coastal flood maps.

**Appendix B. Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Future Waves and Water Levels** summarizes the SIO modeling used in this study. In addition, summaries of future and historic data are organized for use:

**Appendix B1. SIO Future Projections** provides selected future coastal flood levels developed by Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) for this study.

**Appendix B2. Historical Data** provides computed water levels, wave runup heights and total water levels using real tide and wave gauge data.

**Appendix C. Other Sea Level Rise Hazard Mapping Studies and Sources** is a summary of other future coastal hazard mapping sources in California.

## 1.1 Background

Outreach funded by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Grant identified an acute need to understand how to use future conditions coastal hazard maps, and how to relate these maps to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) existing conditions flood maps.<sup>4</sup> This TMM was developed in response to this expressed need. However, there remains a significant institutional gap which this TMM cannot fill. In particular, it is not possible to assign any authority or sanction to this TMM other than its contribution to subsequent Federal and or State guidance. This document will speed the development of such guidance, and does thereby contribute to more effective planning for sea level rise.

As presently constituted, FEMA does not address climate change impacts in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), although there is a general provision allowing program applicants to consider “expected future conditions” in the context of program compliance. Consequently, this study was designed to provide a background to support local planners in taking sea-level rise and additional coastal processes such as erosion into account as part of assessing risk of coastal flooding.

This Manual, *Relating Future Coastal Conditions to Existing FEMA Flood Hazard Maps*, relates future coastal conditions from modeling conducted by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) to existing conditions coastal flood maps produced by the FEMA in order to inform mapping of future coastal hazards needed to conduct local planning. This Manual also provides methods for relating future coastal conditions projected by other modeling and research efforts to FEMA Flood Hazard Maps, in addition to the SIO projections. In addition to assisting application of the SIO projections, the TMM is intended as a resource for users to apply and investigate other projections of coastal conditions made using alternative approaches or different and newly-emerging information.

This Manual was developed as part of a multi-agency effort<sup>5</sup> funded by the NOAA Coastal and Ocean Climate Adaptation (COCA) Program, The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) with coordination support from the California Ocean Science Trust (OST), to develop guidance products to help local communities adapt and plan for sea level rise. The Manual was developed by Environmental Science Associates (ESA) with input from SIO, OST, and DWR, and broad participation by professionals active in coastal engineering, planning and management (see Acknowledgements). A Focus Group, comprised of 17 agencies across local, State and Federal governments, provided oversight of the effort, and a Technical Methods Manual Committee (TMMC) provided more detailed review and input.

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<sup>4</sup> OST, 2015: Needs Assessment.

<sup>5</sup> *Piloting Non-Stationary Approaches to Floodplain Management: Supporting Local Communities and Informing National Policy.*

# CHAPTER 2

## Coastal Flooding Parameters

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### 2.1 Terminology

For the purposes of this report, terms are defined as follows and as shown in **Figure 2.1**.

- (1) Total Water Level (TWL) = Reference Water Level (RWL) + Wave Runup (R):

$$TWL(t) = RWL(t) + R(t) \text{ with } t=\text{time.}$$

- (2) Reference Water Level (RWL) = Regional Mean Sea Level (RMSL) + Astronomic tides (T) + non-tidal residuals (NTRs):

$$RWL(t) = RMSL(t) + T(t) + NTR(t) \text{ with RMSL and T defined to the same vertical datum and}$$

RWL is synonymous with Still Water Level (SWL) used in the coastal engineering (e.g. FEMA 2005) literature and does not include waves.

- (3) Regional Mean Sea Level (RMSL) = Sea Level Rise (SLR) - Regional Vertical Land Motion (RVLM)<sup>6</sup>. SLR is a function of the climate scenario manifested by thermal expansion of the ocean + addition of ice water volume and displacement.
- (4) Non-Tidal Residuals (NTRs) = climate residuals (e.g. ENSO- El Nino) + meteorological residuals (storm low pressure, etc.). Local nearshore effects such as wind setup may not be completely included here or elsewhere and could be added to the RWL if known or computed.
- (5) Wave Runup (R) = the theoretical limit of wave uprush, including static and dynamic wave setup, at approximately the 2% (of waves) exceedance level. R is primarily a function of wave height, wavelength and beach slope although other independent parameters are important and are considered in some equations (e.g. roughness and porosity of the shore, shape of the shore, etc.)

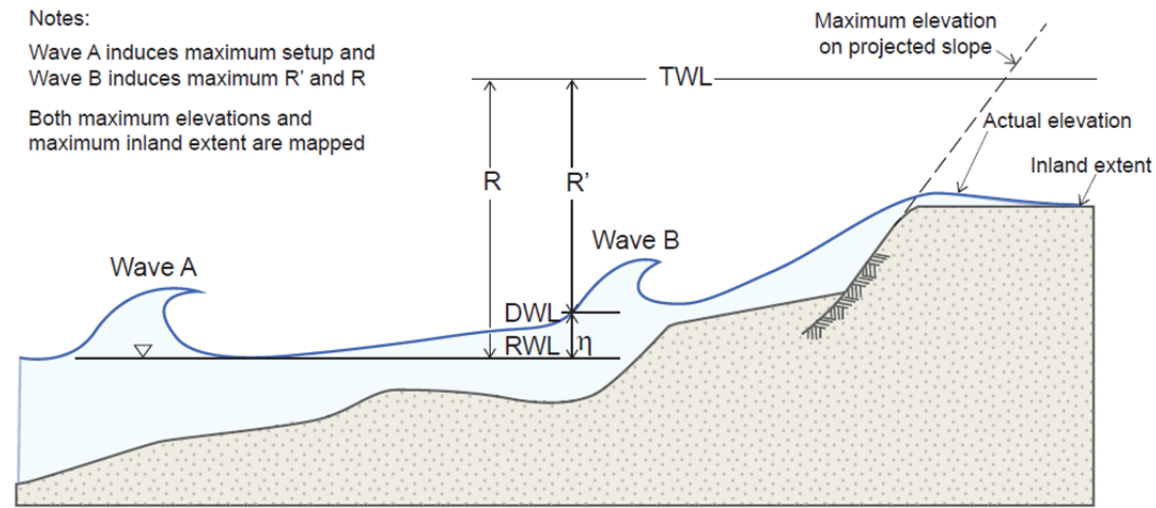
FEMA studies produce time series of (1), (2) and (5) and the extreme (1% annual probability of occurrence flood event, aka “100-year event”) values for (1) and (2) for each location in high precision for existing conditions ( see Appendix A: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FEMA’s extreme TWLs are extrapolated from a shorter than 100-year time series, using one of the accepted extreme value distributions; these TWLs are not calculated from the identified components of RWL and R. Unlike FEMA, SIO produced TWL(1), and all the components {(2), (3), (4) and (5)} for six discrete locations along the California coast for a range of increased

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<sup>6</sup> By convention, RVLM is positive for uplift and negative for subsidence.



global energy (emissions) scenarios for a range of future times. SIO used a simplified TWL index based on a beach runup equation (the Stockdon equation) for a range of beach slopes (see Appendix B: Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Future Waves and Water Levels).



TWL = Total water level = RWL + R

RWL = Reference water level ~ still water level

DWL = Dynamic water level, typically 2% exceedance ~ mean setup (aka "static") + 2x standard deviation

$\eta$  = 2% setup at RWL shoreline, wave A

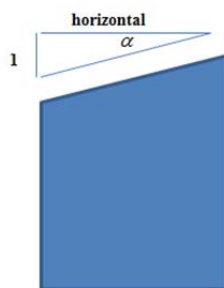
R = runup, including setup, above RWL, wave B typically on projected slope above back shore

**Figure 2.1**  
Definitions

Slopes are defined by the ratio of rise (vertical) to run (horizontal) as shown in **Figure 2.2** and **Table 2.1**, and the slope is also equal to the tangent ( $\alpha$ ) = 1/horizontal.

**TABLE 2.1**  
**SLOPE TERMINOLOGY**

Slope $m = \tan(\alpha) =$ (1/horizontal)	Horizontal distance per unit vertical distance (1/slope)	Described as
0.01	100	One on one hundred
0.02	50	One on fifty
0.05	20	One on twenty
0.1	10	One on ten
0.2	5	One on five



**Figure 2.2**  
Slope Schematic

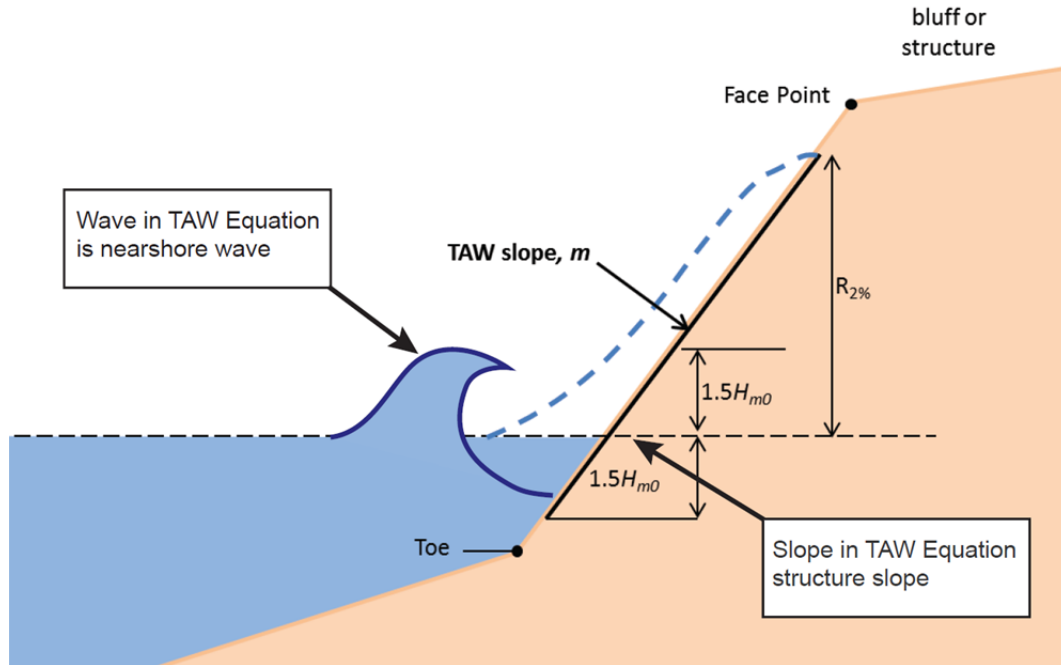
## 2.2 Runup Equations

There are several empirical equations routinely used to compute wave runup. For engineered and steeper backshores more related to cliffs than beaches, the TAW Equation (TAW, 2002) is often used. For beach profiles, the Stockdon Equation (Stockdon et al, 2006) is often used. Early equations were developed in simplified laboratory settings for coastal engineering applications, with the TAW equation being the most developed contemporary version. However, runup is much different on natural shores, especially with swell typical of the Pacific coast of the U.S., leading to alternative equations with the Stockton Equation being the most widely used contemporary version. However, neither equation works well for many California shores which are natural beaches (consistent with Stockdon and not TAW) with steep backshores comprised of bluffs, dunes or armoring within the range of wave runup (consistent with TAW and not Stockdon). These “hybrid” conditions can be addressed by a more complex methodology that combines the appropriate components of the natural beach regime (Stockdon) and steep backshore regime (TAW). The hybrid version used here is called ‘modified TAW’. The contemporary FEMA maps for California (mostly under-review and hence not fully “effective” at the time of this report) use all three equations, depending on the shore conditions.

### TAW Runup Equation

The TAW method refers to the Technical Advisory Committee on Flood Defense for the Netherlands, which is based on the work of Van der Meer<sup>7</sup>. The TAW equation is derived for a steep uniform slope that is typically associated with a structure such as a levee or seawall, using a wave that breaks on the slope (not farther offshore), as shown schematically in **Figure 2.3**.

<sup>7</sup> TAW, 2002, Van de Meer, Technical Report Wave Run-up and Wave Overtopping at Dikes, DELFT, Netherlands.



**Figure 2.3**  
Typical cross section for TAW runup equation (FEMA, 2015)<sup>8</sup>

The TAW equations are

$$R_{TAW} = 1.75\xi H \quad \text{for } 0.5 < \xi < 1.8$$

$$R_{TAW} = (4.3 - \frac{1.6}{\xi})H \quad \text{for } \xi > 1.8$$

These equations are plotted in terms of  $R/H$  vs.  $\xi$  in **Figure 2.4**.  $\xi$  is often called the Irribarren number or surf similarity parameter and is essentially the beach steepness relative to the wave steepness;

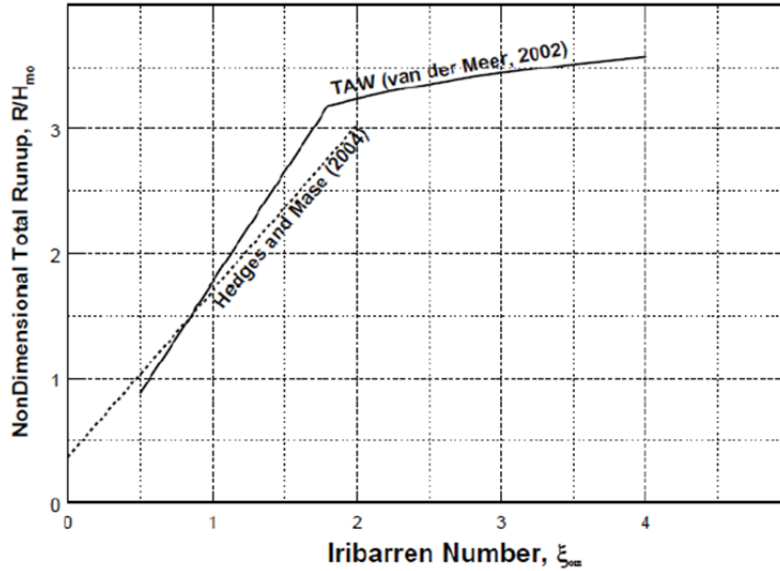
$$\xi = \tan\alpha / (H'_o/L_o)^{1/2}$$

$$\alpha = \text{angle of slope} = m \quad (^\circ)$$

$$H'_o = \text{wave height} \quad (\text{m})$$

$$L_o = \text{wave length} \quad (\text{m})$$

<sup>8</sup> FEMA, 2015. Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping, Calculation of Incident Wave Height and Slope for use with TAW Wave Runup Method, May 2015



**Figure 2.4**  
Plot of the TAW Runup Equations in Non-dimensional Form<sup>9</sup>

Figure 2.4 indicates that as the relative slope gets steeper (Iribarren Number gets larger), the relative runup increases (the lower, steeper line) until there is a change in the wave momentum transfer at Iribarren number of about 2, and the runup increases less (the upper, more horizontal line).

Note that the formula for the Iribarren Number uses the deepwater equivalent wave height  $H'_o$ , as depicted in the FEMA Guidelines (FEMA, 2005). However, the wave at the toe of the slope is typically in shallow water (relative to the wave length) and often practitioners use the local wave height (not the deepwater equivalent value) when using TAW. Hence we have simply used  $H$  in the TAW equation while maintaining  $H'_o$  in the Iribarren equation. These practice details should be left to qualified coastal engineers to consider based on established coastal engineering manuals.

## Stockdon Runup Equation

The Stockdon<sup>10</sup> equation is consistent with the SIO calculations and is expressed as

$$R_{Stockdon} = 1.1 \left( 0.35m(H'_o L_o)^{1/2} + \frac{[(H'_o L_o (0.563m^2 + 0.004)]^2}{2} \right)$$

$R_{Stockdon}$  is the wave runup above “still water level” at the 2% exceedance (98%) level

$m$  is the mean foreshore slope

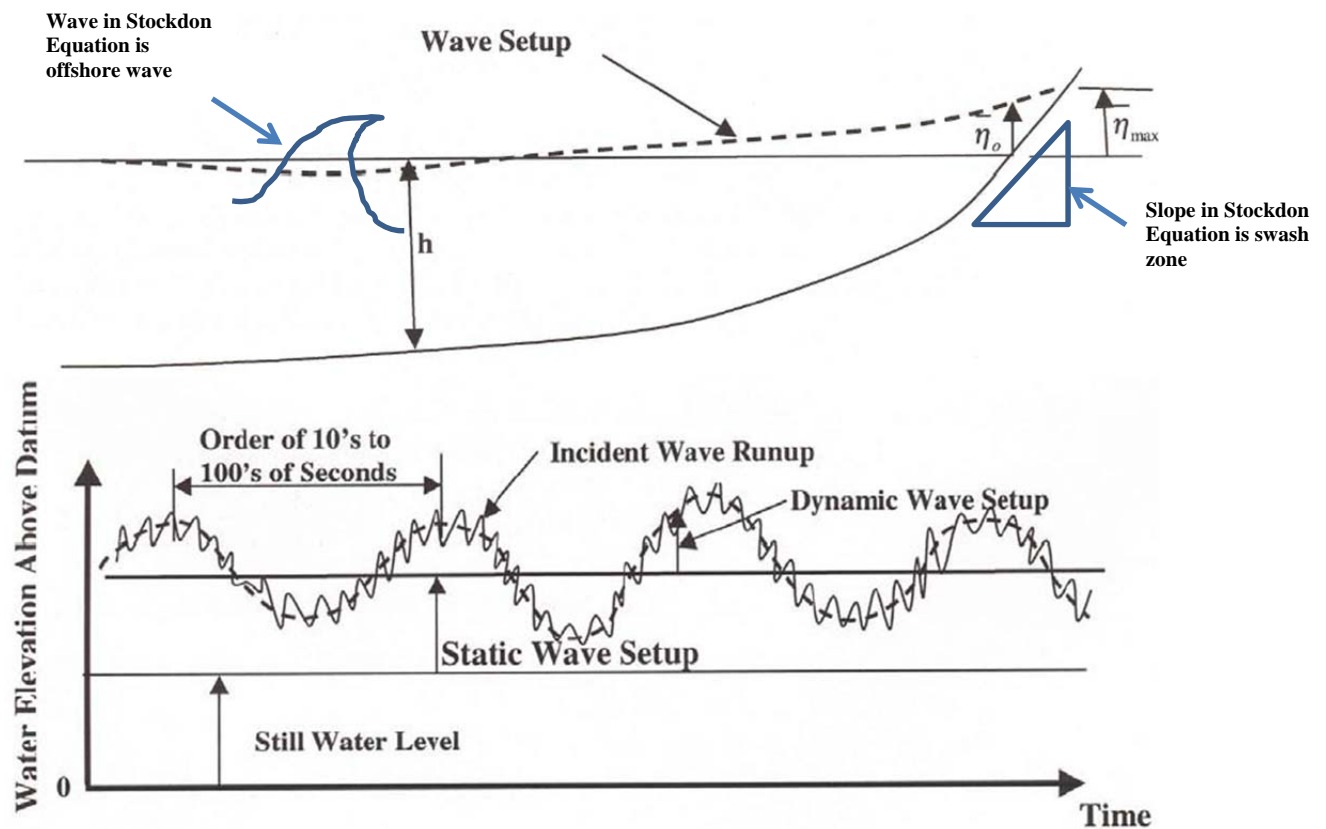
$H'_o$  is the wave height in deep water

$L_o$  is the wave length in deep water

<sup>9</sup> FEMA, 2005. Guidelines for Pacific Coast Flood Studies.

<sup>10</sup> Stockdon *et al* 2006

The first term in the bracket represents average wave setup contributions, sometimes called “steady” setup. The second part of the second term represents the oscillating setup, sometimes called “surf beat” or “infragravity” because its periodicity is on the order of minutes rather than the wave periods on the order of seconds. The first part of the second term is the wave uprush roughly at the wave period. These parameters are shown schematically in **Figure 2.5**. Note that the runup used in coastal flood mapping is the “2% exceedance” which corresponds approximately to the maximum elevations in the time plot in Figure 2.5. When the term wave runup is used, it is typically interpreted to include all of the setup and wave runup terms and in fact this is what is measured in the laboratory and the field. The distinction can become important when larger waves break offshore, setting up the water at the toe of the nearshore slope, and amplifying the nearshore runup. The Stockdon equation avoids this complexity by using the offshore wave and assuming a “natural” shore indexed by the nearshore slope.



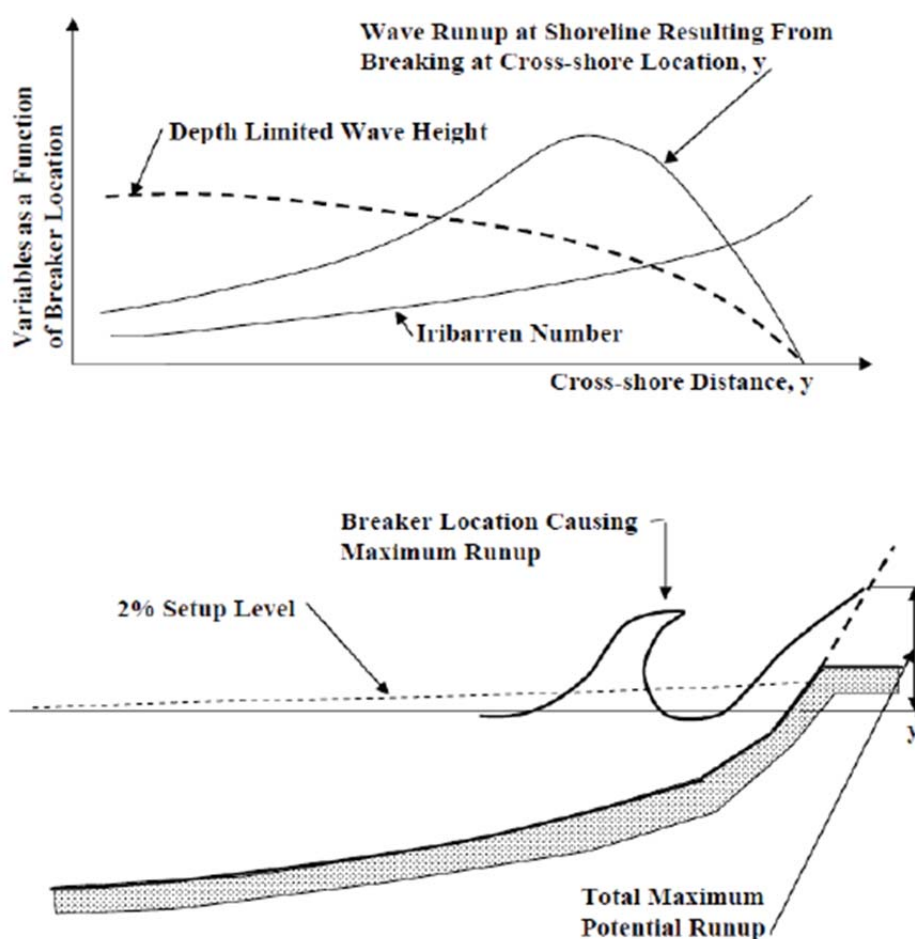
**Figure 2.5**

Wave setup terms (static (also called steady and average) and dynamic (also called infragravity) and incident wave runup. Adapted from MacArthur, et al, 2007.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> MacArthur, Robert C., Robert G. Dean and Robert Battalio, Wave Processes In Nearshore Environment For Hazard Identification Proceedings of the 30th International Conference of Coastal Engineering, 2006, ASCE, 2007, Vol. 2, pp 1775- 1787.

## Modified TAW Equation (Composite Slope Methodology)

**Figure 2.6a and 2.6b** is a schematic of a typical California shore profile, with a large surfzone comprised of a typical beach or flat reef slope, but with a steep backshore frequently impacted by wave runup. In this case, neither the TAW nor the Stockdon equation provide reliable results, and a hybrid method is typically employed (FEMA, 2005). As shown in the lower part of Figure 2.6, the water level nearshore is setup by larger waves breaking farther offshore, allowing the nearshore wave to break farther up the slope and increasing the total water level. Figure 2.6a shows parameters which indicate that the governing (highest total water level) results from a nearshore wave at the toe of the steeper slope, but affected by the dynamic setup. Note that this hybrid situation is pertinent only where there is ocean swell. In sheltered waters, such as San Francisco Bay, the setup is small and can be approximated by about 0.1 to 0.2 times the incident wave height (FEMA, 2005).



**Figure 2.6**

2.6a. (top) shows how the components that influence TWL change across the surfzone, and 2.6b shows the Composite Slope Method that is applicable to most California coasts where wave setup from larger waves maximize Total Water Levels

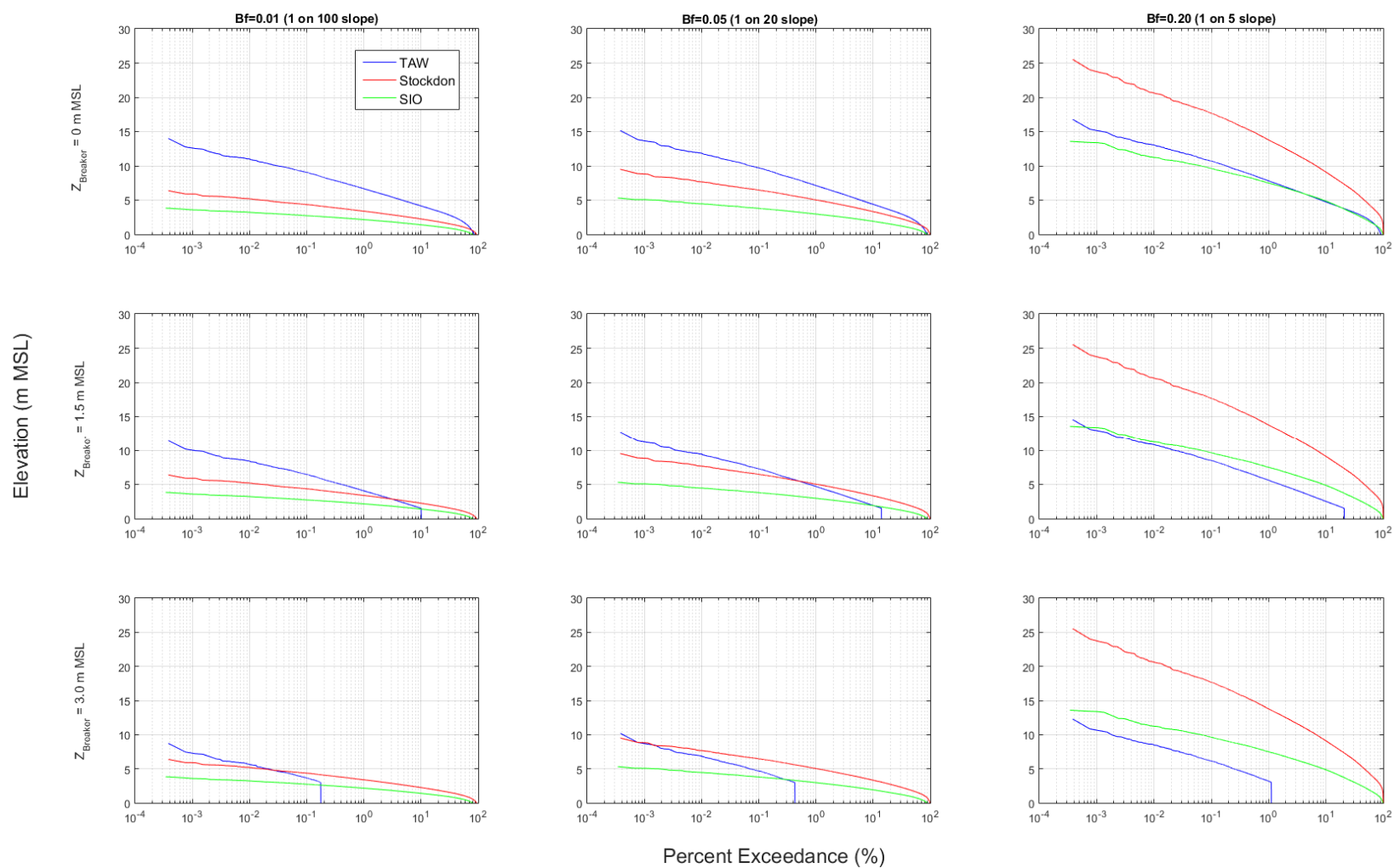
Application of the composite slope methodology yields a more reasonable estimate of the potential total water level for shores with a steep backshore. There are several wave runup equations which can be employed with the composite slope methodology, but the TAW equation is used in this Manual because it is widely used and being applied in the recent FEMA mapping. **Figure 2.7** presents a panel of plots that compare the cumulative distributions of total water level for Ocean Beach, San Francisco for (1) the TWL computed using the SIO GCM projections and runup computed with the Stockdon Equation; (2) TWL computed with real data and runup computed with the Stockdon Equation; and (3) real data used with a modified TAW (composite slope methodology). The modified TAW method was developed for this TMM with a range of parameters selected to be generally representative of California shore as well as the slope values used by SIO (Appendix B), and as described below.

Each column of Figure 2.7 presents distributions for different foreshore beach slopes: 0.01, 0.05 and 0.20. Each row of Figure 2.7 presents the distributions where the breaker height used in TAW is selected at the following elevation contours: 0 meters MSL, 1.5 meters MSL, and 3.0 meters MSL. Note that the modified TAW runup values decrease with an increase in the selected elevation contour for breaking. The total water levels estimated with the modified TAW approach include a component that accounts for the wave setup (using the parameterized DIM (Direct Integration Method) equation) combined with the runup computed using the TAW equation<sup>12</sup>. The calculation of the dynamic water level, or wave setup, does not use the foreshore slope, and is rather based on the overall slope of the shore profile. In this case, the overall shore slopes used in the calculation of the 2% dynamic water level were 0.01, 0.02, and 0.05, corresponding to the foreshore beach slopes of 0.01, 0.05, and 0.20, respectively. A breaker height was calculated based on the depth of the 2% dynamic water level at the selected breaker elevation contour, and then applied to the runup calculation using the TAW equation with a backshore slope of 0.25 (a typical condition found along the California coast).

The Stockdon model predicts very large runup heights for the steep beach slope of 0.20, likely because application of the empirical equation to this condition is out of the range of values for which the equation was developed. The Stockdon equation is generally applicable for conditions where  $R/H$  is less than 3, which has been shown by others to relate to conditions dominated by infragravity processes where  $\xi < 1.8$ <sup>13</sup>. In other words, The Stockdon method is generally applicable for beaches with a small to moderate slope, where infragravity waves dominate the runup. This is shown by the graph of relative runup height as a function of  $\xi$  in Figure 2.4, for which the relative runup  $R/H$  is limited when the Irrabaren number is greater than 1.8 (this is a condition that occurs on a relatively steep slope with long period waves). As the profile steepens and incidence processes start to dominate, the predicted runup is defined by the flatter-sloped line to the right of the break in slope shown in the graph of Figure 2.4.

<sup>12</sup> FEMA, 2005. Final Draft Guidelines for Coastal Flood Hazard Analysis and Mapping for the Pacific Coast of the United States <http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1389126436477-5bd6d5959718cf3f5a4b6e919f0c3b42/Guidelines%20for%20Coastal%20Flood%20Hazard%20Analysis%20and%20Mapping%20for%20the%20Pacific%20Coast%20of%20the%20United%20States%20%28Jan%202005%29.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Laudier et al. Measured and modeled wave overtopping on a natural beach/ Coastal Engineering 58 (2011) 815–825



**Figure 2.7**  
Cumulative distribution of total water level at Ocean Beach, San Francisco comparing SIO GCM (green) and real data (red) calculated with the Stockdon equation and a modified TAW approach with real data (blue)



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## CHAPTER 3

# Methods to Adjust FEMA Maps for Sea Level Rise

### 3.1 Using FEMA Hazard Maps to Identify Future Flood Hazards Related to Sea Level Rise

This manual provides guidance to modify FEMA flood maps for future sea levels. There are several *levels* of application that entail a range of effort and information. The lower levels of application are simpler to apply and the adjustments to the future conditions hazards information are limited. Higher levels require more effort but more accurately relate future and existing hazards. Higher levels require more information and capability. The levels are:

1. Comparison between FEMA flood limits and future projections.
2. Adjust FEMA V-Zones to include effects of sea level rise.
3. Address other hazard zones and geomorphic processes.
4. Apply FEMA methods to SIO or other future conditions outputs.

Each of these levels is described in more detail below. Where “SIO” is stated, other sources may be substituted (See Appendix C for other sources presently available).

**Level 1: Comparison:** The future conditions coastal flood values (i.e. TWL and RWL) can be compared to the FEMA maps for a given location where both are available. The SIO values for TWL have only been computed for six “forecast” locations using the Stockdon equation which is comparable to FEMA TWLs for beaches. TWL levels can be selected for the range of shore slopes that best match the conditions along the real shore. The RWLs for southern, central and northern California (Appendix B1) can be compared to FEMA 100-year SWL elevations. The SIO values can be selected for a range of climate scenarios (sea level rise curves) and time horizons. Similarly, other future conditions mapping can be compared to FEMA mapping. This approach is not recommended because of future conditions mapping by SIO (and others) use different methods and may be biased high or low. The uncertainty range with this method is likely to be -100% to +300% of the SIO TWL change and -20% to + 30% of the SIO RWL change. That is, if the SIO TWL change is +2 feet, the increase to be applied to the FEMA V-Zone elevation is somewhere in the range of +1’ to +4’ of TWL. Also, if the SIO RWL increase is 2 feet, the increase to the FEMA A-Zone SWL is +1.6 to +2.6 feet. Other sources will deviate more or less from the FEMA mapping, depending on the methods used (See Appendix C for

sources). Better comparability will hopefully be realized in the future (see Chapter 5 Recommendations), making Level 1 Comparison more useful.

**Level 2: Adjust V-Zones:** Adjustment of the V-Zone for future conditions will typically be the most useful application owing to the high hazards and insurance premiums and restrictive building requirements associated with this zone. Depending on the data available, there are two recommended Level 2 methodologies, identified below and described in Section 3.2:

**Level 2.a: Add sea level rise:** Add sea level rise to TWL and apply geomorphic adjustment and,

**Level 2.b: Prorate Components:** Prorate existing water level by adding future change and prorate wave runup by multiplying by ratio of future change, and sum to get future TWL. Apply geomorphic adjustment<sup>14</sup>.

