



Meeting Agenda

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Study Session

1. ROLL CALL

2. OTHER BUSINESS

2.A [16-0126](#) Update on Sea Level Rise

Attachments: [Comprehensive Plan Excerpts: Seal Level Rise Goal and Policies](#)

3. ADJOURNMENT

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City Council

Update on Sea Level Rise

Agenda Date: 2/9/2016
Agenda Item Number: 2.A
File Number: 16-0126

Type: work session **Version:** 1 **Status:** Study Session

Title

Update on Sea Level Rise

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive an update on sea level rise issues and provide City staff with general guidance on next steps.

Report

Issue:

Sea level rise and its potential to increase downtown Olympia flooding is a concern. In recent years, staff has provided City Council with an annual update on the science of sea level rise and our planning and engineering responses.

Staff Contact:

Eric Christensen, Planning and Engineering Manager, Public Works Water Resources, 360.570.3741
Andy Haub, Water Resources Director, Public Works Water Resources, 360.753.8475

Presenter(s):

Eric Christensen, Public Works Water Resources

Background and Analysis:

Downtown Olympia has a long history of flooding. It is built on low-lying fill and continues to be at risk of flooding.

The City first addressed the risks of sea level rise in 1991. Since 2007, staff has completed annual work plans that improve our information. In recent years, minor City construction projects have reduced flooding downtown. While it remains difficult to predict the level or timing of sea rise, our understanding of Olympia-specific implications increases.

The Olympia Comprehensive Plan goals and policies provide specific guidance on our response to sea rise (See attachment 1).

During the study session, staff will provide an update on global and local sea level rise trends. We will explain the implications to downtown. Staff will share a proposal to increase our community discussions about sea rise and to develop a response plan. The plan would address the long-term needs to protect downtown.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Various community groups and other agencies are engaged in climate change and sea level rise issues.

Options:

N/A

Financial Impact:

The City allocates \$150,000 bi-annually through the Storm and Surface Water Utility for downtown flooding and sea level rise planning work efforts. Current funding is modest and primarily addresses improved response to existing flooding problems. A funding source for increased investment in infrastructure to protect downtown will need to be identified in the near future.

Attachment:

Attachment 1

Attachment 1: Olympia Comprehensive Plan Excerpts: Sea Level Rise Goal and Policies

GU11. The City uses best available information to implement a sea level rise management plan that will protect Olympia's downtown.

PU11.1 Evaluate different scenarios for sea level rise, including varying magnitudes and time horizons, and develop a progression of adaptation and response actions for each scenario.

PU11.2 Develop plans, cost estimates and financing options for addressing sea level rise that include regulatory, engineering and environmentally sensitive solutions.

PU11.3 Maintain public control of downtown shorelines that may eventually be needed to help manage flood water.

PU11.4 Incorporate sea level rise planning into the design of public and private infrastructure where needed.

PU11.5 Use the best available science and the experiences of other communities in formulating plans for sea level rise.

PU11.6 Partner with government entities and other key stakeholders, such as, the federal government, State of Washington, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, downtown property owners, businesses and residents, environmental groups, and other interested parties.

PU11.7 Engage the community in a discussion of various sea level rise scenarios, how the City will respond to lessen the impact, and what the costs would be.

PU11.8 Require development to incorporate measures, such as higher finished floor elevations, that will reduce risks and avoid future costs associated with rising sea levels; and to encourage acknowledgment of such risks by state and federal agencies.