

## Overall Engagement Summary

The first round of community outreach in Half Moon Bay occurred in from December 2023-February 2024. This phase included pop-ups throughout the community, an online survey, an educational scavenger hunt for students, and listening sessions with representatives from environmental, recreation, transportation, government, and community organizations. Overall, there were at least 309 separate touch points with community members during this phase of engagement.

### Overall Findings from Engagement<sup>1</sup>

- The vast majority of the community is concerned about **coastal erosion** (179) caused by sea level rise.
- Community members also concerned with **power outages** (169) caused by any hazard, particularly during winter storms and flooding, and **road blockages** (154).
- The community is concerned about **poor air quality** (138) in the event of a wildfire.
- The community is concerned about **impacts on water use** (122) due to drought.
- The community survey highlighted that community members are most concerned about the following secondary climate impacts: **impacts to the natural landscape** (111) and impacts to housing and property value (73).
- Given the proximity to the coast in Half Moon Bay, the community is not very worried about increased heat.
- The community identified impacts on **mental health, emergency preparedness, and tidal waves** as other top concerns during the pop-ups.
- The community recognizes that Half Moon Bay is in **a remote location** with limited routes in and out. In cases of emergency or road closures the City and its neighboring communities, who often rely on key City services, are often **isolated** and unable to get aid or resources into Half Moon Bay or able to evacuate out of Half Moon Bay. The community expressed the need for **emergency preparedness** and community reliance and importance of strong **communication channels**.

More details on each engagement activity can be found below.

---

<sup>1</sup> These numbers were aggregated from the pop-up events, student engagement, and survey responses.

## Pop-Ups

The first round of pop-ups took place on January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 17<sup>th</sup>. These pop-ups were held at Mac Dutra Park, the Ted Adcock Community Center, and the Half Moon Bay Library. The project team conducted a dot-voting exercise for the public which showcased climate hazards including Sea Level Rise, Winter Storms, Drought, Wildfire, and Increased Heat and their respective secondary impacts, and asked the community which climate impacts they were most concerned about. The community was also presented a map of Half Moon Bay and asked what areas of Half Moon Bay that they loved, and which areas they wanted to protect. These pop-ups garnered at least 55 individual responses and talked to over 100 community members.



Figure 1 Engagement at Dutra Park

At Mac Dutra Park, the project team solicited at least 17 separate participant responses, and talked around 35 community members. Approximately 25% of participants were Spanish speakers. At the Ted Adcock Community Center, the project team solicited approximately 15 individual responses, and talked with at least 25 community members. Approximately 10% of participants were Spanish Speaking. At the Half Moon Bay Library, the project team solicited at least 23 individual responses, and talked to over 40 community members. Approximately 25% of participants were Spanish Speaking.

Overall, participants were concerned about all impacts from climate hazards but were very concerned with Sea Level Rise, Winter Storms, and Wildfire— specifically coastal erosion, road blockages and power outages, and poor air quality, respectively. The community sees the coastline as an asset and the majority of participants love and want to protect the beach and coastal trail. Listed below are high-level themes from the community pop-ups by hazard, with the total number of support for each response from the three pop-ups.

- The vast majority of the community is concerned about **coastal erosion** (47) caused by sea level rise.
- Community members are equally concerned with **road blockages** (35) and **power outages** (34) caused by any hazard but particularly during winter storms.
- The community is concerned about **poor air quality** (29) and **health and safety impacts** (23) in the event of a wildfire.
- Given the proximity to the coast in Half Moon Bay, the community is not worried about increased heat, but **the health impacts to seniors, laborers, and other vulnerable populations** (19) was the most concerning heat related impact.
- Drought was also not a big concern for the community but **impacts on water use** (22) was the top concern.
- The community identified impacts to **mental health, emergency preparedness, and tidal waves** as other top concerns.
- The community identified El Granada, Miramar Beach, Poplar Beach, and Half Moon Bay State Beach as the areas they love most and want to protect.

# Round One Community Engagement Summary

Below are pictures of the boards after the third round of engagement. On the poster with the map, the red stickers represent an area that the participant loves, and the green stickers represents an area that the participants would like to protect on the board with a map.