**Level 3: Address other hazard zones and geomorphic processes:** Level 3 builds upon Level 2 by including modifications to A-zones, coastal erosion and coastal armoring. The Coastal A-Zone, also known as the Limit of Moderate Wave Activity (LiMWA), is not widely used on the Pacific coast but can be adjusted using Level 2 methods. Adjustment of coastal A-zones defined by ponding of wave-overtopping is beyond the scope of this Manual. General guidance for addressing coastal erosion, armoring and beach loss is provided in Section 3.3.

**Level 4: Apply FEMA methods using SIO forcing parameters:** The SIO outputs of flood forcing parameters (water level and wave time series) can be substituted for the historical conditions values used in the FEMA flood study. The flood hazards for future conditions can then be computed and mapped. Level 3 geomorphic adjustments (e.g. coastal erosion) should also be applied to accurately estimate future hazards. Level 4 is considered beyond the scope of this Manual. However, Level 4 analysis has been applied in simplified test cases (BakerAECOM 2016) and in regional mapping using other future conditions projections (ESA, 2015 using GCM output provided by the USGS CoSMoS modeling), and is being applied for southern California at the time of this Manual.

## 3.2 Level 2 Adjust V-Zones

Level 2 consists of alternative methods 2a and 2b, with 2a simpler and 2b potentially more accurate. These are described in the following two sections.

### *Level 2.a -Add sea level rise*

The SIO future conditions projections indicate that waves and non-tidal residuals are not likely to increase along the California coast through the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and in certain areas, wave heights may decrease slightly. Therefore, secular<sup>15</sup> sea level rise is predicted to be the primary

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<sup>14</sup> “Geomorphic adjustment” is the change in shore geometry resulting from sea level rise, primarily due to waves breaking on the shore at a higher elevation, and associated erosion and sediment transport.

<sup>15</sup> Secular is used to indicate a long-term (multi-decade) trend (increase) in ocean levels, as distinguished from shorter fluctuations.

climate change driver to increase coastal flood hazards. This suggests that sea level rise could simply be added to the total water levels (TWLs) defining the V-Zone elevations<sup>16</sup>. However, a secular change in sea level will result in a change to the shore due to waves dissipating their power at a higher elevation. This “morphology” response to sea level can result in a lateral shore migration several orders of magnitude greater than the sea level rise (see also Figure 3.2).

Therefore, the following general equation is provided:

$$\text{Eq (1) } \text{TWL}_{\text{future}}(\text{time}) = \text{TWL}_{\text{existing}} + \text{SLR}(\text{time}) * F(\text{Morphology}, \text{time})$$

With a Morphology Function

$F(\text{Morphology}, \text{time}) = 1$  for erodible backshores (can use Stockdon runup equation with landward migrated shore Figure 3.2)

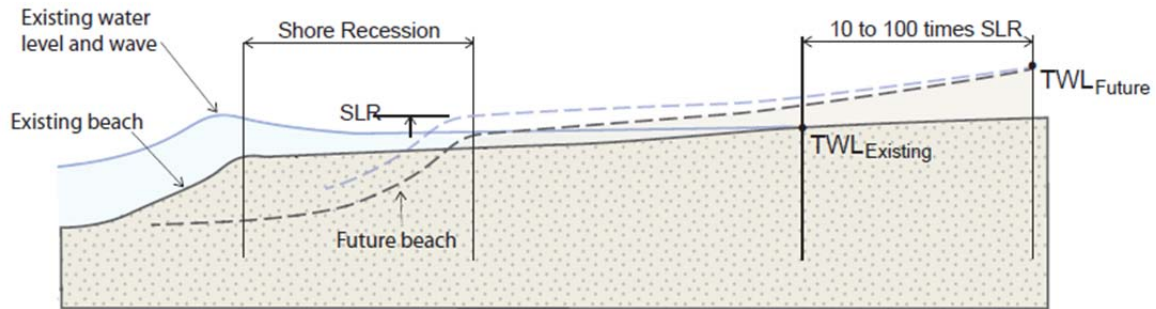
$F(\text{Morphology}, \text{time}) = 1$  to 4, with a default of 2, for static (erosion resistant) backshores (can use modified TAW methodology with landward overtopping extent Figure 3.4).

This formulation is similar to that developed for the FEMA Pilot Study (BakerAECOM, 2016; Vandever et al., 2016), which uses the term Amplification Factor instead of Morphology Function.

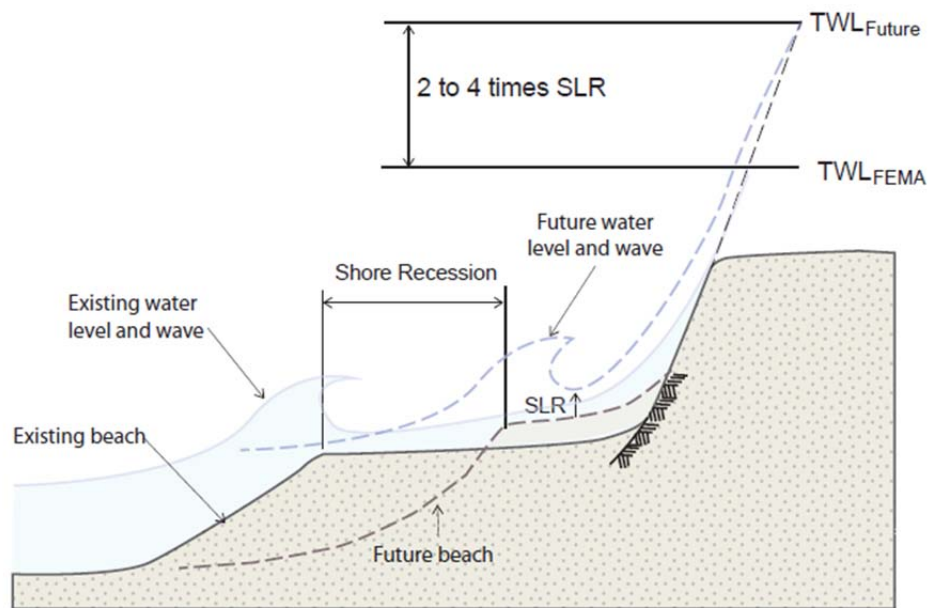
**Figure 3.1** shows the effect of the morphology function schematically. The top schematic shows an erodible shore that migrates landward in response to sea level rise, in which case the function is 1 and the TWL increases with SLR. The bottom schematic shows an erosion-resistant backshore, which can consist of a hard cliff or armoring, which forces the wave runup to increase more than sea level rise by a factor of 2 to 3. Note that the Stockdon runup equation (see Chapter 2) implicitly presumes this erodible case, and therefore the landward migration of the TWL extent needs to be computed to map the future V-Zone. The lateral component of the morphology function is described below and graphed in Figure 3.2. The morphology function is further described by Figure 3.4, Table 4.1 and associated text later in this section of the TMM.

The concept of shore response to sea level rise has been addressed in coastal engineering and geomorphology practice for decades (e.g. Bruun, 1964; Everts, 1985), but remains an area of active research and development. The implication to FEMA flood mapping has only recently been articulated by the FEMA Pilot Study (BakerAECOM, 2016; Vandever et al, 2016) which has influenced this Manual along with prior sea level rise studies (PWA, 2009; Revell et al, 2011; SPUR and ESA, 2012). The TMM user should expect that new work will be published that could augment the application of this manual.

<sup>16</sup> This additive process is often called FEMA +1, +2 and +3 where the +1, +2 and +3 add 1, 2, or 3 feet to the existing Flood Hazard Maps and BFEs.



Erodible backshore:  $TWL_{future} = TWL_{existing} + SLR \text{ and shore recession}$



Erosion resistant backshore:  $TWL_{future} = TWL_{existing} + (2 \text{ to } 3) SLR$

**Figure 3.1**

Shore Morphology response to sea level rise and effect on total water level for erodible (top) and erosion resistant (bottom) backshores. These are schematics, and not to scale: Specifically the shore recession (top) should be 10 to 100 times the SLR but is drawn only about 2 times greater in order to fit on the page, See Figure 3.2 for computed distances.

The landward recession associated with the morphology function value one can be estimated based on a modified Bruun rule, where

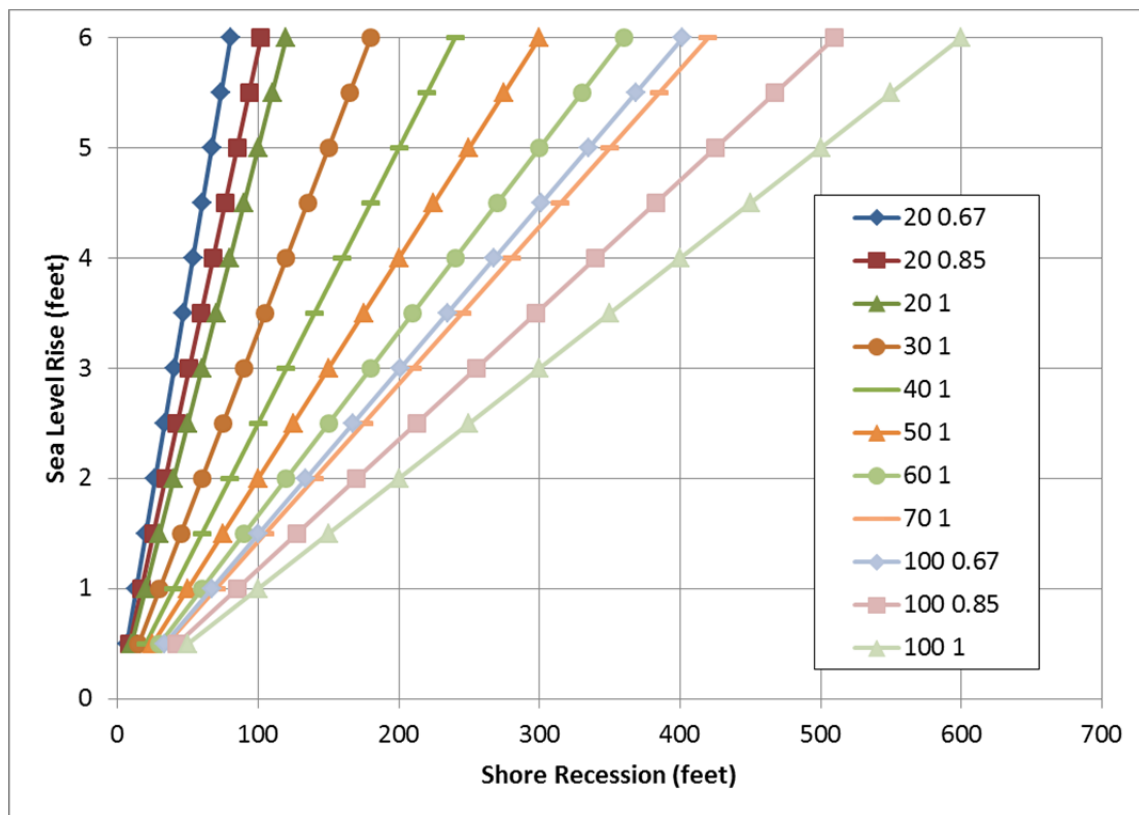
$$\text{Eq (2) Shore Recession} = SR = a * \{s / m\} \text{ where}$$

$s$  = sea level rise

$m$  = shore face slope

$a$  = dune reduction factor = shore face depth / (effective dune height + shore face depth)

**Figure 3.2** plots typical values of  $SR/s$  using a shore face depth of 40 feet. Effective dune height is the height of the backshore above the beach, multiplied times the percent of the material that is beach sand: The minimum practical value of “ $a$ ” recommended in this analysis is 0.67 based on a dune height equal to the shore face depth and a beach sand content of 50% by volume.



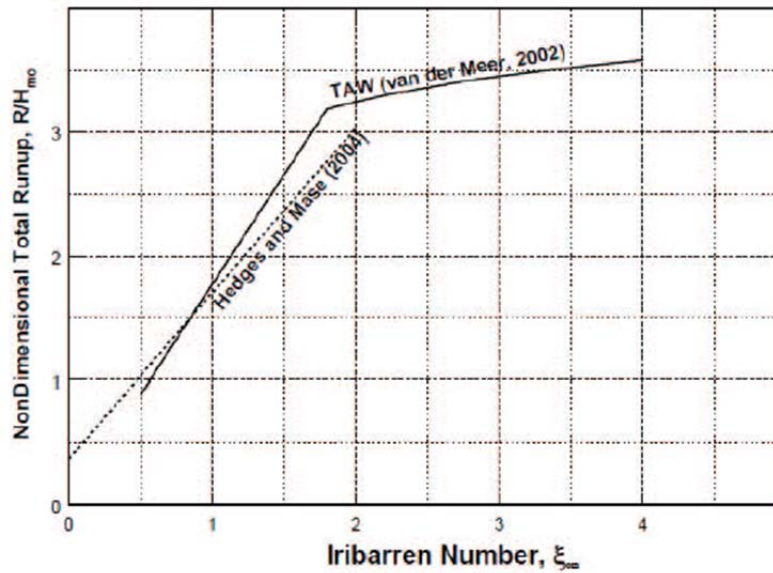
In the legend, the first number is the inverse of the slope (e.g. 20 indicates a slope of  $1/20=0.05$ ) and the second number is “ $a$ .” Note that “ $a$ ” does not have a great effect for the steeper slopes

**Figure 3.2**

Plot of Relative Shore Recession for a Shore Face Depth of 40 Feet and a Range of Reduction Factor “ $a$ ” Values Associated with Backshore Sand Contributions

The increase in runup height for a fixed backshore increases as the foreshore narrows and the space available for wave dissipation becomes narrower and steeper. Consider that the wave runup on a barrier is typically between is about 1 to 4 times the wave height, as indicated by **Figure 3.3**. The left axis is the ratio of runup to wave height and the horizontal axis is a non-dimensional wave steepness: The graph basically indicates that the wave runup increases with relatively steep

shores (FEMA, 2005; Van der Meer 2002). For ocean waves of relatively low steepness, the moderately higher values of relative runup, about 2 to 3.5 times the wave height, are likely appropriate, whereas for high steepness waves in sheltered waters (e.g. San Francisco Bay) the relative runup is likely to be lower and in the range of 1 to 2 times wave height.

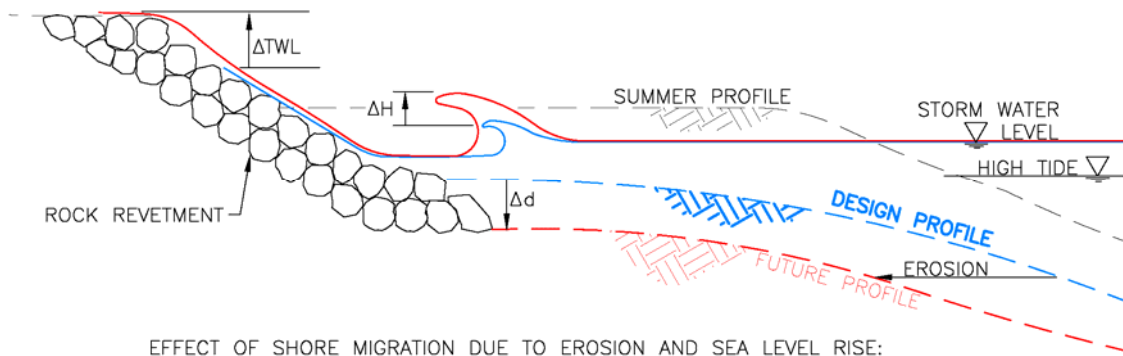


**Figure 3.3**  
Graph of Non-Dimensional Wave Runup on Steep Slopes

Assuming the wave runup is controlled by a depth-limited wave near the shore, an increase in water level due to sea level rise would increase the depth and the maximum wave height. Using a typical breaker ratio of about 0.8 times the water depth, the wave height would increase about 0.8 for every foot sea level rise, and the runup would increase about 1.6 to 2.4 times the amount of sea level rise. Since sea level rise is also added to the still water level, the increase in TWL is:

$$\text{Eq. (3)} \quad \Delta\text{TWL} = \{1 + (1.6 \text{ to } 2.4)\} * \text{SLR} = (2.6 \text{ to } 3.4) * \text{SLR}.$$

This concept is shown schematically in **Figure 3.4**



EFFECT OF SHORE MIGRATION DUE TO EROSION AND SEA LEVEL RISE:

1. BEACH NARROWS AND DROPS IN ELEVATION
2. WATER DEPTH AT STRUCTURE INCREASES ( $\Delta d$ )
3. BREAKING WAVE HEIGHT INCREASES ( $\Delta H \approx \Delta d$ )
4. WHEN  $\Delta H/H_o \geq 1.5$ , STRUCTURE FAILURE POSSIBLE
5. TWL INCREASES, CAN RESULT IN OVERTOPPING  
 $\Delta TWL \approx 2\Delta H$  TO  $4\Delta H$
6. SLR INCREASES ALL PARAMETERS DIRECTLY IN ADDITION TO SHIFTING PROFILE LANDWARD, CUMMULATIVE EFFECT IS STRUCTURE FAILURE & FLOODING

**Figure 3.4**  
Response to SLR on Armored Backshores with Depth-Limited Breaking Waves

For low steepness swell, the Iribarren Number is larger and the relative runup increases (see Chapter 2 for definition of Iribarren Number, and Figures 2.4 and 3.3 for the relation with relative runup). Also for low steepness swell, typical for the California coast, and for abrupt depth changes, the breaker ratio can increase to 1 or higher. For high steepness wind waves typical of sheltered waters, especially with flat shores, the breaker ratio can be much lower, approaching 0.5, because the high steepness makes the waves less stable. Therefore, the potential increase in TWL for an erosion-resistant backshore may be modified to be:

Swell depth-limited breakers:  $\Delta TWL = \{1 + (2 \text{ to } 3+)\} * SLR = (3 \text{ to } 4+) * SLR$

Seas depth limited breakers:  $\Delta TWL = \{1 + (1 \text{ to } 1.5+)\} * SLR = (2 \text{ to } 2.5+) * SLR$ .

For non-breaking waves, and erodible profiles that maintain their shape with sea level rise:

Equilibrium profile and non-breaking waves:  $\Delta TWL = SLR$ .

A recent pilot study by FEMA has estimated the TWL increase to be about 2 to 3+ times the amount of sea level rise on a static profile<sup>17,18,19</sup>, and is therefore consistent with the above analysis. However, the formulation presented here results in a larger TWL increase with sea level rise. This results from the explicit addition of sea level rise to the water level and a simplified amplification of the runup based on the selected shore type and surf similarity parameter.

<sup>17</sup> Baker/AECOM, 2016: Sea Level Rise Pilot Study, Future Conditions Analysis and Mapping for San Francisco County, California, [http://www.floods.org/Files/Conf2014\\_ppts/E7\\_Curtis.pdf](http://www.floods.org/Files/Conf2014_ppts/E7_Curtis.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> Vandever, Justin 2015. Incorporation of sea level rise and shoreline retreat into wave runup calculations – Implications for future conditions flood hazard mapping. Presentation on Coastal Future Conditions Workshop of the California Shore and Beach Preservation Association, June 22-23 2015, Pacifica, CA.

<sup>19</sup> Vandever, et al, 2016: Conceptual response of runup-dominated coastlines to sea level rise and anthropogenic adaptation measures, Proceedings of the Conference, Solutions to Coastal Disasters, 2015 (in press).



A value of 2 to 3 is realistic for a rough, armored slope that extends (or is extended) above the future runup because such a slope is more dissipative. For locations with very steep to vertical barriers, or where the runup extends above the existing high grade, a value of 3 to 4 is recommended. It should be noted that these are approximate values. Therefore, the Morphology Function for erosion-resistant backshores is selected to be 2.0 as a default, but may be increased by the TMM user up to 4.0 for very long-period, low steepness swell and steep backshores, and decreased to 1.0 for non-breaking waves, as summarized in **Table 3.1**. Alternatively, the user could compute the surf similarity parameter (relative shore steepness) and use Figure 3.3 to estimate the runup increase, add this multiple of the SLR to the TWL along with “one more” sea level rise to get the TWL increase.

In order to be consistent with FEMA’s recent pilot study and input provided by the TMMC, Table 3.1 provides a default value of 2.0. However, the calculations in Equation (3) indicate that the default should be closer to 3, owing to the addition of “one SLR” amount to the water level in addition to the amplification of wave runup. Therefore, we provide in Table 3.1 the higher multiplier for coasts exposed to swell (last row).

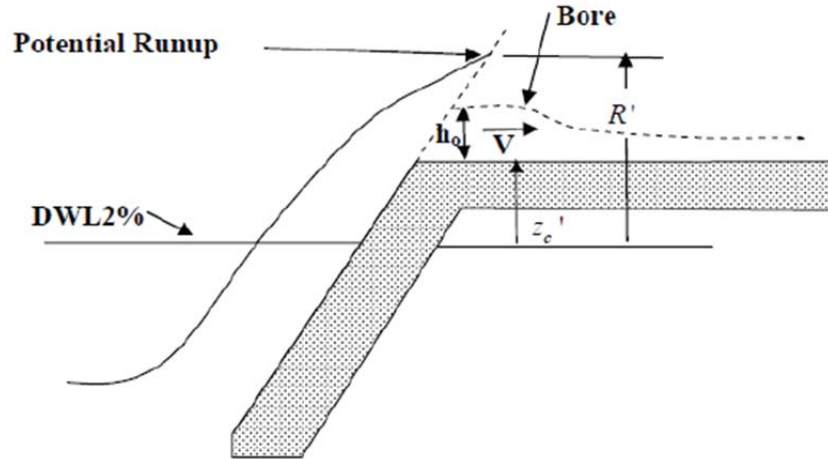
**TABLE 3.1**  
**MORPHOLOGY FUNCTION SUMMARY**

Backshore	Waves	Morphology Function (MF) values, $\Delta TWL = (MF) \cdot SLR$	Explanation and simplifying assumption
Erodible		1.0	Shore adjusts to sea level rise, runup does not change
Erosion resistant	non-breaking waves	1.0	Runup does not change
Erosion resistant	breaking waves –default values	2.0 to 3.0 2.0	Backshore cannot adjust, runup is amplified: Intermediate range and value
Erosion resistant	breaking seas	2.0 to 2.5+ 2.0	Backshore cannot adjust, runup is amplified: High steepness seas have lower relative runup
Erosion resistant	breaking swell	3.0 to 4.0+ 3.0	Backshore cannot adjust, runup is amplified: Low steepness swells have higher relative runup

The above addresses the V-Zone elevation but not the inland extent of the zone. The inland extent of the V-Zone is defined as the location that a momentum force index drops below a damage level (FEMA, 2005):

Eq. (4)  $hV^2 < 200 \text{ ft}^3/\text{second}^2$  where h is depth and V is velocity of the flowing water.

The flow parameters and inland extent of the zone are computed using an equation derived to model the dissipation of a bore, with the bore created by wave overtopping exceeding the elevation of the land, as shown in **Figure 3.5**.

**Figure 3.5**

Bore Propagation Driven by Wave Runup above the Shore Elevation

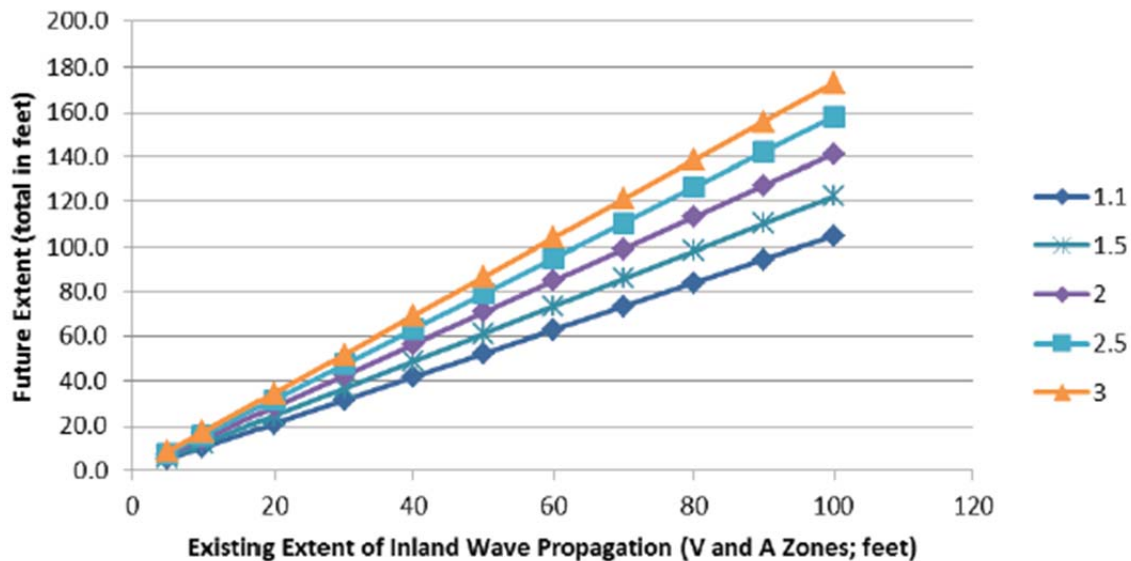
Manipulation of the equation D4.5-39 and considering methods in Section D4.5.5.2 *Bore Propagation* of the Guidelines (FEMA, 2005) with simplifying assumptions, an equation for approximating the inland extent of future flooding can be derived. The landward extent of the future V-Zone,  $Y_{\text{future}}$ , can be computed by:

Eq. (5)  $Y_{\text{future}} = (\Delta R_{\text{future}} / \Delta R_{\text{existing}})^{0.5} * Y_{\text{existing}}$  where

$Y_{\text{existing}}$  = the existing horizontal distance from crest to inland extent of V-zone and

$\Delta R$  = the TWL minus the crest elevation.

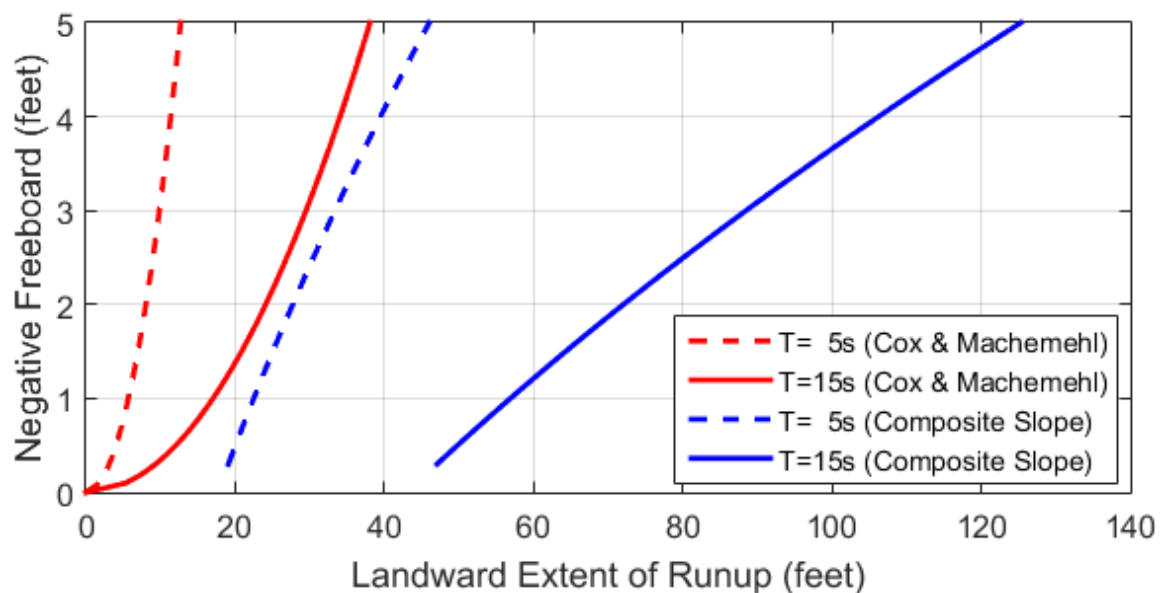
This equation is graphed in **Figure 3.6** for a range of  $\Delta R_{\text{future}} / \Delta R_{\text{existing}}$  between 1.1 and 3 and  $Y_{\text{existing}}$  between 5 and 100 feet.

**Figure 3.6**

Expanded inland extent of wave action due to increased overtopping for a range of negative freeboard of  $\Delta R_{\text{future}} / \Delta R_{\text{existing}}$  between 1.1 and 3 and  $Y_{\text{existing}}$  between 5 and 100 feet.

The above equations allow the existing V-Zone elevation and inland extent to be modified based on projected future total water levels. For those cases where the existing runup does not exceed the crest, but future runup does, the user will need to compute the inland extent of the V Zone.

**Figure 3.7** provides an approximation for shores exposed to swell and those exposed to only wind waves (such as a Bay). This figure was developed using two methods; a hydraulic bore equation (Cox-Machemehl) and a modified TAW method. Wave periods of 15 seconds were used for the ocean shores and 5 seconds for the bay shores. The negative freeboard is computed as the difference between the TWL elevation and the crest of the ground or structure, which is basically how high above the crest the runup is computed to extend.



**Figure 3.7**  
Landward extent of wave runup for Bay (dashed; T=5s) and Open Coast (solid; T=15s) conditions using the Cox and Machemehl and Composite Slope models

Inland of the V-Zones are typically A-Zones with AE referring to a flood elevation and AO referring to depth of flooding. The A zones have lower flood damage risk than V-Zones. Typically these zones are associated with sheet flows below the momentum index level (Equation (9)) or ponding resulting from water delivered by wave overtopping. The existing values could be prorated for existing conditions if sufficient information is known. Prior to development of the Pacific Guidelines (FEMA, 2005), the limit of the V-Zone was computed differently, and typically didn't exceed 30 feet landward of the berm, based on the computational method used at that time. This distance was selected based on the intensity of wave runup and overtopping rate, and greatly underestimated the extent of the V-Zone hazards. Many of the FEMA maps that are currently being used date back to the 1980s and hence employ this outdated methodology. Even with the new guidelines, there have been indications that wave damages can be severe in the AE zones, leading to overlay designations such as Limit of Moderate Wave Activity (LiMWA)<sup>20,21</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/82399>

Hence, update of A-Zones is complex and problematic. To the extent that the A-Zone was determined by the extent of wave action, the A-Zone can be extended inland using the same method derived for the V-Zone above. Extending A-Zones based on ponding of overtopped water is beyond the scope of this manual. Additional information can be found in FEMA (2005), EurOtop (2007) and Van der Meer (2002).

### **Level 2.b: Prorate Components**

The additive approach (Level 2a) is fairly straight forward. However, methodological differences between FEMA studies and future conditions studies, as well as the high uncertainty associated with global climate model projections indicate that predicted changes should be prorated rather than added to existing FEMA hazards. This means that the *changes* predicted by future projections are used, rather than the future *values*. From a physical processes standpoint, it seems most appropriate to add sea level changes to existing water levels and multiply existing runup by the relative increase in wave runup:

$$\text{Eq. (6)} \quad \text{TWL}_{\text{future}} = \text{SWL}_{\text{FEMA}} + \{\text{RWL}_{\text{future}} - \text{RWL}_{\text{existing}}\} + \text{R}_{\text{FEMA}} * \{\text{R}_{\text{future}} / \text{R}_{\text{existing}}\}$$

Where  $\{\text{RWL}_{\text{future}} - \text{RWL}_{\text{existing}}\}$  = increase in reference water level predicted based on climate projections<sup>22</sup>

And  $\{\text{R}_{\text{future}} / \text{R}_{\text{existing}}\}$  = relative increase in wave runup predicted based on climate projections

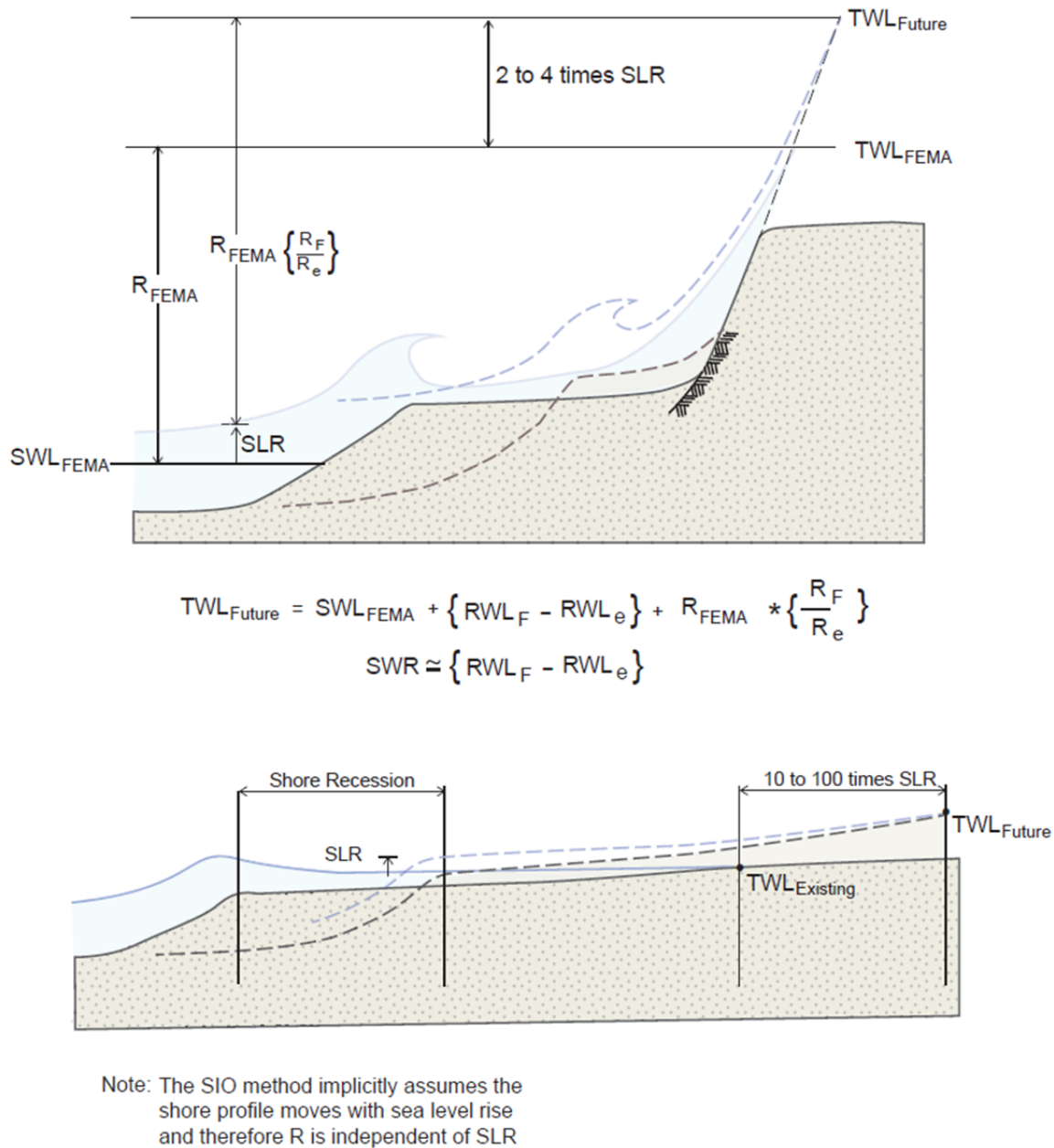
As shown schematically in **Figure 3.8**.

