



Welcome to  
**APA Hazard Division**

Christine Caggiano

# Sea Level Change: Coastal Hazard Zones, Best management practices, permitting and planning

October 2, 2020

APA Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division

Matt Campo, Senior Research Specialist, Rutgers

Nicole Faghin, Coastal Management Specialist

Washington Sea Grant



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of Planning and Public Policy

# Sea Level Rise and Planning Series

## 2020 - 2021

**WEBINAR 1:** Sea Level Rise 101: How to Select and Use Sea Level Rise Data for Planning and Policy Decisions

**WEBINAR 2:** Integrating Sea Level Rise into Plans

**LOCATION:** <http://www.youtube.com/planningwebcast>

**UPCOMING DECEMBER 2, 2020!**

**WEBINAR 4:** Sea Level Rise and Capital Facilities Planning



Nicole Faghin  
Washington Sea Grant



Matt Campo  
Rutgers University



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# An introduction

Nicole Faghin, Washington Sea Grant

# What we covered in the first webinar

Components of sea level change

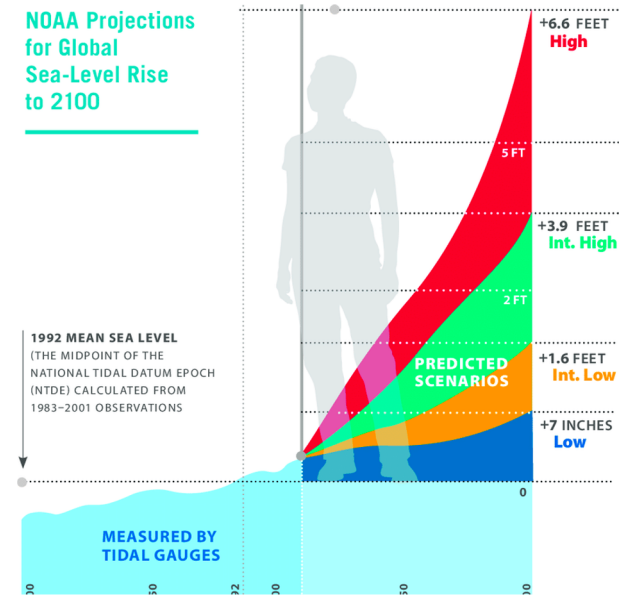
Scenario vs Probabilistic models

Example from Washington State

Tools

Link for our first webinar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpFbcf5Mgpw&feature=youtu.be>



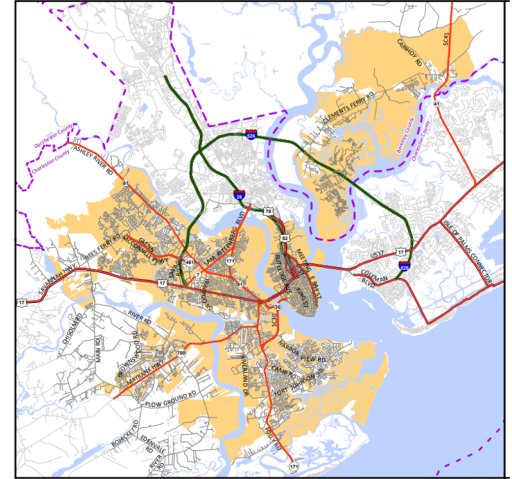
# What we covered in the second webinar

How different jurisdictions are using sea level rise projections in their planning processes

State coordinated approaches

Independent jurisdictional approach

Differing approaches to integrating projections



Link for our second webinar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdezO76Sbmg&t=1614s>

# Overview of Coastal Hazard Zones

Matt Campo, Rutgers University



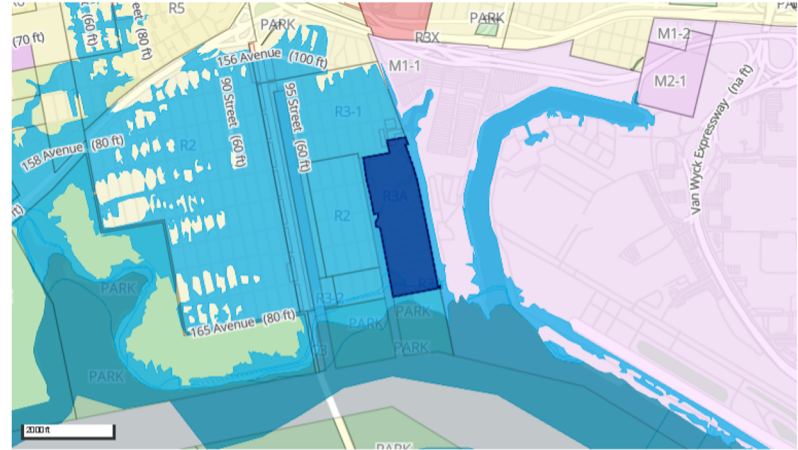
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# Today, we will cover tools for implementation

- From the plan to the map (or ordinance, or...)
- Planning tools
  - Districts, zones, hazard areas...
- How to get there:
  - What authorities do you need?
  - What strategies partner with these tools?
  - What to know along the way...



Special Purpose District | CR

## Special Coastal Risk District

Since 1969, the City Planning Commission has designated special zoning districts in response to areas of the City with unique characteristics. Each special district stipulates zoning requirements and incentives tailored to specific conditions that may not lend themselves to generalized zoning and standard development.