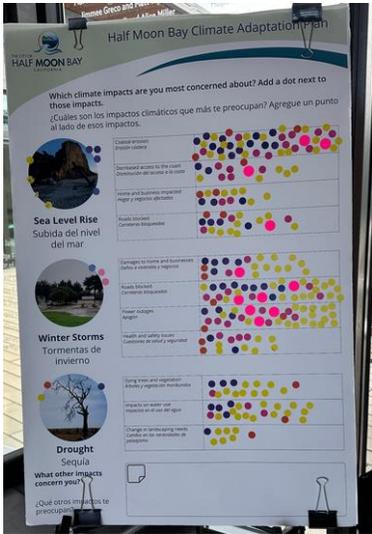


Figure 2 Engagement Board 1

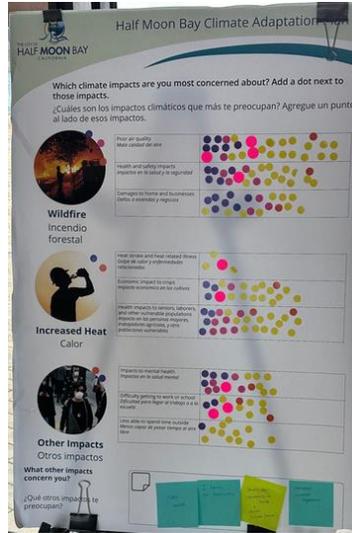


Figure 3 Engagement Board 2



Figure 2 Engagement Board 3

## Student Engagement Activity

In addition to the community pop-ups, the project team created a student curriculum, worksheets, scavenger hunt, and a similar dot-voting activities for middle school students in Half Moon Bay. This curriculum included a presentation for students to learn about climate hazards and impacts, and expected increases in frequency and severity of climate hazards in the next century. A total of approximately 40 students participated. After this presentation, students also visited the Half Moon Bay Library to learn more about flooding and discuss possible adaptation approaches. Once back in the classroom, students were surveyed on the impacts they were most concerned about. The top responses by hazard with the number of respondents are shown below.

Students were most concerned about:

- **Poor air quality** (19) caused by wildfire
- **Power outages** (16) due to winter storms
- Sea level rise particularly pertaining to **decreased access to the coast** (15) and **blocked roads** (14).
- **Dying plants and trees** (13) caused by drought
- **Health impacts** (9) relating to extreme heat

The second classroom did an altered and abridged set of adaptation exercises and questions related to this curriculum. Below are additional themes from those exercises about the locations and types of places students value and want to protect.

## Round One Community Engagement Summary

Top locations to protect in Half Moon Bay:

- Students homes
  - Downtown Half Moon Bay, west of highway 1
  - North of 92 and highway 1
- Granada Beach
- Maverick Beach

Top elements to protect in Half Moon Bay:

- Trees, including the need to manage fuel to prevent forest fires
- Beaches
- Parks and Open Space
- Homes

### Online Survey

In addition to the community pop-ups, an online survey was open from mid-January through the end of February. The survey asked similar questions as the pop-ups with the aim of identifying the community's concerns about climate hazards. Overall, survey respondents skewed older, were mostly white, and had a high income. More detailed survey demographics and response are included in the attached slides. The survey received 178 responses and the takeaways are shown below.

- Most respondents are **extremely concerned** (39%) or **quite concerned** (27%) about the impacts of **climate change** on the future of Half Moon Bay.
- Respondents were most concerned about the following climate impacts in Half Moon Bay:
  - **Coastal erosion** (74% were very concerned)
  - **Power or communication outages** due to fire or flooding (71% were very concerned)
  - **Blocked roads** due to flooding (63% were very concerned)
- Respondents were least concerned about **health impacts from heat** (16% were very concerned)
- Respondents were most concerned about the following secondary climate impacts in Half Moon Bay:
  - Impact to **natural landscape** (65% are concerned)
  - **Housing and property value** (43% are concerned)
  - Respondents were about equally concerned with **difficulty getting to work and school** (39%), being less able to spend time outside (39%), and the impacts to mental health (38%)
- Respondents also noted impacts to wildlife and animal habitats, tourism, and farming as other secondary impacts they are concerned with.