Figure 3.8 is configured to emphasize that the TWL elevation and its increase with SLR depends on the backshore morphology. The top schematic shows that steeper shores have higher TWLs. These steeper shores are often (not always) erosion resistant which results in TWL amplification with sea level rise. On an armored or fixed backshore, a fronting beach will narrow with rising sea level, essentially steepening the shore and resulting in amplification of the wave runup. The bottom schematic shows that flatter shores have lower TWLs and, because these shores are typically erosive, accommodate sea level rise with limited increases in TWL. The SIO study uses the Stockdon Equation which is most applicable to the flatter backshore (bottom schematic), and implicitly assumes an erosive condition. Therefore, the SIO results are not directly applicable to the steeper, erosion-resistant shores. This TMM extends the applicability of the SIO results with proration using relative rather than absolute changes in future flood potential. Note that the runups are a function of shore slope, and therefore the above equation is most effective if the relative runup change is computed for the same slope as that used for the existing condition. In order to facilitate more accurate application, the SIO results are provided using a range of beach slopes (see Figure 3.2). In addition, the wave runup values for a range of steeper, structural slopes were computed using the TAW and modified TAW methods, as explained in Appendix B.

While this “**Level 2b**” the preferred method, the parameters needed are not typically available in FEMA studies or future projections. This is because the FEMA TWL values are for the extreme

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.rampp-team.com/documents/region3/R3%20LiMWA%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> This change in water level can be simplified to be equal to sea level rise, as it is in method 2a.



**Figure 3.8**  
 Proration Schematic. In the top figure, the backshore is fixed and the runup is amplified, causing the TWL to increase more than SLR. However, in the bottom figure, the shore “erodes” and adjusts up and landward, the runup height doesn’t increase and the TWL increase equals SLR. In summary, with sea level rise, the TWL increases more than sea level rise or the shore migrates landward 10 to 100 times more than sea level rise.

condition that is estimated by extrapolation using extreme value distributions (e.g. the Generalized Extreme Value (GEV), Gumbel, Weibull and others are typically used) and the SWL and R values are therefore not separately defined. A range of values can be defined that provide the 100-year TWL using the “hybrid method” (Garrity et al, 2006), but this information is not available from typical FEMA studies, and therefore are beyond the scope of this project. Most future conditions projections are mapped with limited or different attributes (see Appendix C for a discussion of available future conditions coastal hazard data sources). The desired information is likely to be provided in future studies. However, until then, a “work-around” has been developed and is described below.

The  $SWL_{FEMA}$  is selected, (even if not defined by FEMA, a value is chosen as described below) and  $R_{FEMA}$  is estimated by subtracting  $SWL_{FEMA}$  from  $TWL_{FEMA}$ :

$$\text{Eq. (7)} \quad R_{FEMA} = TWL_{FEMA} - SWL_{FEMA}.$$

If  $SWL_{FEMA}$  is not known, it can be estimated several ways. Method 1 entails identifying the annual recurrence of the SWL associated with the 100-year<sup>23</sup> TWL from the SIO study. This can be done because SIO computed a 100-year time series and therefore the SWL and R values for the 100-year recurrence are known, and are provided in Appendix B1. Alternatively, Method 2 uses one or more selected SWLs with return periods of 1 to 10 years. Both the SIO results and the FEMA mapping results indicate this SWL range is typical during 100-year TWL conditions (Personal communication, Justin Vandever PE, AECOM regarding recent FEMA mapping experience). Once the recurrence interval of the SWL is identified or selected, the SWL value can be taken from the extreme value data in Appendix B2. If desired, an array of  $SWL_{FEMA}$   $R_{FEMA}$ , data pairs can be computed for multiple applications<sup>24,25</sup>.

This Level 2b is further described by the following steps:

- a. Determine a  $SWL_{FEMA}$

Method 1: Identify the SIO value for 100-year TWL, and the associated component RWL and its recurrence interval from Appendix B1. Use the recurrence interval to identify the SWL from historical data in Appendix B2.

Method 2: Select the 10-year recurrence SWL (or other) from Appendix B2.

- b. Compute the R for each SWL by subtracting SWL from FEMA TWL (Eq. (7)).
- c. Compute  $\{R_{future}/R_{existing}\}$  term from the future conditions modeling, and or using Appendixes B1 and B2. Compute from the same data set to limit method uncertainty bias.
- d. Computed the  $\{RWL_{future}-RWL_{existing}\}$  term from the future conditions modeling. Note that this term equals SLR, plus any adjustments to the ocean levels due to climate change.
- e. Compute the increased future TWL using Eq. (6).

<sup>23</sup> Water level with 1% annual probability of exceedence

<sup>24</sup> FEMA, 2005: Guidelines for Pacific Coast Flood Studies

<sup>25</sup> Garrity et al, 2007:

### 3.3 Considering Geomorphic Change

Geomorphic changes refer the change in land form caused by flowing water and associated processes. The primary geomorphic processes pertinent to future conditions coastal hazard mapping are:

- Coastal erosion: long term net movement of shore location in the landward direction;
- Accelerated coastal erosion: increased shore movement rate due to accelerated sea level rise; and,
- Storm-induced erosion, also called “Event Based Erosion”.

Long term erosion and accelerated erosion due to sea level rise are not included in FEMA maps. Storm-induced, event based erosion can be included in FEMA maps based on the presumption that the 100-year event will cause some erosion that is pertinent to the limit of coastal flood hazards (FEMA, 2005).

The folly of not including coastal erosion is illustrated in **Figure 3.9** where the existing effective FEMA map indicates no hazards where erosion undermined buildings and future conditions modeling showed extensive erosion was likely.

Approximate coastal erosion hazard zones can be mapped simply using available information<sup>26,27</sup>. **Figure 3.10** shows historical coastal erosion rates for the same area mapped in **Figure 3.9**. These rates can be multiplied by time to determine the erosion distance to be mapped. The use of historical erosion rates to project future shoreline position is an approximate but fairly common means of estimating future erosion, even though erosion rates are not steady through time<sup>28</sup>.

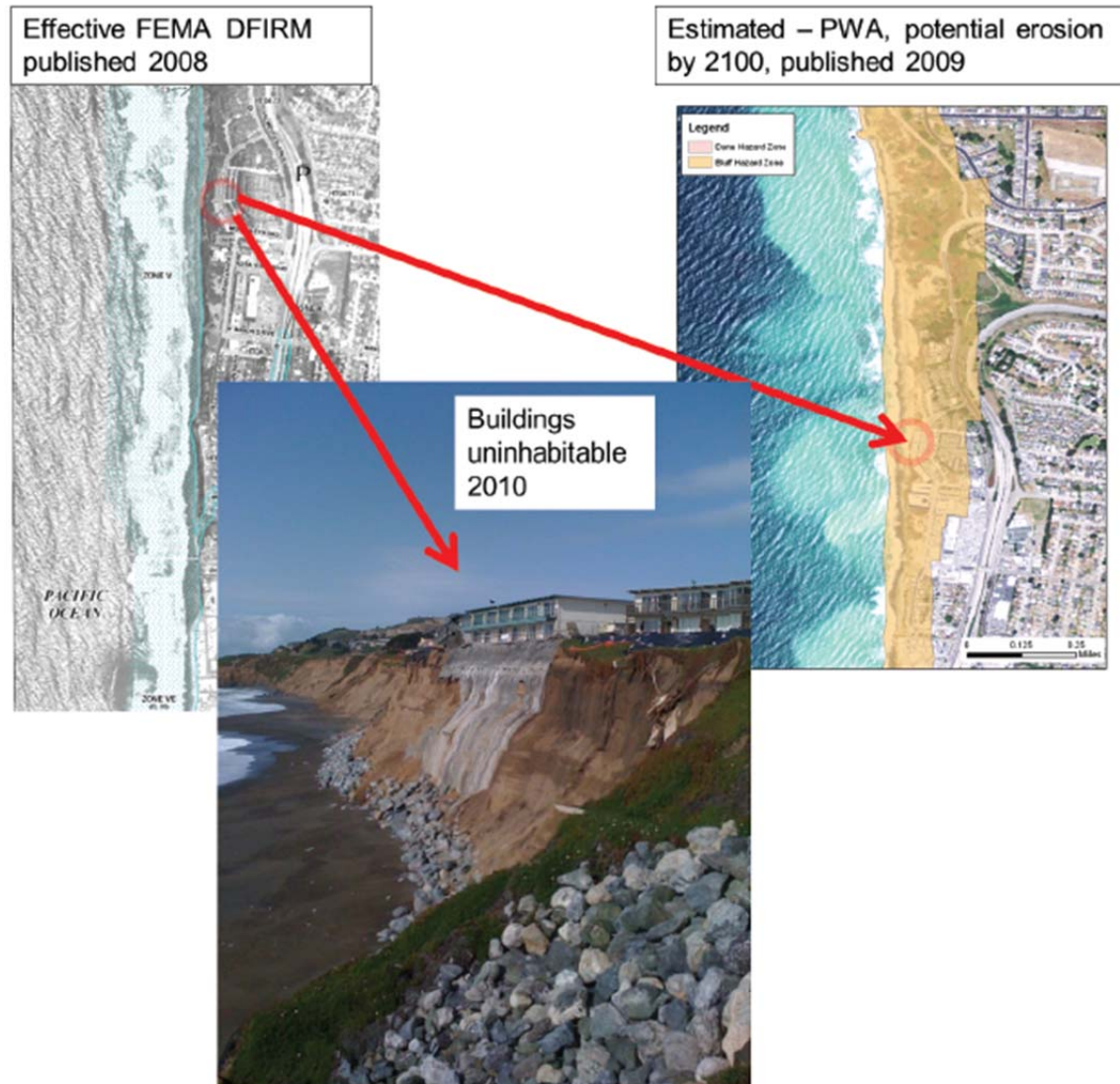
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<sup>26</sup> Hapke, C. and Reid, D. 2006. The National Assessment of Shoreline Change: A GIS compilation of vector shorelines and associated shoreline change data for the sandy shorelines of the California Coast. U.S. Geological Survey. USGS Open-File report 2006-1251.

<sup>27</sup> Hapke, C., Reid, D., and Borrelli, M. 2007. The National Assessment of Shoreline Change: A GIS compilation of vector cliff edges and associated cliff erosion data for the California Coast. U.S. Geological Survey. USGS Open-File report 2007-1112.

<sup>28</sup> Battalio, R. T., “Littoral processes along the Pacific and bay shores of San Francisco, California, USA”, *Shore & Beach*, Vol. 82, No. 1, Winter 2014, pages 3-21.

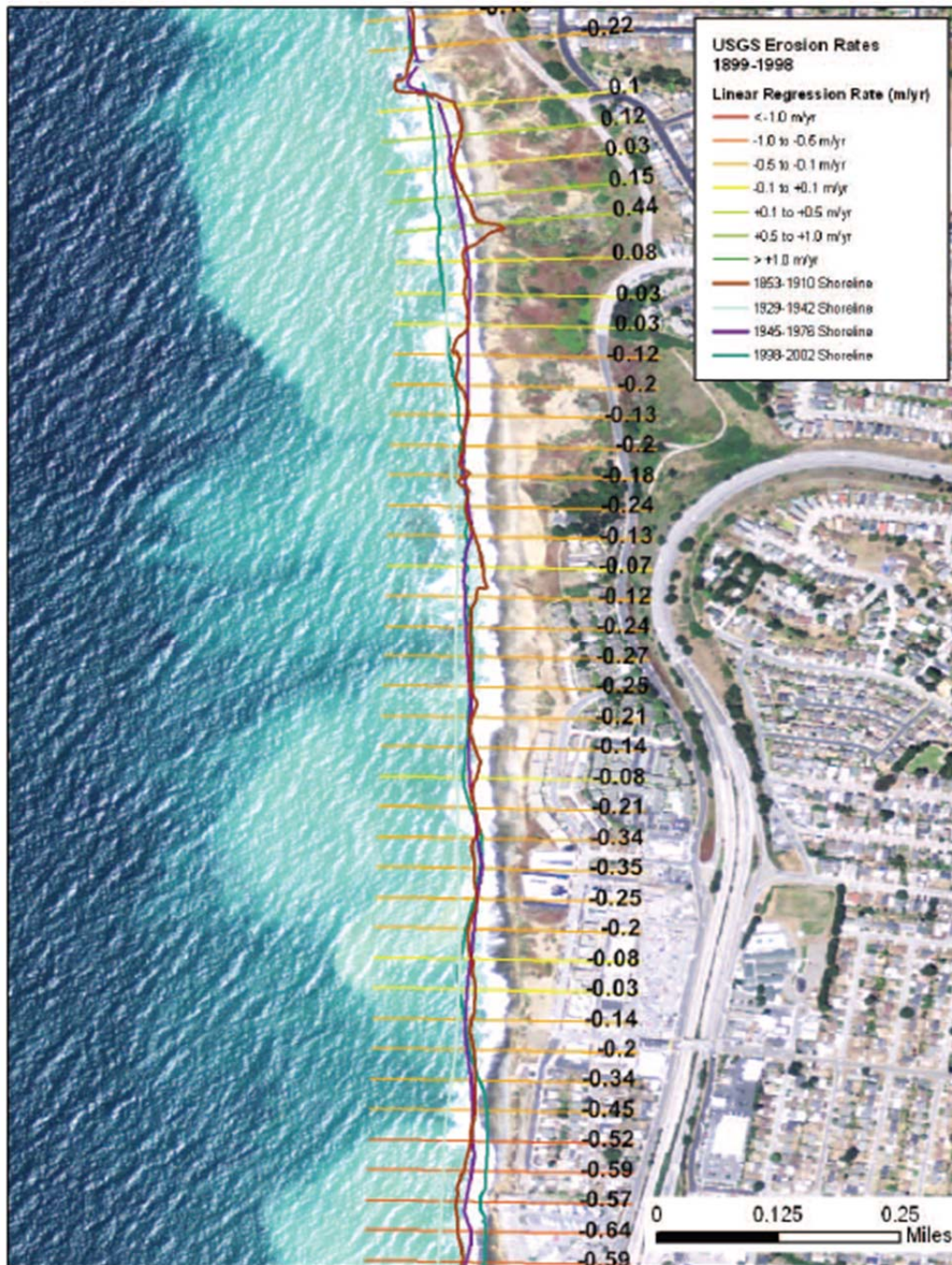




The effective FEMA flood map published in 2008 indicates these apartment buildings are not in a hazard zone (Source: FEMA). The buildings were red-tagged after erosion in 2009-2010 undermined the buildings (photograph by Bob Battalio 2010). Emergency coastal armoring was not successful. A future conditions erosion hazard map published one year after the FEMA DFIRM and one year before the erosion events indicates a high erosion hazard (Source: Pacific Institute, PWA, State of California, 2009).

**Figure 3.9**  
2008 FEMA Map and 2009 Future Conditions Erosion Hazard Map. The two apartment buildings visible in the photograph were demolished in 2016.





**Figure 3.10**  
 Historical Coastal Erosion Rates Derived from USGS using DSAS. The Location is the same as shown in Figure 3.9

Coastal erosion is projected to generally accelerate with accelerating sea level rise<sup>29</sup>. The increase in future retreat with sea level rise can be estimated using geometric methods such as the “Bruun rule” and more involved methods based on increased wave action reaching the back shore. A modified Bruun rule is described by **Figure 3.2** for the purposes of extending the future V-Zone for sandy shores. This method is simplified to consider only the effect of *future* sea level rise and assumes historical erosion is additive without subtracting erosion due to the *historic* sea level rise. An experienced user of this manual may wish to compute erosion more accurately. The effects of sea level rise on erosion-resistant cliffs and armored backed shores are more complex and beyond the scope of this Manual. However, future projections are available for many areas and will likely be available for most of the California coast within the next ten years (see Appendix C Other Sea Level Rise Hazard Mapping Studies and Sources).

For the purposes of this Manual, future erosion can be obtained from some sources as explained in Appendix C of this report. The uncertainty in future erosion can be depicted by mapping a range of erosion distances computed by projection of historical erosion as well as accelerated erosion resulting from sea level rise.

Storm “event based” erosion may be included in FEMA maps. If so, the flood zones have already been adjusted to account for this erosion. If storm erosion is missing, storm erosion can be calculated using methods described in the FEMA Guidelines (2005), and the V and VE zones can be translated landward a distance equal to the computed erosion distance. Storm erosion distances can also be derived from observations of prior erosion, if available. Finally, some of the future conditions hazards mapping sources include storm erosion distances based on hydrodynamic or geometric models (Appendix C).

Additional guidance and information can be found in the FEMA Pilot Study (BakerAECOM, 2016)

### 3.4 Accounting for Coastal Armoring Structures

Many shores have structural armoring intended to protect the back shore. These structures, typically rock revetments (boulder slopes) and seawalls, complicate future conditions modeling and mapping. Typically, it is assumed that a well-designed and maintained coastal armoring structure will prevent coastal erosion from extending inland. However, coastal structures do not prevent erosion of the seaward land (typically beaches), nor prevent wave runoff and overtopping. When considering a coastal structure, the following step-wise evaluation is recommended:

1. Is the structure certified by a professional engineer to withstand the 100-year coastal event?
2. If the structure is not certified, does it appear to have the capacity to withstand the 100-year event now and with future higher sea levels?
3. Will wave runoff exceed the structure crest now and with future higher sea levels?

<sup>29</sup> Revell, D.L., Battalio, B., Spear, B., Ruggiero, P., and Vandever, J. A Methodology for Predicting Future Coastal Hazards due to Sea level Rise on the California Coast. Journal of Climatic Change Climatic Change (2011) B.V. 2011 109 (Suppl 1):S251–S276, DOI 10.1007/s10584-011-0315-2, 10 December 2011 # Springer Science+Business Media

4. Is the shore eroding and how much will this increase wave runup and overtopping, and increase structural loadings into the future?

If a structure is presumed to prevent erosion, the fronting beach is still likely to erode. This will increase the extent of wave runup and overtopping, as indicated in Figure 3.4. The effect can be approximately accounted for by increasing the elevation of runup by 1.5 to 3 times sea level rise, and total water level 2 to 4 times sea level rise, as described previously. The lateral extent can be extended by shifting the flood hazard zones landward in proportion to the landward migration of the shore fronting the coastal armor. The landward shift can be computed as the projection of historical erosion plus the effect of sea level rise on sandy shores (explained previously). If the beach width approaches zero, the landward extent of the future V-Zone may need to extend inland based on the increase in negative freeboard, described previously.

# CHAPTER 4

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## Examples

Examples of TMM application are provided for Levels 1, 2a and 2b in this Chapter, using the methods described in Chapter 3 and the data provided in Appendix B. The examples are applied using provisional FEMA maps for Ocean Beach, San Francisco. This location was selected because it is one of the SIO forecast locations, and it is also the site of FEMA Sea Level Rise Pilot Study (BakerAECOM, 2015) and other future conditions studies including the Ocean Beach Master Plan accomplished by ESA (2012). Two locations were selected for the analysis, as shown in Figures 4.1 and 4.2. These locations were selected to represent an erodible backshore (Profile 1) and an erosion-resistant backshore (Profile 2).

Section 4.1 addresses the Level 1 “Comparison” using future values projected by SIO using GCM output, as well as projections based on historic data, using both Stockdon and modified TAW equations. These values were taken from Appendix B1 and B2 of this TMM. The results are summarized in Table 4.1, along with the TWL elevations computed using Level 2a.

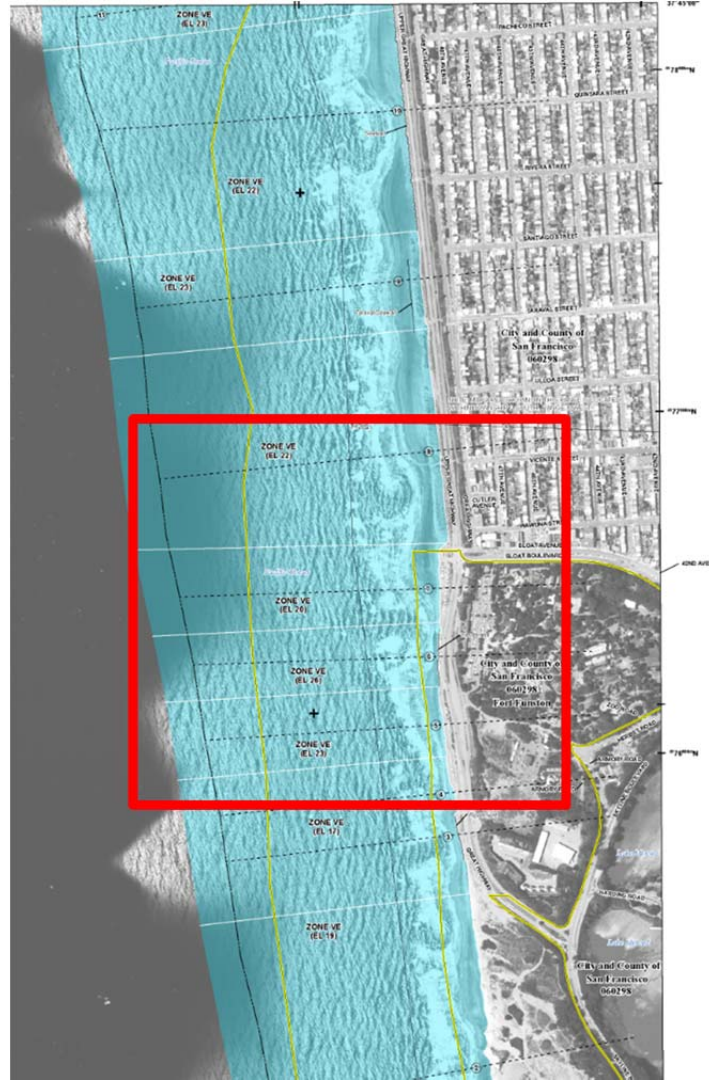
Section 4.2 addresses the Level 2a “Adjust V Zone, Add SLR”, including application of the Morphology Function. This example includes shore recession (Chapter 3, Figure 3.2), increased landward extent of overtopping (Chapter 3, Figure 3.3), and extent of future overtopping where existing overtopping is not predicted (Chapter 3, Figure 3.6).

Section 4.3 addresses the Level 2b “Adjust V Zone, Prorate Components”, and selects the RWL using both Method 1 based on SIO projections (Appendix B) and Method 2 selecting a different value based on historic data (Appendix B2). This example also uses a different future conditions study (ESA, 2012) in order to test the utility of the TMM beyond the use of SIO projections, as well as testing the simplified morphology adjustment factors associated with Level 2a. This section includes a brief summary of the results of the Level 2a and implications.

The Level 1 and Level 2a examples use a sea-level rise amount of 3 feet, which is approximately the mid-range “projection” for the year 2100 developed for the Pacific Coast (NRC, 2012) and adopted by the State of California (OPC, 2013) for vulnerability and adaptation planning. These documents recommend considering a range of values and include a high projection of about 5.3 feet by the year 2100. Also, it is possible that higher and more rapid projections may be recommended in the future, and the use of 3 feet is not intended to imply a recommendation. Level 2b analysis uses a sea level rise of 4.6 feet, which is consistent with the high projection for 2100 identified by the California interim guidance (OPC, 2010) at the time the example study was conducted.

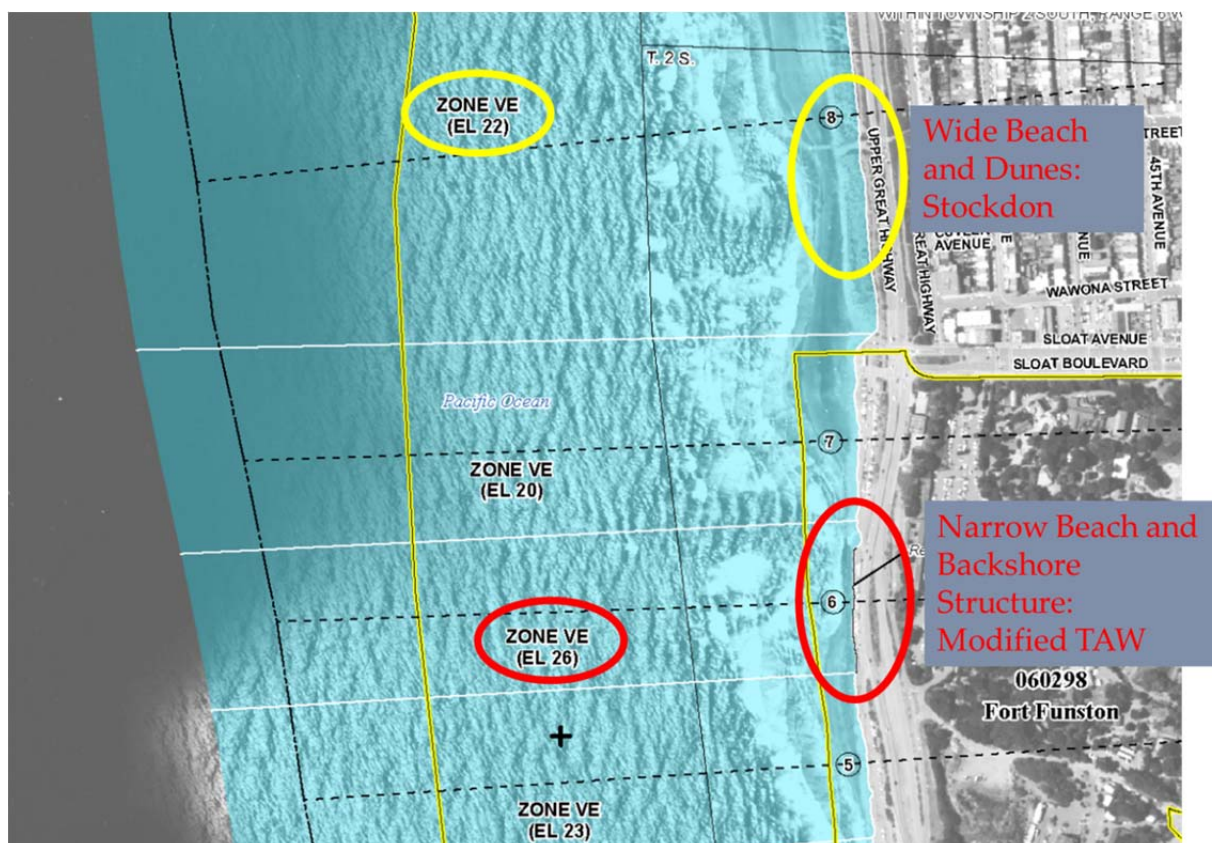
## 4.1 Example of Level 1 Comparison

In this section, the Level 1 method is applied at two locations in Ocean Beach, San Francisco, located in **Figures 4.1 and 4.2**. Location One is a beach backed by dunes, assumed to be erodible by waves. Location 2 is backed by a rock revetment shore armoring structure designed to prevent erosion. Level 1 is described in Section 3.1 of this TMM.



**Figure 4.1**  
FEMA Preliminary FIRM, South Ocean Beach, San Francisco





**Figure 4.2**

FEMA Preliminary FIRM, South Ocean Beach, San Francisco (Zoomed In)

The comparison is summarized in **Table 4.1**. Under the column “TWL (feet NAVD)” a range of values has been tabulated and a selected representative value from the FEMA map, as well as from the future conditions projections (“SIO Stockdon”) and historical data using the Stockdon and modified TAW runup equations. The SIO and historical data can be found in the Appendixes B1 and B2, respectively, for San Francisco. The ranges for the FEMA values are in the vicinity of Locations 1 and 2, whereas the Values are at locations 1 and 2. The ranges for SIO and historical data correspond to the ranges of slopes used in the TMM analysis, and the values were selected for a 1:20 slope that is reasonable for Ocean beach (albeit a bit steep) and approximately provides the best “match” with the FEMA values.

***Ocean Beach Location One, Level 1:*** The Stockdon equation is considered the best for an erodible beach and backshore such as associated with Location One, and the selected values of 18’ (SIO) and 28’ (historical) are about 80% and 125%, respectively, of the FEMA value of 22’.

***Ocean Beach Location Two, Level 1:*** The modified TAW equation is considered the best for an erosion-resistant backshore such as Location Two, and the selected value 33’ is about 25% higher than the FEMA value of 26’.

**TABLE 4.1**  
**COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND FUTURE TWLS FOR 3 FEET OF SLR**

Method	Level 1: TWL (feet NAVD)		Level 2a: Future TWL w/ 3' SLR	
	Range	Value	Hold the line +(2 to 3)*SLR = 6 to 9 feet	Allow Erosion 180 feet for 1:60 slope
FEMA: Location 1, Erodible backshore	16 to 23	22	28 to 31	25
FEMA: Location 2, Erosion resistant backshore	20 to 26	26	32 to 35	29
SIO Stockdon	15 to 26	18 (1:20 slope)	24 to 27	21
Hist. Stockdon	20 to 69	28 (1:20 slope)	34 to 37	31
Hist. Mod. TAW	26 to 43	33 (1:20 slope; 2.5m NAVD breaker)	39 to 42	36

Table 4.1 extends the comparison by adding sea level rise of 3 feet and applying a simplified Level 2a (next section) analysis with an overall shore slope of 1:60 used to estimate shore recession.

## 4.2 Example of Level 2a Add Sea Level Rise to Adjust V Zone

In this section, the Level 2a method is applied at two locations in Ocean Beach, San Francisco. Level 2a entails adding sea level rise to the FEMA V-Zone total water level (TWL), with an adjustment for shore response to sea level rise, resulting in the estimated future TWL elevation and extent. As described in Section 3.2 of this Technical Methods Manual (TMM), a sandy shore likely responds to higher sea level by migrating up and landward unless the backshore is erosion-resistant. This shore response is approximated with a simplified “Morphology Function” that increases with sea level rise, and affects the future TWL. The two sites at Ocean Beach were selected to illustrate the implications of the shore response function for both erodible and erosion-resistant (armored) conditions.

Figure 4.1 shows the provisional flood map for a portion of Ocean Beach, San Francisco. The two locations are within the red box of Figure 4.1, and identified in Figure 4.2. The TWL at Location One (the northern site with yellow ellipse markers) is “Elev 22” which equals +22 feet NAVD.<sup>30</sup> The TWL at Location Two (the southern site with red ellipse markers) is “Elev 26” which equals +26 feet NAVD. The landward limits of the V-Zones correspond to the limit of blue overlay. The along-shore limits of each TWL elevation are shown by the white lines.

<sup>30</sup> New FEMA maps and updated “DFIRMS” use NAVD datum, whereas older maps use NGVD datum. These datums are different, on the order of 3 feet +/-, depending on the location, time and basis of the NGVD elevation. A very approximate correction is to add 3 feet to the TWL elevation NGVD to estimate the corresponding TWL elevation NAVD.

Location One is an erodible shore, and has a morphology function value of 1.0, meaning that the shore recedes landward and the TWL increases about the same as sea level rise. Location Two has an erosion-resistant backshore, comprised of a bluff with rubble armoring. Hence, this location has a morphology function of between 1 and 4, and the default of 2.0 was selected, meaning that the TWL increases more than sea level rise because the backshore is presumed to resist landward response to sea level rise. The morphology function value of 2.0 is multiplied to sea level rise amount, and then added to the FEMA TWL to get the future TWL. The default value of 2.0 is consistent with other guidance, whereas a higher default value of 3.0 can be justified, as discussed in Chapter 4. Also, see Section 4.3 Level 2b example results.