<https://zola.planning.nyc.gov/>



# **Introduction of our guest speakers**

Lara Whitely Binder, King County, WA

Michael Marrella, New York City, NY

Matthew Simons, Norfolk, VA

The background of the slide features a vertical tide gauge in the ocean. The gauge is marked with numbers 04, 05, 06, and 08. The water surface is slightly rippled, and the gauge is reflected in the water below. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# **NEXT IN THE SERIES....**

**TOPIC: Sea Level Rise and Capital Facilities Planning**

**DATE: December 2, 2020**

# Contact information

**Matt Campo**, Senior Research Specialist, Rutgers, NJ

[mcampo@ejb.rutgers.edu](mailto:mcampo@ejb.rutgers.edu)

**Nicole Faghin**, Coastal Management Specialist, Washington Sea Grant, Seattle, WA

[faghin@uw.edu](mailto:faghin@uw.edu)

**Lara Whitely Binder**, Climate Preparedness Specialist, King County, WA

[lw binder@kingcounty.gov](mailto:lw binder@kingcounty.gov)

**Michael Marrella**, AICP, Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning, NYC, NY

[MMarrel@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:MMarrel@planning.nyc.gov)

**Matthew Simons**, AICP, CFM, Principal Planner, Floodplain Administrator, Norfolk, VA

[Matthew.Simons@norfolk.gov](mailto:Matthew.Simons@norfolk.gov)



# Preparing for Sea Level Rise in King County

**LARA WHITELY BINDER**  
CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST  
KING COUNTY

APA HMDR Division Sea Level Rise Trainings  
October 2, 2020



# About the King County Shoreline – variations on a theme



West Point Treatment Plant



Low-lying arterials



Natural areas



Outfalls and pump stations



Residential development



Aging bulkheads



Bluff erosion

KING  
COUNTY  
2020  
**Strategic  
Climate  
Action Plan**



# KING COUNTY STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (SCAP)

5-year strategy for:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- preparing for the impacts of climate change
- advancing climate equity



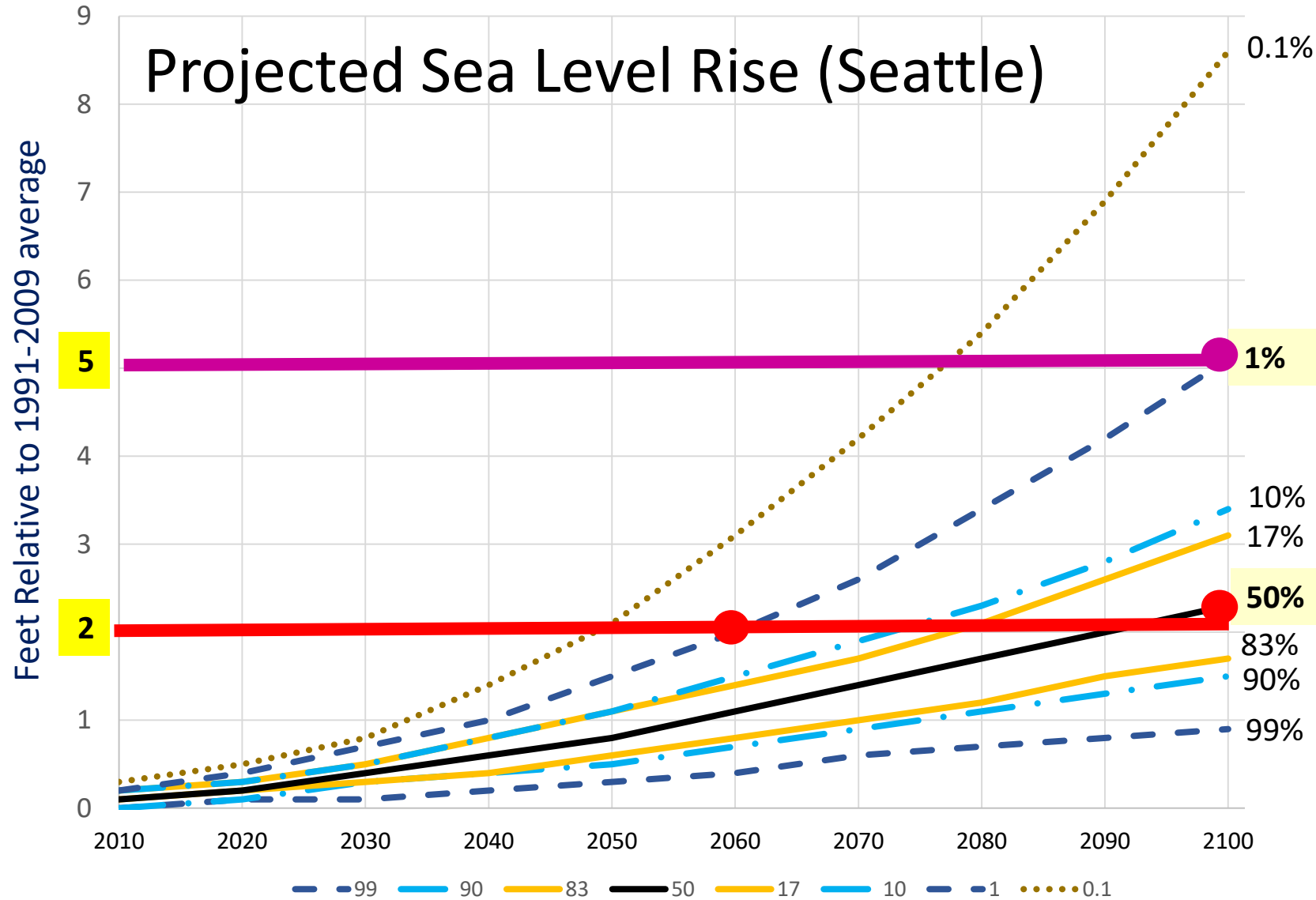
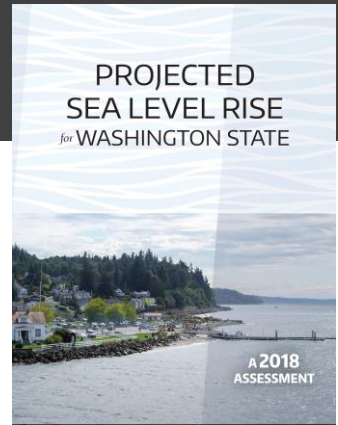
# EARLY (AND ONGOING) QUESTIONS

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1. How much sea level rise do we plan for?
2. How do we address developed properties?
3. How do we address the nearshore squeeze?
4. When to move infrastructure?
5. How/when to engage on impacts to other concerns not managed by the County?
6. What information is needed to make the difficult decisions?



