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### **Incorporating Climate-Smart Adaptive Strategies into Wetlands Recovery in Coastal Southern California**

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#### **Abstract**

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, a consortium of state and federal wetland agencies, is developing a regional strategy that will provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to guide coastal wetland restoration in light of expected sea level rises. The strategy includes an assessment of relative vulnerability of 103 coastal systems that will inform development of climate-smart restoration strategies. The vulnerability assessment considers the effects of accretion, mouth dynamics and transgression under several future management scenarios. We will ultimately develop climate-smart adaptation strategies and a decision-support tool to guide restoration project prioritization and design at the regional scale. The regional restoration strategy and decision-support tool will lead directly to project implementation through the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. Ultimately wetland restoration projects will not only provide ecological services, but the inclusion of transition zones in the planning process can support development of living shorelines that can help protect adjacent communities. This talk will summarize the results of the regional vulnerability assessment and illustrate how it is being used to guide development of the regional restoration strategy.