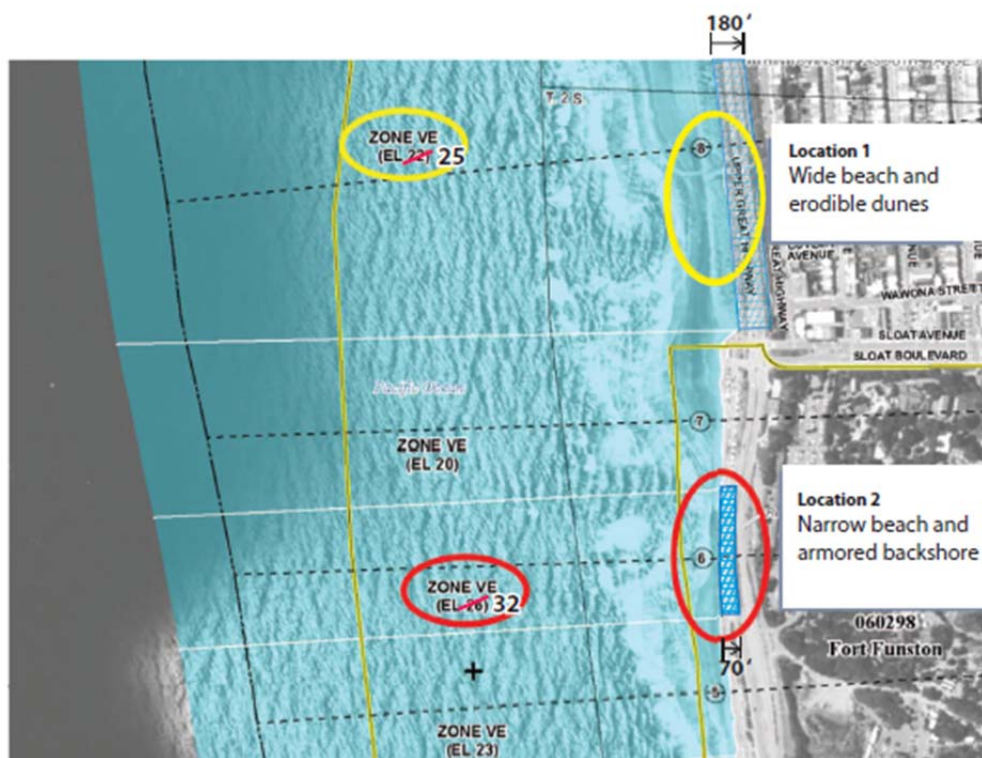
***Ocean Beach Location One, Level 2a:*** For this example, a sea level rise of 3 feet and a shore slope of 1:60 = 0.017 are used. For the northern location with morphology function of 1.0, the future TWL is computed as:

$TWL_{\text{existing}} = +22' \text{NAVD}$  from FEMA map (Figure 4.2)

SLR = 3.0 feet selected for this example

$TWL_{\text{future}}(\text{time}) = TWL_{\text{existing}} + \text{SLR}(\text{time}) * F(\text{Morphology}, \text{time})$

$TWL_{\text{future}} = +22' \text{NAVD} + (3') \times (1.0) = +25' \text{NAVD}$



**Figure 4.3**  
**Level 2a Example, 3' of SLR**

Location 1: Zone VE elevation increased to 25' NAVD; Zone VE extent moved 180' landward.

Location 2: Zone VE elevation increased to 32' NAVD; Zone VE extent moved 70' landward



Lateral backshore recession based on Figure 3.2 with a slope of 1:60 is 180 feet.. The future V-Zone is mapped with an elevation of +25' NAVD and extended landward 180 feet, as shown in **Figure 4.3**.

**Ocean Beach Location Two, Level 2a:** For this example, a sea level rise of 3 feet and a shore slope of 1:60 = 0.017 are used. For the northern location with morphology function of 2.0, the future TWL is computed as:

$$TWL_{\text{existing}} = +26' \text{ NAVD from FEMA map (Figure 4.2)}$$

$$SLR = 3.0 \text{ feet selected for this example}$$

$$TWL_{\text{future}}(\text{time}) = TWL_{\text{existing}} + SLR(\text{time}) * F(\text{Morphology, time})$$

$$TWL_{\text{future}} = +26' \text{ NAVD} + (3') \times (2.0) = +32' \text{ NAVD}$$

Backshore recession is presumed stopped by the shore armor. However, the future TWL exceeds the top of the armored bluff by approximately 2 feet (the existing bluff top elevation is +30' NAVD and the computed TWL is +32' NAVD). Based on Figure 3.6 using a negative freeboard of 2 feet, the inland extent of the TWL is computed as 22' (Cox-Machemehl) to 70' (composite slope), using the 15-second ocean wave period. This example indicates the range of values (20' to 70') that can be generated using the information in this manual is large and indicates some of the uncertainty inherent in future projections.

The future V-Zone is mapped with an elevation of +32' NAVD and extended landward 70 feet, as shown in Figure 4.3.

Note that the FEMA map does not show overtopping of the bluff top by wave runup. However, for the purposes of illustration of the use of the TMM, let's pretend that the FEMA map indicates that the TWL exceeds the bluff top by one foot vertically and the V Zone limits extend 20 feet inland of the bluff crest. With 3 feet of sea level rise, the future TWL is 6 feet higher, indicating that the negative freeboard (TWL above crest elevation) grows from 1' to 7'. To calculate the future landward limit of the V Zone, Figure 3.5 could be used except the lines show only ratios up to 3, or the equation:

$$Y_{\text{future}} = (\Delta R_{\text{future}} / \Delta R_{\text{existing}})^{0.5} * Y_{\text{existing}} = (7' / 1')^{0.5} * 20' = 52.9' \approx 50'.$$

The net change is calculated as:

$$\Delta Y = Y_{\text{future}} - Y_{\text{existing}} = 50' - 20' = 30'.$$

This theoretical example would result in the V Zone being extended 30 feet landward. Note that the theoretical landward extent of 20 feet for 1 foot of overtopping was selected to correspond approximately to the Cox-Machemehl, 15 second line in Figure 3.6. However, if the Composite Slope, 15 second line was used the landward extent would be closer to 60 feet for existing conditions, indicating that the FEMA methodology may under-predict the landward limit of wave

overtopping hazards for long period waves. Adjusting the FEMA overtopping extent to 60' based on Figure 3.6, the landward extent for future conditions would be calculated as:

$$Y_{\text{future}} = (\Delta R_{\text{future}} / \Delta R_{\text{existing}})^{0.5} * Y_{\text{existing-adjusted}} = (7' / 1')^{0.5} * 60' = 159' = 160'.$$

The net change is calculated as:

$$\Delta Y = Y_{\text{future}} - Y_{\text{existing}} = 160' - 20' = 140'.$$

This theoretical example would result in the V Zone being extended 140 feet landward. This exercise indicates the range of values (30' to 140') that can be generated using the information in this manual are large and a measure of the uncertainty inherent in future projections. Other factors, such as buildings, curbs and walls common to developed areas, and vegetation can reduce the landward extent of wave overtopping presuming the features remain intact throughout the event.

### 4.3 Example of Level 2b Prorate TWL to Adjust V Zone

In this section, an example of the application of Level 2b is provided using the same Ocean Beach locations. Level 2b operates on the components to TWL, the ocean Still Water Level (SWL) and wave runoff (R). The existing SWL is increased by the amount of sea level rise plus the change in non-tidal residuals, if any, over the forecast time frame for the selected climate scenario. The R is increased by the ratio of future / existing runoff derived from future conditions modeling.

Morphology adjustments can then be applied and the future TWL mapped. Level 2b is described in Section 3.2 of this TMM, and uses Equation (6).

For this example future projections computed for a different study, the Ocean Beach Master Plan (OBMP), are used.<sup>31</sup> While the SIO values can be used in Level 2b (see Table 4.1 for the values to use), this example was employed to also assess the utility of the TMM with other future conditions studies. Also, the OBMP study was accomplished independent of (and prior to) the FEMA Pilot Study, and therefore provides a check on the amplification factor and morphology function described in Chapter 3. Finally, the OBMP study provides data consistent with the recommendations of this study (Chapter 5), facilitating an accurate application of Level 2b.

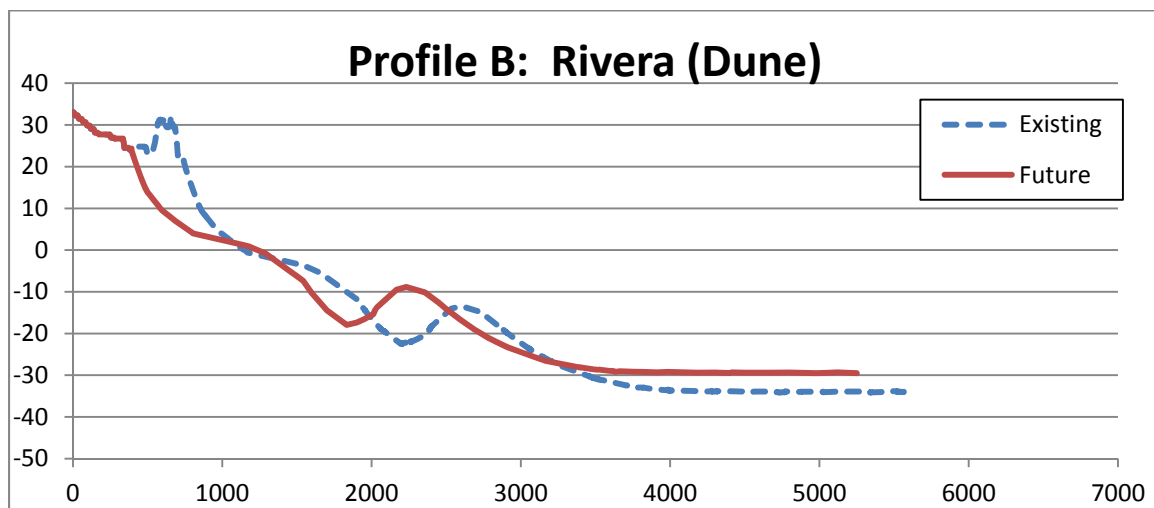
The OBMP study computed future runoff conditions for a range of adaptation scenarios and one sea level rise scenario.<sup>32</sup> The sea level rise scenario used was 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) by 2100, corresponding to that identified by the State of California at the time (called Interim Guidance, updated in 2013 based on NRC, 2012). Profiles A and B from OBMP study are very close to Locations Two and One, respectively, and will be used in this example of Level 2b analysis. Table 4.2 summarizes the water level, wave runoff, total water level and profile parameters selected for this example. Figure 4.4 shows the computations for Location One (Profile B), and Figure 4.5 shows the computations for Location Two (Profile A).

<sup>31</sup> SPUR, 2012: Ocean Beach Master Plan, Prepared by the San Francisco Planning + Urban Research Association (SPUR), with assistance from ESA, AECOM, Sherwood and Nelsen Nygaard, Prepared for the City County of San Francisco.

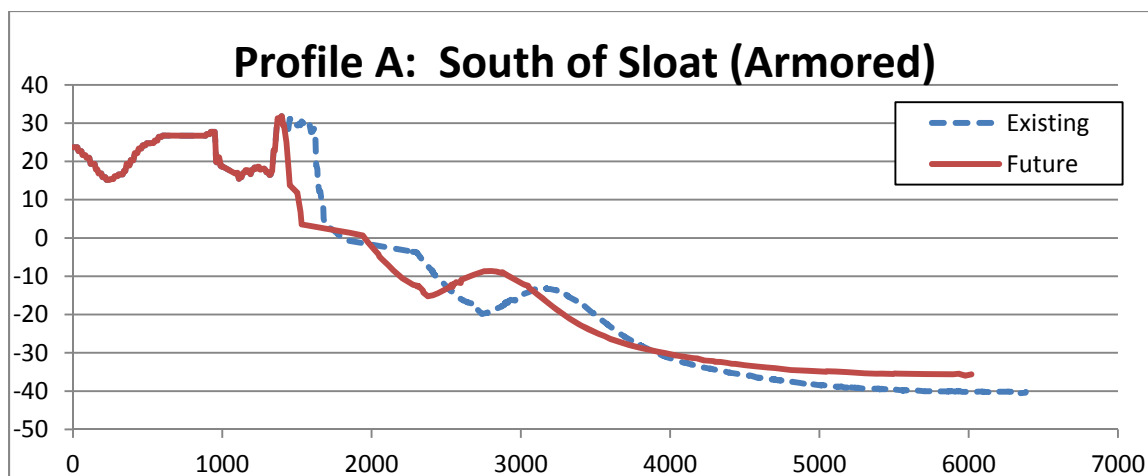
<sup>32</sup> ESA, 2012: Wave runoff memorandum, Appendix A to the OBMP, SPUR (2012).

**TABLE 4.2**  
**SUMMARY OF WAVE EXISTING AND FUTURE EXTREME WAVE**  
**RUNUP COMPUTED FOR THE OBMP**

Profile	Location Two, Profile A	Location One, Profile B
Location	South of Sloat	Rivera
Backshore Type	Armored	Dune
<i>Existing Conditions</i>		
TWL (ft NAVD)	32.4	25.5
SWL (ft NAVD)	9	9
Runup (ft)	23.4	16.5
<i>Future Conditions with 4.6 ft SLR</i>		
TWL (ft NAVD)	53.8	29.9
SWL (ft NAVD)	13.6	13.6
Runup (ft)	40.2	16.3
<i>Runup Ratio</i>		
R_fut/R_ex	1.7	1.0



**Figure 4.4**  
 Profiles of the shore and near-shore of Ocean Beach in the area at Rivera Street, characterized by a sandy dune backshore (Location One). Data shown is a composite of Lidar data collected by NOAA and ground and bathymetric survey data collected by the USGS.

**Figure 4.5**

Profiles of the shore and near-shore of Ocean Beach in the area south of Sloat Boulevard, characterized by an armored bluff backshore (Location Two). Data shown is a composite of Lidar data collected by NOAA and ground and bathymetric survey data collected by the USGS.

The OBMP runup analysis used a “composite slope” similar to the modified TAW method described in Chapter 2 of this TMM. However, the method is more rigorous, because it samples a series of breaking wave conditions and identifies the highest wave runup for a given surf zone condition, instead of assuming the breaking location. Also, the analysis operated on real shore profiles, modified to include shore adjustment to sea level rise for future conditions.

#### *Calculation of the relative change in runup for future conditions*

An analysis of extreme wave runup for existing and future conditions was conducted for the Ocean Beach Master Plan (ESA, 2102 in SPUR 2012, Appendix A). For this example, the relative change in runup from existing to future conditions with 4.6 feet of sea level rise was computed at two locations along Ocean Beach:

Location One, Profile A. South of Sloat Boulevard, characterized by an armored bluff backshore

Location Two, Profile B. At Rivera Street, characterized by a sandy dune backshore

Table 4.2 summarizes the results of the OBMP wave runup analysis. The analysis considered a range of possible combinations of wave height and period that could result in the extreme event, with an approximate 100-year recurrence interval. The significant finding from this analysis is that the future wave runup increases by a factor of 1.7 for the armored backshore, but no significant increase in the wave runup is observed for the sandy dune backshore that is allowed to erode and adjust with sea level rise.

### Back out SWL and Runup from FEMA FIRM

The example relies on flood elevations mapped by FEMA, which presents only the total water level (TWL) elevation. Therefore, the still water level (SWL) and wave runup (R) need to be backed out from the FEMA data. Two different approaches (methods) for determining the SWL and R associated with the FEMA 100-year event are applied consistent with Chapter 3:

#### *Method 1: Selection of SWL associated with 100-year SIO TWL Event*

From Appendix B1, SIO Extreme Value Analysis at San Francisco, Ocean Beach, the 100-year TWL event was identified. The coincident SWL and runup associated with this event is included in the table in Appendix B1, which was found to have an approximate 1-year recurrence:

100-year TWL event: 5.04 m MSL (6.009 m NAVD), equivalent to 19.7 ft NAVD  
 Coincident SWL = 1.23 m MSL (2.199 m NAVD), equivalent to 7.2 ft NAVD (1.1-year event)  
 Coincident Runup = 3.81 m, equivalent to 12.5 ft (3.8-year event)

The next step is to select the SWL from the extreme value analysis for observed data (Appendix B2). The SWL associated with a 1-year event is selected:

SWL (for 1.1-year return period) = 1.2 m MSL (2.2 m NAVD), equivalent to 7.2 ft NAVD

#### **FROM FEMA Map:**

At South of Sloat, TWL = 26 ft NAVD; for SWL = 7.2' NAVD, ➔ R=18.8 feet

At Rivera, TWL = 22 ft NAVD; for SWL = 7.2' NAVD ➔ R=14.8 feet

#### **So, Total Water Level using the full equation:**

$$TWL_{\text{future,profile}} = SWL_{\text{FEMA}} + SLR + R_{\text{FEMA}} * (R_{\text{future}}/R_{\text{existing}})$$

$$TWL_{\text{future,A}} = (7.2 \text{ ft NAVD}) + 4.6' + 18.8' * (1.7) = 44 \text{ ft NAVD (up from 26 ft NAVD, diff = 18', =3.9*SLR)}$$

$$TWL_{\text{future,B}} = (7.2 \text{ ft NAVD}) + 4.6' + 14.8' * (1) = 27 \text{ ft NAVD (up from 22 ft NAVD, diff=5', =1.1*SLR)}$$

#### *Method 2: Using the 10-year SWL instead of the SIO value:*

From SWL recurrence intervals for observed SF data (appx B2):

10-year SWL = 1.5 m MSL (2.469 m NAVD), equivalent to 8.1 feet NAVD

#### **FROM FEMA Map:**

At South of Sloat, TWL = 26 ft NAVD; for SWL = 8.1' NAVD, ➔ R=17.9 feet

At Rivera, TWL = 22 ft NAVD; for SWL = 8.1' NAVD ➔ R=13.9 feet

$$TWL_{future,A} = (8.1 \text{ ft NAVD}) + 4.6' + 17.9'*(1.7) = 43 \text{ ft NAVD (up from 26 ft NAVD, diff = 17', =3.7*SLR)}$$

$$TWL_{future,B} = (8.1 \text{ ft NAVD}) + 4.6' + 13.9'*(1) = 26.6 \text{ ft NAVD (up from 22 ft NAVD, diff=4.6', =1*SLR)}$$

**Results of Level 2b Example:** Two methods were used: Method 1 used the SIO values to identify the SWL recurrence probability which had about a 1-year return period, while Method 2 used a 10-year return period SWL which is reportedly more consistent with findings during the FEMA pilot study, as described in Chapter 3 of this TMM. The differences in SWL and resulting TWL were about one foot. Method 2 is preferred because it de-emphasizes method uncertainty associated with the proration of runup and can be employed independently of the SIO study.

For Location One (Profile B), which is an erodible shore, the results indicated that the TWL increased by the amount of SLR, which was 4.6 feet. For Location Two (Profile A), which has an erosion-resistant backshore, the results indicated that TWL increased about 3.7 (Method 2 using 10-year SWL) to 3.9 (Method 1 using 1-year SWL). These results are consistent with the morphology response function described in Chapter 3 of this TMM. Note that the wave conditions used were for swell, consistent with higher amplification of TWL due to SLR for erosion –resistant backshores.

The results indicate that the wave runup amplification factor may be higher than the 2-3 identified by the FEMA pilot study. This may be due to the direct addition of slr as well as runup amplification associated with Level 2b, which essentially increases the amplification factor by 1.0.

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## CHAPTER 5

# Recommendations

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1. FEMA existing conditions studies should include the still water levels (SWL) and wave runup values (R) for each total water level (TWL) used to define high velocity zones (V Zones). This may require additional work, to calculate and select the SWL and R values most appropriate for the 100-year TWL. Other information, such as the shore profile geometry, equations used, and profile parameters such as slopes should also be provided.<sup>33</sup>
2. Future conditions flood studies should provide the TWL, SWL and R values for mapped or otherwise designated location. Other information, such as the shore profile geometry, equations used, and profile parameters such as slopes should also be provided.
3. Both FEMA existing conditions studies and future conditions studies by FEMA or others should provide guidance on how the study results can be related to future conditions, and existing FEMA maps, respectively.
4. Studies should characterize the existing backshore conditions in terms of the morphology function defined in this Technical Methods Manual. The required information consists of whether the shore is erodible or not, and the type of wave condition driving the hazard (breaking or not, long period swell or short period seas). Table 3.1 (repeated below as Table 5.1) provides an overview of the Morphology Function concept and suggested values. Note that in most cases, the total water level (TWL) increases ( $\Delta$ TWL) more than the amount of sea level rise (SLR), unless the shore adjusts landward, with the exception being for non-breaking waves. Adaptation measures are not included in this analysis.
5. Coastal erosion should be considered in addition to flooding, along with estimates of the increase in erosion rates with sea level rise.
6. Additional attention needs to be applied to develop specific guidance for quantifying future coastal hazards, building upon the substantial progress made to date by California, NOAA and others. The “gap” to be filled or bridged is between the substantial progress made by science informing policy and educating the public, and the needs at the planning and engineering applications level. While requiring a multi-discipline effort, greater participation by engineers is required to develop practical solutions needed to facilitate informed planning and resilient design.

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<sup>33</sup> During review, we were informed comparable data will be made available (personal communication, Justin Vandever, AECOM). The report required to access this information is referred to as *Intermediate Data Submittal #3 – Nearshore Hydraulics*, and is produced for each County. See Appendix D for more information.



**TABLE 5.1**  
**MORPHOLOGY FUNCTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>Backshore</b>	<b>Waves</b>	<b>Morphology Function (MF) values, <math>\Delta TWL = (MF) * SLR</math></b>	<b>Explanation and simplifying assumption</b>
Erodible		1.0	Shore adjusts to sea level rise by migrating landward, runup does not change
Erosion resistant	non-breaking waves	1.0	Runup does not change
Erosion resistant	breaking waves –default values	2.0 to 3.0 2.0	Backshore cannot adjust, runup is amplified: Intermediate range and value
Erosion resistant	breaking seas	2.0 to 2.5+ 2.0	Backshore cannot adjust, runup is amplified: High steepness seas have lower relative runup
Erosion resistant	breaking swell	3.0 to 4.0+ 3.0	Backshore cannot adjust, runup is amplified: Low steepness swells have higher relative runup

# CHAPTER 6

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# CHAPTER 7

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## Acknowledgements

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## APPENDIX A

# An Overview of FEMA Flood Insurance Studies and Flood Insurance Rate Maps

The purpose of this Appendix is to provide a summary description of FEMA flood maps, thereby providing a basic understanding necessary to use this Manual. Please note that official information can be obtained from FEMA directly, and by reviewing California's *NFIP Quick Guide Coastal Appendix* recently developed by DWR. Most communities have or are otherwise aware of FEMA flood maps. The FEMA maps, also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and associated Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) are part of the National Flood Insurance Program promulgated by the Federal Code<sup>34</sup>. Recent legislation is intended to modify hazard characterization but the implications to FEMA maps are not yet clear<sup>35</sup>. Technical procedures for mapping are standardized by the Pacific Coast Guidelines<sup>36</sup>.

FEMA maps display hazard zones associated with the 100-year flood event based on existing conditions at the time the study was completed. These maps are used to establish building requirements that limit flood damages, and also relate to the magnitude of flood insurance premiums. Importantly, in their present form, the FEMA flood maps do not include estimated effects of long-term erosion and sea level rise.

Coastal flood hazards are mapped in zones based on the severity and type of hazard. **Figure A.1** is a schematic of flood hazard parameters, including wave runup and total water levels that are the focus of this study. These parameters are the reference water level, total water level, and flooding due to overtopping and direct inundation<sup>37</sup>.

Flood hazards are calculated by FEMA following a methodology depicted in the following flow charts<sup>31</sup> (**Figure A.2**). The flow charts outline the sequence of calculations used to develop coastal flood maps. The left flow chart provides an overview of how calculations progress from deepwater, offshore conditions to shore. The right flow chart indicates how the computations start with time series of ocean water levels and waves, and are focused to a single condition used to map flood hazard.

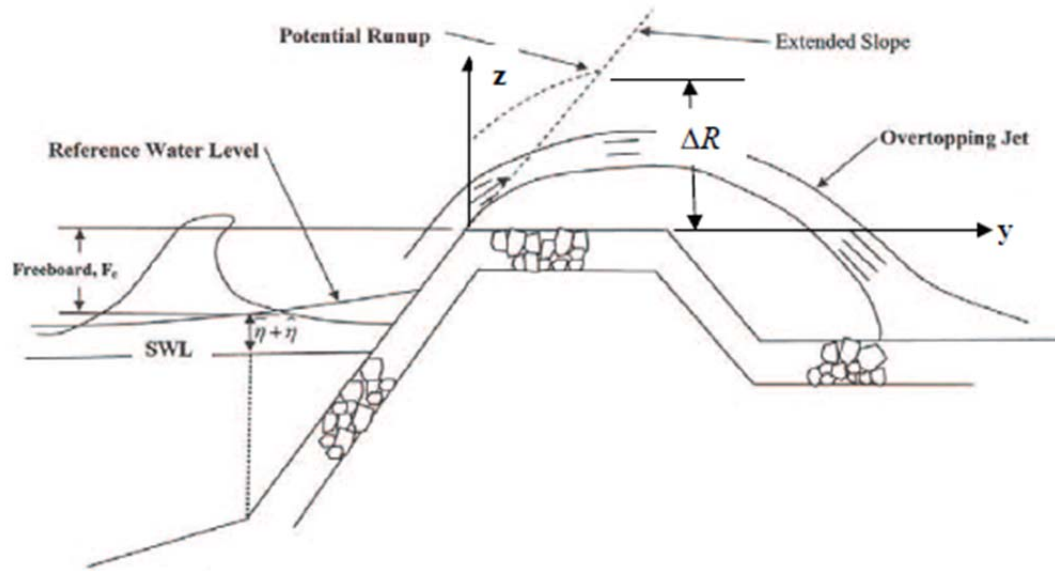
<sup>34</sup> 44 CFR Chapter I - FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, SUBCHAPTER B — INSURANCE AND HAZARD MITIGATION (Parts 50 to 81)

<sup>35</sup> Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

<sup>36</sup> FEMA, 2005. Final Draft Guidelines for Coastal Flood Hazard Analysis and Mapping for the Pacific Coast of the United States <http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1389126436477-5bd6d5959718cf3f5a4b6e919f0c3b42/Guidelines%20for%20Coastal%20Flood%20Hazard%20Analysis%20and%20Mapping%20for%20the%20Pacific%20Coast%20of%20the%20United%20States%20%28Jan%202005%29.pdf>

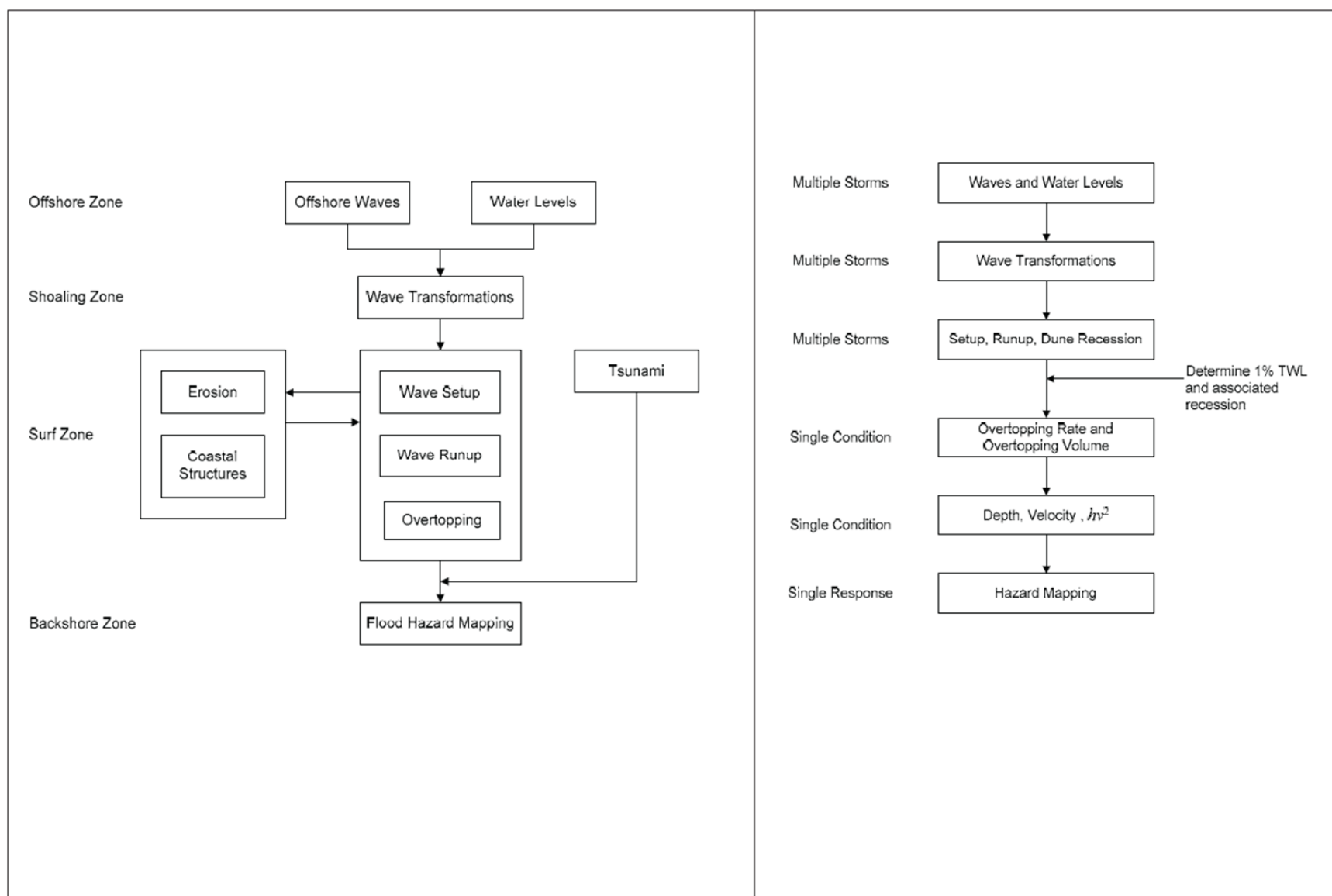
<sup>37</sup> MacArthur, Robert C., Robert G. Dean and Robert Battalio, Wave Processes In Nearshore Environment For Hazard Identification Proceedings of the 30th International Conference of Coastal Engineering, 2006, ASCE, 2007, Vol. 2, pp 1775- 1787.





Parameter	Variable	Units
Total potential runup elevation	$R$	ft
Mean overtopping rate	$q$	cfs/ft
Landward extent of green water and splash overtopping	$y_{G, Outer}$	ft
Depth of overtopping water at a distance $y$ landward of crest	$h(y)$	ft

**Figure A.1**  
Parameters Used to Determine Flood Hazard Zones on FEMA Maps



**Figure A.2**  
Flood Hazard Zone Calculation Methodology/ Source: FEMA (2005)

The SIO projections (Appendix B) generally fit into this methodology up to and within the step labeled “Wave Runup”. In particular, the SIO computations conform to the “response based analysis” identified by the Guidelines (FEMA, 2005) for accurately computing the recurrence of Pacific coast flood events<sup>38</sup>. The SIO methodology obviously differs from the present FEMA approach by addressing future conditions. The SIO methodology uses one equation for flood hazard, based on runup on a natural beach, whereas FEMA requires application of a range of methods depending on the shore geometry and dominant hazard (e.g. overtopping).

**Figure A.3** is a schematic that shows how flood hazard zones are arranged, with the most hazardous zone, called the V-Zone, being the most seaward where the waves first run up on the shore. Typically the hazards decrease with distance landward, following the general route of wave propagation and calculation sequence. **Figure A.4** shows an example of the flood zones in plan (map) view, and how the hazards computed for shore segments are merged to make a FIRM.

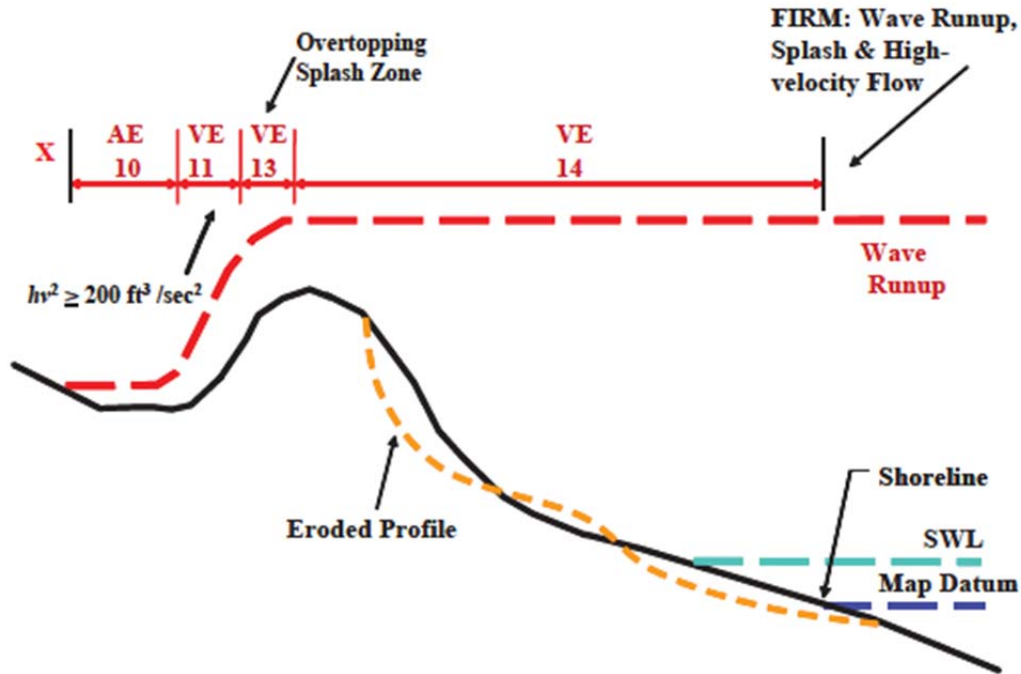
The SIO study “stops short” of providing the detailed consideration of local topography that results in precise spatial resolution of flood hazards in FEMA maps. Other hazard projections, such as future conditions of sea-level rise (Appendix C), provide useful information that also diverge from FEMA mapping in terms of methodology, methods and resolution.

FEMA is evaluating methods to incorporate future sea levels in flood hazard mapping and has recently completed a pilot study<sup>39</sup>. One of the sites considered in this pilot study, San Francisco, is also an SIO output site as well as a site where other sea level rise hazard studies have produced output.