# “Picking the Number(s)” for King County



**Probability of exceedance value =**  
 % probability that sea level rise will be *higher* than the value shown

Yellow = values King County used in most recent mapping



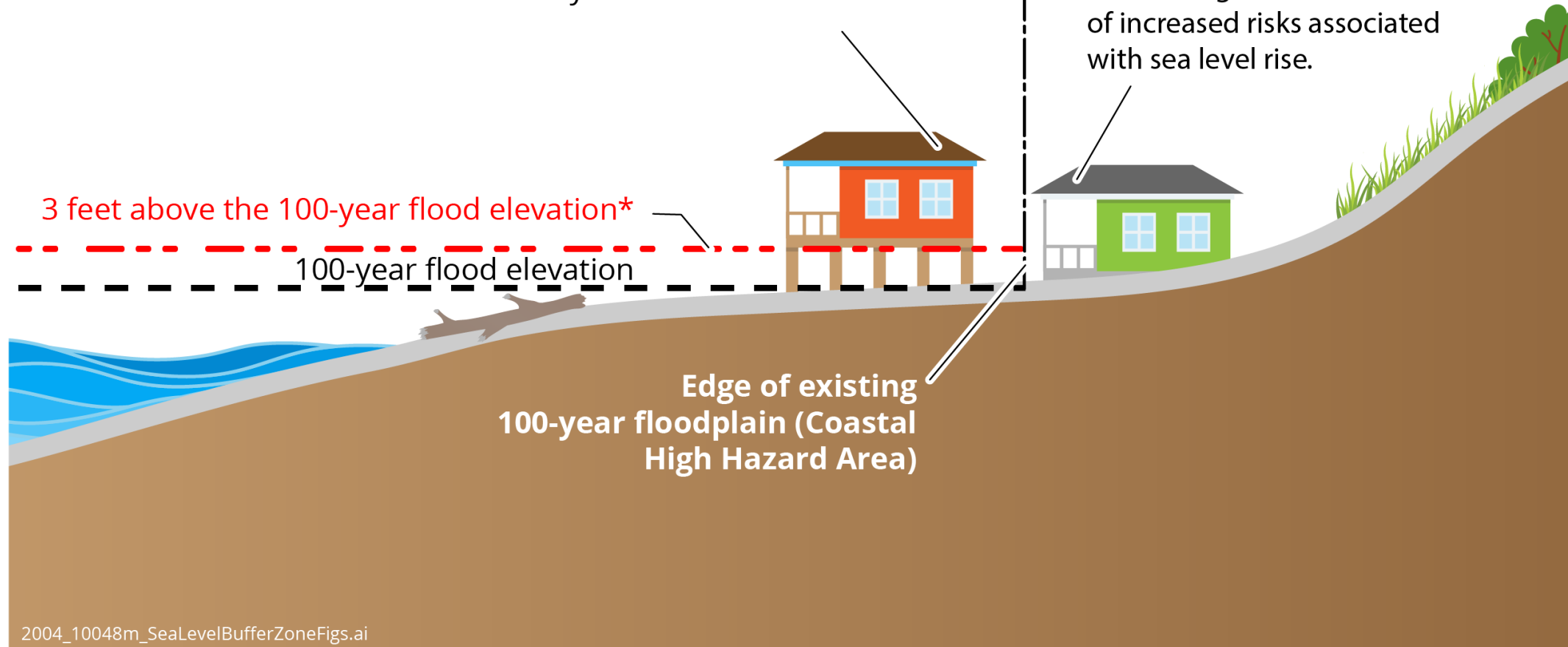
**Addressing Changes in Coastal Flood Risk**

# Existing Coastal Floodplain Regulations

*(Prior to new code amendments adopted July 24, 2020)*

Under current regulations, a new building or a substantially-improved building in the 100-year floodplain is required to be built to 3 feet above the 100-year flood elevation.

This house is not required to be built 3 feet above the 100-year flood elevation, even though it is in an area of increased risks associated with sea level rise.



