



OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP – Summary Report Olympia Center - January 18, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The City of Olympia (City), the LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT) and the Port of Olympia (Port) are working together to develop a Sea Level Rise Response Plan to protect Downtown Olympia from the effects of sea level rise. Technical assistance for the project is being provided by AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM).

This report provides a summary of the January 18, 2018 Open House and Community Workshop hosted by the City, LOTT and the Port at the Olympia Center. The January 18, 2018 event is the first of three community workshops included in the scope of services with AECOM for the sea level rise planning process.



Welcome to the Sea Level Rise Open House & Community Workshop

January 18, 2018

AGENDA

- 6:00 p.m. Open House and Information Stations**
- Project staff available to answer questions
- 6:15 p.m. Presentations**
- Overview of planning effort
 - Results of vulnerability assessment
 - Results from risk assessment
 - Next steps: evaluating adaptation strategies
 - Introduction to workshop activities
- 7:15 p.m. Public Comment and Questions**
- 7:45 p.m. Workshop Activities and Open House**
- Interactive stations for public feedback
 - Project staff available to answer questions

olympiawa.gov/sealevelrise



Figure 1 – Community Workshop Agenda

The sea level rise planning effort builds upon work already done to prepare for sea level rise. To introduce the sea level rise response planning process to the community, the City, LOTT and Port hosted a project kick-off meeting on June 27, 2017.

When asked for a show of hands of attendees, approximately half of the audience in attendance at the January 18, 2018 workshop indicated that they have been monitoring the work the City is doing to address sea level rise.

WORKSHOP PUBLICITY

The workshop was promoted through the following means:

Planning E-Newsletter

- December 28, 2017 – 728 unique addresses
- January 12, 2018 – 747 unique addresses

Sea Level Rise E-Newsletter

- December 28, 2017 – 128 unique addresses
- January 12, 2018 – TBD

News Release

- January 18, 2018

Social Media

- City of Olympia Facebook Page
- Next Door

Sea Level Rise Webpage

Posting of Meeting Flyer at Olympia City Hall and at LOTT and Port administrative offices.

How did Workshop Attendees Hear about the Meeting?

Results of the sign-in sheet question “how did you hear about the workshop” indicate attendees learned of the Workshop in a variety of ways, including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Email/E-newsletter: | 35% of Responses |
| • Online/web page: | 14% of Responses |
| • Facebook: | 8% of Responses |
| • Friend/Coworker: | 12% of Responses |
| • Olympian: | 7% of Responses |
| • Next Door: | 5% of Responses |
| • Professor: | 3% of Responses |

- TCAT email: 3% of Responses
- Utilities Advisory Committee: 2% of Responses
- Tumwater: 2% of Responses
- Port of Olympia: 2% of Responses

OPEN HOUSE

Prior to the formal presentation, attendees had the opportunity to review project “storyboards” and speak to staff from the City, LOTT, Port and AECOM. The workshop storyboards have been included as an appendix item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Following the formal presentation, 15 individuals provided comments and/or asked questions of the presenters. An abbreviated summary of the comments and questions provided by attendees follows.

- What serves as the baseline for the sea level rise inundation maps – present average tide level or something else?
- Have we had salt water in Capitol Lake?
- From a technical point of view, how are important long-term planning decisions (ie Capitol Lake and Views on Fifth project approval) made as this process continues and we learn more?
- Listening to this discussion, it seems it is a discussion of the demise of a city at some point in the future. I do not hear discussion of how we can take actions to address climate change so that impacts do not happen included in the conservation. There are things citizens can do to address climate change. We should focus on actions so this will not happen to our city.
- It is good to hear that the planning process is taking into account that the City of Olympia is subsiding and that the sea level rise inundation maps reflect subsidence. Since the melting of the polar caps brings another layer of uncertainty, is the process taking into account the melting of the polar caps? Have groundwater levels been taken into account in the process as well?
- Is there an opportunity to divert flows from the LOTT Budd Inlet Treatment Plant to other LOTT auxiliary treatment plants so we can mitigate sea level rise flooding problems?
- Have all Downtown located storm and sewer pipes been separated or do we still have a combined system? If we cannot find the money necessary to separate the storm and sewer pipes, and we need to find the money, will we still have a flooding problem downtown from the combined storm/sewer system even if we build an extensive diking system to protect against sea level rise?
- Will some of the details behind the slides shown tonight be made available?
- In the opening remarks to the meeting, the reason this meeting was moved from its original date was not fully addressed. The meeting was moved because there were

people actually trying to stop climate change. Energy will be required to address the problem of climate change. If a community meeting is not prepared to handle the energy required to address a problem, the core of the problem is reinforced. To address climate change, economic and social structures will need to be addressed.