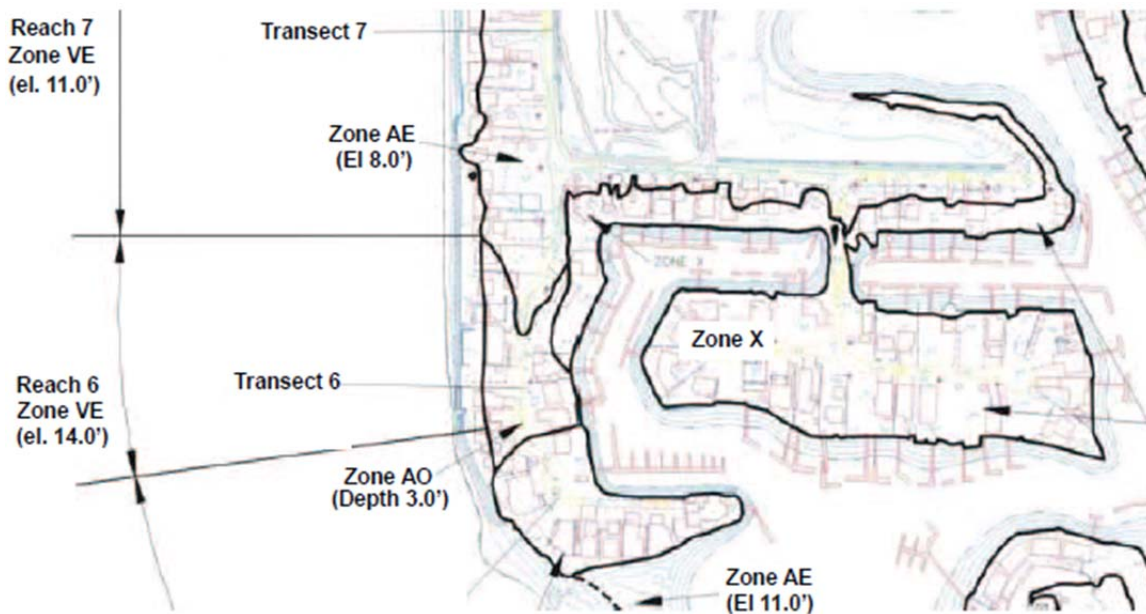
Coastal hazards can become worse over time, newer maps are likely to be more representative of existing conditions, and newer maps are often more precise. Older maps may not be useful in establishing future conditions. Therefore, the user should start with the most up-to-date map, consider when the map was made, and assess whether the map adequately represents existing conditions. Figure A.5 shows older flood maps for California, circa 1982 and 1986. The 1982 map provides only approximate locations but based on the scale it is estimated that the V Zone boundary varies by location and is about 200 to 400 feet seaward of Seadrift Road. No flood elevations are given. The 1986 map indicates the V Zone is 100 to 200 feet from Seadrift Road and the elevation is 19 to 20 feet (NAVD). Figure A.6 is the newest map and is provisional (not yet effective, subject to revision). This new map indicates that the V Zone is at or very close to Seadrift Road with an elevation of 19 to 22 feet (NAVD). These maps indicate that coastal hazards can become worse over time, and that the newer maps are more precise. FEMA expects to have new maps for the entire California coast within the next few years, and these maps are expected to have resolutions adequate to apply the methods described in this manual, similar to Figure A.6.

<sup>38</sup> Garrity, Nicholas J., Robert Battalio PE, Peter J. Hawkes PhD, Dan Roupe, Evaluation Of Event And Response Approaches To Estimate The 100-Year Coastal Flood For Pacific Coast Sheltered Waters, Proceedings of the 30th International Conference of Coastal Engineering, 2006, ASCE, 2007, Vol. 2, pp 1651-1663.

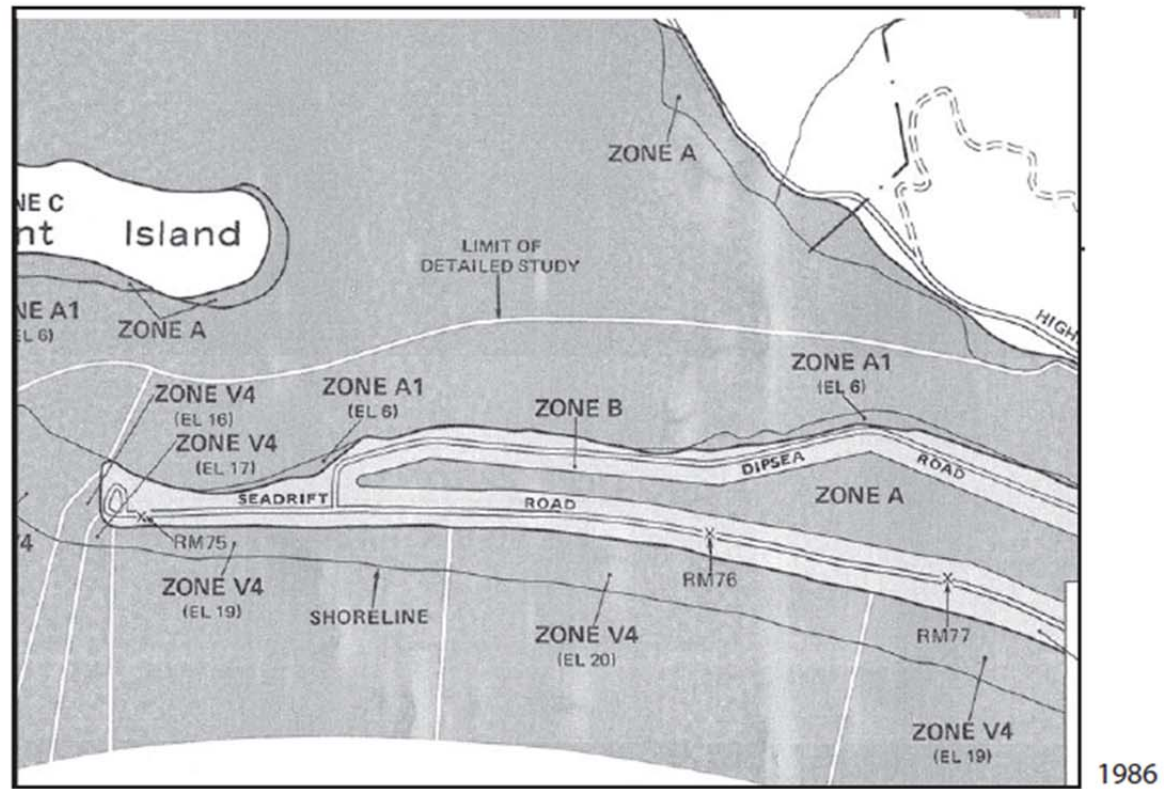
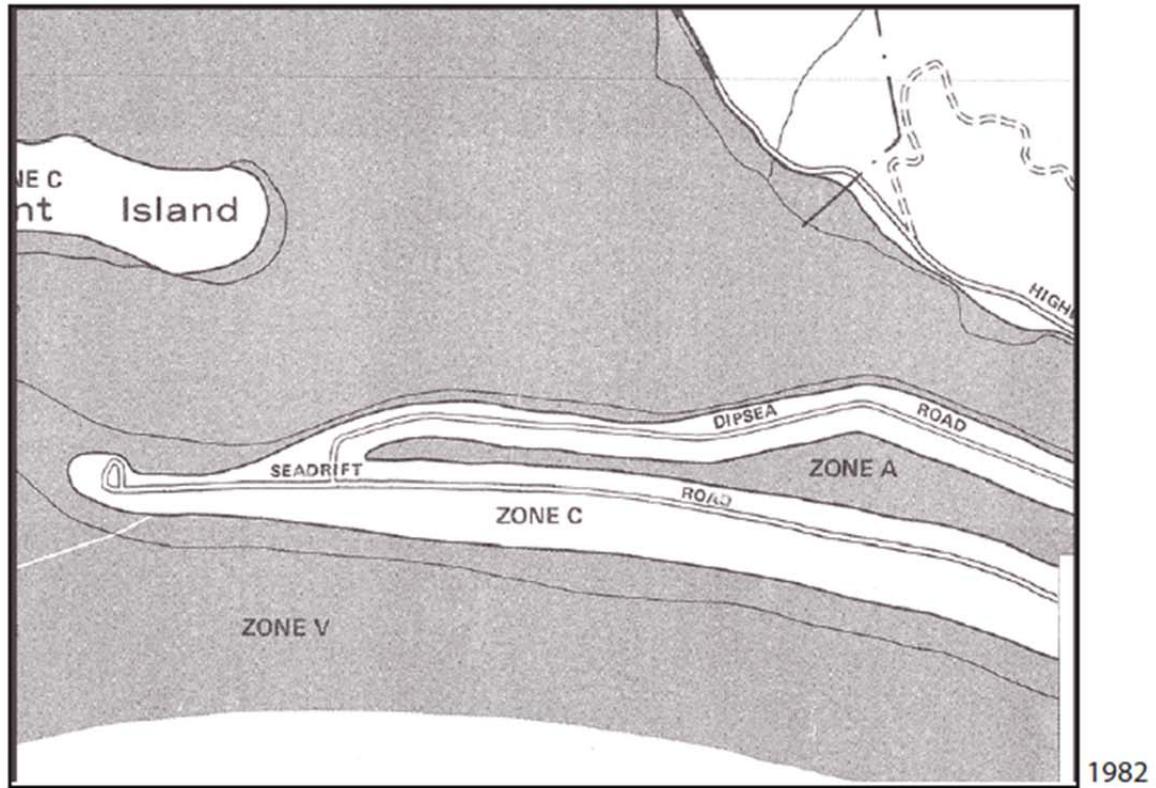
<sup>39</sup> FEMA, 2105 in press, Sea Level Rise Pilot Study, Future Conditions Analysis and Mapping for San Francisco County, California, [http://www.floods.org/Files/Conf2014\\_ppts/E7\\_Curtis.pdf](http://www.floods.org/Files/Conf2014_ppts/E7_Curtis.pdf).



**Figure A.3**  
Shore Section Schematic Showing Coastal Hazard Zonation

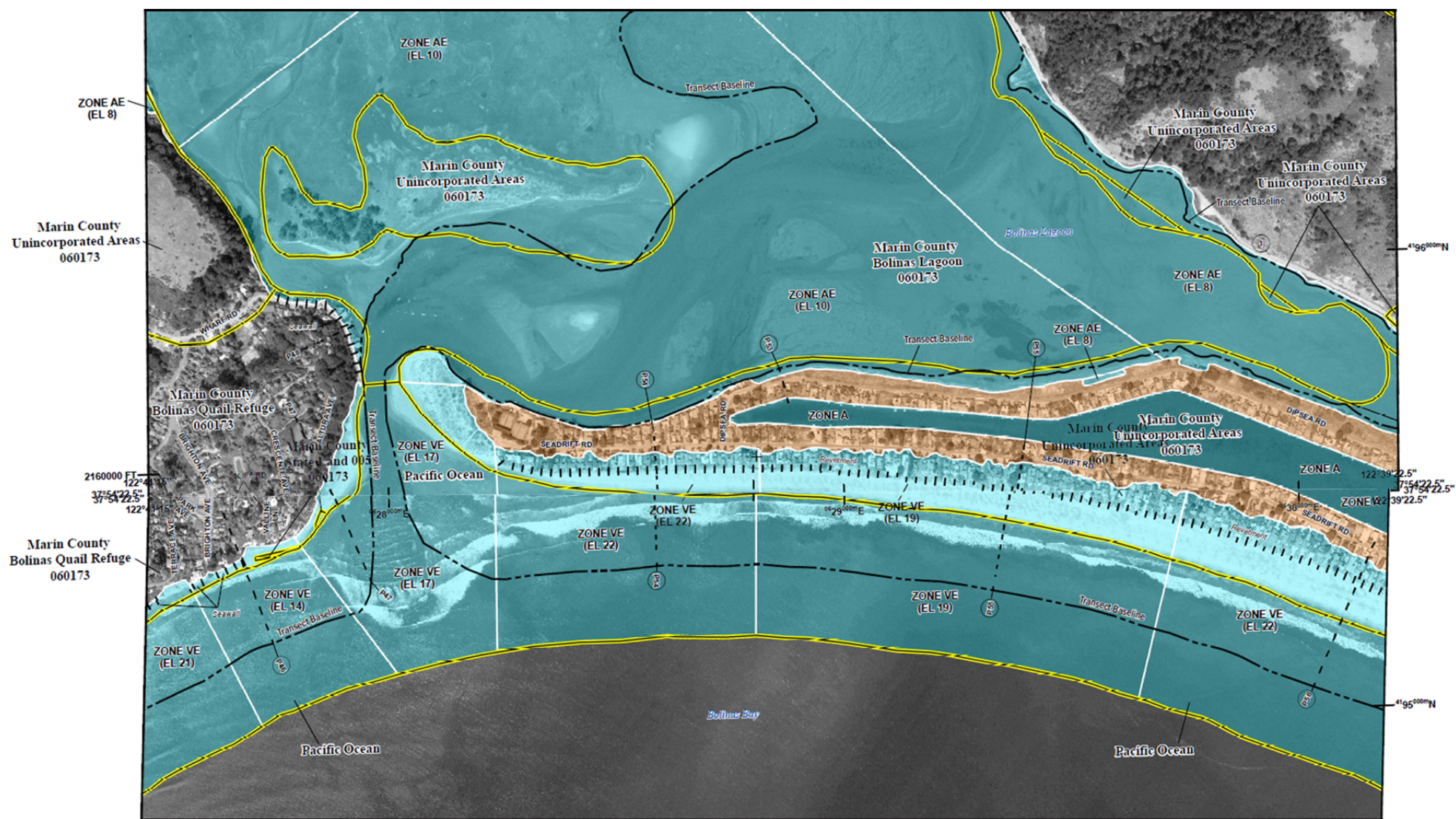


**Figure A.4**  
Example of a Workmap Used to Develop a Flood Hazard Map  
“VE” Refers to “Velocity Elevation”, and “A” is a lesser hazard zone with “E” meaning a flood elevation is mapped and “O” meaning a flood depth is mapped. “X” zones do not have detailed flood mapping.



**Figure A.5**  
FEMA Flood Maps for Seadrift, Stinson Beach





**Figure A.6**  
Provisional FEMA Flood Map for Seadrift, Stinson Beach, CA (Datum is NAVD 88)

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## APPENDIX B

# Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Future Waves and Water Levels

The purpose of Appendix B is to describe the future conditions modeling sufficiently for use in estimating the increase in coastal flood hazards expected to result from climate change. This Appendix also provides a comparison of SIO projections with historical conditions in order to assess the extent to which components change in response to climate change, to quantify differences that may affect comparisons to flood levels computed by FEMA, and to provide sufficient detail to empower informed use consistent with professional practice.

Scientists from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) provided future conditions based on outputs from selected global circulation models (GCMs). These outputs consisted of future waves and water levels for three offshore locations and associated wave runup and total water levels for six nearshore locations along the California coast<sup>40</sup>. Secular sea level rise scenarios were added based on recent guidance<sup>41</sup>.

## 1.0 SIO GCM-Based Future Waves and Water Levels

The SIO future conditions “outputs” consist of future ocean water levels (including non-tidal constituents that affect flood levels) and wave-induced runup, and the summation of water level and runup called Total Water Level (TWL). Methods are discussed in a prior report with the following salient summary<sup>42</sup>:

*“flooding is caused by short-term processes superimposed on RSL (relative sea level rise) and results from storm waves impacting the coast during the co-occurrence of high tides and storm surges, with El Niño–related interannual sea level increases augmenting RSL. “*

As discussed in Section 2 of this report, the SIO methodology is consistent with FEMA’s methods for existing flood hazard mapping. SIO methods basically use forecasted data rather than historical data to compute wave runup. Also, SIO methods have been applied for only a few locations and have not been used to create hazard maps. The SIO projections are therefore, not

<sup>40</sup> Bromirski, P. D., D. R. Cayan, N. Graham, R. E. Flick, and M. Tyree (Scripps Institution of Oceanography). 2012. Coastal Flooding Potential Projections: 2000–2100. California Energy Commission. CEC-500-2012-011.

<sup>41</sup> NRC, 2012.

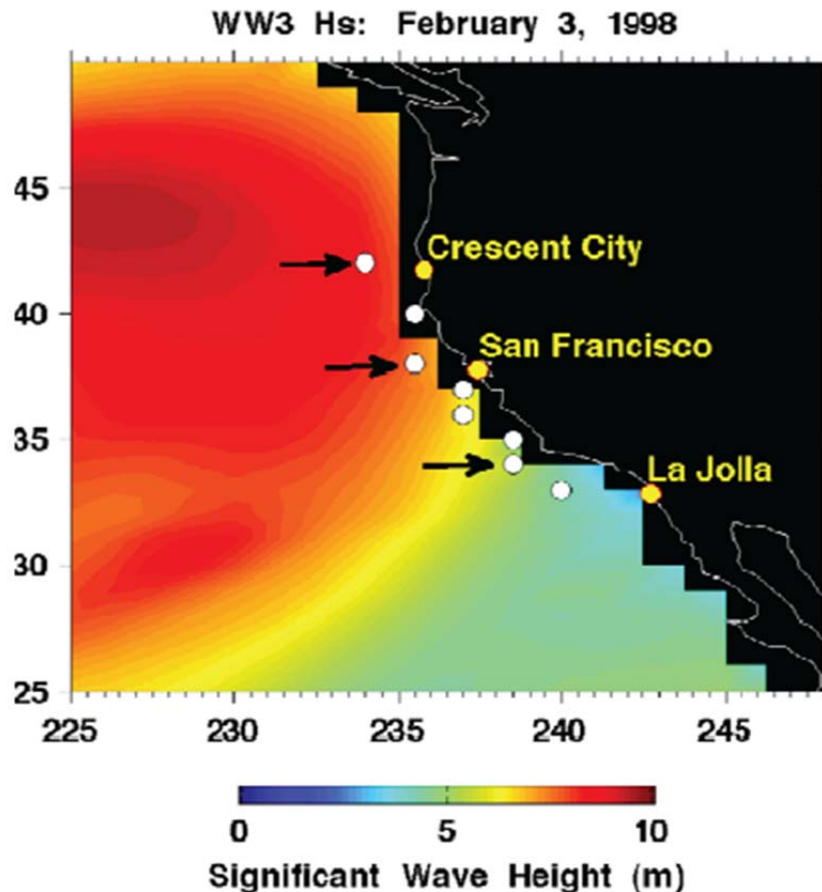
<sup>42</sup> Bromirski, P. D., D. R. Cayan, N. Graham, R. E. Flick, and M. Tyree (Scripps Institution of Oceanography). 2012. Coastal Flooding Potential Projections: 2000–2100. California Energy Commission. CEC-500-2012-011.



directly comparable to FEMA flood mapping. This Manual is intended to facilitate comparison and then application of the SIO results to inform planning for future conditions.

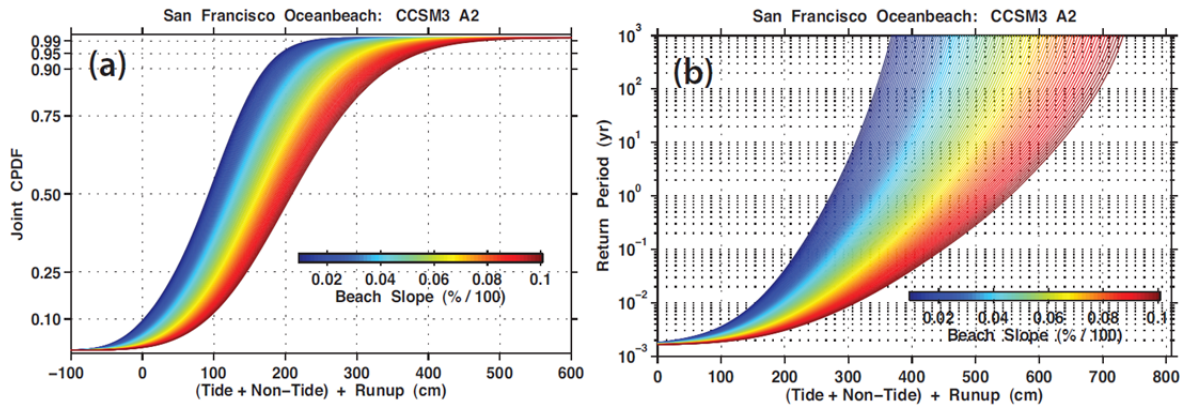
For this project, the outputs were computed for three offshore and six nearshore locations (**Figure B.1**) SIO used global climate models (GCMs) and secular sea level rise projections (following California guidelines) to compute future water levels and waves. Waves were transformed (refracted) to the following nearshore locations (in order from south to north):

1. A portion of Silver Strand Beach north of the Mexican border;
2. La Jolla Shores in the northern part of the City of San Diego;
3. Santa Cruz Boardwalk in central California;
4. Ocean Beach in San Francisco;
5. Crescent City beach; and
6. Crescent City harbor.



**Figure B.1**  
Location of Offshore Wave and Nearshore Total Water Level Forecast Locations

Offshore waves were computed in terms of directional spectra at 3-hour intervals. The wave refraction was accomplished using linear back-refraction techniques<sup>43</sup>. SIO then computed wave runup and Total Water Levels (TWLs) for range of slopes using the Stockdon<sup>44</sup> equation to develop a beach runup “index” for a range of slopes. **Figure B.2** show the results for one nearshore station, Ocean Beach, San Francisco.



**Figure B.2**

Example of TWL Results without Sea Level Rise

**Table B.1** shows the climate model outputs used for this project, which is a subset of available data from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC ) fourth assessment, previously described in Bromirski, et al. (2012)<sup>10</sup>. These models were chosen for several reasons. First, climate projections were selected based on the availability of wave projections coincident with the water level predictions: The only coincident wave and water levels values available were from the fourth assessment. Secondly, there was a desire to use model outputs from climate scenarios that best matched the climate scenarios associated with the secular sea level rise projection curves (see Table 2): In this way, the strength of the climate change was similar for the global modeling and the secular sea level rise curves that were combined. Third, models with data sets extending for the entire 21<sup>st</sup> century were desired to cover the study period, as well as provide a longer sample for statistical confidence. These considerations resulting in four data sets are listed in Table B.1.

**TABLE B.1**  
**CLIMATE MODEL SIMULATIONS USED TO PREDICT WATER LEVELS AND WAVES**

GHG Scenario	GCM Origin	Years
A2	EH4 (ECHAM4 OPYC)	1990-2099
A2	CNRM CM3	2000-2099
A2	NCAR CCSM3	2000-2099
A1B	NCAR CCSM3	2000-2099

<sup>43</sup> O'Reily and Guza

<sup>44</sup> Stockdon, H. F., R. A. Holman, P. A. Howd, and A. H. Sallenger. 2006. "Empirical parameterization of setup, swash, and runup." *Coastal Eng.*, 53, 573–588.

The climate scenarios were selected to be consistent with California policy, consisting of high, medium and low projections roughly corresponding to the emissions and energy concentration scenarios used in the fourth and fifth climate assessments (**Table B.2**), though the nomenclature was changed between the two assessments.

**TABLE B.2**  
**CLIMATE SCENARIOS CONSISTENT WITH NRC (2012) SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS**

Nominal Scenario Name	Climate Scenario, IPCC 4 <sup>th</sup> Assessment Nomenclature	Climate Scenario, IPCC 5 <sup>th</sup> Assessment Nomenclature
High	A2	RCP 8.5
Medium "Projection"	A1B	RCP 6
Low	B1 (not used, only 2000-2050)	RCP 4.5 (most similar to SRES B1)

The IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment GCMs were used as input because the wave predictions have not yet been developed using GCM from the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment.

Time Horizons (**Table B.3**) were selected to be consistent with State guidance documents as well as available data<sup>45,46</sup>. Total water level time series used a 2000 start date, and are relative to mean sea level.

**TABLE B.3**  
**PROPOSED TIME HORIZONS**

Planning context	Typical time horizon with start at 2015	Proposed time horizon for this study
Community planning	2035	----
Engineering design planning	2065	2050
Adaptive management	2100	2100

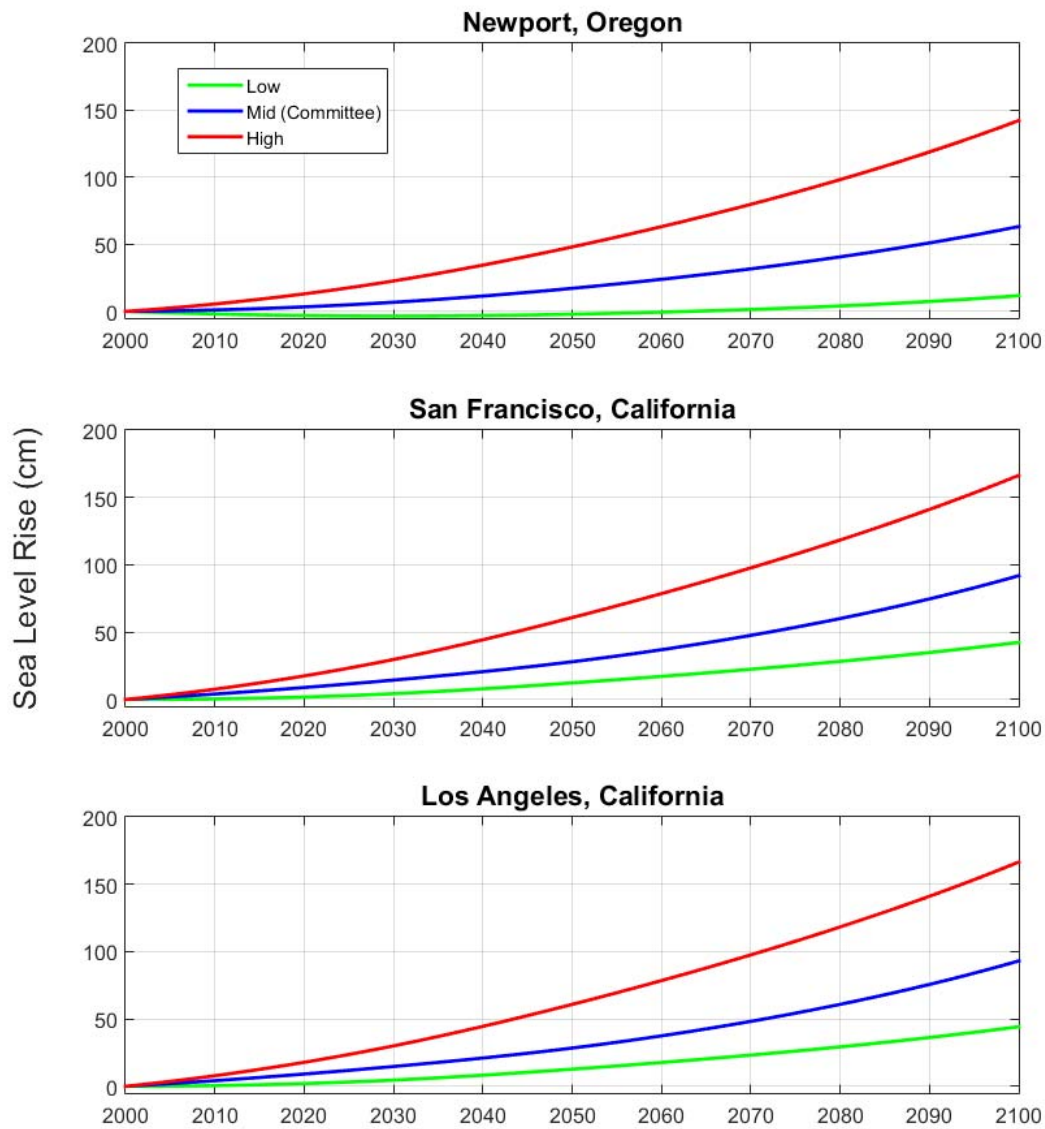
Vertical land motion (VLM) is a component of relative sea level rise, with subsidence additive to global rise and uplift subtractive (NRC, 2012; CCC, 2015). Given the uncertainty and location-specific nature of VLM, the relative sea level rise amounts from Table 5.3 of NRC (2012) which include regional VLM were used. Local VLM adjustments may then be made by the user. The secular sea level rise curves were developed to conform to the values in **Table B.4**, and are plotted in **Figure B.3**.

<sup>45</sup> OPC, 2013

<sup>46</sup> CCC, 2015

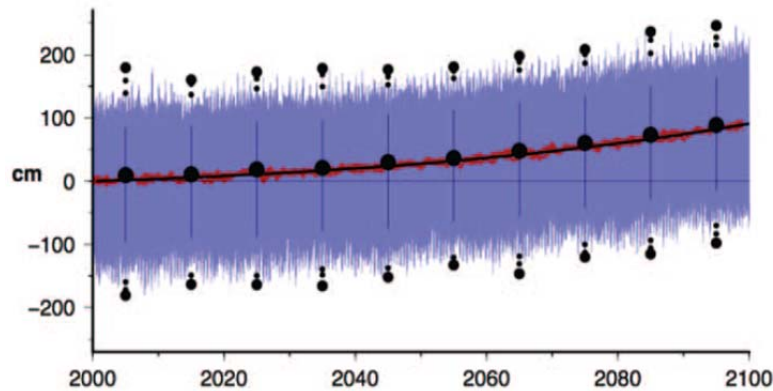
**TABLE B.4**  
**SEA LEVEL RISE SCENARIOS FROM NRC (2012) IN CM**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Middle (committee)</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Northern California – Crescent City (NRC values for Newport, OR)</b>			
2000	0.0	0.0	0.0
2050	-2.1	17.2	48.1
2100	11.7	63.3	142.4
<b>Central California – San Francisco (NRC values for south of Cape Mendocino)</b>			
2000	0.0	0.0	0.0
2050	12.3	28.0	60.8
2100	42.4	91.9	166.4
<b>Southern California – La Jolla (NRC values for Los Angeles)</b>			
2000	0.0	0.0	0.0
2050	12.7	28.4	60.8
2100	44.2	93.1	166.5



**Figure B.3**  
Sea Level Rise Curves for this Project based on NRC (2012)

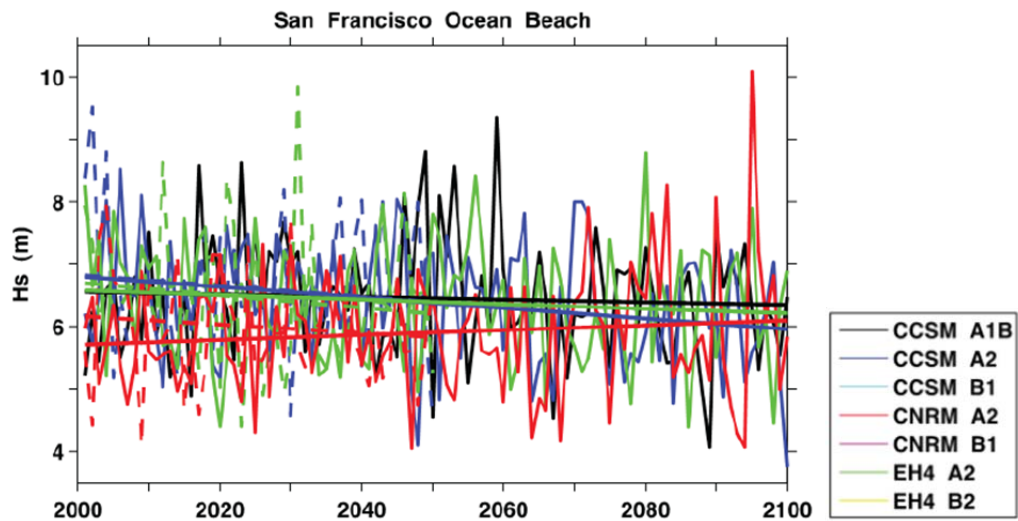
**Figure B.4** is an example of the SIO results showing the predicted ocean water levels from 2000 to 2100 using the mid-level sea level rise curve for San Francisco. The thick black line shows the NRC committee (mid-level) projection (annual average). The thick red lines are annual averages of the four SRES CMIP3 projections. The blue lines (background cloud) are the maximum and minimum levels for each month. The black circles show decadal (centered) values computed as the median, highest/lowest, 10th highest/lowest and 100th highest/lowest). All changes are relative to a 0cm mean sea level on January 1, 2000. The primary change over time appears to be the secular sea level rise trend imposed to match NRC (2012) projections.



**Figure B.4**

Future Sea Level Time Series for San Francisco

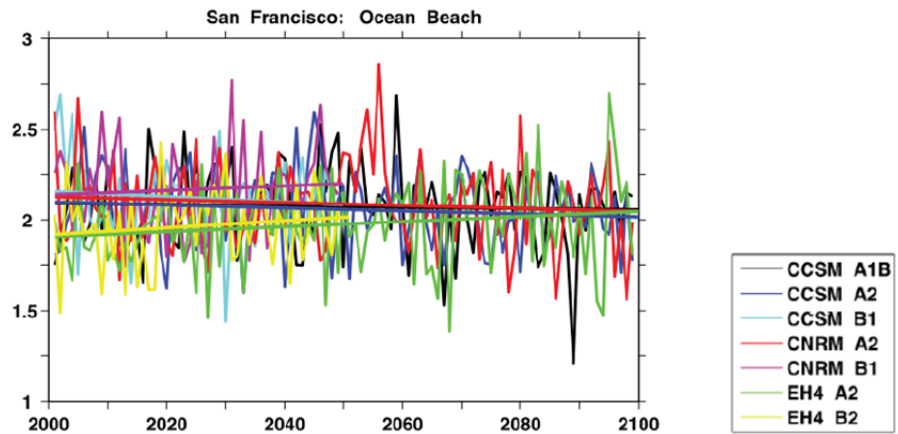
**Figure B.5** is an example of the wave height time series outputs. Note that this study used only four of these outputs, per Table 3.1. These models can be identified in the figure as those with a solid trend line that spans the century. Note that the trend in wave height is ambiguous with 3 models indicating decrease and one an increase.



