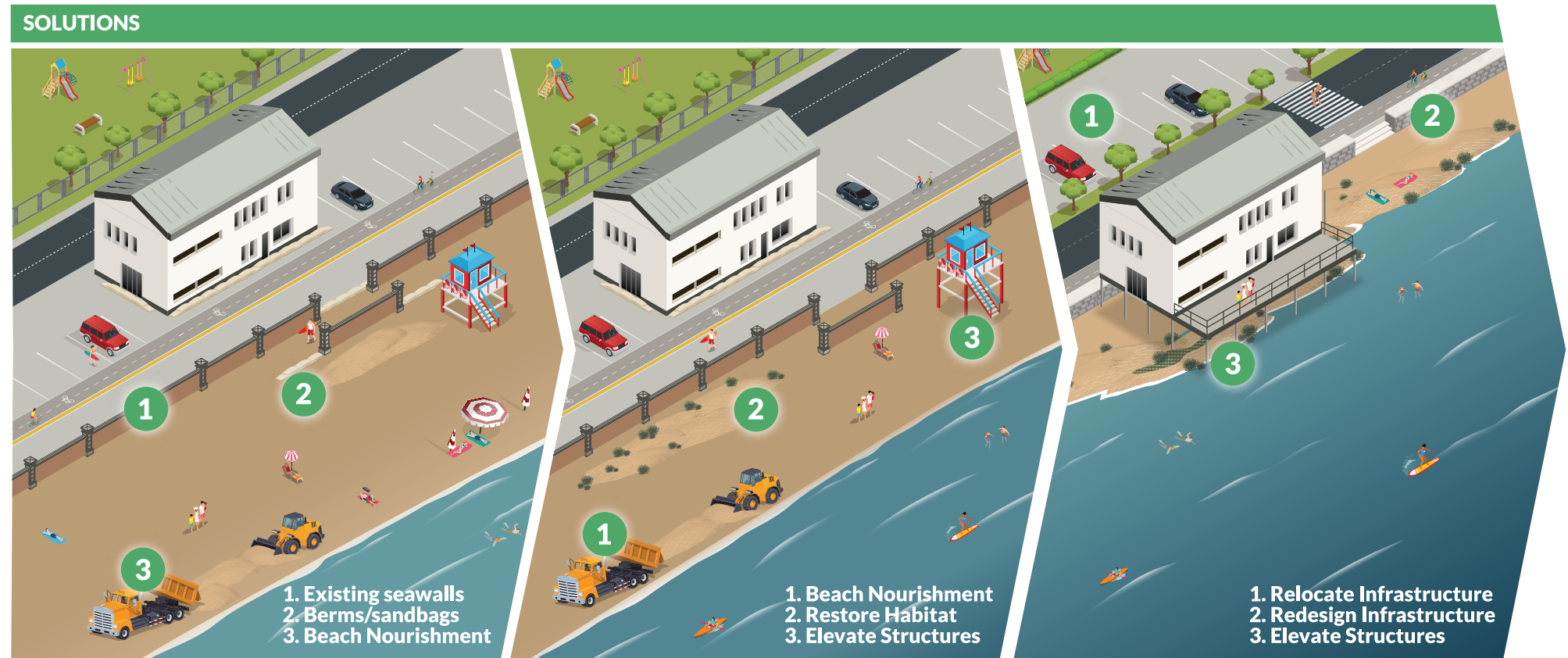


Today's proactive choices prepare San Diego for rising seas.

To prepare for the rapid increase in the rate of sea level rise (see other side), our communities need to implement short-term strategies directly linked to long-term solutions. This **phased adaptation** can help communities make small, manageable, and affordable changes in the near-term that will cumulatively result in long-term improvements. Today's decisions should put us on the path to resilience before the high sea levels projected for mid-century irreversibly impact our beaches, our communities, our neighbors, and our homes.

Below is one example of a community adapting to sea level rise through a phased approach. Each community will have a different vision for the future. There is no one size fits all when it comes to adaptation.



2020 OUTCOMES: TODAY
Existing infrastructure, beaches, and natural resources are protected while long-term shoreline management plans are outlined.

2050 OUTCOMES: MID-TERM
Smaller projects have been put in place to buy time to implement larger, long-term solutions that will address rapidly increasing sea levels.

2080 OUTCOMES: LONG-TERM
Larger, more comprehensive solutions have been implemented to enhance commercial, recreational, and natural assets.

RESULTS OF NO ACTION: TODAY AND BEYOND

Delaying planning today could lead to irreversible impacts to our beaches, habitats, and communities.



Repetitive damage to infrastructure leading to expensive repairs



Reduced access to recreation due to shrinking beaches and public safety concerns



Loss of coastal habitats including wetlands, dunes, and tidepools.

Sea levels are rising now...

California has experienced several extreme sea level events in recent years. San Diego experienced its highest recorded sea level in November 2015.



Left: A flooded beach and access point in La Jolla resulted in loss of recreation.

Center: Marsh habitat in Mission Bay is almost entirely submerged during flooding.

Right: High water reaches Imperial Beach's Seacoast Avenue.

... and will rise even faster beyond 2050.

The graph below shows how extreme events like the one experienced in November 2015 will become increasingly more common as sea levels rise. The biggest coastal floods and hazards will happen when El Nino, high tides, severe storms and high waves occur at the same time.