2004\_10048m\_SeaLevelBufferZoneFigs.ai

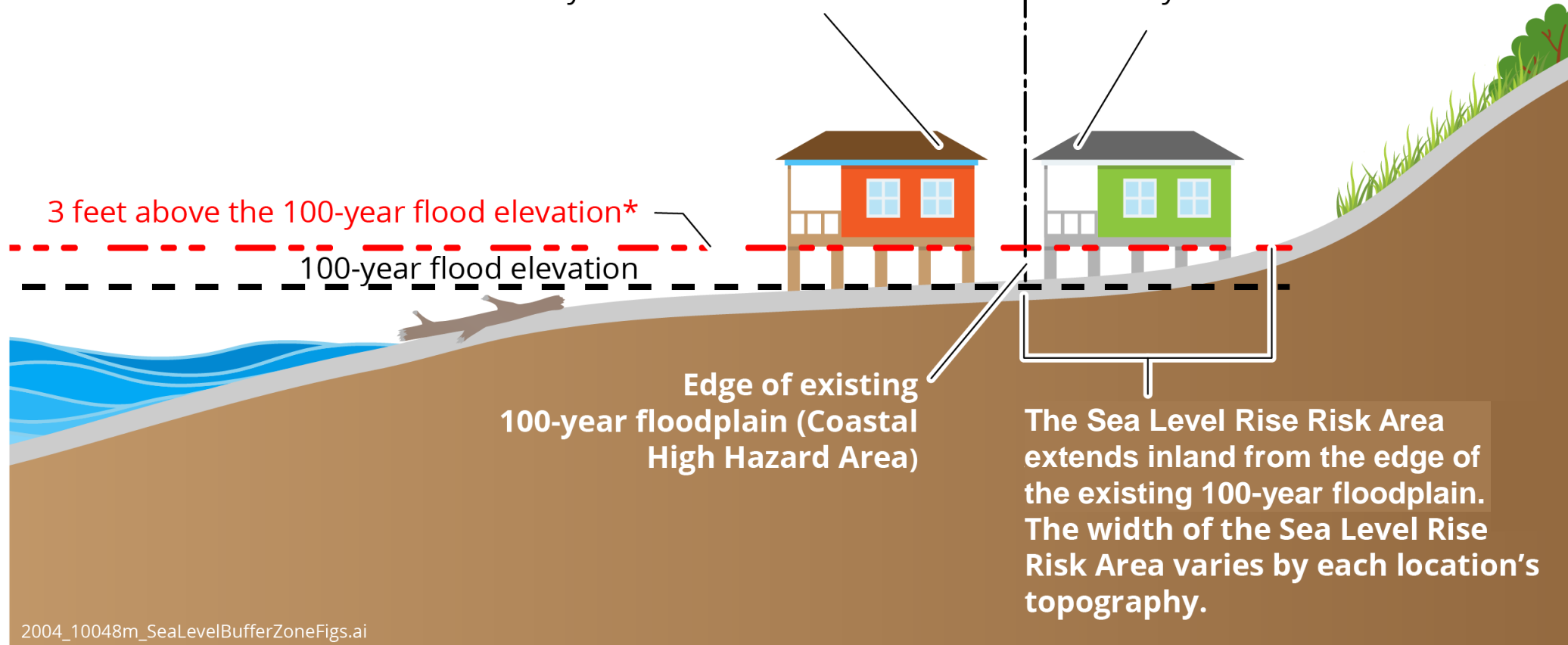
\* The 100-year flood elevation varies by location and specific coastal hazard zone. For maps of King County's coastal high hazard areas, visit: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/flooding/maps/flood-insurance-rate-maps.aspx>.

# Existing Coastal Floodplain Regulations

Under current regulations, a new building or a substantially-improved building in the 100-year floodplain is required to be built to 3 feet above the 100-year flood elevation.