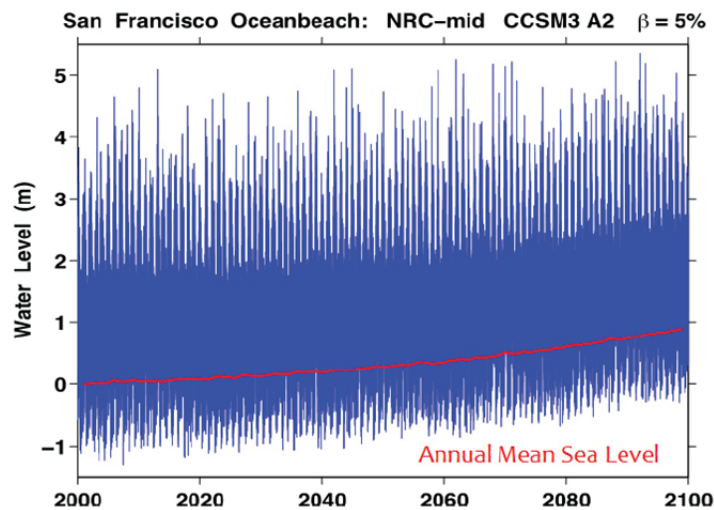
**Figure B.5**

Future Projected Wave Height for Ocean Beach

**Figure B.6** shows the computed wave runup elevations using the Stockdon equation for beaches for Ocean Beach, San Francisco. See Section B.2 *Comparison of SIO future projections with historical observations using real data* for a description of the Stockdon equation. A beach slope of 2% (equals a relatively flat 1:50 slope, vertical:horizontal) is used in the Stockdon equation. The 99-percentile annual values are plotted, without sea level rise, relative to Mean Sea Level (MSL). **Figure B.7** is a plot of the total water level elevations also relative to MSL but with the mid-range sea level rise curve added. These results are for the fourth assessment A2 scenario based on the CCSM3 model. It can be discerned from inspection of the graph that the tides are rising about one meter with sea level and the average TWLs are increasing but that the maximum TWLs are rising less than sea level. This indicates that the extreme wave runup values are decreasing with time (and climate change), so that the total water level (sum of runup and ocean levels) does not increase as much as the projected sea level rise. This is an important finding that should be evaluated with future modeling, and may not be applicable to locations outside California.



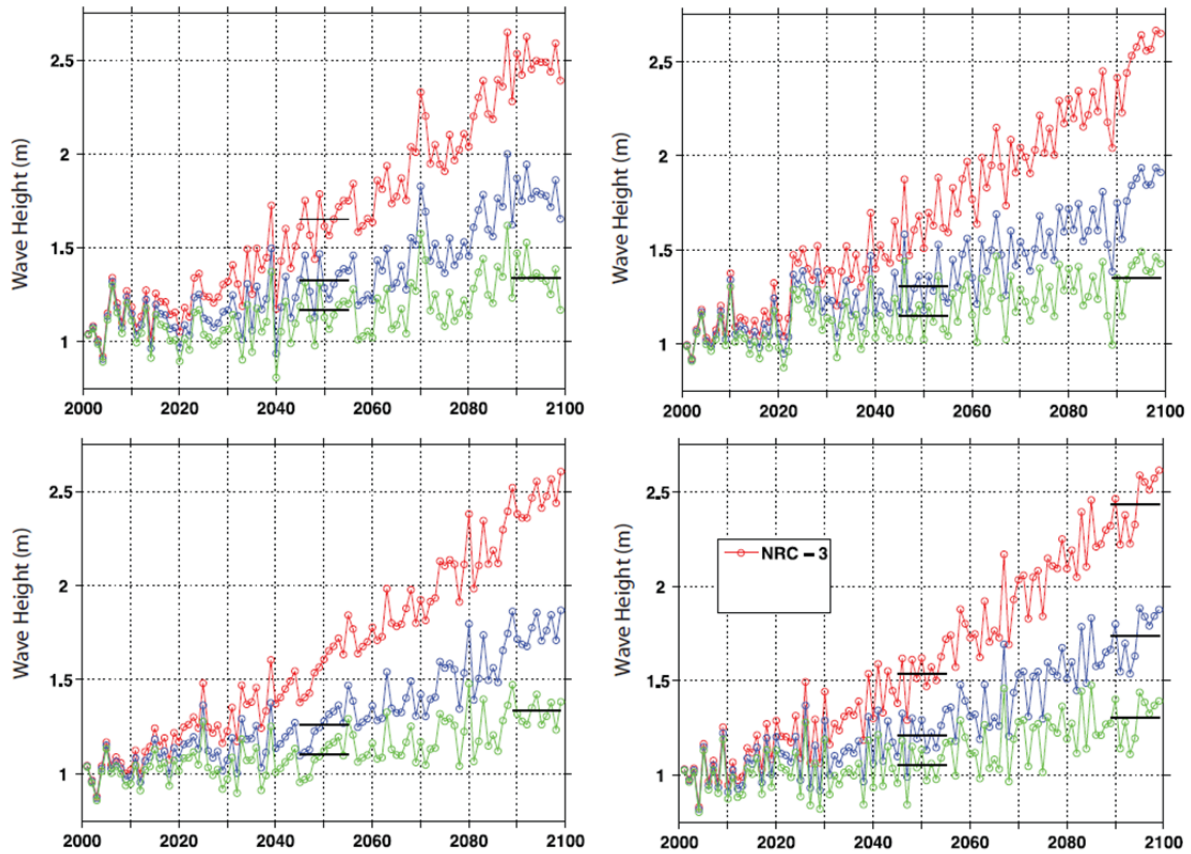
**Figure B.6**  
Wave Runup Time Series for Ocean Beach



**Figure B.7**  
Wave Runup Time Series for Ocean Beach using the Stockdon Equation

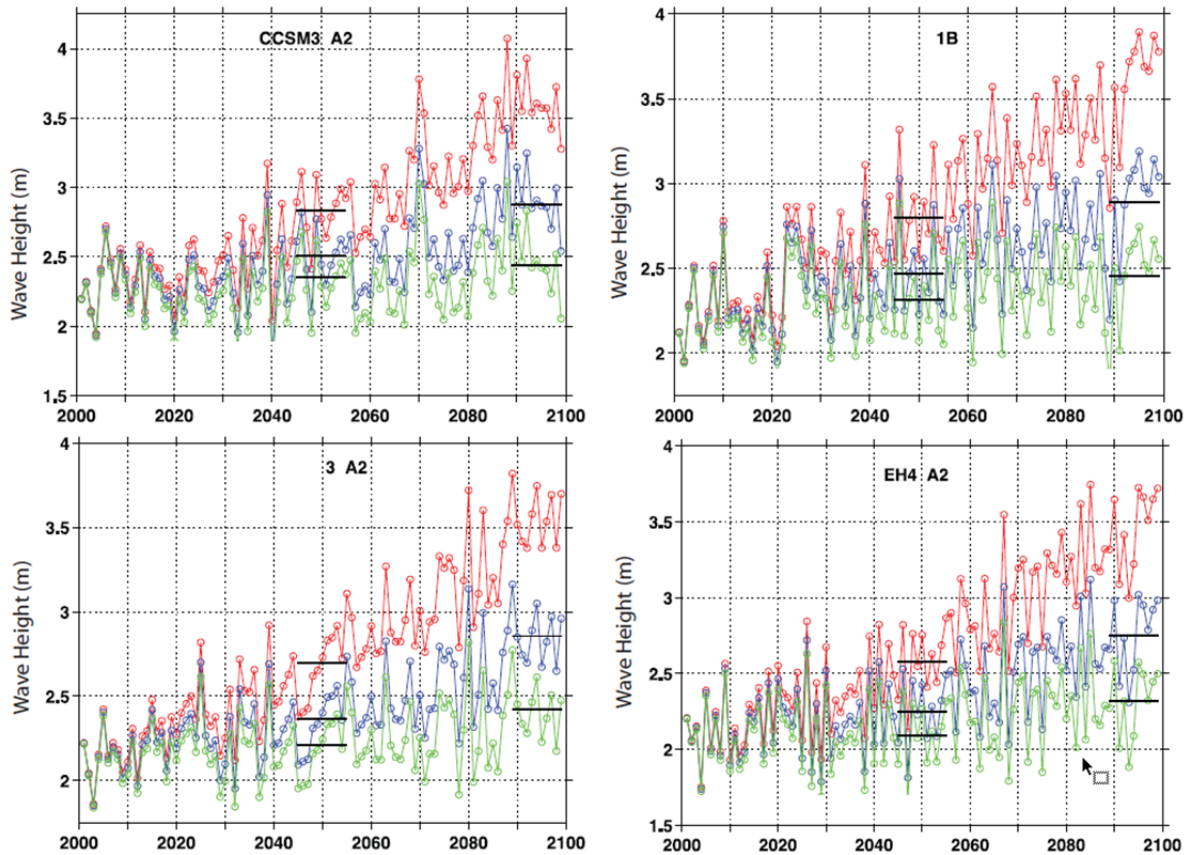


The TWL results are dependent on beach slope, with steeper slopes resulting in higher elevations. **Figure B.8** and **Figure B.9** show the Total water level (TWL) time series computed for Ocean Beach, San Francisco using 5% and 10% beach slopes, respectively, for each of the 4 GCMs. The averages of the TWLs from the four GCMs are plotted along with the ranges in **Figure B.10** for two beach slopes.

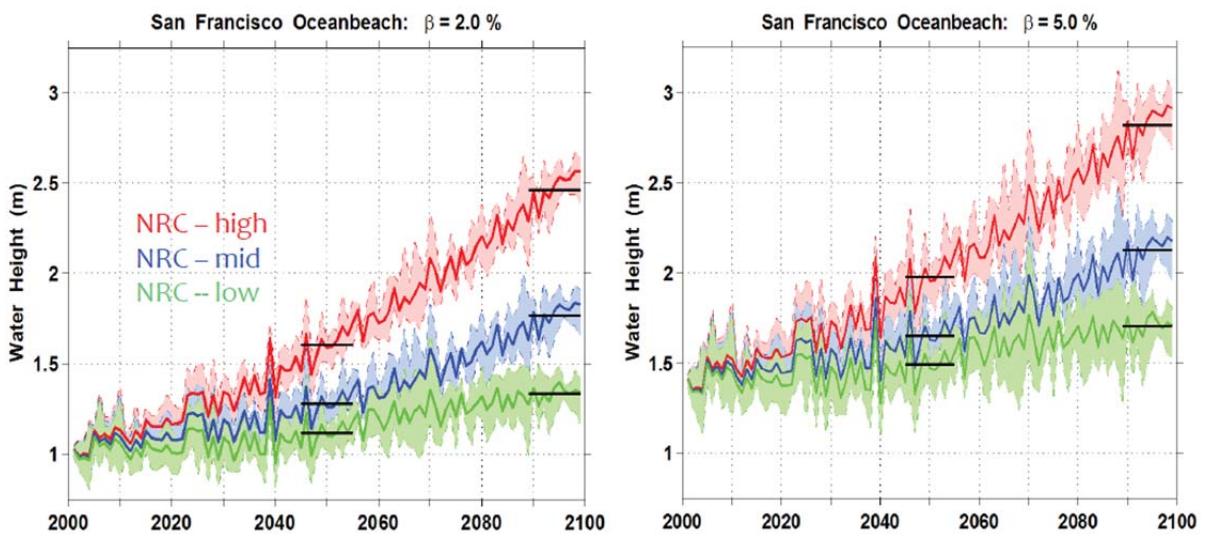


**Figure B.8**  
Total Water Level (TWL) Time Series for Ocean Beach, San Francisco





**Figure B.9**  
Wave height time series for Ocean Beach, San Francisco for different GCMs



**Figure B.10**  
Total Water Level (TWL) Time Series for Ocean Beach, San Francisco Computed with Beach Slopes of 2% (Left) and 5% (Right)

**Table B.5** lists the computed future TWLs for beaches with 2% (1:50) and 10% (1:10) slopes based on the Stockdon equation for Ocean Beach, San Francisco. The primary differences among the computed values are attributed to the secular sea level rise values, which are a function of time, and the beach slope with the steeper slope resulting in higher TWL. The results do not vary appreciably with GCM. It should be noted that the Stockdon equation was developed for natural beach profiles whereas much of Ocean Beach has a relatively narrow beach backed by a steep, artificial backshore comprised of a sand embankment and or rubble. The steep backshore will cause higher wave runup and TWLs than predicted by Stockdon. This is a fairly typical condition along the California coast and hence Stockdon-based elevations should not be considered accurate but rather a precise indicator of relative changes in TWL in response to waves, water levels and slopes.

**TABLE B.5**  
**FUTURE TOTAL WATER LEVELS OCEAN BEACH, SAN FRANCISCO (METERS, MSL)**

GCM	Beach Slope	Epoch	NRC		
			Low	Mid	High
CCSM3 A2	2%	2045-2055	1.17	1.33	1.66
		2089-2099	1.34	1.78	2.47
	10%	2045-2055	2.35	2.51	2.84
		2089-2099	2.44	2.88	3.57
CCSM3 A1B	2%	2045-2055	1.15	1.31	1.64
		2089-2099	1.35	1.79	2.48
	10%	2045-2055	2.31	2.47	2.80
		2089-2099	2.45	2.89	3.59
CNRM A2	2%	2045-2055	1.10	1.26	1.59
		2089-2099	1.33	1.77	2.47
	10%	2045-2055	2.21	2.37	2.69
		2089-2099	2.43	2.86	3.56
EH4 A2	2%	2045-2055	1.05	1.21	1.54
		2089-2099	1.30	1.74	2.43
	10%	2045-2055	2.09	2.25	2.58
		2089-2099	2.32	2.75	3.45
mean	2%	2045-2055	1.12	1.28	1.61
		2089-2099	1.33	1.77	2.46
	10%	2045-2055	2.24	2.40	2.73
		2089-2099	2.41	2.85	3.54

The SIO projections are summarized in Appendix B1.

## 2.0 Comparison of SIO Future Projections with Historical Observations using Real Data

GCM models are detailed and careful approximations of the very complex natural processes that affect ocean water levels and waves and hence it is prudent to understand how the future projections compare to historical data. Derivative values, such as runup and total water level (TWL) should also be compared, as these “response” values are distributed differently than the water level and wave “forcing” values. These comparisons require consideration of statistical measures because the chaos inherent in natural processes prevents the prediction of these values at any particular time. This section of the TMM compares the SIO future projections to historical data and responses using the same calculations. Vertical datum conversions are identified, and an alternative runup equation more appropriate for steep backshores often found in California is applied.

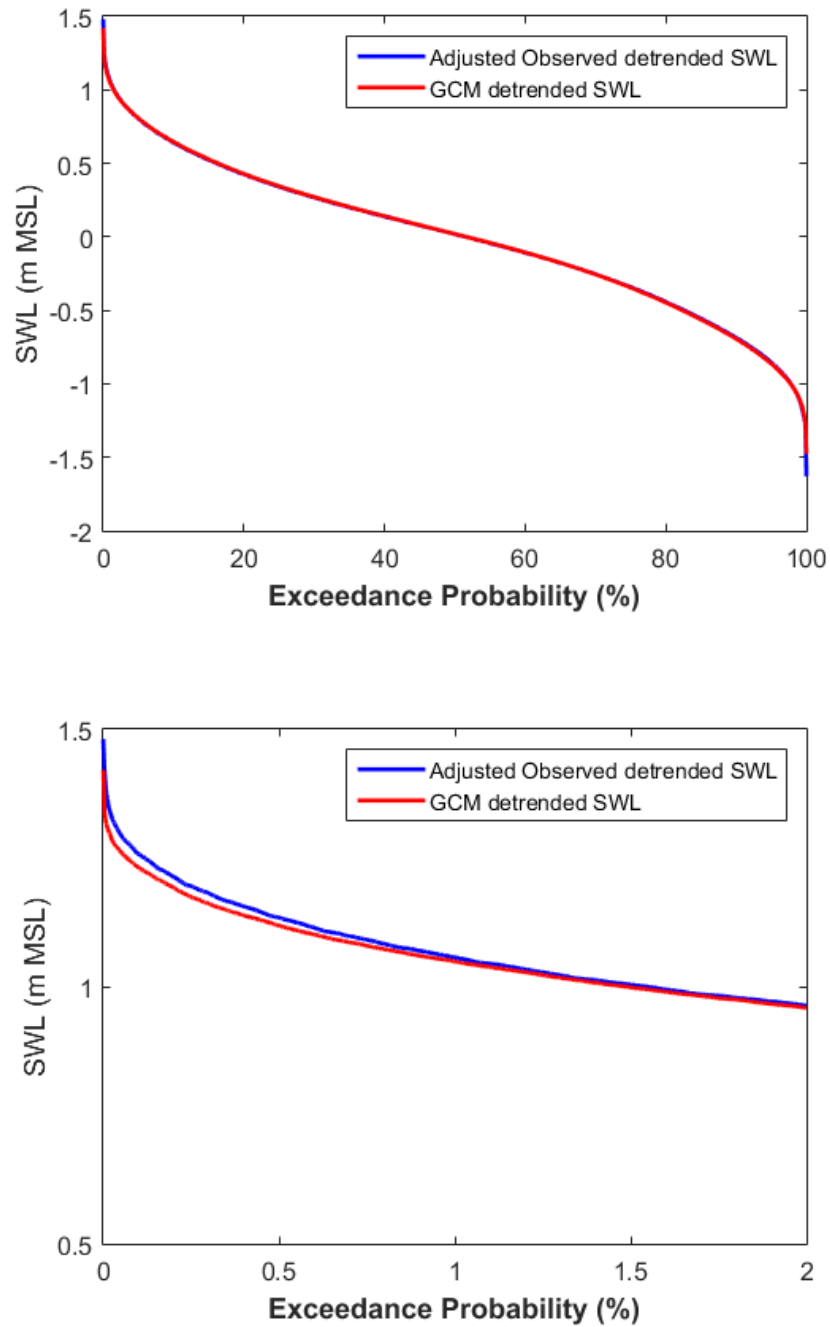
The following **Table B.6** lists the future and measured historical values compared.

**TABLE B.6**  
**FUTURE PROJECTED AND MEASURED HISTORICAL DATA SOURCES COMPARED**

<b>Data Sources</b>	<b>Northern CA Crescent City Beach</b>	<b>Central CA Ocean Beach, SF</b>	<b>Southern CA La Jolla, SD</b>
Ocean Water Levels – GCM	CCSM3 A1B	CCSM3 A1B	CCSM3 A1B and A2
Ocean Water Levels - Real	Crescent City, 941-9470	Presidio, SF 941-4290	La Jolla 941-0230 1924-2015
Waves - GCM	CCSM3 A1B	CCSM3 A1B	CCSM3 A1B and A2
Waves- Real	Cape Mendocino buoy (CDIP 094)	Point Reyes buoy (CDIP 029) with gaps filled with Monterey Bay Buoy (NDBC 46042)	Harvest buoy (CDIP 071) with gaps filled with Diablo Canyon buoy (CDIP 076) 1991-2014

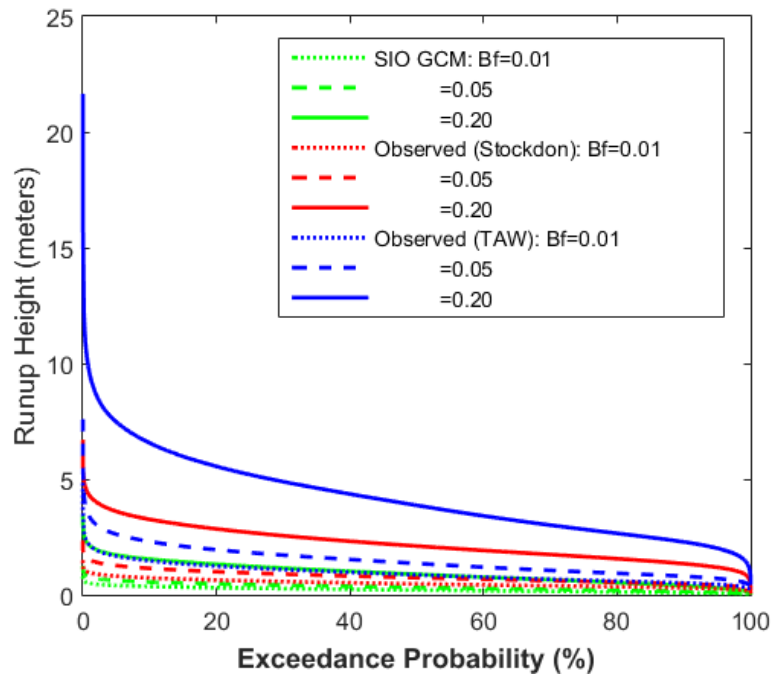
ESA calculated runup (R) total water level (TWL) values using historical wave and tide gage data for two of the six SIO forecast areas, and these were compared to the SIO projections, allowing a check on vertical datum as well as the projected change with future conditions. The comparisons are provided in Appendix 2.

An example is provided in **Figure B.11** for the southern California region. The cumulative distributions of the ocean reference water level for the SIO GCM projections for the CCSM3 A2 scenario and real data are plotted. These data show that the water levels for future conditions are similar to the data distribution for historical conditions, though examination of the tail indicates that the extreme values for observed data are approximately 10 cm greater than for the SIO GCM projections.



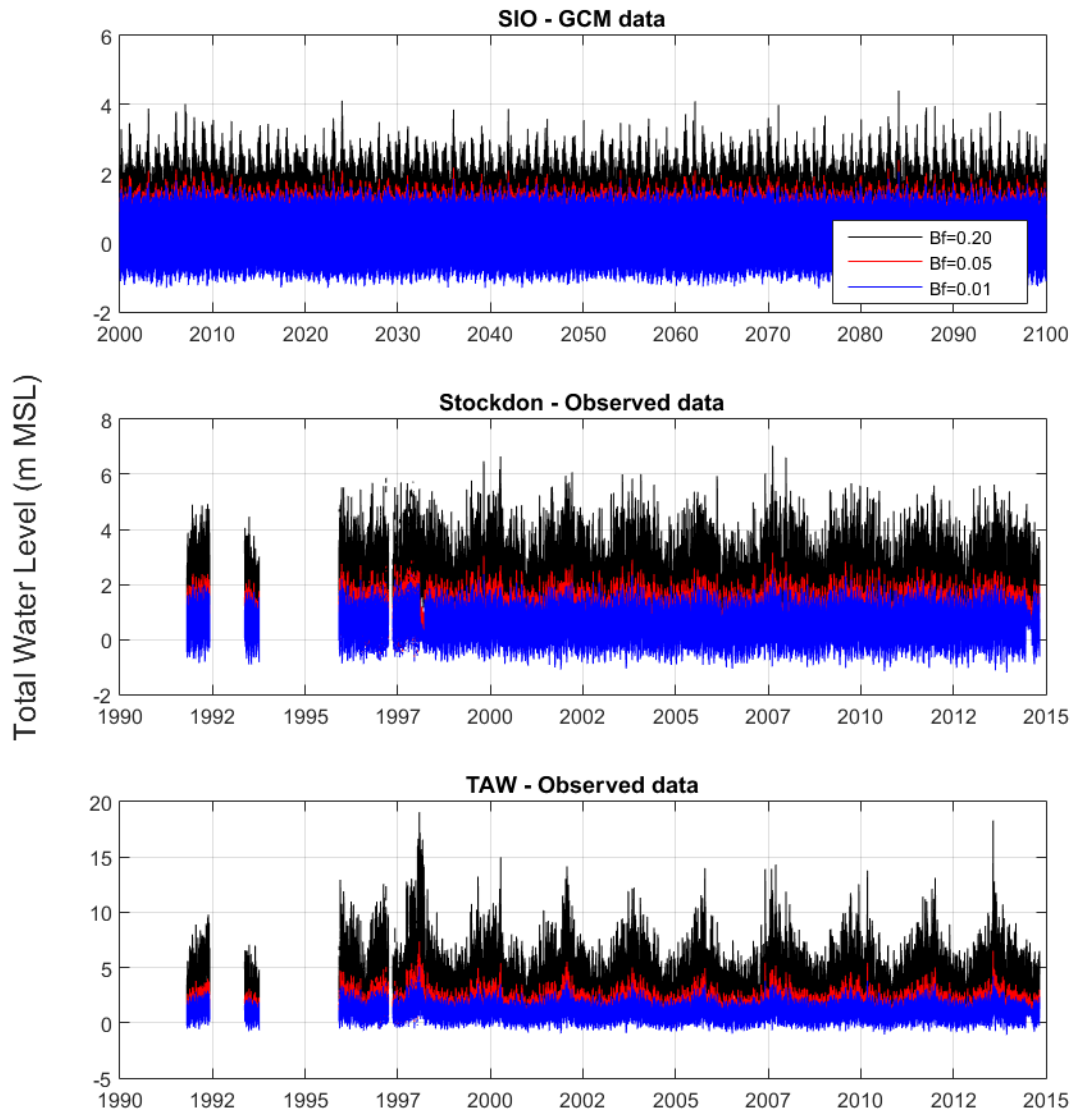
**Figure B.11**  
Cumulative distribution of ocean reference water level  
for projected SIO GCM and real data

**Figure B.12** presents a cumulative distribution of calculated wave runup heights for various beach face slopes, comparing SIO GCM projections and runup calculated from observed data from the Harvest buoy. The runup heights for SIO GCM are calculated using the Stockdon model; runup for observed waves was calculated using Stockdon and TAW models (runup models are explained later in this section). Combining the reference water level data with wave runup yields the total water level, or the wave runup elevation.



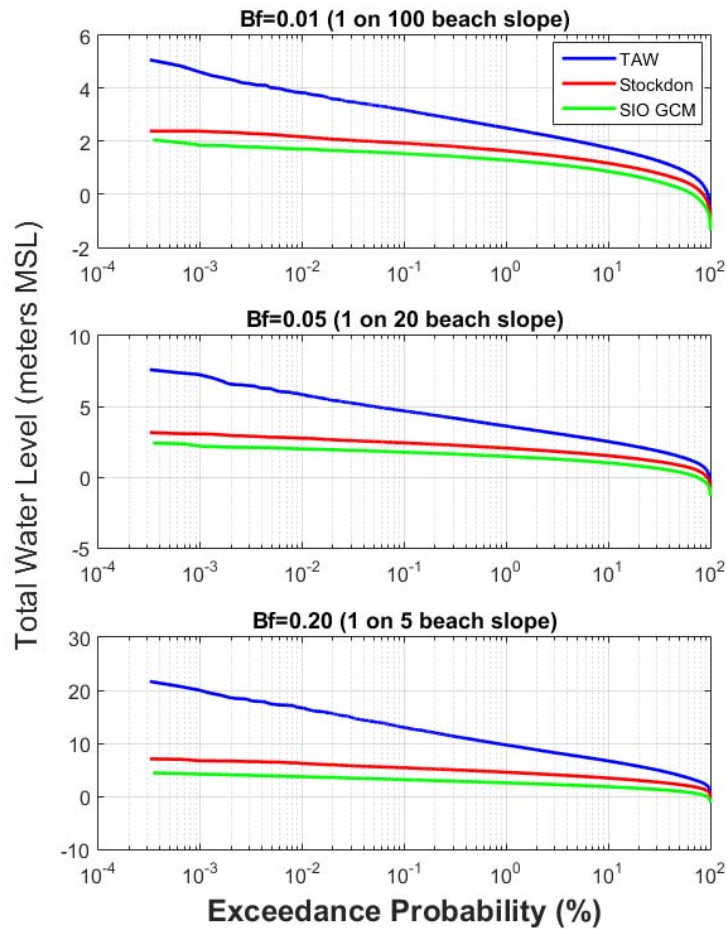
**Figure B.12**  
Cumulative distributions of calculated runup heights for SIO GCM and observed data at Harvest buoy and a range of beach slopes

**Figure B.13** presents time series of total water levels calculated for SIO GCM and observed data for various slopes. Generally, the TWL for the observed data was higher than for the SIO GCM projections. The TAW model, as applied, resulted in elevations higher than the Stockdon model.



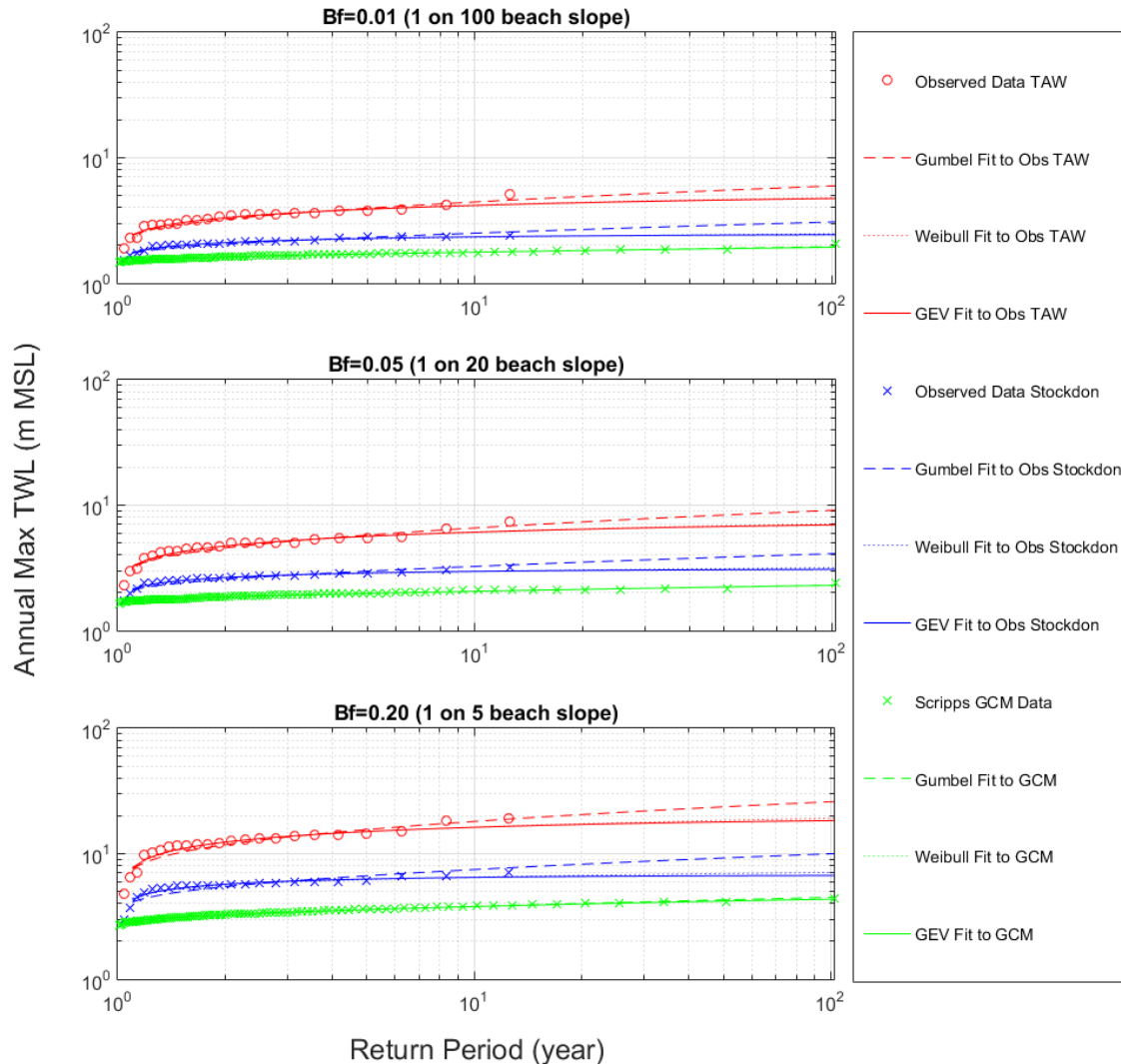
**Figure B.13**  
Time series of total water levels for SIO GCM and observed data  
at various foreshore beach slopes

**Figure B.14** presents cumulative distributions of the TWL data presented in the time series, and shows how the extremes differ. Therefore, these data indicate that the primary effect of climate change on future coastal flood hazards will be the secular sea level rise curves rather than increased waves or higher non-tidal residuals. It should be noted that these results are based on the fourth assessment and future assessments may indicate different changes. Therefore, this Manual provides changes in future waves and short-term fluctuations in ocean water levels, as well as simplified methods to address only the effect of projected sea level rise.



**Figure B.14**  
Cumulative distributions of total water level for SIO GCM and observed data using Stockdon and TAW models for various foreshore beach slopes

**Figure B.15** shows the extreme (e.g. 100-year) values for future projections without sea level rise and existing conditions based on historical data. Several extreme value distributions of the total water level were fit to annual maximum TWL for the SIO GCM projections and the observed data. Tide data from La Jolla Station (NOS 9410230) 1924-2015, detrended. Wave data from Harvest buoy (CDIP 071; gaps filled with Diablo Canyon buoy data, CDIP 076) 1991-2014, full 64-bin directional spectra, transferred using SIO refraction coefficients.



**Figure B.15**  
Extreme value distributions fit to annual maximum total water level for SIO GCM projections and observed data for several foreshore beach slopes

**Table B.7** lists the extreme still water levels (SWL, aka Reference Water Levels, RWL) for the La Jolla, southern California location. These were calculated using the GCM output as well as the actual tide data. The results show that ocean water level statistics are not projected to change measurably in the southern California area due to climate change, except as affected by secular sea level rise. This result is of course representative of the models run and future modeling may



result in different findings. Still, for the purposes of this manual, the primary change in water levels is the selected sea level rise amount.

**TABLE B.7**  
**EXTREME WATER LEVELS COMPUTED FROM OBSERVATIONS AND MODEL OUTPUT.**

Observed Data at La Jolla (1924-2015) SLR Detrended						Scripps SLR Detrended GCM Output				
Rt (year)	Approximate Obs Rt (year)	SWL (m MSL)				Approximate Proj Rt (year)	GCM Proj	SWL (m MSL)		
		Observation	Gumbel	Weibull	GEV			Gumbel	Weibull	GEV
500			1.72	1.49	1.51			1.62	1.45	1.51
200			1.66	1.48	1.50			1.57	1.44	1.48
100	92.0	1.48	1.61	1.47	1.49	102.0	1.46	1.53	1.43	1.46
50	46.0	1.48	1.56	1.46	1.47	51.0	1.45	1.49	1.42	1.44
20	18.4	1.46	1.50	1.44	1.45	20.4	1.42	1.43	1.40	1.40
10	10.2	1.42	1.45	1.42	1.42	10.2	1.38	1.39	1.38	1.37
5	5.1	1.39	1.40	1.40	1.39	5.1	1.34	1.34	1.35	1.34
2	2.0	1.33	1.32	1.34	1.33	2.0	1.29	1.28	1.29	1.28

Note that the historical data are plotted for both the Stockdon runup equation and another runup equation called TAW. The Stockdon equation was developed for beaches and the TAW equation was developed for steeper engineered shores. California's shores are often similar to an intermediate condition with a beach that transitions to a barrier formed by a bluff or development which may include a coastal structure. Hence the actual wave runup at a location in California may be higher than predicted by Stockdon and lower than predicted by TAW. Therefore, both methods are employed to provide a basis for application in this manual.

