

# SEA LEVEL RISE

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A  
YOUTH SERVING COMMUNITY BASED  
ORGANIZATION.



ONE OCEAN TOUCHES ALL SHORES





**UN MAR DE COLORES IS....**

**A WELCOME BACK TO THE OCEAN**

**COMMUNITY**

**CONNECTION, PROTECTION  
& PLAY**

**MENTORSHIP**

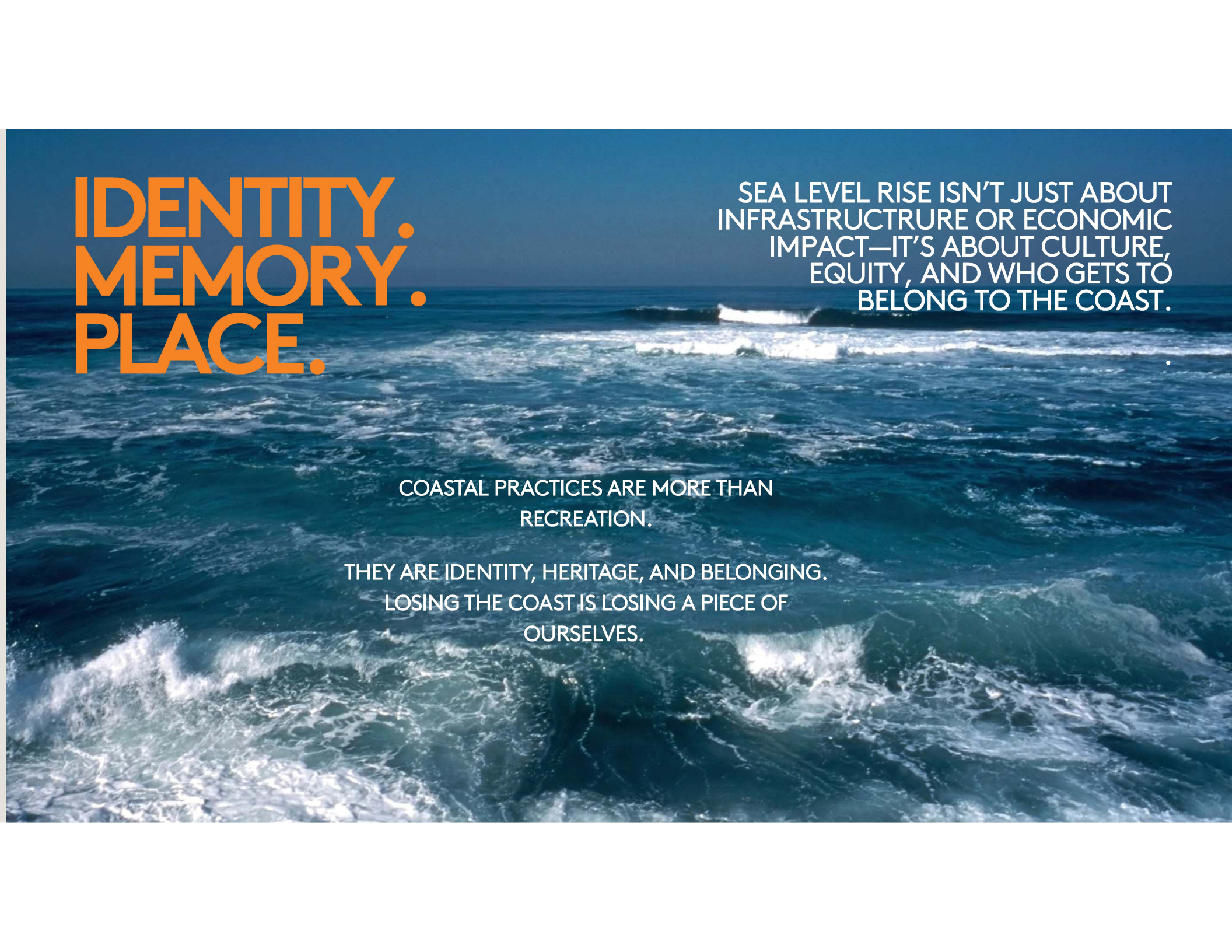
**A NEST FOR....**

**EMPOWERMENT**

**WELLNESS**

**YOUTH STEWARDSHIP**





IDENTITY.  
MEMORY.  
PLACE.