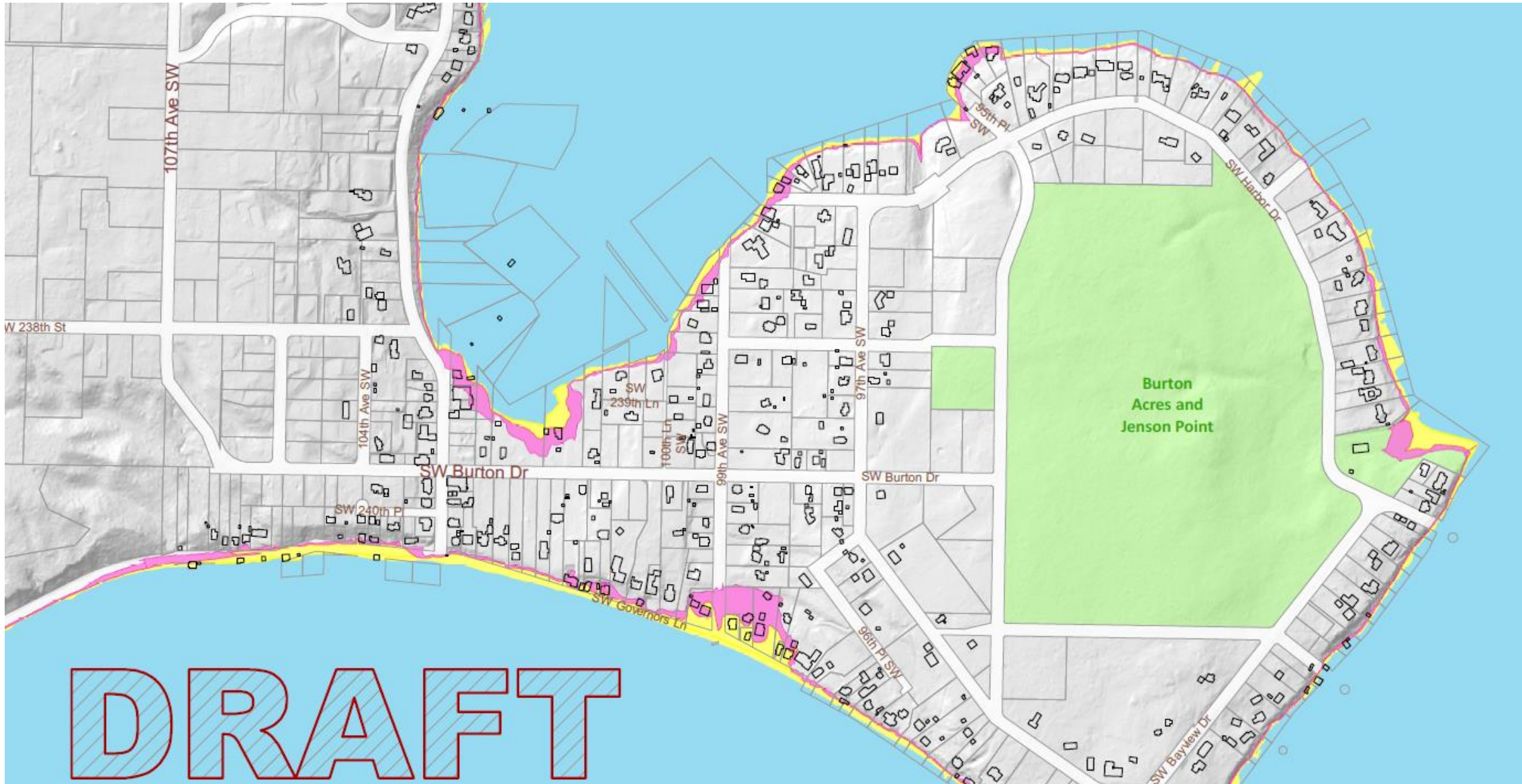
# New Sea Level Rise Risk Area

Under the adopted regulations, this building is now required to be built 3 feet above the 100-year flood elevation.



2004\_10048m\_SeaLevelBufferZoneFigs.ai

\* The 100-year flood elevation varies by location and specific coastal hazard zone. For maps of King County's coastal high hazard areas, visit: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/flooding/maps/flood-insurance-rate-maps.aspx>.



DRAFT

- Sea Level Rise Risk Area
- Preliminary 100-year Floodplain – Coastal Only
- Current Mean Higher High Water

# WHY 3 FEET?

## *Connection to existing policy*

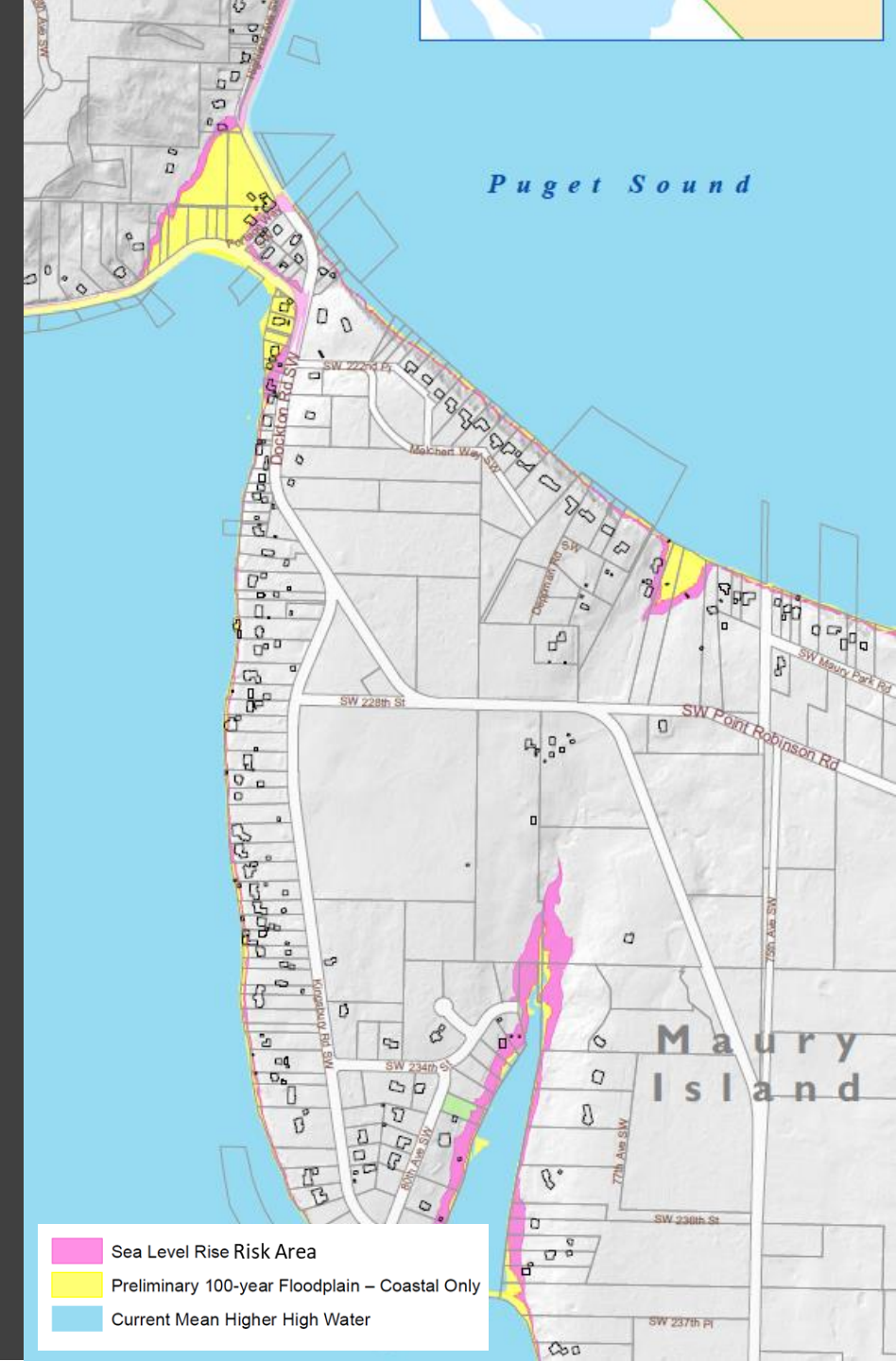
- Simple extension of the existing +3 feet BFE requirement in the 100 yr-floodplain
- Connects the SLR provisions to FEMA designated flood zones

## *Connection to Science*

- Within the range of projected SLR by 2100

## *Limits of traditional SLR mapping*

- Mapping SLR is not mapping changes in coastal flooding
- 2011 coastal flood mapping: 2 feet of SLR increases flood elevations between 0.5 to 6 feet, depending on site specific conditions



# OTHER ADOPTED CHANGES....

## ...and Fails

### Steep Slopes

Increases set-back from 50 feet to 75 feet unless a geotech study is completed.

