King tides & coastal change

Same viewpoint. Different waterline. A much better comparison.



Battery Point Lighthouse, 14 December 2020. Credit: California King Tides Project; public reuse permitted by the project gallery.

Historical evidence. Better questions. Useful records.

Three credited California King Tides photographs and a repeat-photo method show how coastal observations become more useful when the location and timing travel with the image.

What the records reveal

SCOPE AND METHOD

Photo examples are dated observations from the California Coastal Commission gallery. No water depth, tide height, damage cost or trend is inferred from the pictures.

A COMPARISON WORTH MAKING

A high-tide image records one moment. Repeated photographs from the same safe viewpoint, linked to tide and weather records, can support a more meaningful comparison.

IMAGES AND UNCERTAINTY

Photographs and satellite views carry their original credits. Quantitative charts use cited values; conceptual diagrams are explicitly labeled and contain no invented measurements. AI assisted research and drafting; references were checked and limitations retained. A picture shows a place and moment; it does not prove an entire event boundary, impact or cause. This is a historical reference, not a live warning service.

IN THIS COLLECTION

01 Battery Point Lighthouse: keep the landmark 3

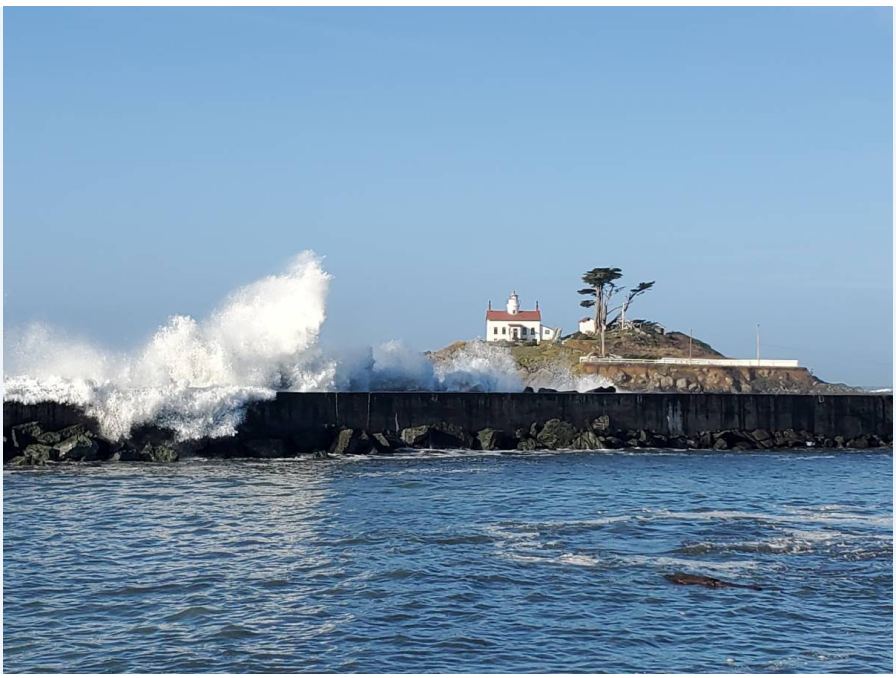
02 L Street: a street-level coastal record 4

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Battery Point Lighthouse: keep the landmark

14 December 2020 | Crescent City, California



Battery Point Lighthouse, 14 December 2020. Credit: California King Tides Project; public reuse permitted by the project gallery.

Source	Photo date
California King Tides Project	**14 December 2020**
Useful reference	Height/depth
Fixed coastal landmark	**Not measured in this record**

WHAT HAPPENED

The project gallery identifies this image with Battery Point Lighthouse and its observation date.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

Use stable landmarks to relocate a viewpoint. Save camera direction as well as the place name.

READ WITH CARE

The photograph does not establish a tide height or a long-term sea-level trend.

Source 1 >

Visual / data >

L Street: a street-level coastal record

23 December 2022 | L Street near Front Street, Crescent City, California



L Street near Front Street, 23 December 2022. Credit: California King Tides Project; public reuse permitted by the project gallery.

Source **California King Tides Project**	Photo date **23 December 2022**
Viewpoint **Named street intersection**	Impact estimate **Not provided**

WHAT HAPPENED

This gallery entry records a named street location in Crescent City during the December 2022 king tides.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

A location that another observer can find makes repeat photography more useful than a generic coastline label.

READ WITH CARE

Do not infer flood depth, property loss or road accessibility from this single view.

Source 1 >

Visual / data >

Ebb Tide Park: make the next visit comparable

14 December 2024 | Shell Beach, California



Ebb Tide Park, Shell Beach, 14 December 2024. Credit: California King Tides Project; public reuse permitted by the project gallery.

Source
California King Tides Project

Photo date
14 December 2024

Site
Ebb Tide Park

Comparison baseline
Needs a matching repeat view

WHAT HAPPENED

The project's San Luis Obispo County gallery includes a dated Ebb Tide Park observation.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

Retain the original image and credit. At a later visit, match the viewing direction and record the new tide and weather conditions.

READ WITH CARE

These three photographs are from different sites and dates; they are not a before-and-after sequence.

Source 1 >

Visual / data >

Repeat photography: tide plus context

Monitoring method; checked 12 November 2026 | A safe, repeatable coastal viewpoint



Dattle reference diagram; labels summarize the cited source. Not an event photograph or measured time series. Credit: Dattle; original graphic from the cited reference.

Timing guidance
Near the local high tide

Project guidance
Ideally within about 30 minutes

Keep separate
Prediction and observed waterline

Safety
Stay clear of waves and unstable edges

WHAT HAPPENED

The California project asks participants to document high tides from safe locations and submit photographs with their location and time.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

Add the tide station and vertical datum when using numerical heights. Waves, weather and local geography can change the waterline visible in a photo.

READ WITH CARE

This notebook does not predict flooding. Use official tide and hazard information, and never enter unsafe water to match a viewpoint.

Source 1 >

Visual / data >

From examples to observations

A USEFUL RECORD KEEPS ITS EVIDENCE

Keep the time, place, measurement method, unit, source and uncertainty with every observation. Separate what you saw from an estimate or interpretation. Repeat observations consistently, and retain the original evidence when updating a record.

SUGGESTED DATTLE FIELDS

- Site name and fixed photo viewpoint
- Local time, timezone and UTC timestamp
- Predicted tide time, height and datum
- Observed waterline; waves and weather
- Photo credit and original file
- Repeat-view comparison; source link

AI AS AN ACCELERATOR

Use this prompt to draft a collection structure, then review it. AI can organize the questions and fields; it cannot supply missing observations or replace source verification.

> Create a Dattle for king tides & coastal change. Include Site name and fixed photo viewpoint, Local time, timezone and UTC timestamp, Predicted tide time, height and datum, Observed waterline; waves and weather, Photo credit and original file, Repeat-view comparison; source link. Start with an empty collection. Separate observations, estimates and interpretations. Do not invent measurements, dates, locations or sources. Retain units, uncertainty and source links; flag missing information for review.

Explore Dattle at dattle.com. Availability, features and plan limits are described on the website.

Sources and image credits

Primary references checked November 12, 2026. Records and estimates can be revised. Every case page links to its evidence; full addresses are retained here for reuse.

01. Battery Point Lighthouse: keep the landmark - primary reference
https://www.coastal.ca.gov/kingtides/gallery.html

02. Repeat photography: tide plus context - primary reference
https://www.coastal.ca.gov/kingtides/participate.html