The Stockdon<sup>47</sup> equation is consistent with the SIO calculations as is expressed as

$$R_{Stockdon} = 1.1 \left( 0.35\beta_f(H_o L_o)^{1/2} + \frac{[(H_o L_o(0.563\beta_f^2 + 0.004)]^2}{2} \right)$$

$R_{Stockdon}$  is the wave runup above “still water level” at the 2% exceedance (98%) level

$\beta_f$  is the mean foreshore slope

$H_o$  is the wave height in deep water

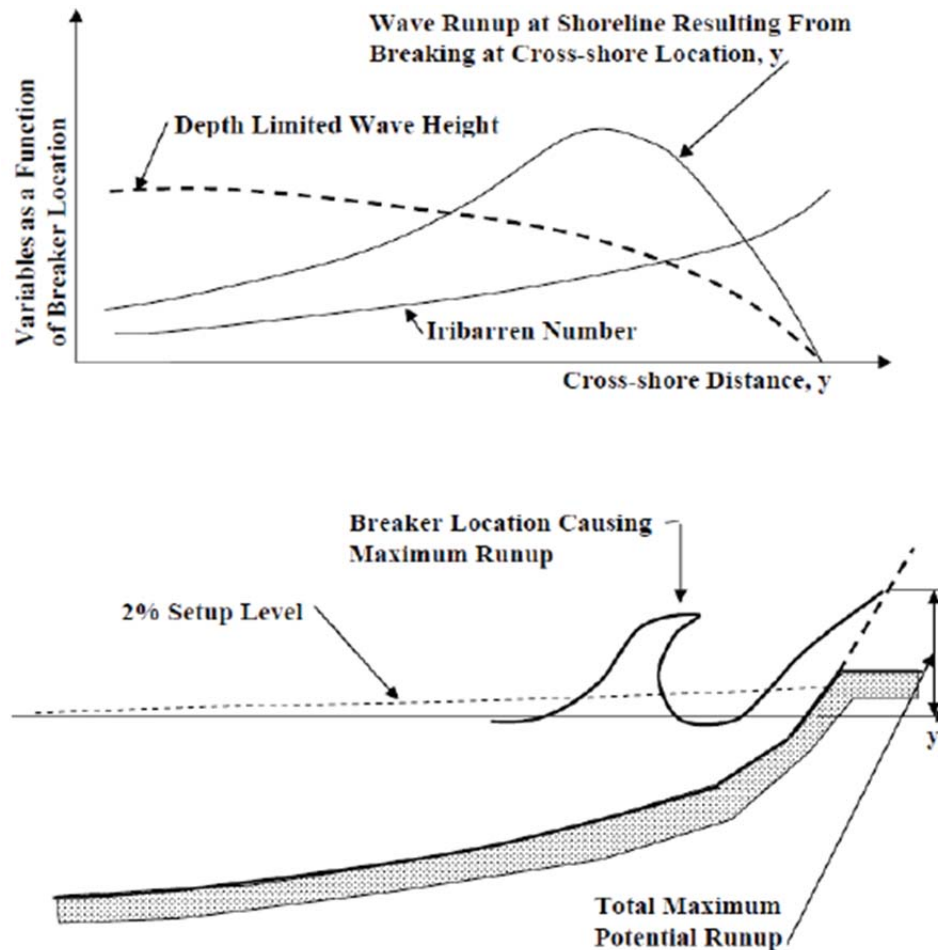
$L_o$  is the wave length in deep water

The first (left hand) term in the bracket represents average wave setup contributions, sometimes called “steady” setup. The second part of the second term (far right) represents the oscillating setup, sometimes called “surf beat” or “infragravity” because its periodicity is on the order of

<sup>47</sup> Stockdon *et al* 2006

minutes rather than the wave periods on the order of seconds. The first part of the second term (middle) is the wave uprush roughly at the wave period.

For most California beaches, the actual wave runup calculations are completed using a combination of parameters and equations or a separate wave runup program. The local wave runup is computed using a method similar to TAW for a nearshore wave using a water level setup by the larger waves breaking offshore. This concept is described by the schematic in **Figure B.17**.



**Figure B.17**

Composite Slope Method Applicable to Most California Coasts Where Wave Setup from Larger Waves Maximize Total Water Levels

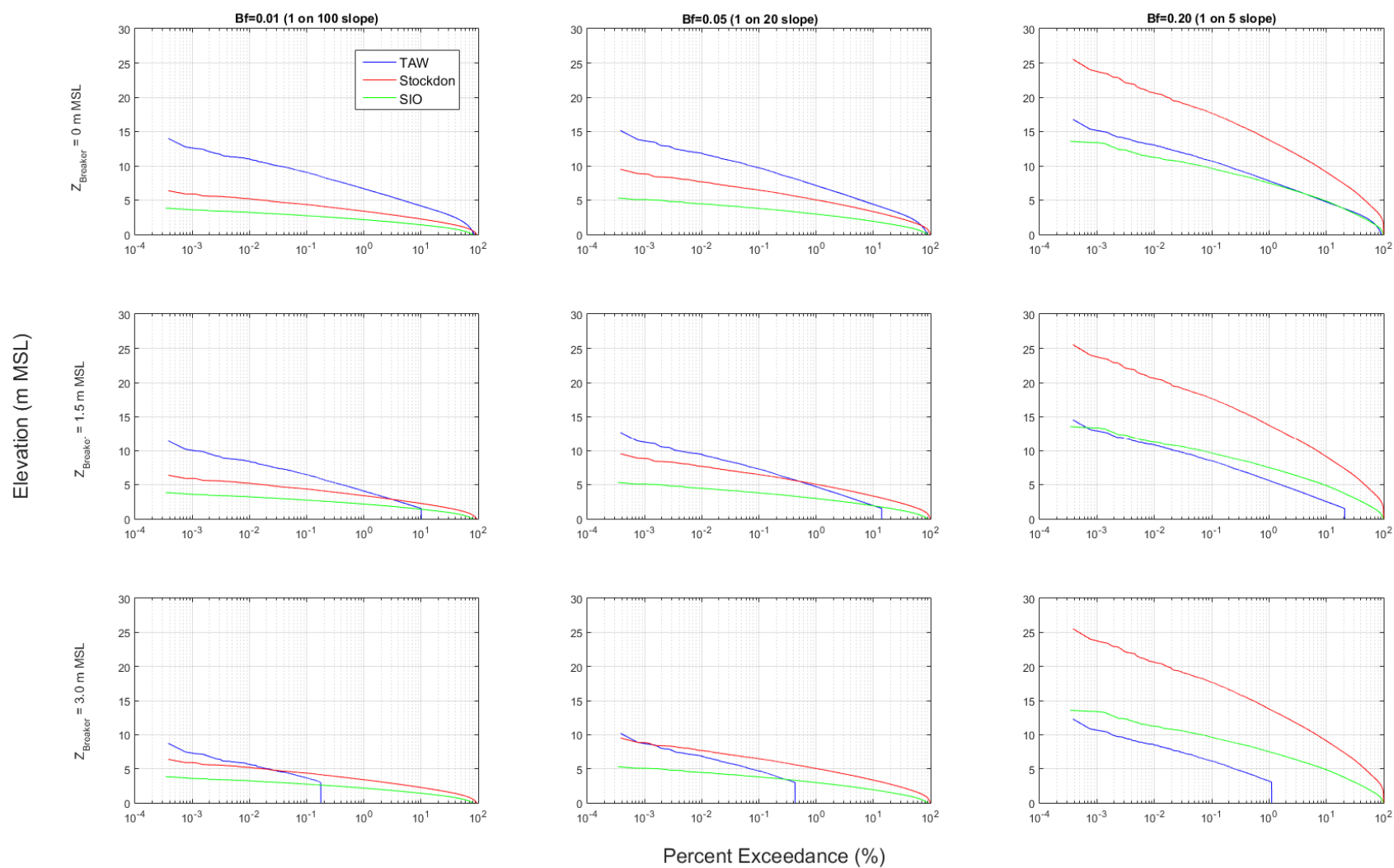
Application of the composite slope methodology yields a more reasonable estimate of the potential total water level for shores with a steep backshore. **Figure B.18** presents a panel of plots that compare the cumulative distributions of total water level for Ocean Beach, San Francisco for the SIO GCM projections and real data computed with Stockdon and with a modified TAW model that uses a composite slope methodology. Each column of Figure B.18 presents distributions for different foreshore beach slopes: 0.01, 0.05 and 0.20. Each row of Figure B.18 presents the distributions where the breaker height used in TAW is selected at the following elevation contours: 0 meters MSL, 1.5 meters MSL, and 3.0 meters MSL. Note that the TAW

runup values decrease with an increase in the selected elevation contour for breaking. The total water levels estimated with the modified TAW approach include a component that accounts for the wave setup (using the parameterized DIM equation) and a swash component estimated using the TAW equation<sup>48</sup>. The calculation of the dynamic water level, or wave setup, does not use the foreshore slope, and is rather based on the overall slope of the shore profile. In this case, the overall shore slopes used in the calculation of the 2% dynamic water level were 0.01, 0.02, and 0.05, corresponding to the foreshore beach slopes of 0.01, 0.05, and 0.20, respectively. A breaker height was calculated based on the depth of the 2% dynamic water level at the selected breaker elevation contour, and then applied to the runup calculation using the TAW method with a backshore slope of 0.25 (a typical condition found along the California coast). Note also that the Stockdon model predicts very large runup heights for the steep beach slope of 0.20, likely because application of the empirical equation to this condition is out of the range of values for which the equation was developed. The Stockdon equation is generally applicable for conditions where  $R/H$  is less than 3, which has been shown by others to relate to conditions dominated by infragravity processes where  $\xi < 1.8$ <sup>49</sup>. This is shown by the graph of relative runup height as a function of  $\xi$  in Figure B.16, for which the relative runup  $R/H$  is limited when the Iribarren number is greater than 1.8 (this is a condition that occurs on a relatively steep slope with long period waves): As the profile steepens and incidence processes start to dominate, the predicted runup is defined by the flatter-sloped line to the right of the break in slope shown in the graph of Figure B.16.

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<sup>48</sup> FEMA, 2005. Final Draft Guidelines for Coastal Flood Hazard Analysis and Mapping for the Pacific Coast of the United States <http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1389126436477-5bd6d5959718cf3f5a4b6e919f0c3b42/Guidelines%20for%20Coastal%20Flood%20Hazard%20Analysis%20and%20Mapping%20for%20the%20Pacific%20Coast%20of%20the%20United%20States%20%28Jan%202005%29.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Laudier et al. Measured and modeled wave overtopping on a natural beach/ Coastal Engineering 58 (2011) 815–825

**Figure B.18**

Cumulative distribution of total water level at Ocean Beach, San Francisco comparing SIO GCM (green) and real data calculated with Stockdon (red) and a modified TAW approach (blue)

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## APPENDIX B1

# Extreme Value Analysis on Scripps Institute of Oceanography Data

An extreme value analysis was conducted using the SIO data for six locations along the California Coast:

- Tijuana Border
- La Jolla Shores
- Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
- San Francisco Ocean Beach
- Crescent City
- Crescent City Harbor

For each location, the original data sets as produced by SIO was used, and includes:

- Time and date, ranging from 1/1/2000 to 1/1/2100 at 3 hour increments
- Significant wave height HS in meters
- Peak wave period TP in seconds
- Wave length in meters
- Peak wave direction in degrees
- Reference water level (also called still water level or SWL) defined as the tidal water level plus residuals or storm surge in meters relative to mean sea level (MSL). This value includes regional sea level rise
- Wave runup heights R in meters, computed using the Stockdon equation, for a range of beach face slopes:  $B_f = [0.01 \ 0.02 \ 0.03 \ 0.04 \ 0.05 \ 0.075 \ 0.10 \ 0.20]$

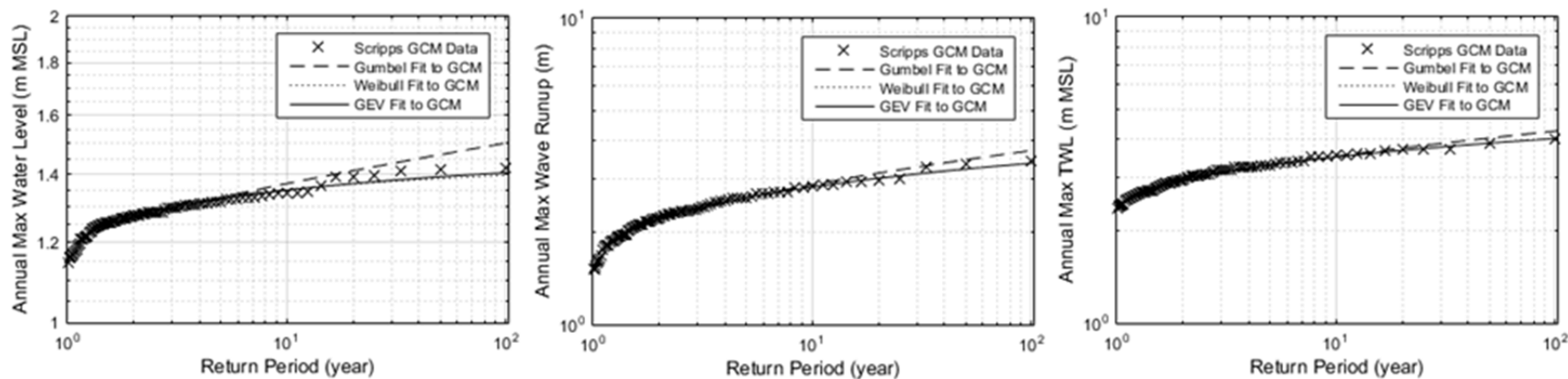
As a first step, the sea level rise (SLR) trend was removed from the SWL time series. For this analysis, only the data from the CCSM3 A2 climate model and the “high” NRC SLR projection curve were considered. The time series of total water level (TWL) was computed by adding the wave runup time series for the beach face slope of 0.05 to the corresponding SWL time series.

The extreme value analysis considered annual maximum events based on a water year, a period from October 1 through September 30. Plots of the extreme values for the SWL were developed for wave runup height R (for  $B_f=0.05$ ) and TWL. These plots are presented below for all six locations.

Results of the extreme values are tabulated for each of the six locations. The information in the tables includes:

- Return period of the TWL events
- TWL value associated with Return period
- Coincident SWL value from the particular TWL event
- Return period of the SWL value
- Coincident R value from the particular TWL event
- Return period of the R value
- Coincident runup heights for all beach face slopes

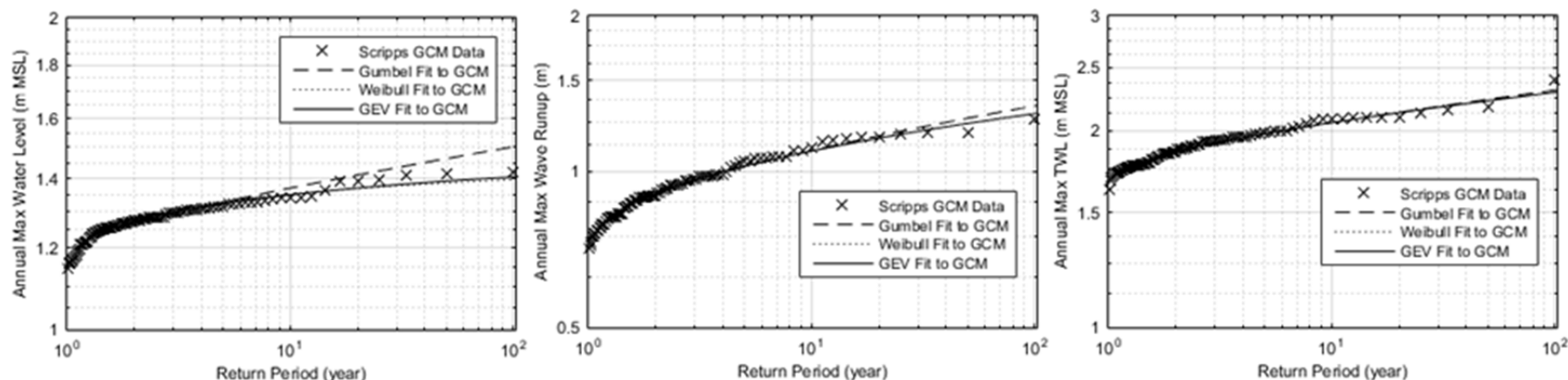
## B1.1 Tijuana Border



$R_{TWL}$	TWL	Coincident SWL	$R_{SWL}$	Coincident $R_{BF=0.05}$	$R_{tR}$	$R_{BF=0.01}$	$R_{BF=0.02}$	$R_{BF=0.03}$	$R_{BF=0.04}$	$R_{BF=0.05}$	$R_{BF=0.075}$	$R_{BF=0.10}$	$R_{BF=0.20}$
(years)	(m MSL)	(m MSL)	(years)	(m)	(years)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
100	4.00	0.57	< 1	3.43	100	2.23	2.50	2.78	3.10	3.43	4.33	5.31	9.57
50	3.85	1.21	1.2	2.64	5.3	1.72	1.92	2.15	2.39	2.64	3.34	4.09	7.37
20	3.68	1.03	< 1	2.65	5.3	1.73	1.93	2.15	2.39	2.65	3.35	4.10	7.39
10	3.52	1.24	1.3	2.28	2.1	1.48	1.66	1.85	2.06	2.28	2.88	3.53	6.36
5	3.28	0.00	< 1	3.28	33.3	2.14	2.39	2.66	2.96	3.28	4.15	5.08	9.15
1	2.37	0.87	< 1	1.50	< 1	0.98	1.09	1.22	1.36	1.50	1.90	2.33	4.19

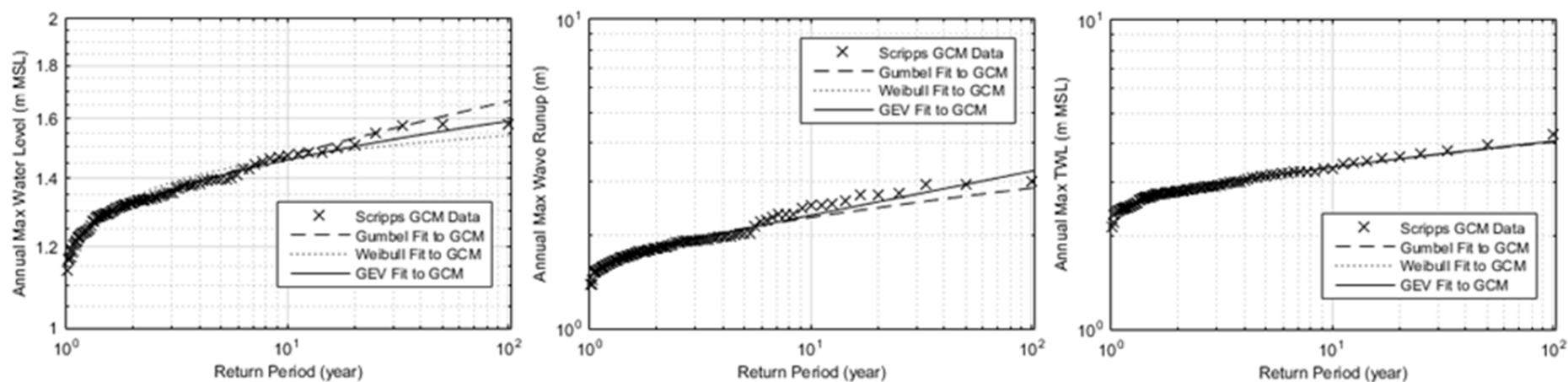


## B1.2 La Jolla Shores



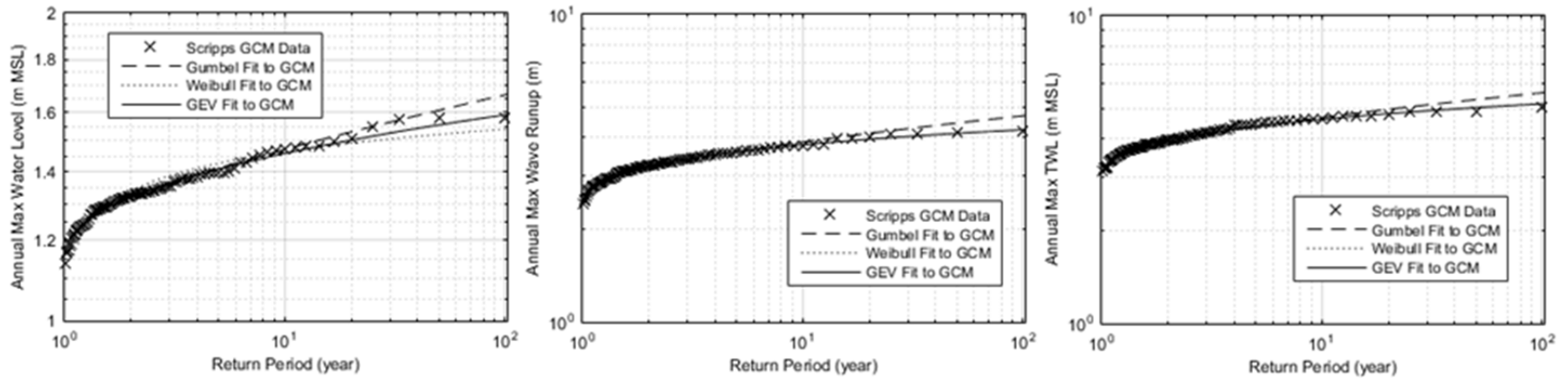
$R_{t_{TWL}}$	TWL	Coincident SWL	$R_{t_{SWL}}$	Coincident $R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{t_R}$	$R_{Bf=0.01}$	$R_{Bf=0.02}$	$R_{Bf=0.03}$	$R_{Bf=0.04}$	$R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{Bf=0.075}$	$R_{Bf=0.10}$	$R_{Bf=0.20}$
(years)	(m MSL)	(m MSL)	(years)	(m)	(years)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
100	2.40	1.42	50.0	0.98	3	0.64	0.71	0.80	0.89	0.98	1.24	1.52	2.74
50	2.18	1.24	1.3	0.94	2.3	0.61	0.68	0.76	0.85	0.94	1.19	1.45	2.62
20	2.10	1.29	2.8	0.81	1.2	0.53	0.59	0.65	0.73	0.81	1.02	1.25	2.25
10	2.09	1.24	1.3	0.85	1.4	0.55	0.62	0.69	0.77	0.85	1.08	1.32	2.37
5	1.99	0.89	< 1	1.10	8.3	0.72	0.80	0.89	0.99	1.10	1.39	1.71	3.07
1	1.63	1.21	1.1	0.42	< 1	0.28	0.31	0.34	0.38	0.42	0.53	0.65	1.18

## B1.3 Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk



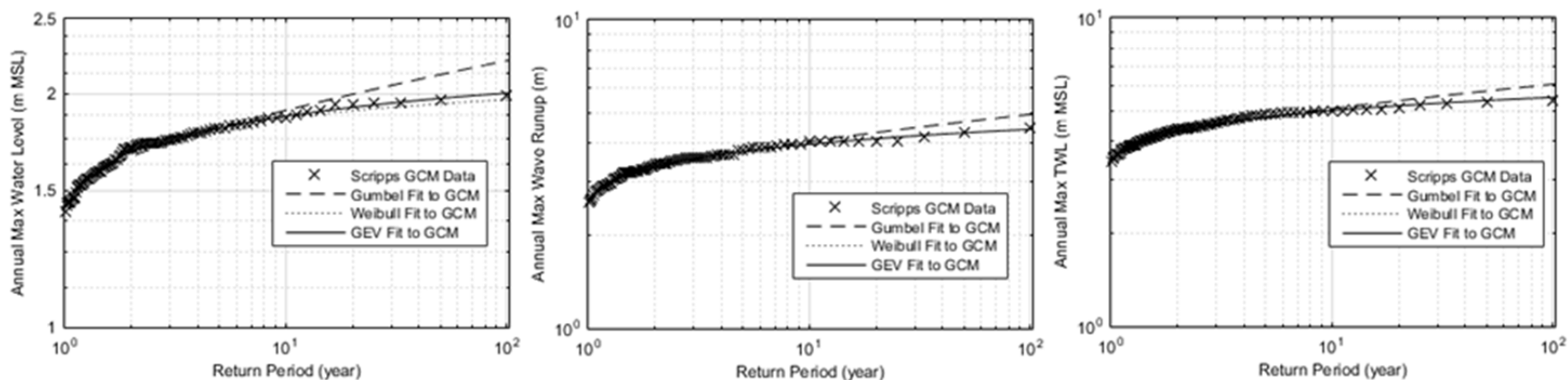
$R_{t_{TWL}}$	TWL	Coincident SWL	$R_{t_{SWL}}$	Coincident $R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{t_R}$	$R_{Bf=0.01}$	$R_{Bf=0.02}$	$R_{Bf=0.03}$	$R_{Bf=0.04}$	$R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{Bf=0.075}$	$R_{Bf=0.10}$	$R_{Bf=0.20}$
(years)	(m MSL)	(m MSL)	(years)	(m)	(years)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
100	4.27	1.35	2.8	2.92	33.3	1.90	2.12	2.37	2.63	2.92	3.69	4.52	8.14
50	3.96	1.50	16.7	2.46	9.1	1.60	1.79	2.00	2.22	2.46	3.11	3.81	6.86
20	3.63	0.70	< 1	2.93	50.0	1.91	2.13	2.38	2.65	2.93	3.70	4.54	8.18
10	3.31	1.32	1.8	1.99	4.2	1.30	1.45	1.62	1.80	1.99	2.52	3.09	5.56
5	3.14	1.32	2.0	1.82	2.0	1.18	1.32	1.47	1.64	1.82	2.30	2.81	5.07
1	2.15	0.94	< 1	1.21	< 1	0.79	0.88	0.98	1.09	1.21	1.53	1.87	3.37

## B1.4 San Francisco Ocean Beach



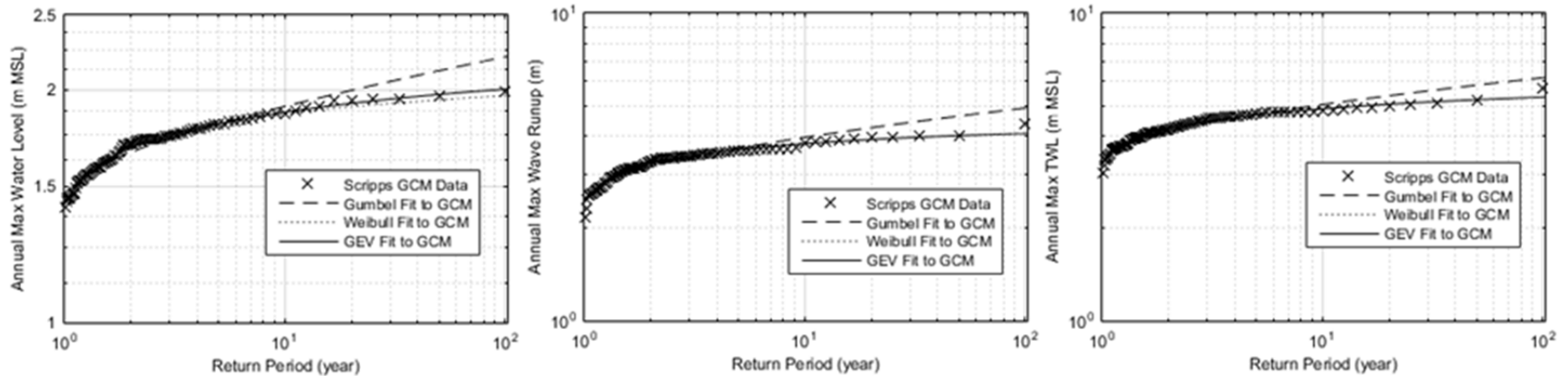
$R_{t_{TWL}}$	TWL	Coincident SWL	$R_{t_{SWL}}$	Coincident $R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{t_R}$	$R_{Bf=0.01}$	$R_{Bf=0.02}$	$R_{Bf=0.03}$	$R_{Bf=0.04}$	$R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{Bf=0.075}$	$R_{Bf=0.10}$	$R_{Bf=0.20}$
(years)	(m MSL)	(m MSL)	(years)	(m)	(years)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
100	5.04	1.23	1.1	3.81	11.1	2.48	2.77	3.09	3.44	3.81	4.81	5.90	10.63
50	4.87	1.29	1.5	3.58	5.0	2.33	2.61	2.91	3.24	3.58	4.53	5.55	10.00
20	4.75	1.21	1.1	3.54	4.5	2.31	2.58	2.88	3.20	3.54	4.48	5.49	9.89
10	4.64	1.11	< 1	3.53	4.3	2.30	2.57	2.86	3.18	3.53	4.46	5.46	9.84
5	4.45	1.35	2.8	3.10	1.5	2.02	2.26	2.52	2.80	3.10	3.92	4.80	8.65
1	3.14	0.86	< 1	2.28	< 1	1.49	1.66	1.85	2.06	2.28	2.88	3.53	6.37

## B1.5 Crescent City



$R_{t_{TWL}}$	TWL	Coincident SWL	$R_{t_{SWL}}$	Coincident $R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{t_R}$	$R_{Bf=0.01}$	$R_{Bf=0.02}$	$R_{Bf=0.03}$	$R_{Bf=0.04}$	$R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{Bf=0.075}$	$R_{Bf=0.10}$	$R_{Bf=0.20}$
(years)	(m MSL)	(m MSL)	(years)	(m)	(years)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
100	5.41	1.23	< 1	4.18	33.3	2.73	3.05	3.40	3.78	4.18	5.29	6.48	11.68
50	5.34	1.35	< 1	3.99	9.1	2.60	2.91	3.24	3.61	3.99	5.05	6.18	11.14
20	5.08	1.03	< 1	4.05	16.7	2.64	2.95	3.29	3.66	4.05	5.12	6.27	11.30
10	5.01	1.69	1.8	3.32	1.9	2.16	2.41	2.69	2.99	3.32	4.19	5.14	9.25
5	4.86	1.08	< 1	3.78	4.8	2.46	2.75	3.07	3.41	3.78	4.78	5.86	10.55
1	3.42	0.84	< 1	2.58	1.0	1.68	1.88	2.10	2.33	2.58	3.26	4.00	7.20

## B1.6 Crescent City Harbor



$R_{t_{TWL}}$	TWL	Coincident SWL	$R_{t_{SWL}}$	Coincident $R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{t_R}$	$R_{Bf=0.01}$	$R_{Bf=0.02}$	$R_{Bf=0.03}$	$R_{Bf=0.04}$	$R_{Bf=0.05}$	$R_{Bf=0.075}$	$R_{Bf=0.10}$	$R_{Bf=0.20}$
(years)	(m MSL)	(m MSL)	(years)	(m)	(years)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
100	5.70	1.35	< 1	4.35	100	2.83	3.17	3.53	3.93	4.35	5.50	6.74	12.14
50	5.21	1.23	< 1	3.98	33.3	2.59	2.90	3.24	3.60	3.98	5.03	6.17	11.12
20	4.99	1.65	1.7	3.34	2.1	2.18	2.43	2.72	3.02	3.34	4.23	5.18	9.33
10	4.83	0.89	< 1	3.94	20.0	2.56	2.87	3.20	3.55	3.94	4.97	6.10	10.98
5	4.70	1.46	1.1	3.24	1.9	2.11	2.36	2.63	2.93	3.24	4.10	5.02	9.05
1	3.01	0.84	< 1	2.17	1.0	1.41	1.58	1.76	1.96	2.17	2.74	3.36	6.05

## APPENDIX B2

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### Extreme Value Analysis on Observed Data

An extreme value analysis was conducted using observed data for three locations along the California Coast:

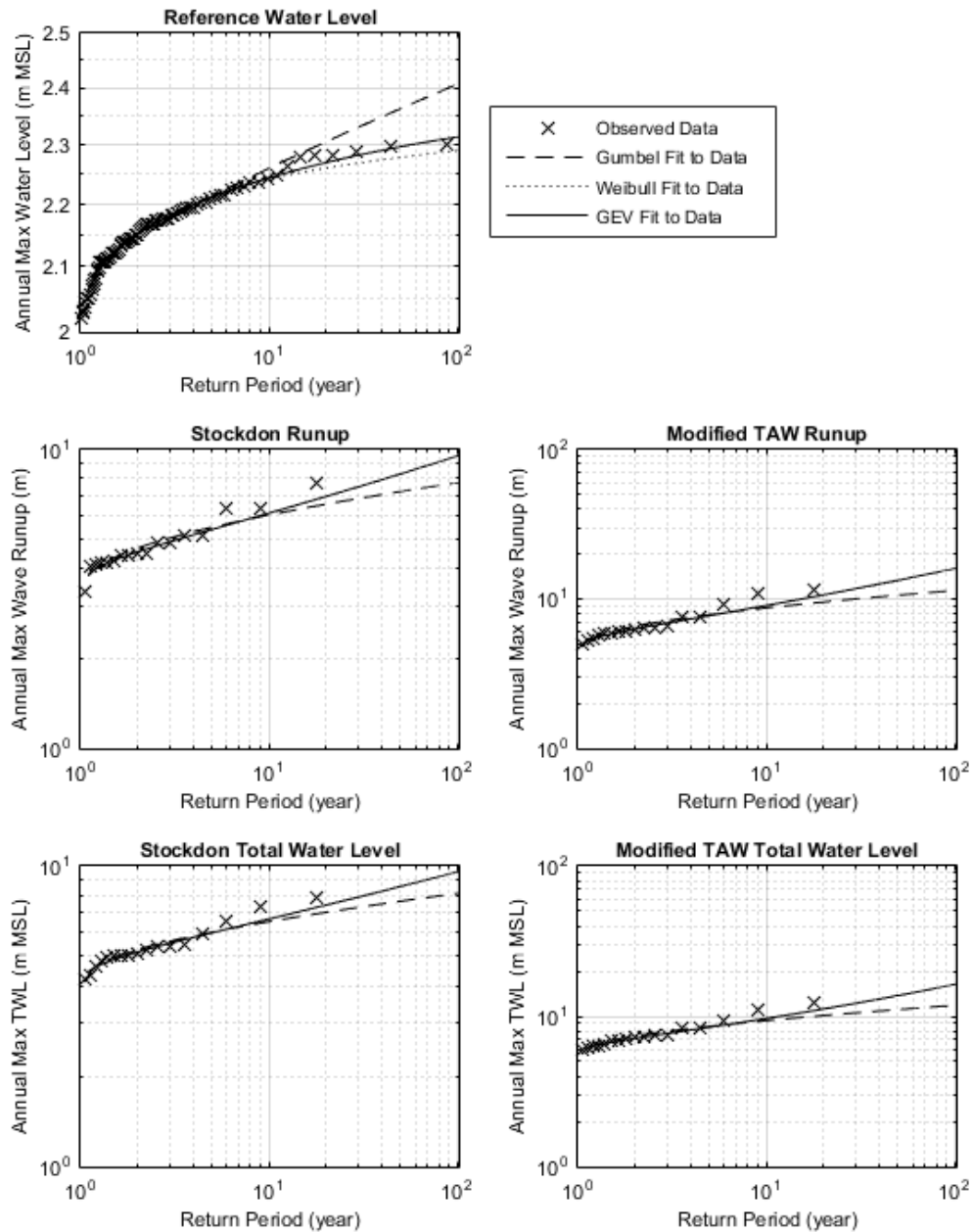
- Tijuana Border (with La Jolla tides)
- San Francisco Ocean Beach
- Crescent City

