



Date of Notice: May 5, 2023

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND
A SCOPING MEETING
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of San Diego (City) as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has determined that the project described below will require the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in compliance with CEQA. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a PEIR and Scoping Meeting was publicly noticed and distributed on **Friday, May 5, 2023**. This notice was published in the San Diego Daily Transcript and placed on the City's Planning Department website at: <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/ceqa> and on the City's CEQA website at: <https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/meetings>.

SCOPING MEETING: The City of San Diego will hold a public scoping meeting on **Wednesday, May 24, 2023, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM** online via Zoom. **Please note that depending on the number of attendees, the meeting could end earlier than 5:30 PM.** The public scoping meeting can be accessed at: <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1608940192>. Go to "Join a Meeting." Meeting ID: 160 894 0192. To access the webinar via phone, please call +1 669 254 5252 and enter the meeting information.

The City requests that all comments regarding the proposed PEIR's scope be provided electronically via e-mail to PlanningCEQA@sandiego.gov with "**Coastal Resilience Master Plan**" in **the subject line**. However, if a hard copy submittal is preferred, it may be submitted to: Jordan Moore, Senior Environmental Planner, City of San Diego Planning Department, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413, San Diego, CA 92123. All comments must be received no later than **Monday, June 5, 2023**. Responsible and Trustee agencies are requested to indicate their statutory responsibilities in connection with this project when responding. A PEIR incorporating public input will then be prepared and distributed for the public to review and comment.

PROJECT NAME: Coastal Resilience Master Plan
LOCATION: City of San Diego
COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS: Torrey Pines, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Mission Bay Park, Ocean Beach, and Peninsula
COUNCIL DISTRICT: 1 and 2

History of the Project

Climate Change Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Resilient SD

In 2020, the City completed a Citywide Climate Change Hazard Vulnerability Assessment to identify risks and potential impacts from climate change to the City's assets and resources. This Vulnerability Assessment informed the development of Climate Resilient SD, the City's comprehensive climate adaptation and resilience plan to identify beneficial adaptation strategies, capitalize on co-benefits, increase local resilience, and provide a framework for citywide resilience action. The Coastal Resilience Master Plan will use Climate Resilient SD to inform development of nature-based coastal resilience projects to build resilience to the impacts of sea level rise and enhance and protect the City's coastline, as described further in the Project Description below.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – National Coastal Resilience Fund 2021 Grant

The City of San Diego applied for and was awarded the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund 2021 Grant. The grant is to prepare a Coastal Resilience Master Plan and PEIR, which will include project concepts and a pilot project design that, if implemented, would support community resilience, protect endangered species and habitat, and reduce risk to coastal storms and flooding. The Coastal Resilience Master Plan is anticipated to be completed by Winter 2024.

Project Location

The Coastal Resilience Master Plan would span the coastal jurisdictional boundaries of the City of San Diego (see Figure 1, Regional Location), considering coastal locations such as: Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, Blacks Beach, La Jolla Shores Beach Park, Marine Street Beach, Windansea Beach, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach Dog Beach, Ocean Beach, Sunset Cliffs, and the Naval Training Center (see Figure 2, Project Locations).

Project Description

Climate change increasingly puts the City and its critical built and natural resources at risk of coastal flooding and erosion due to sea level rise. The City proposes a Coastal Resilience Master Plan, which will identify specific resilience and conservation needs along the coastline and develop a portfolio of nature-based solutions to promote resilience, protect critical coastal habitats, and support coastal access. The Coastal Resilience Master Plan will engage the public; analyze 10 sites based on feasibility, risk, and benefits; develop nature-based solutions for six of the most feasible locations; and select a pilot project, as described further below.