Study needs to account for SLR conditions anticipated to occur over 50 years.

### Groundwater Wells

No new wells in the coastal high hazard area.

New wells in SLR Risk Area need surface seal that prevents potential for saltwater intrusion in the next 50 years.

### Bulkheads -- dropped

Increased toe of bulkhead elevation and/or setback distances

No bulkhead if raising structure cost less

*Approach and existing code needed more work*

# Challenges, beyond science and \$

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Differentiating between **managing for the public interest** (healthy, safety, economy, environment) **vs. let the buyer beware**

**Managing the dynamic nature of SLR in high-inertia systems:** current 100 year floodplain has some level of protection, but

- 1) current FEMA mapping does not incorporate SLR,
- 2) remapping is *slow*, and
- 3) policy change tends to be incremental.



# Challenges (cont'd)

---

**The legacy of past decisions:** code changes apply to major remodels and new development, but most of the shoreline is already built out. How do we deal with those risks and impacts?

## **Disconnected time horizons:**

- Classic issues regarding time horizon of elected officials
- Current homeowner's time horizon versus longer-term public safety/public interest considerations
- Asset life time vs. reality

# LARA WHITELY BINDER

Climate Preparedness Specialist

[lwbinder@kingcounty.gov](mailto:lwbinder@kingcounty.gov)

206.263.0825



[www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate)





WETLANDS HELP TO SLOW DOWN FLOOD WATERS AND ACCELERATE RECOVERY BY ABSORBING FLOODS

BEING PREPARED TO EVACUATE IS IMPORTANT IN THE EVENT OF AN APPROACHING STORM.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS SHOULD PRIORITIZE ELEVATING VALUABLE EQUIPMENTS ABOVE THE FLOOD LEVEL.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

AND COMMUNITIES NEED PREPARED TOO. THE CITY IS WORKING TO MAKE SURE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ARE PREPARED NOT JUST FOR THE SANDY, BUT FOR ANY EMERGENCY WE FACE.

### Building a Resilient NEW YORK CITY

# Toward a Resilient Land Use Strategy

LIVING SPACES LOCATED ABOVE FLOOD LEVEL

### INFRASTRUCTURE HARDENING

HARDENING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS FROM FLOODING HELP TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF POWER, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS WHEN STORMS OCCUR.