SEA LEVEL RISE ISN'T JUST ABOUT  
INFRASTRUCTURE OR ECONOMIC  
IMPACT—IT'S ABOUT CULTURE,  
EQUITY, AND WHO GETS TO  
BELONG TO THE COAST.

COASTAL PRACTICES ARE MORE THAN  
RECREATION.

THEY ARE IDENTITY, HERITAGE, AND BELONGING.  
LOSING THE COAST IS LOSING A PIECE OF  
OURSELVES.



# LESS BEACH, LESS BELONGING

AS SEA LEVELS RISE, BEACHES NARROW. PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS DIMINISH. THE COAST BECOMES HARDER TO REACH, WITH FEWER SAFE AND OPEN SPACES.

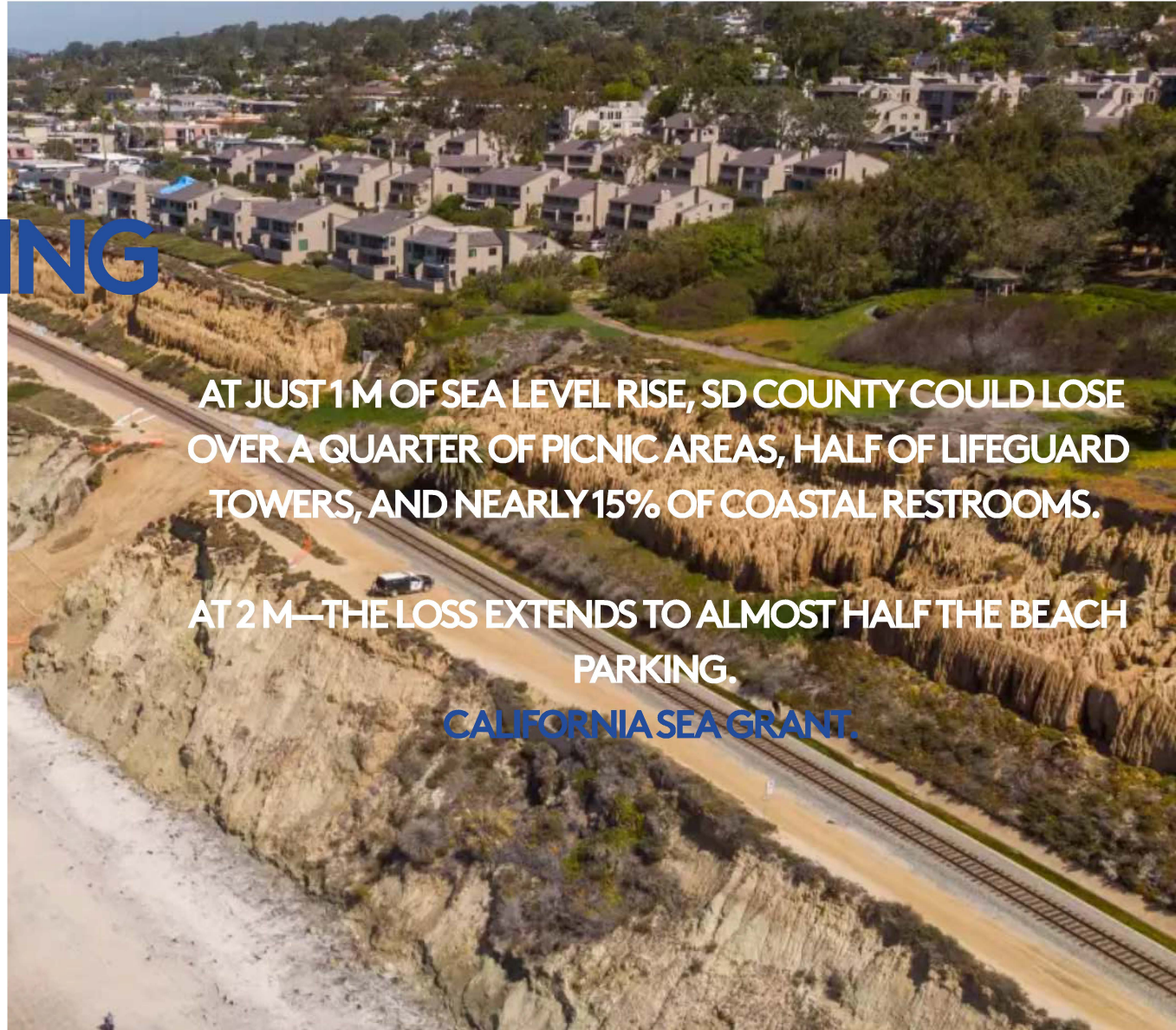
IN DEL MAR, COASTAL EROSION EATS AWAY AT THE BLUFFS BY ABOUT SIX INCHES PER YEAR. THIS THREATENS THE HISTORIC SURF LINE RAIL CORRIDOR, PROMPTING A \$3 BILLION TUNNEL STUDY TO PRESERVE ACCESS.