The Coastal Resilience Master Plan will evaluate 10 locations for nature-based solutions at a conceptual level and narrow the scope down to up to six locations most appropriate for nature-based solutions. The six locations will be analyzed at greater detail in the Coastal Resilience Master Plan and PEIR for suitability of nature-based solutions with up to three concepts for further development. One location (the pilot project) will be analyzed at 15 percent design level. The Coastal Resilience Master Plan will evaluate nature-based solutions, including both green and natural infrastructure. Green infrastructure encompasses a wide range of built or engineered solutions modeled after nature while natural solutions often refer to restoration activities. Both support purposes such as stormwater management, flood mitigation, urban heat island reduction, and climate adaptation. Nature-based solutions that achieve multiple benefits, such as habitat and

wildlife protection, water quality improvements, flood storage, resilience from potential upstream impacts, recreational opportunities, and increased coastal access for Communities of Concern, would be prioritized. Solutions to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Wetland creation/restoration** for ecosystems characterized by permanent or seasonal inundations, which help mitigate flooding, provide habitat, improve water quality, and absorb wave energy.
- **Living shorelines**, which stabilize and protect the shoreline using a combination of plants, sand, rock, and other natural materials. They can help reduce wave energy, slow erosion, and minimize flooding.
- **Oyster reefs**, which provide natural barriers to the shoreline, protecting it from erosion, strong waves, and storm surge.
- **Waterfront parks**, including open space parks or recreational spaces in coastal areas that are designed to flood during extreme events, minimizing flooding elsewhere.
- **Engineered dunes** designed to or above the 100-year Stillwater elevation. Dunes can be designed to combine the aesthetic and habitat benefits of a dynamic beach and dune system with the robust storm protection provided by a structural core.
- **Landward realignment** involves moving the coastline boundary inland to reduce both coastal flooding and erosion.
- **Living levees/ecotone slopes** that, instead of dropping down sharply, slope gently downwards in the same way that the land naturally would. This allows for natural, gradual transitions—from open water, to tidal mudflat, to tidal marsh, to “ecotone” or transitional upland habitat—to be re-established in these areas.

The nature-based solutions will be developed through gathering relevant data to assess each site’s unique opportunities and constraints in order to ensure feasibility. The concepts will be presented graphically (i.e., plan and section views or illustrations) and clearly described. The concepts for each site will be compared in a multi-criteria decision matrix to support the City, stakeholders, and community members in understanding the proposed solutions for each site. The matrix will include an assessment of the community, resilience, economic, and ecosystem benefits.

The City will engage the public and stakeholders throughout the project to develop nature-based solutions.

APPLICANT: City of San Diego Planning Department, 9485 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

RECOMMENDED FINDING: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), the proposed project may result in significant environmental impacts in the following areas: **Air Quality; Biological Resources; Energy Conservation; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Geologic Conditions; Hazards & Hazardous Materials; Historical, Archaeological, and Tribal Cultural Resources; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use; Noise; Paleontological Resources; Public Services and Facilities; Public Utilities; Transportation & Circulation; and Visual Effects and Neighborhood Character.**