LIVING SPACES LOCATED ABOVE FLOOD LEVEL

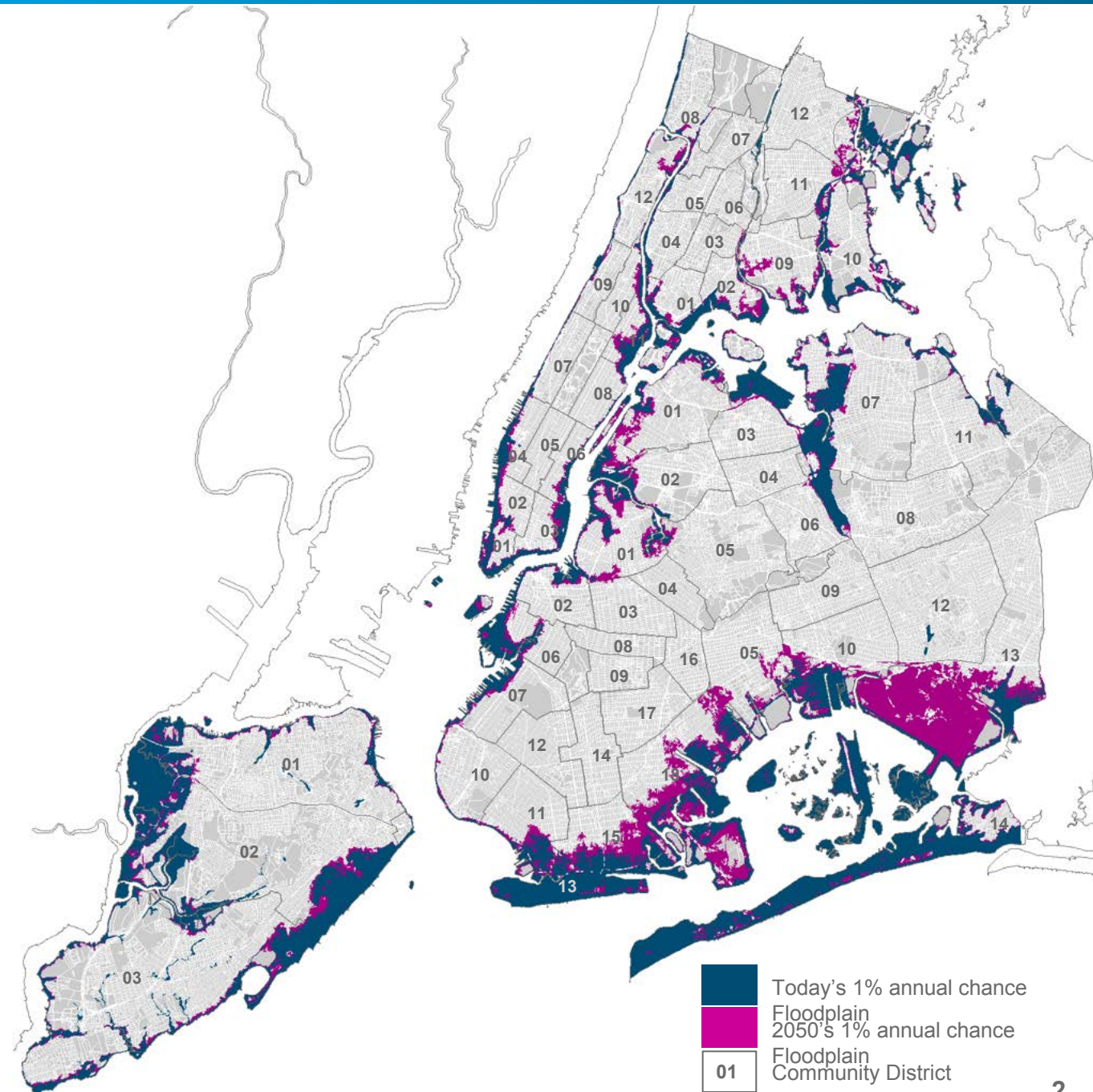
COMMERCIAL GROUND FLOOR

DRY FLOODPROOFED MECHANICAL ROOM

ALL RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS NEED TO ELEVATE UNITS ABOVE THE FLOOD LEVEL.

# Coastal Flood Risk

	Current 1% annual chance Floodplain	2050's 1% annual chance Floodplain
People	400,685	794,534
Buildings	80,907	122,132



Source: The current floodplain is based on the 1% annual chance floodplain established by the FEMA 2015 Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRM). The 2050s floodplain is based on FEMA's Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map data and the New York City Panel on Climate Change's 90th Percentile Projections for Sea-Level Rise in the 2050s.

# Managing Risk

**Sandy reinforced that resilient building design can reduce risks to severe flood events.**



*Neponsit, Queens*

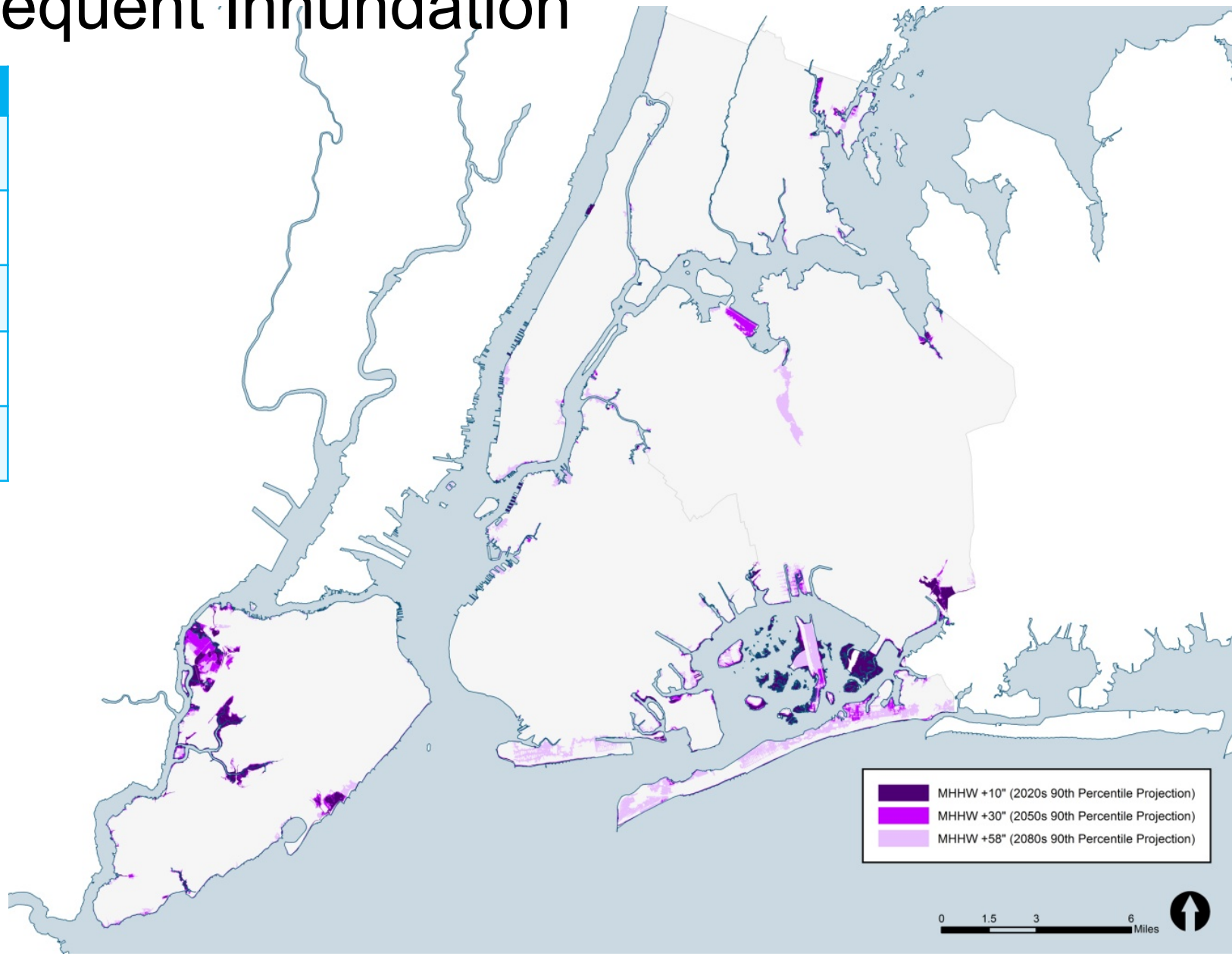


*Arverne by the Sea, Queens*

# Coastal Flood Risk: Frequent Inundation

Tidal Flooding*		
	2020s Projected	2050s Projected
Residential Units	2,400	13,400
Buildings	1,600	7,000
Land Area (Acres)	5,300	7,500
Streets (Miles)	11	47

\*Numbers rounded for clarity.