### Community Listening Sessions

In addition to understanding community concerns around climate hazards, the project team held four listening sessions over February 7<sup>th</sup> & February 8<sup>th</sup> with 12 community leaders to understand more about the challenges, needs, and opportunities of each of these organizations. The listening sessions were split up by Environment and Conservation, Recreation and Transportation; Government Agencies; and Community Organizations. Additionally, City staff also did 1-1 outreach with a tribal representative. Below are the list of themes that were identified from the listening sessions:

#### Overall Major Concerns and Needs:

- The **remote location** of Half Moon Bay and other Coastside communities is a significant challenge in dealing with climate hazards, and there is great interest in **emergency preparedness**. The Coast Side is isolated from nearby cities, with limited roads in and out. HMB community members are concerned about **road closures** disrupting emergency evacuation, or preventing outside aid from coming into Half Moon Bay.
  - The Moonridge Community is particularly isolated
  - Nearby Pescadero is isolated and does not receive adequate services during emergencies/ power outages
  - Lack of transportation options makes it difficult for those without a car to get around
  - Limited medical services in HMB
- The community often faces **power outages** that last multiple days (sometimes up to a week) leaving many— particularly the most vulnerable— without internet access or phone service, or fresh food. This leaves **vulnerable neighborhoods**, especially neighborhoods of color, unable to communicate with organizations offering resources or with the City, and vice versa.
  - Power outages also affect the ability of critical systems to operate (e.g. sewer plant)
- **Seniors** are a central part of the community and there are programs in place that directly and indirectly support seniors, but in the event of a climate hazard these programs will be limited or unable to serve
  - Though there are programs to assist seniors, like providing groceries or sandbags, there is concern about lifting these resources once seniors are home
  - Transporting seniors, especially those with mobility equipment, is difficult to arrange, especially in an emergency.
  - Many seniors do not drive so providing alternative transportation is important \
  - More education is needed for when it is safer to evacuate vs sheltering in place
- Community members are concerned with trees falling throughout the city that may cause **damage to homes** or **block roads**.
  - Flooding and downed trees can also affect water conveyance infrastructure, causing pipeline breaks

## Round One Community Engagement Summary

- With recent winter storms, the community has recently faced excess flooding, particularly in creeks and rivers. The community is concerned with dead trees and trash that are causing these pile-ups.
- Coastal erosion and coastal trail access is a significant concern.
  - There are currently efforts to restore habitat along the Coastside Trail.
  - Vegetation buffers are needed between the ocean and the coast
  - Road near Miramar Beach is threatening to erode
  - The section south of Devil's Slide-gully is widening and the road is beginning to wash away
- Loss of native plants and species is worrisome, especially for tribal groups
- Large rain events cause water quality issues and pose a threat to water-reliant systems like sanitation systems, and water infrastructure.
- HMB has been in frequent drought since 2010, and relies on most of its water from San Francisco
- Agricultural workers cannot work during flooding or extreme heat
- Pescadero neighborhood is isolated and not designed for climate hazards
  - Old ranch homes aren't equipped with AC during hotter months

### Opportunities

- Senior Coastsiders and the High School offer spaces and resources to create **Resilience Hubs** and act as **shelters** for the community to go to in times of emergency. Expanding and bolstering these Resilience Hubs can help **connect Half Moon Bay** with other nearby Coastside communities and provide areas of refuge to these communities.
- CERT offers core programs, in multiple languages, for how to safeguard homes and how to respond in a disaster both individually and as a neighborhood.
- **Community gardens** offer an opportunity to educate the youth on gardening, and stormwater management, and offer healthy produce.
- The community has effectively reduced water usage in times of drought but continued **education and effective water-saving practices** are necessary year-round.
- Communications
- With energy prices going up, the community is interested in **affordable renewable energy** sources, especially for its most vulnerable residents, like solar energy with increased energy storage.
- Undergrounding powerlines is huge opportunity to prevent outages.
- Streamline permitting for water conveyance infrastructure to promote quicker development of projects.
- Native plant restoration and creek restoration
- Native animal re-establishment (through MidPen Open Space District)
- Rematriation of land to indigenous groups for traditional stewardship practices