- From tonight's presentation, I understand that the range of sea level rise projections – the spread between the minimum and maximum projects - is based on National Research Council 2012 data. It is now 2018. In 2017, a national sea level rise assessment was done with a significantly different spread between minimum and maximum projections than the 2012 NRC work. Projections are a moving target. How will the project address changing projections in a systemic way? How will the project track future changes to sea level rise projections?
- I saw that living shorelines are included as an example strategy. It is now a good time to start with preemptive strategies. The natural history of Olympia shows reefs made of oyster shells in Budd Bay. Reefs have been shown to be beneficial for both cleaning water and keeping wave action down. Are there any actions being taken now to restore shorelines or wetlands to absorb water? Are there ways to naturally address sea level rise? Any flood water will not be pristine water, instead it will be full of contaminants. Therefore, any strategies that could help with water quality becomes important.
- How have local and regional ecological, hydrological and geomorphic processes been considered in the planned strategies? Natural process shape the land. If strategies are to change the land, then we have to consider natural processes since natural processes determine how the land wants to be.
- Have the costs and benefits of higher levels of sea level rise been considered? Have the risks from the perfect storm been considered?
- How is the project taking into account the affect flooding will have on the homeless population given downtown is already the only, primarily inadequate, access the homeless have to services?
- For people who may want to become involved, what city advisory committees, for example, are involved with this process?

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Following public comment and questions, four workshop activities were available to workshop attendees. Attendees were informed that Exercises 2 and 4 were also available through the sea level rise survey currently available on the sea level rise website. For Exercises 2-4, two separate locations were available to attendees to provide input.

Exercise 1 – Valued Community Assets

Activity:

Exercise participants were asked to: 1) review six sea level rise inundations maps (0, 6", 12", 18", 24" 68") that identify the level of sea level rise Downtown assets are first exposed to flooding; and, 2) identify any missing valued community assets.

Results:

Exercise participants reviewed the six sea level rise inundation maps. No additional valued community assets were identified by exercise participants.

Exercise 2 – Review and Prioritize Draft Consequences

Activity:

Exercise participants were asked to: 1) review a list of environmental, social and economic consequences, and; 2) prioritize the consequences from “high importance” to “not important”. A blank chart was also available to exercise participants to add their own consequence statements.

Results:

The following new consequence statements were suggested by exercise participants:

- Ecosystem services and processes
- Solutions that residents can participate in (things that homeowners/businesses can do)

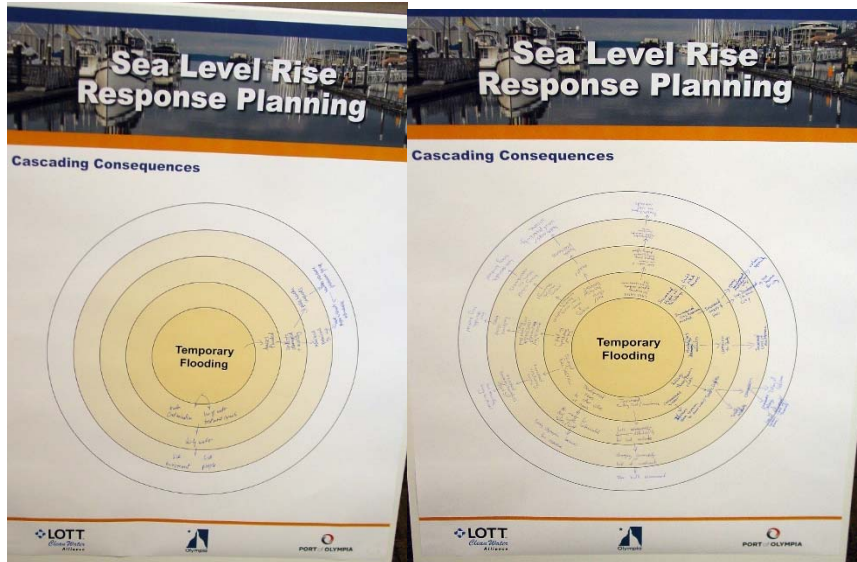
Note: The input provided on Exercise 2 during the workshop will be incorporated into the final results of the sea level rise survey. Photos of the draft consequences rating results as completed by exercise participants is included as an appendix item.

