



SEA LEVEL RISE PLANNING

UAC Update
October 6, 2016

Planning Goal

Develop a formal community plan that prioritizes investments for best responding to sea rise, while protecting downtown economic, social, and environmental values. The plan will identify funding needs and sources, implementation schedules and responsibilities.



2016 Work Efforts

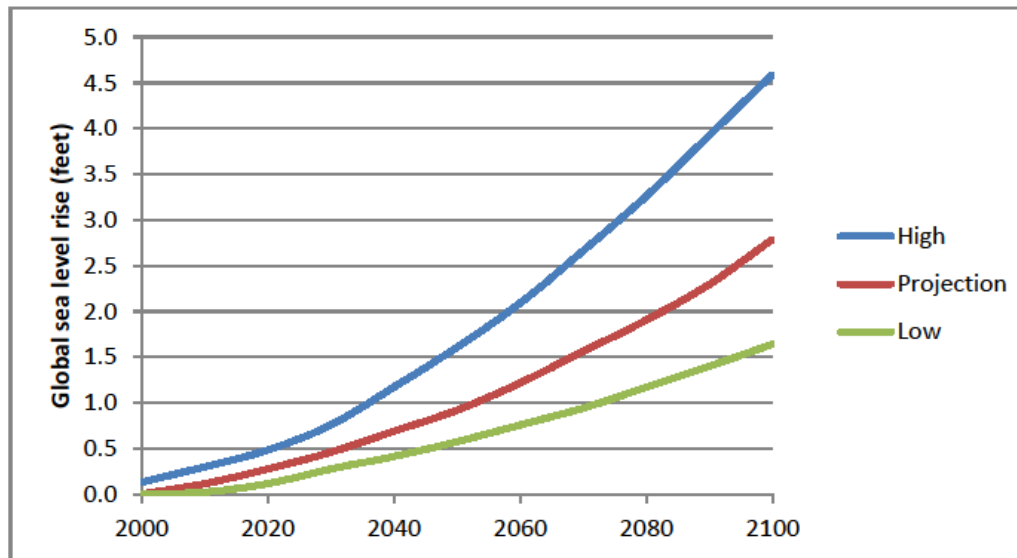
- Update Sea Rise Projections
- Refine Downtown Vulnerability
- Lay Out a Planning Approach
- Adopt Downtown Flooding Ordinance
- Organize Interjurisdictional Coordination
- Develop Community Education Tools
- Investigate Outside Funding
- Improve Emergency Response



Sea Rise Projections...2100

- ◉ Range...8" to 79"
 - Common projections...31" to 47"
 - High confidence....less than 79" (NOAA)
- ◉ National Research Council...West Coast study
 - 12" - 24" by 2050
 - 19" - 55" by 2100
- ◉ Business as usual emissions

NRC West Coast Scenarios



Threat of Weather Systems

- Low pressure system plus high tide
 - 2.5 feet of sea rise



Our Rationale

- Uncertainty is high
- Sea rise is not linear
- Emerging science is not reassuring
- Low pressure systems exacerbate sea rise
- Emissions are constant or increasing (above RCP8.5)
- Olympia may be subsiding
- We're talking about our downtown
 - Critical infrastructure, emergency transportation corridors, financial and cultural values



Planning Approach

- ◉ Given uncertainty, may not be feasible or cost effective to design and build for long-term sea rise scenarios
- ◉ Build for mid-century sea rise with adaptability
- ◉ But have to be adaptable....can't possibly start over
 - Modifiable decisions and construction

Importance of Governance

- Capacity to respond
 - Goals
 - Responsibilities
 - Authority
 - Structure
 - Ownership
 - Participation
 - Influence



Municipal Planning Efforts

- San Francisco - Sea Level Rise Action Plan
 - City Planning and Public Works Departments
 - Thoughtful approach
 - Vulnerability and risk assessments
 - Developing “Action Plan” comparable to our mandate in 2018
- Adapting to Rising Tides
 - SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission and NOAA
 - Detailed, step-by-step planning process
 - <http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/>
- Vancouver, B.C. – Sea Level Rise Adaption Strategy
 - Highly vulnerable city
 - Technically strong

Shared Understanding of Concerns

- ◉ Inventory and define assets
- ◉ Vulnerability
 - Exposure....degree to which an asset or value is exposed
 - Sensitivity....degree of impact
 - Adaptive Capacity...ability to adjust or cope
- ◉ Risk
 - Likelihood....frequency and conditions
 - Consequence...community implication

Planning

- Turning vulnerability and risk into strategies and decisions
 - Priorities
 - Actions
 - Timing
 - Funding
 - Responsibilities
 - Monitoring/thresholds



Leading the Plan

- Lead...Water Resources
- Staff team...PW, CP&D, Parks, Fire
- Executive coordination...PW, CPD, Legal, Communications
- Interjurisdictional...Port, LOTT, State, City
- Advisory committee...UAC



Public Involvement

- New webpage
- Waterfront information
- Newsletter on planning status
- Downtown businesses...focus group
- Neighborhood associations
- Climate change organizations
- City advisory committees
- TBD

This Fall

- ◉ Working on Port and LOTT participation
- ◉ Posting webpage
- ◉ Hiring staff
- ◉ Organizing the planning process
- ◉ Investigating consultants
- ◉ Setting up informational briefings