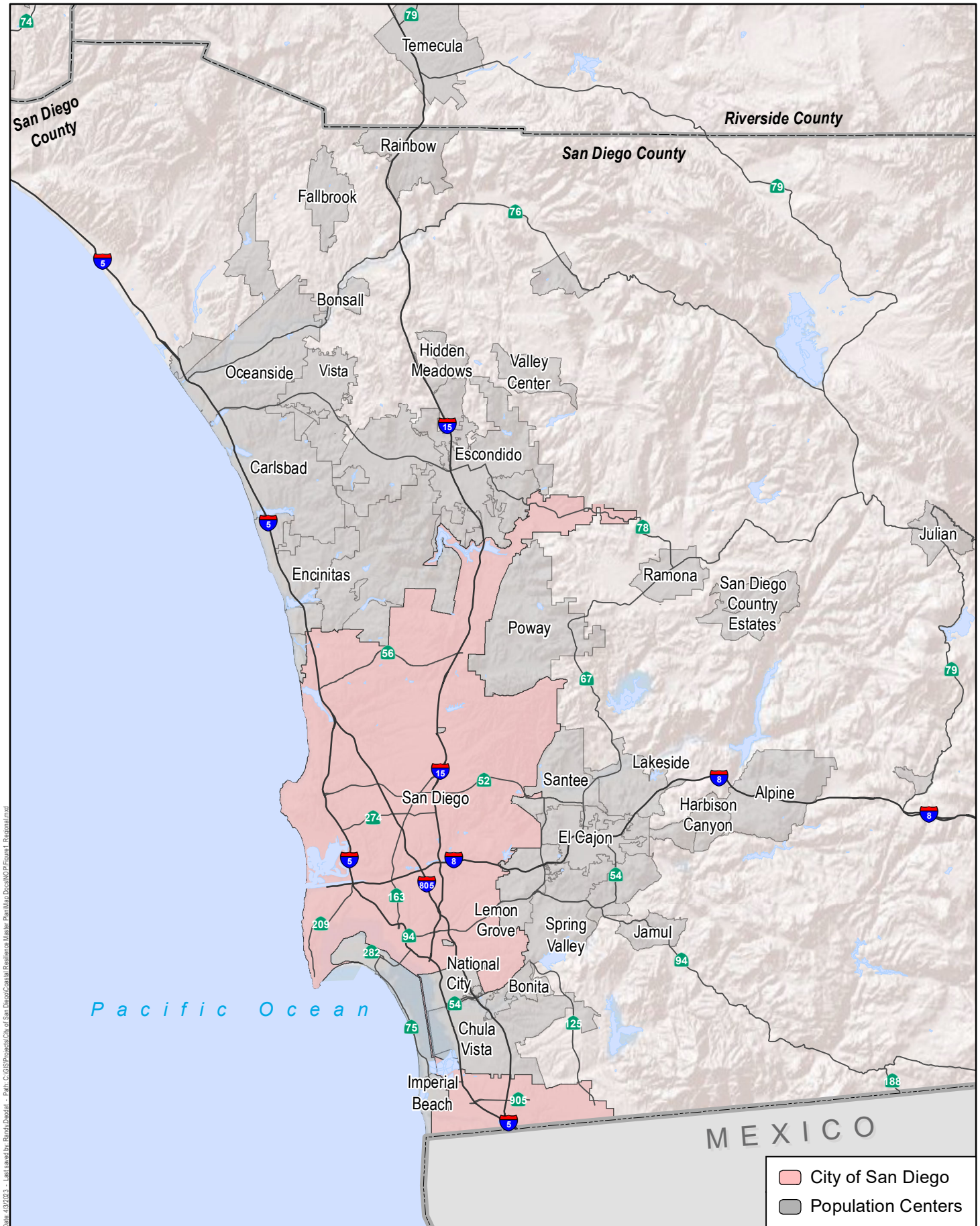
¹ The City’s term for communities with low to moderate access to opportunity based on the City’s Climate Equity Index. The Climate Equity Index was developed in 2019, and revised in 2021, to measure the level of access to opportunity residents have within a census tract and assess the degree of potential impact from climate change to these areas.

AVAILABILITY IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT: To request this Notice in alternative format, call the Planning Department at (619) 235-5200 OR (800) 7352929 (TEXT TELEPHONE).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For environmental review information, please contact Jordan Moore at (619) 236-5061 or JTMoore@sandiego.gov. For information regarding public meetings/hearings on this project, please contact Chief Resilience Officer Julia Chase, at (619) 236-6057 or ChaseJ@sandiego.gov. This Notice was published in the San Diego Daily Transcript and distributed on Friday, May 5, 2023.

Heidi Vonblum
Director
Planning Department

ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1: Regional Location
Figure 2: Project Locations



Date: 4/10/2023 - Last saved by: Randy Dancout - Path: C:\GIS\Projects\City of San Diego\Capital Resilience Master Plan\Map Docs\NO Pr Figures 1 Regional.mxd

Source: ESRI 2023.