Exercise 3 – Identify Cascading Consequences

Activity:

Exercise participants were asked to think about the chain of consequences temporary flooding could cause.

Results: Photos of the cascading consequences as completed by exercise participants are included below and a written summary is included as an appendix item.



Exercise 4 – Prioritize Strategy Decision-making Evaluation Criteria

Activity:

Exercise participants were asked to: 1) review a list of strategy decision-making criteria, and; 2) rank the criteria from “high importance” to “not important”. A blank chart was also available to exercise participants to add their own evaluation criteria.

Results:

The following new decision-making evaluation criteria were suggested by exercise participants:

- Address local and regional natural processes
- Do not build new buildings on areas subject to flooding, such as on the isthmus

Note: The input provided on Exercise 4 during the workshop will be incorporated into the final results of the sea level rise survey. Photos of the decision-making evaluation criteria rating results as completed by exercise participants is included as an appendix item.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Workshop participants were invited to provide written comments. Four comments cards were submitted at the meeting. Comments as entered on the comments cards follow.

1.	Establish a local improvement district “LID) to pay for any measures to defend downtown. Make the assessment to properties a function of the assessed value and the relative height to sea level. Do not charge the rest of the City to save downtown. At best, let property owners outside
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	the affected areas earmark a % of property tax assessment for sea level rise mitigation by the City.
2.	Please reconsider the wisdom of allowing dense development on isthmus that is most vulnerable location to predictable sea level rise inundation. 4 th & 5 th Avenues are critical assets for travel to and from west side. Much easier & less expensive to protect corridor if land is mostly park. The views on 5 th proposal may cause much greater expense to the city to restore and protect this vital corridor.
3.	Process based & place-based adaptive management strategies strengthen community resilience and response to sea level rise. This can help alleviate loss across scales in both spatial and temporal dimensions. Adaptive management should be holistic.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Retreat needs to be part of discussion. 2) Cost benefit analysis of different adaptation strategies needs to be done. 3) Studies to evaluate the porosity of fill need to be done before considering sea walls. 4) Natural habitat related adaptative strategies are important.



OPEN HOUSE – STORY BOARDS

*****PENDING*****



SUMMARY REPORT - APPENDIX WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES RESULTS

EXERCISE 2 DRAFT CONSEQUENCES



Sea Level Rise Response Planning

What Consequences are Important to the Community?

Draft Consequences	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
Social				
Delayed response time of emergency vehicles (fire, police)	●	● ●		
Temporary displacement of residents	● ●			
Loss of access to parks and recreational areas		● ●	●	
Loss of access to community services (youth, senior, homeless, food bank)	●	●	●	
Loss of electrical power and blackouts	● ●	●		
Loss of access to cultural venues (museums, movie and live theaters)			● ●	
Flooded businesses causing temporary displacement (cost of displacement & economic impact)	●		●	
Environmental				
Flooding of sites with contaminated soils	● ● ● ●			
Discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater into Budd Inlet from Treatment Plant	● ● ● ●	●		
Sewer back-ups and overflows of wastewater into city streets	● ● ● ●	●		
Delay in residential and commercial trash pick-up		●	●	● ●



Sea Level Rise Response Planning

What Consequences are Important to the Community?

Draft Consequences	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
 Economic				
Disruption of commuter travel (flooded streets and intersections)		• • •		
Disruption of public transit	•	• • • •		
Damage to homes, businesses, and facilities	• •	• • •		
Disruption to electricity service for downtown area including Budd Inlet Treatment Plant	• • • •	• • •		
Disruption to marine terminal operations and revenue	•	•	•	
Temporary closure of downtown businesses		• • • •		
Loss of City and Port revenue (flooded parking areas, reduction in tourism)		• • •	•	
Increased demand on staff resources		• • • •		


Sea Level Rise Response Planning

What Consequences are Important to the Community?