Runup:

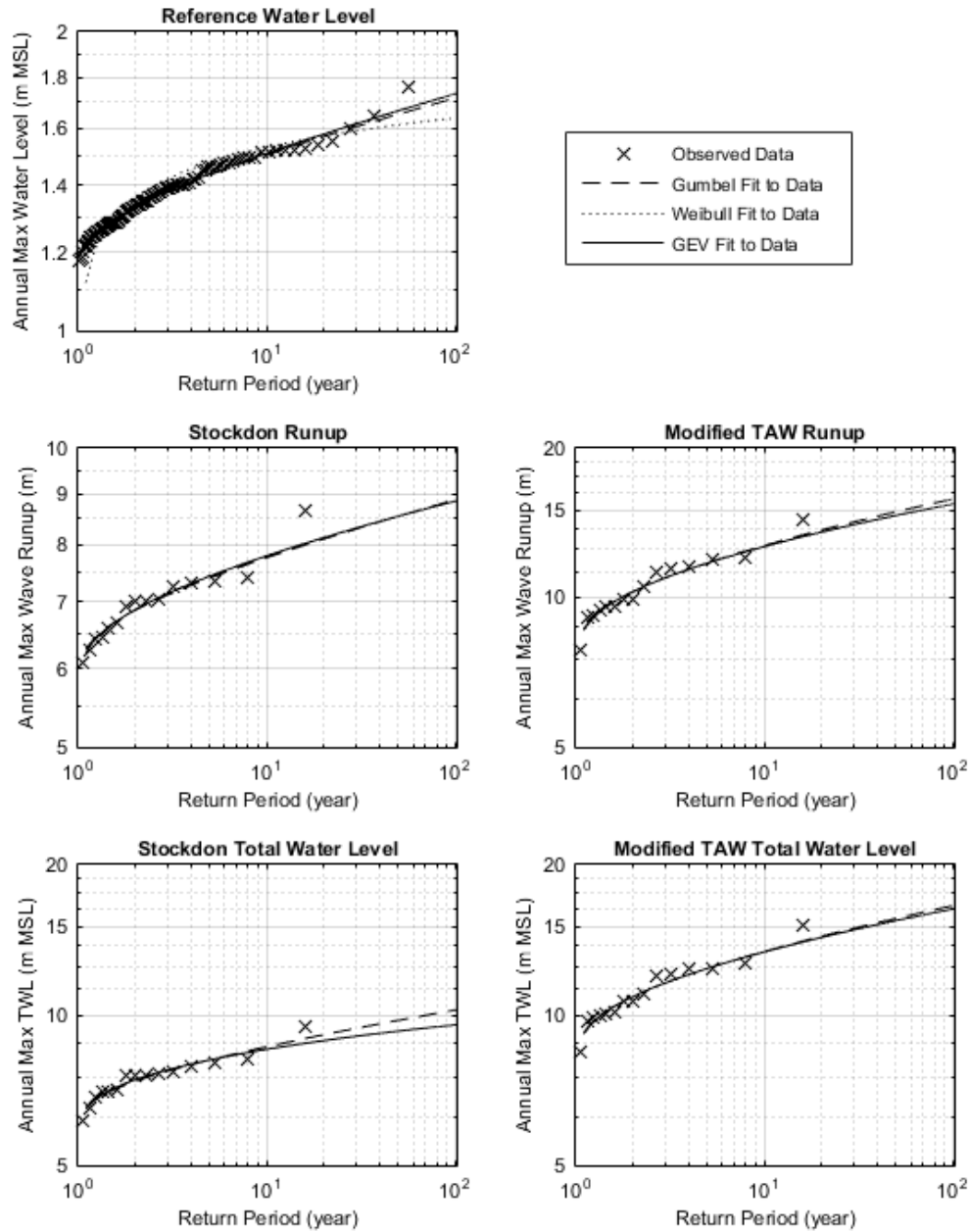
Stockdon =  $B_f=0.05$

Modified TAW  $B_f=0.05$ ; backshore slope  $m=0.25$

## B2.1 Tijuana Border (La Jolla tides)

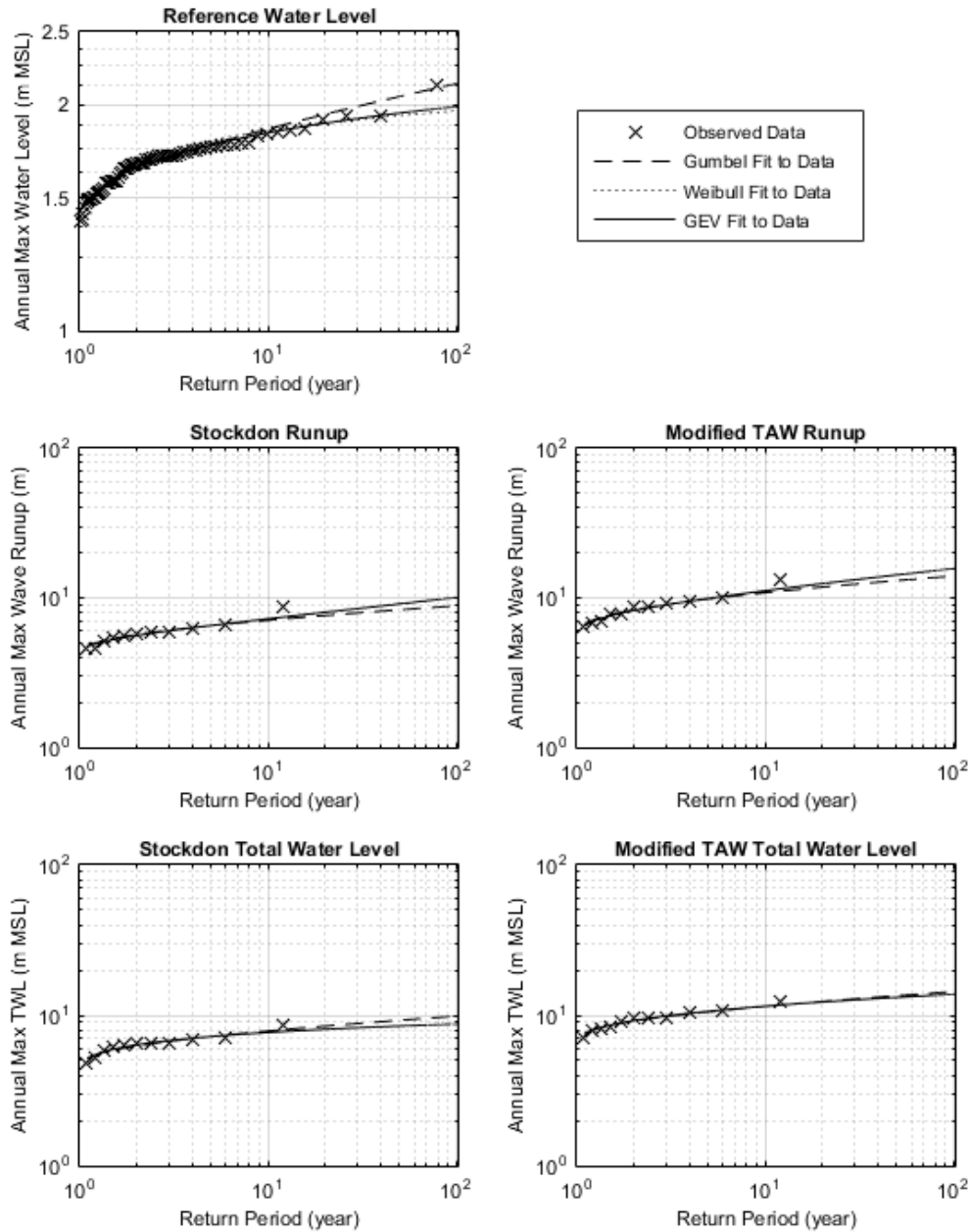


## B2.2 San Francisco Ocean Beach





## B2.3 Crescent City



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## APPENDIX C

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# Other Sea Level Rise Hazard Mapping Studies and Sources

The purpose of this Appendix is to identify and describe available projections of future coastal hazards that might be used for local planning, and to clarify the differences sufficiently to support a selection by a potential user of this Manual. There are multiple sea level rise hazard studies and map viewers for the California Coast. California has also produced policy guidance including selection of sea level rise projections and methods / guidelines. Less information is presently available for other states. The US Army Corps of Engineers has also developed guidance for projects which they participate in. Local guidance has been developed to varying levels of completion with guidance by the City and County of San Francisco being one of the more advanced.

The State of California has also developed Tsunami Maps, which show the potential extents of an extreme tsunami of undefined recurrence interval. These maps show inundation on a fixed geometry and do not consider erosion or scour specifically. Tsunami mapping is not addressed in this Technical Manual.

Future coastal hazards are being addressed via multiple endeavors at all levels of government and including non-government organizations such as The Nature Conservancy. There is a general recognition of the need to relate future conditions hazards to existing FEMA maps. This need is particularly acute at the local level.

There are three leading coastal hazard mapping methodologies being applied in California: the CoSMoS methodology developed by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), the ESA PWA methodology developed for the State of California, and the SPAWAR and TerraCosta methodology developed for the US Navy. These three are briefly described in Sections C.1 through C.3, respectively. It should be noted that these methodologies are not independent because each has some level of collaboration with the others. For example, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) has provided future water levels and wave conditions, and the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) has provided wave transformation results. The USGS has provided historical shore positions, erosion rates and seafloor mapping. Much of the work relies on mapping funded by the State of California.

Section C.4 identifies a few other resources that are often cited but are relatively limited in their technical basis or geographical extent. There have been several reviews of future coastal modeling methodologies with a focus of determining differences and appropriate uses. An example comparison is shown in Table C.1.

**TABLE C.1**  
**COASTAL HAZARD MODEL SELECTION CRITERIA AND COMPARISON TABLE**

	<b>NOAA Coastal Viewer</b>	<b>Pacific Institute (PWA)**</b>	<b>ESA PWA (Ventura County &amp; Monterey Bay)***</b>	<b>USGS CoSMoS (Our Coast our Future – SF Outer Coast)****</b>	<b>SPAWAR*****</b>
Cost/length of shoreline (km)*	\$9,064 /km <sup>2</sup>	\$286.36	\$1,910.36	\$840	~\$5,700
Time to complete	4 years	5 months	2 years	2 years	3+ years
Spatial Resolution	Analysis points vary with tide locations, data interpolated at 2m scale	100m alongshore, aggregated at 500m	100m alongshore, aggregated at 500m, interpolated at 2m resolution	10-100m alongshore interpolated at 2m resolution for final flood maps	100m alongshore for forcing, 2m resolution for flooding and inundation
Planning Scale	Statewide/Regional	Statewide/Regional	Local Jurisdiction/Parcel Level	Local Jurisdiction/Parcel Level	Regional to Component Level/Engineering
Coastal Erosion – Cliffs	No	Yes	Yes	No?	Yes (coupled to beach where appropriate)
Coastal Erosion – Beaches	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (storm only)	Yes (coupled to cliff where appropriate)
Coastal Flooding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hydrologic Connectivity	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Storm Event Erosion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fluvial Flood Hazards	No	No	Yes	No	No

SOURCE: TNC, 2014

\*Cost to apply model per length of shore modeled (NOAA model in terms of area)

\*\* The Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on the California Coast <http://pacinst.org/publication/the-impacts-of-sea-level-rise-on-the-california-coast/>

\*\*\*Coastal Hazard Maps and documentation available on the TNC Coastal Resilience Website (also includes Santa Barbara County) <http://maps.coastalresilience.org/network/>

\*\*\*\* [http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal\\_processes/cosmos/](http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal_processes/cosmos/)

\*\*\*\*\* <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Program-Areas/Resource-Conservation-and-Climate-Change/Climate-Change/Vulnerability-and-Impact-Assessment/RC-1703>

The State of California has funded a study of coastal hazards in Los Angeles County as a collaboration between the three primary methodologies, while communities are proceeding with local coastal planning using available information (See Section C.2.a Los Angeles County).

## C.1 CoSMoS – United States Geologic Survey

The Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) has been developed to project future coastal hazards associated with climate change, and has been applied in central and southern California by the United States Geological Survey (USGS)<sup>50</sup>. CoSMoS has undergone several refinements, called 1.0 (southern California circa 2010<sup>51</sup>), 2.0 (central California circa 2012 within a program called *Our Coast Our Future (OCOF)*<sup>52</sup>), 2.1 (San Francisco Bay circa 2014 within a program called *Our Coast Our Future (OCOF)*<sup>53</sup>) and 3.0 (southern California update, initial results available circa 2015)<sup>54-55</sup>.

CoSMoS is a methodology comprised of a series of models driven by future predictions derived from downscaled Global Climate Models (GCMs). The downscaled GCM data are used to develop water level and wave time series that are used to develop nearshore wave conditions and flooding projections. These results are combined with existing and historical shore and erosion data to drive models of shore response and projected future erosion hazards. Earlier versions (e.g. 1.0 and 2.0) focused on coastal flooding and storm erosion but did not include climate-driven, long-term erosion.

### CoSMoS 1.0 – Southern California

The first application was to the southern California bight from Point Conception to the Mexican border. The study was a collaboration with Deltares, a Dutch quasigovernment organization, and several other US organizations. This application focused on storm conditions with a range of higher sea levels. Additional information is available at public websites and in peer-reviewed publications<sup>56 57</sup>.

### CoSMoS 2.0 – North-central California, Our Coast Our Future

Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) was upgraded to the second version as part of an application for the north-central California coast from Bodega Bay (Sonoma County) to Half Moon Bay (San Mateo County<sup>58 59</sup>). This application was a collaboration with the National

<sup>50</sup> Barnard, P.L., van Ormondt, M., Erikson, L.H., Eshleman, J., Hapke, C., Ruggiero, P., Adams, P.N. and Foxgrover, A.C., 2014 (accepted). Development of the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for predicting the impact of storms on high-energy, active-margin coasts. *Natural Hazards*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11069-014-1236-y>

<sup>51</sup> <http://cosmos.deltares.nl/SoCalCoastalHazards/index.html>

<sup>52</sup> <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/>

<sup>53</sup> <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/>

<sup>54</sup> [https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal\\_processes/cosmos/](https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal_processes/cosmos/)

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/5633fea2e4b048076347f1cf>

<sup>56</sup> <http://cosmos.deltares.nl/SoCalCoastalHazards/index.html>

<sup>57</sup> Barnard, P.L., van Ormondt, M., Erikson, L.H., Eshleman, J., Hapke, C., Ruggiero, P., Adams, P. N., and Foxgrover, A. 2014. Coastal Storm Modeling System: CoSMoS. Southern California 1.0, projected flooding hazards, [http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal\\_processes/cosmos/socal1.0/](http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal_processes/cosmos/socal1.0/), doi:10.5066/F74B2ZB4

<sup>58</sup> <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/>

<sup>59</sup> <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/index.php?page=flood-map>

Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including the NOAA marine sanctuaries in the study area, as well as the non-government organization Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory) and others. A web-based interactive viewer allows visualization of projected extents of flood and erosion hazards for a range of sea level rises and storm recurrence intervals. The hazards mapped are future limits of inundation by high ocean water levels and wave runup, and shore changes due to storm erosion and the projection of historical shore erosion rates into the future. Future erosion due to sea level rise is not included, and long term erosion is not considered in coastal flood projections. Some coastal structures are modeled as “non-erodible” and therefore implicitly presumed to withstand all existing and future conditions.

### **CoSMoS 2.1 – San Francisco Bay, Our Coast Our Future**

CoSMoS 2.0 was modified to version 2.1 for application to San Francisco Bay with an emphasis of tidal hydrodynamics and wind fields for the estuary<sup>60</sup>. This project was an extension of the Our Coast Our Future (OCOF) collaboration. Results are combined and accessed via the OCOF website<sup>61</sup>.

### **CoSMoS 2.2 – South-northern California, Our Coast Our Future**

As part of OCOF, CoSMoS is extended north of Bodega Bay to Point Arena. Upgrades to the 2.0 version entail consideration of major river estuaries such as the Russian River mouth.

### **CoSMoS 3.0– Southern California**

The prior southern California mapping (CoSMoS 1.0) is being updated with partial, preliminary results made available in 2015<sup>62 63</sup>. This version is the first to include new methods for computing climate-driven (sea level rise) erosion for beaches and cliffs.

## **C.2 State of California - ESA-PWA**

### **First Generation – State Wide - Pacific Institute**

The Pacific Institute maps were produced with funding from the State of California to inform a state-side assessment of vulnerability to climate change<sup>64-65</sup>. These maps show future coastal flood and erosion hazards with sea level rise for several time periods and the Interim Guidance

<sup>60</sup> <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/>

<sup>61</sup> <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/index.php?page=flood-map>

<sup>62</sup> Barnard, P.L., van Ormondt, M., Erikson, L.H., Eshleman, J., Hapke, C., Ruggiero, P., Adams, P.N. and Foxgrover, A.C., 2014 (accepted). Development of the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for predicting the impact of storms on high-energy, active-margin coasts. *Natural Hazards*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11069-014-1236-y>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/5633fea2e4b048076347f1cf>

<sup>64</sup> CEC, 2009; THE IMPACTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST A Paper From: California Climate Change Center. Prepared By: Matthew Heberger, Heather Cooley, Pablo Herrera, Peter H. Gleick, and Eli Moore of the Pacific Institute <http://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/displayOneReport.php?pubNum=CEC-500-2009-024-F>

<sup>65</sup> PWA, 2009; California Coastal Erosion Response to Sea Level Rise and Mapping, Prepared for the Pacific Institute, Prepared by Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., March 11, 2009, PWA Project 1939. <http://www.esassoc.com/sites/default/files/PWA OPC Methods final.pdf>

for sea level rise (i.e. 1.4 meters by 2100)<sup>66</sup>. The maps are available from the Pacific Institute<sup>67</sup>. The work was peer-reviewed by the Ocean Science Trust (OST, affiliated with the California Ocean Protection Council), and there are several peer-reviewed publications<sup>68, 69,70</sup>. These were the first maps to project future coastal erosion due to accelerated sea level rise. The hydrodynamic and geomorphic work was accomplished by PWA (now ESA) for the Pacific Coast and the USGS model results were used for the SF Bay<sup>71</sup>. There were several other key study partners including Scripps (future water level and wave time series for 100 years) and the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP; provided regional wave transformations). The hazard analysis was conducted to inform California's assessment of vulnerability to climate change and the adaptation strategy, and greatly expanded the perception of coastal hazards associated with sea level rise to locations above and landward of future sea levels. Subsequent work has reinforced that accelerated erosion due to accelerated sea level rise is both important for planning but inherently uncertain given available methods and data. One aspect of the study that has been largely overlooked is that it developed estimates of the 100-year wave runup elevation for the entire California coast, most of which was not mapped by FEMA at the time. The coastal flood maps are known to overstate the potential for wave-induced flooding in back barrier areas due to the projection of wave runup elevations that were computed for the coastal barriers (ie. dunes).

This study is a “first generation” study (circa 2008) with updated methods and results for several regions (i.e. Ventura County, Monterey Bay – Santa Cruz County, and Santa Barbara County) as described in the “Second Generation” mapping.

## Second Generation, Selected Counties – ESA

The State of California and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) funded refined mapping for coastal zone planning purposes. This mapping is a refined version of the Pacific Institute mapping, and is called “second generation” in this report. Refinements included revised bluff erosion and flooding methods, stepwise projection of flooding on eroded shore projections, and were applied for multiple sea level rise scenarios (typically three; High, Medium and Low) and multiple time-horizons (typically existing, 2030, 2060 and 2100). These studies developed for planning at

<sup>66</sup> [http://www.slc.ca.gov/Sea\\_Level\\_Rise/SLR\\_Guidance\\_Document\\_SAT\\_Responses.pdf](http://www.slc.ca.gov/Sea_Level_Rise/SLR_Guidance_Document_SAT_Responses.pdf)

<sup>67</sup> [http://www2.pacinst.org/reports/sea\\_level\\_rise/hazmaps.html](http://www2.pacinst.org/reports/sea_level_rise/hazmaps.html)

<sup>68</sup> Heberger et al, 2011; J Climatic Change, V 109, N 1, R 10.1007/s10584-011-0308-1, The Potential impacts of increased coastal flooding in California due to sea-level rise, Springer Netherlands, 2011-12-01, Heberger, Matthew; Cooley, Heather; Herrera, Pablo; Gleick, Peter H.; Moore, Eli; 229-249, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10584-011-0308-1>, <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-011-0308-1>

<sup>69</sup> Revell et al, 2011. Revell, D.L., Battalio, B., Spear, B., Ruggiero, P., and Vandever, J. A Methodology for Predicting Future Coastal Hazards due to Sea level Rise on the California Coast. Journal of Climatic Change (2011) B.V. 2011 109 (Suppl 1):S251–S276, DOI 10.1007/s10584-011-0315-2, 10 December 2011 # Springer Science+Business Media <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10584-011-0315-2> <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-011-0315-2>

<sup>70</sup> Bromirski, P. D., D. R. Cayan, N. Graham, R. E. Flick, and M. Tyree (Scripps Institution of Oceanography). 2012. Coastal Flooding Potential Projections: 2000–2100. California Energy Commission. CEC-500-2012-011.

<sup>71</sup> Knowles, N. 2008. Potential Inundation due to Rising Sea Levels in the San Francisco Bay; <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/8ck5h3qn> Region. A report from the California Climate Change Center, sponsored by the California Energy Commission and the California Environmental Protection Agency, Sacramento, CA. CEC-500-2009-023-F.



higher resolution using updated methods are available for Ventura County<sup>72</sup>, Monterey Bay<sup>73</sup> and Santa Barbara County<sup>74</sup>. These reports and map files are available for download on the Coastal Resilience website of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which also includes an interactive viewer<sup>75</sup>. Coastal flooding and erosion are mapped for a range of future sea level rise amounts through the year 2100, including erosion of sandy and rocky shores with accelerated sea level rise, and back-barrier flooding. Riverine flooding is also included major streams, using future precipitation changes from downscaled climate model output. A similar application for Los Angeles County is underway.

## Third Generation

The State of California has funded additional hazard mapping to inform coastal planning, and this work is ongoing at the time of this report.

### (a) Two Line Shore Response Model - ESA

Using State of California “Climate Ready” grant funds, ESA has developed a refined shore response model that can accommodate a range of adaptation strategies along with the coastal flood and erosion hazards for the range of sea level rise scenarios. Adaptation scenarios that can be modeled include coastal armoring and beach nourishment, and predict resulting beach location and width. This “Third Generation” hazard mapping accounts for both the shore line and backshore line, and is hence called a “two-line model” of shore evolution. The application was for southern Monterey Bay for sandy shores in support of a study called *Economic Impacts of Climate Adaptation Strategies in Southern Monterey Bay* led by The Nature Conservancy and involving a team of scientists and ESA<sup>76</sup>. This two-line erosion model was also applied on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers for the San Francisco-Daly City-Pacific, California shore, which includes bluff-backed shores with narrow beaches<sup>77</sup>.

### (b) CoSMoS 3.0 USGS

The USGS is applying the newest version of their modeling system called CoSMoS 3.0 for southern California, as described in Section C.1. *CoSMoS 3.0*.

### (c) Los Angeles County – AdaptLA

<sup>72</sup> ESA PWA (2013), COASTAL RESILIENCE VENTURA, Technical Report for Coastal Hazards Mapping, Prepared for The Nature Conservancy, July 31, 2013, ESA PWA project number D211452.00.

<sup>73</sup> ESA PWA (2014), MONTEREY BAY SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, Technical Methods Report, Prepared for The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, June 16, 2014. ESA PWA project number D211906.00.

<sup>74</sup> ESA (2015), SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COASTAL HAZARD MODELING AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, Technical Report for Coastal Hazards Mapping, Prepared for the County of Santa Barbara, August 3, 2015, ESA project number D130526.

<sup>75</sup> <http://maps.coastalresilience.org/california/#> - select location and then select viewer, download data or technical report.

<sup>76</sup> ESA (2015), Shore Modeling Methodology, Monterey Coastal Adaptation Physical and Economics Modeling, SCC Climate Ready Grant, ESA project 130604.00, Draft - December, 2015.

<sup>77</sup> ESA (2015), SAN FRANCISCO LITTORAL CELL, Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan Draft, Prepared for U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup, ESA Project 211658, August 2015

Coastal hazards are being mapped in Los Angeles County under the coastal zone planning program called AdaptLA<sup>78</sup> which is a consortium of Los Angeles County, Cities in the county, and non-government organizations. This mapping entails a coordinated effort with modeling by several consultants (ESA and TerraCosta) and the USGS. The hazard mapping will be derived using the results from several methodologies and will also provide an opportunity to assess the method differences and range of results as a measure of uncertainty. ESA's approach will be an extension of prior modeling described in this section. TerraCosta's approach is an extension of work accomplished by Scripps Institution of Oceanography team for the Department of Defense (see Section C.3 SPAWAR Hazard Mapping – San Diego Naval Facilities - TerraCosta).

### C.3 SPAWAR Hazard Mapping – San Diego Naval Facilities - TerraCosta

The United States Navy, Department of Defense, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) investigated methodologies for assessing vulnerability of naval facilities to sea level rise. A recent study developed and applied hazard modeling for the Naval Base Coronado (NBC) and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCBCP) Navy/Scripps model as applied to Naval Base Coronado in San Diego County, CA <sup>79</sup>. The detailed study used research and development by staff at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to assess future hazards<sup>80 81 82</sup>. The methods consider beach profile response to ocean conditions and also project bluff erosion into the future. This comprehensive study results in a methodology that can be applied in other California locations to provide actionable forecasts of future coastal conditions given climate change scenarios.

### C.4 Other

There are several other resources that project coastal hazards with future conditions. These other resources are not emphasized in this Manual because they do not include wave action or coastal changes (erosion), they are focused on a limited area, or more contemporary resources are available.

### NOAA Coastal Viewer and Climate Central's Surging Seas

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed a internet-based tool to allow estimates of future inundation with sea level rise, called the "Coastal Viewer" <sup>83</sup>.

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.adapt.la/>

<sup>79</sup> SPAWAR, 2014. A Methodology for Assessing the Impact of Sea Level Rise on Representative Military Installations in the Southwestern United States (RC-1703), Submitted to the Strategic Environmental Research Program by Dr. Cart Chadwick in collaboration with TerraCosta Consulting Group and others, March, 2014. <https://www.serd-estep.org/content/download/23835/240627/file/RC-1703-FR.pdf>

<sup>80</sup> Young, Flick, O'Reilly, Chadwick, Guza, Crampton, Helly, 2014. Estimating cliff retreat in southern California considering sea level rise using a sand balance approach.

<sup>81</sup> Yates, M. L., R. T. Guza, and W. C. O'Reilly (2009), Equilibrium shoreline response: Observations and modeling, J. Geophys. Res., 114, C09014, doi:10.1029/2009JC005359.

<sup>82</sup> Yates, ML, Guza, RT, O'Reilly, WC, Hansen, J & Barnard, PL 2011, 'Equilibrium shoreline response of a high wave energy beach' Journal of Geophysical Research C: Oceans, vol 116, no. C04014, pp. 1-13., 10.1029/2010JC006681

<sup>83</sup> <http://csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slrviewer>

The tool provides inundation for different sea levels using existing elevations. Distinguishes between hydraulically connected areas and low-lying areas which may flood but do not have clear surface water connections in the maps used. A sophisticated web-based geospatial interface facilitates use, with a range of information useful for coastal planning.

A similar tool is available from Climate Central called Surging Seas<sup>84</sup>.

## Humboldt Bay Inundation Maps

Humboldt Bay inundation with future sea level rise was modeled and mapped by Northern Hydrology and Engineering with funding from the State of California<sup>85 86</sup>. The mapping is based on a hydrodynamic model with a range of sea level rise values added to a range of ocean water levels (e.g. Mean Higher High Water, the 100-year water level).

## San Francisco Bay Sea Level Rise Maps - BCDC and USGS

Inundation maps for San Francisco Bay based on sea level rise for selected dates and water levels using fixed geography. The flood limits are based on an increase in sea level of 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 meters of sea level rise by 2100. The sea level rise values were added to the existing extreme high water levels and mapped to all areas below those elevations without regard to hydrologic connection or other future conditions. The elevations and mapping are derived from USGS Sea Level Rise Maps for San Francisco Bay<sup>87</sup> – Knowles: Water levels projected through 2100 with 1.4 meters of sea level rise for San Francisco Bay. A hydrodynamic model was used to simulate existing and future Bay water levels based on an ocean boundary condition calibrated with existing conditions and modified to consider sea level rise for future conditions. Extreme high water levels (e.g. 100-year) were calculated based on existing statistics and merged with the existing and future water level modeling to develop extreme high water level maps. Waves, geomorphic responses (e.g. erosion) and potential changes to tidal dynamics were not modeled. This study informed the BCDC maps (item 6) and Pacific Institute maps of San Francisco Bay (Item 3).the USGS modeling described in item 7, below.

## San Diego Region – California Energy Commission (CEC) and The San Diego Foundation

A focus study on the San Diego Region was conducted by a team lead by the University of California, San Diego <sup>88</sup>with the support of The San Diego Foundation in order to inform the

<sup>84</sup> <http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/maps>

<sup>85</sup> Trinity Associates (2015). HUMBOLDT BAY Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Project: Phase II Report Prepared By Aldaron Laird Trinity Associates February 2015

<sup>86</sup> Northern Hydrology & Engineering (2014). Preliminary data release for the Humboldt Bay sea level rise vulnerability assessment: Humboldt Bay sea level rise inundation mapping. Prepared for the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California. Prepared by Northern Hydrology & Engineering, McKinleyville, CA, dated 10 April 2014.

<sup>87</sup> Knowles, N. 2008. Potential Inundation due to Rising Sea Levels in the San Francisco Bay; Region. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/8ck5h3qn>

<sup>88</sup> CEC, 2009; CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED IMPACTS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION BY 2050, Prepared by University of California, San Diego, and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Published by California Energy Commission (CEC) California Climate Change Center, CEC-500-2009-027-F, August 2009.

regional plan through the year 2050, called the *Regional Focus 2050 Study* <sup>89</sup>. The study produced inundation maps for 2050 based on the IPCC 2008 estimates with 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50-year wave runup events added to the sea levels.

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<sup>89</sup> The San Diego Foundation, 2008, SAN DIEGO'S CHANGING CLIMATE: A REGIONAL WAKE-UP CALL, [http://www.issuelab.org/resource/san\\_diego\\_foundation\\_regional\\_focus\\_2050\\_study\\_climate\\_change\\_related\\_impacts\\_in\\_the\\_san\\_diego\\_region\\_by\\_2050](http://www.issuelab.org/resource/san_diego_foundation_regional_focus_2050_study_climate_change_related_impacts_in_the_san_diego_region_by_2050)

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## APPENDIX D

### Additional information available from FEMA to support Method 2b of this TMM

Method 2b requires the reference water level (RWL) and wave runup (R) components associated with the Total Water Level (TWL) mapped for the VZone by FEMA. This is explained in Chapter 3 of this Technical Methods Manual (TMM), with an example in Chapter 4. This appendix provides additional information as footnoted for Recommendation 1 in Chapter 5.

Many users of this TMM will have a FEMA flood map (aka FIRM) and perhaps the associated study (aka FIS). Additional background information can be requested from FEMA. Flood zone values are tabulated in a supporting document called *Intermediate Data Submittal #3 – Nearshore Hydraulics*. The values are organized by transect number. Table D-1 provides an excerpt from one such table.

**TABLE D-1  
EXCERPTS FROM FEMA BACKUP DOCUMENT**

Date/Time	SWL (ft NAVD)	Ho (ft)	Tp (sec)	n_bar (ft)	sigma_IG (ft)	sigma_inc (ft)	Results	
							DWL2% (ft NAVD)	TWL (ft NAVD)
3/3/83 1:00	7.8	14.9	13.1	2.5	2.1	5.7	14.4	22.5
1/18/73 9:00	8.5	14.5	10.8	2.2	1.8	5.4	14.3	22.1

The excerpts in table D-1 include the top two rows and the key columns from a much larger table. The top row has the parameters associated with the highest TWL for this transect, in column “Results, TWL (ft NAVD)”: For this example, the TWL value is 22.5. The corresponding reference water level is the SWL in the same row, with a value of 7.8 ft NAVD for this example. The difference between these two values is the runup;  $TWL - SWL = R$ , and equals  $22.5 - 7.8 = 14.7$  feet in this example.

Note that these values are from the historical time series computed for the particular transect (each section of shore has a transect and corresponding TWL). The mapped 100-year flood elevation is a higher value extrapolated from the time series using an extreme value equation. However, the highest value in each of these time series is close to the 100-year value mapped for that transect for the recently completed mapping in California. Hence, these values provide additional information useful to estimate the SWL and R components for Level 2b methods.

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