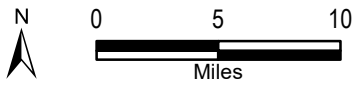
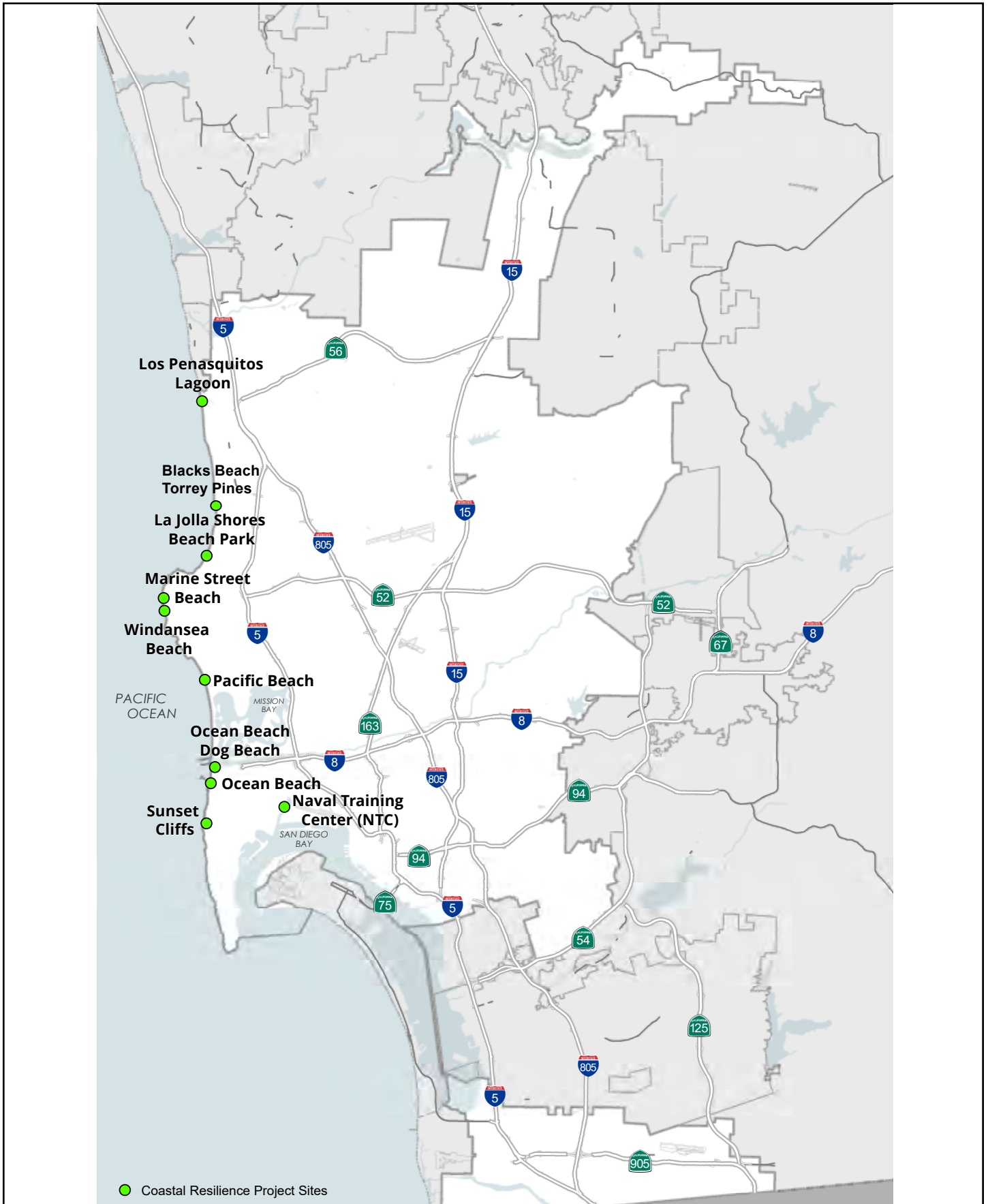


Figure 1

Regional Location

Coastal Resilience Master Plan Program EIR



Source: City of San Diego 2021.

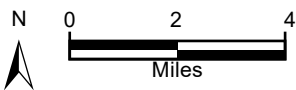


Figure 2
Project Locations