Draft Consequences	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
 Social				
Delayed response time of emergency vehicles (fire, police)	●●●●●	●		
Temporary displacement of residents	●●●●	●	●	
Loss of access to parks and recreational areas			●●●●	
Loss of access to community services (youth, senior, homeless, food bank)	●●●●●	●●		
Loss of electrical power and blackouts	●●●●	●		
Loss of access to cultural venues (museums, movie and live theaters)			●●●●	
Flooded businesses causing temporary displacement (cost of displacement & economic impact)	●	●●		
 Environmental				
Flooding of sites with contaminated soils	●●●●●	●●		
Discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater into Budd Inlet from Treatment Plant	●●●●●			
Sewer back-ups and overflows of wastewater into city streets	●●●●●			
Delay in residential and commercial trash pick-up		●●●	●	

Sea Level Rise Response Planning

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Disruption of commuter travel (flooded streets and intersections)	● ●		● ●	
Disruption of public transit	● ●	●	●	
Damage to homes, businesses, and facilities	●	● ●	●	
Disruption to electricity service for downtown area including Budd Inlet Treatment Plant	● ● ●	●	●	
Disruption to marine terminal operations and revenue		●	● ● ●	●
Temporary closure of downtown businesses	●		● ● ●	
Loss of City and Port revenue (flooded parking areas, reduction in tourism)	●	●	● ●	
Increased demand on staff resources	●		● ● ●	




EXERCISE 3 CASCADING CONSEQUENCES


*****PENDING*****


EXERCISE 4 EVALUATION CRITERIA


Sea Level Rise Response Planning

Which Evaluation Criteria Are Important to the Community?

Draft Strategy Evaluation Criteria	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
 Financial				
Lifespan of action		● ●		
Upfront construction/ implementation costs		●	●	
Ongoing maintenance costs		● ●		
 Environmental				
Enhances habitat along the shoreline	● ● ● ● ● ● ●	●		
Improves water quality	● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ●		
 Administrative				
Opportunity to leverage collaboration across multiple public entities		● ● ● ● ●		
Opportunity to leverage public/ private collaboration		● ● ●	●	
Consistency with multiple city-wide goals		● ● ●	●	●












Sea Level Rise Response Planning

Which Evaluation Criteria Are Important to the Community?

Draft Strategy Evaluation Criteria	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
 Technical Effectiveness				
Addresses high priority assets or risks	••	•••		
Addresses multiple assets or risks	••	•		
Adapts to changes/increases in sea level rise	••••			
Highly reliable against multiple levels of sea level rise	••	•		
 Socio-Economic				
Helps protect homes	•			
Helps protect businesses	•			
Enhances recreational amenities and public access	••			
Helps protect public health	••••	•		


Sea Level Rise Response Planning

Which Evaluation Criteria Are Important to the Community?

Draft Strategy Evaluation Criteria	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
 Financial				
Lifespan of action	●●●●●●●			
Upfront construction/implementation costs	●●●●●	●	●	
Ongoing maintenance costs	●●●●●●			
 Environmental				
Enhances habitat along the shoreline	●●●●●	●		
Improves water quality	●●●●●	●		
 Administrative				
Opportunity to leverage collaboration across multiple public entities	●●●	●●		
Opportunity to leverage public/private collaboration	●●●●●	●		
Consistency with multiple city-wide goals	●●●●●●			

Sea Level Rise Response Planning

Which Evaluation Criteria Are Important to the Community?

Draft Strategy Evaluation Criteria	Priority for the Community			
	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Not Important
 Technical Effectiveness				
Addresses high priority assets or risks	••••	•		
Addresses multiple assets or risks	••	•		
Adaptable for changes/increases in sea level rise	••	•		
Highly reliable against multiple levels of sea level rise	••	•		
 Socio-Economic				
Helps protect homes	••	•		
Helps protect businesses	••	•	•	
Enhances recreational amenities and public access	•	••	•	
Helps protect public health	••	•	•	