WIKIPEDIA+1  
LESS SHORE, LESS ACCESS

AT JUST 1 M OF SEA LEVEL RISE, SD COUNTY COULD LOSE OVER A QUARTER OF PICNIC AREAS, HALF OF LIFEGUARD TOWERS, AND NEARLY 15% OF COASTAL RESTROOMS.

AT 2 M—THE LOSS EXTENDS TO ALMOST HALF THE BEACH PARKING.

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT.





An aerial photograph showing the Tijuana River Estuary. The river flows from the left, through a brown, marshy landscape, and empties into the ocean on the right. A large, light-colored sand spit separates the river from the ocean. The ocean has white waves breaking near the shore. In the background, there are hills and a city skyline under a clear blue sky.

THE BEACHES IN SOUTH SAN DIEGO HAVE  
BEEN CLOSED FOR THE BETTER PART OF  
THE LAST THREE YEARS...

OVER 1300+DAYS AND COUNTING

SEA LEVEL RISE WILL ALSO INTERSECT WITH OTHER EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL  
CHALLENGES AND /OR DISASTERS. THE TIJUANA RIVER ESTUARY, IS BEING  
THREATENED BY TRANSBOUNDARY SEWAGE AND POLLUTION. INCLUDING  
UNNATURAL SEDIMENT BUILDUP, WHICH IN EFFECT IS BURYING SIGNIFICANT  
PARTS OF THE ESTUARY, AND ELIMINATING NATURAL TIDAL FLOW

IN THE SPAN OF A GENERATION, THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER HAS NARROWED  
FROM BEING A KILOMETER IN WIDTH....

TO APPROXIMATELY 50 TO 100 FEET



# HERITAGE ISN'T JUST PAST—IT'S PRESENT

Hile Rivera-Collazo's work centers Puerto Rico's disappearing coastal heritage, the same dynamic applies here. In San Diego, the loss of beaches, trails, piers, and access points erodes cultural continuity and community connection—most of all for underserved groups. Integration of adaptive design must center equity and cultural resilience.

[Scripps Center for Marine  
Archaeology](https://scrippscenterfor.marinearchaeology.ucsd.academia.edu)  
Slide 4- Broken Continuity

## Traditions at Risk

Narration: younger generations may never experience fishing, family gatherings, surfing, or cultural rituals in the same way. Sea level rise fractures continuity between past and future.





## CLOSING

WE MUST BUILD NOT  
JUST SEAWALLS, BUT  
INCLUSION

DESIGN WITH  
HERITAGE, EQUITY, AND  
PLACE IN MIND SO THAT  
EVERYONE CAN  
CONTINUE TO  
EXPERIENCE—AND  
BELONG TO—THE  
COAST.

## WORDS

