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Ultra-High Tides Illustrate Vulnerability of Santa Barbara's Shoreline

Volunteer photographers needed to demonstrate potential impacts of sea level rise

SANTA BARBARA, CA – Over the next three days, some of the year's highest tides will hit California shorelines, providing a glimpse of what the state can expect as sea level rises in the coming years. These "king tides" – a term used to describe the highest winter tides – will be captured by citizen imagery through the California King Tides Initiative.

The Initiative is asking residents to photograph these ultra-high tides, highlighting how homes, harbors, and other infrastructure, as well as beaches, wetlands, and public access to the coast may be affected by sea level rise in the future. In a report released earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences projects approximately one foot of sea-level rise by 2050 and up to five feet by 2100 along the California coast.

"King tides are an excellent way to visualize how higher sea levels and increased storm intensity could impact our coastal ecosystems and communities," says Michael Sheehy, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's Marine Programs Director. "The ultimate aim is to motivate policymakers to act promptly to support and fund local adaptation efforts."

Channelkeeper is asking volunteers to take photos during the king tides on December 12th, 13th, and 14th in areas known to flood and where high water levels can be gauged against sea walls, jetties, or bridge supports. Tides will reach nearly seven feet between the hours of 8:00am and 9:30am.

In the Santa Barbara area, good spots to view and photograph the king tides include Isla Vista beaches, Goleta Beach County Park, Leadbetter Beach, Butterfly Beach, Miramar Beach, Padaro Lane, Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Hobson Beach Park, Faria, and Emma Wood State Beach.

Additional king tides will occur on January 9-11, 2013, and February 7-9, 2013. Learn more and view the Initiative's King Tides chart of the timing and location of king tides throughout California at www.californiakingtides.org.

Citizens are encouraged to upload their photos, along with their contact information, photo location, orientation, date, and time of day directly to the [CA King Tides Flickr group](https://www.flickr.com/groups/ca-king-tides/). Please also email photos to michael@sbck.org.

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Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work and enforcement. To learn more, visit www.sbck.org.