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King Tides Show California Shoreline's Vulnerabilities

(San Francisco, CA) - Some of the year's highest tides, known as "king tides," will hit the California shoreline next week, providing a glimpse of what the state can expect as sea levels rise in the coming years.

This winter, the largest tides will take place on December 3, 4, and 5, and again January 1 and 2. The California King Tides Project is asking the public to go outside and photograph these ultra-high tides to illustrate how homes, harbors, beaches, wetlands, seawalls, and public access to the coast will be affected by future sea level rise.

State and local officials and climate change researchers use the images taken during the king tides season to validate sea level rise models and better assess local flood vulnerabilities for planning purposes. Recent advances in the science of sea level rise and climate modeling have brought increased attention to the importance of these planning efforts.

This includes the California Ocean Protection Council's updated Sea Level Rise Guidance, which is open for public comment through December 15. This guidance update incorporates extreme sea level rise projections of as much as 2.7 feet for San Francisco by 2050. Other planning efforts are ongoing, such as the Bay Area Resilient by Design Challenge, to develop ten community-based solutions to strengthen the region's resilience to sea level rise and severe storms.

In addition to heading out to the coast to photograph king tides, the public can join in on the many public events being offered from Del Norte to San Diego Counties by such local partners as Tijuana Estuary Reserve, USC Sea Grant, Friends of Five Creeks, and the Tolowa Dee'ni' Nation.

For those unable to join in the field, California State Parks is providing an exciting opportunity to witness the king tides remotely with live broadcasts from five coastal parks on the State Parks' Periscope channel from 9am to 12:30pm on Tuesday, December 5.

Engage on social media: [facebook.com/cakingtides](https://www.facebook.com/cakingtides) • twitter.com/CA_king_tides • #kingtides

Visit california.kingtides.net for a calendar of local King Tides events and a map of tide times throughout the season, and learn how to submit your king tides photos.

Watch King Tides online with California State Parks at www.pscp.tv/CASStateParks.

Review the draft State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance at www.opc.ca.gov/climate-change/updating-californias-sea-level-rise-guidance/.

Learn about the Bay Area Resilient by Design Challenge at www.resilientbayarea.org/.

The California King Tides Project is organized by a partnership of state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations including the California Coastal Commission, California Coastkeeper Alliance, Elkhorn Slough and Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserves, Coravai, Ocean Protection Council, USC Sea Grant, and others.