**Table 3.1.** New York City sea level rise projections<sup>a</sup> for the 2020s, 2050s, and 2100, relative to 2000–2004, (NPCC, 2015)

Sea level rise baseline (2000–2004)	Low estimate (10th percentile)	Middle range (25th–75th percentile)	High estimate (90th percentile)
2020s	+2 in.	+4–8 in.	+10 in.
2050s	+8 in.	+11–21 in.	+30 in.
2080s	+13 in.	+18–39 in.	+58 in.
2100	+15 in.	+22–50 in.	+75 in.

# Land Use Planning in the Floodplain

## Citywide vs. Local Approach

*Where flood risk is exceptional, including where sea level rise will lead to future daily tidal flooding*

*Where risk from extreme events can be managed through infrastructure and context can support growth*



Flood risk and Land Use Considerations

### Limit Density

In some areas, there is a need to limit future density to decrease the exposure to damage and disruption.

### Support Planned Density

Adjust zoning to allow all buildings to meet resiliency standards, by providing flexibility and removing zoning obstacles.

### Encourage Density

In other areas, the city can encourage new development, as to increase the resilient building stock.



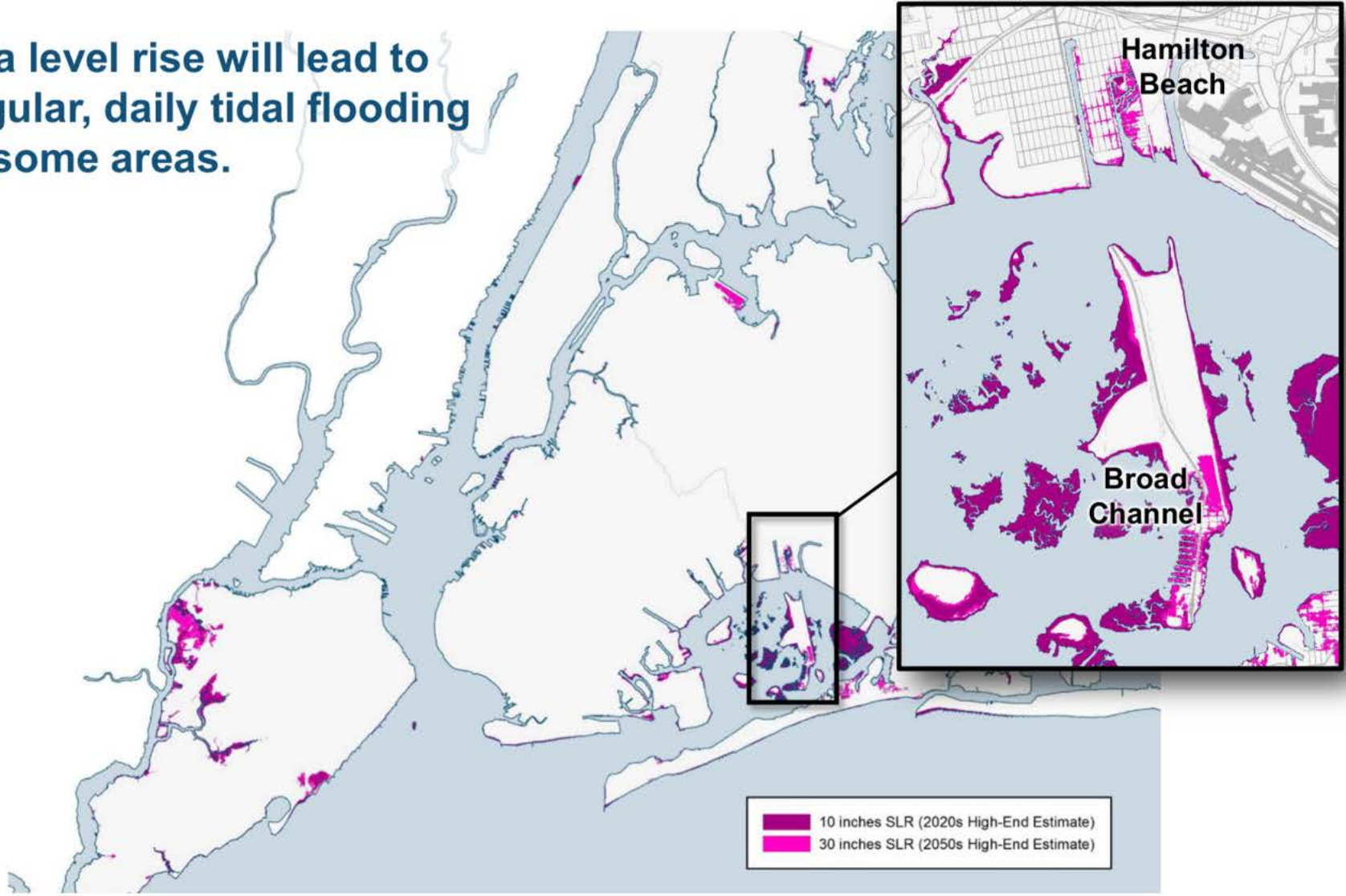
The Special Coastal Risk Districts were established to deal with extraordinary conditions

Areas currently facing frequent and routine flooding that can't feasibly be addressed by infrastructure and where conditions are likely to grow worse over time:  
Hamilton Beach, Broad Channel

Areas where other plans and programs call for different land use patterns:  
NYS Enhanced Buyout Areas

# Coastal Flood Risk: Frequent Innundation

Sea level rise will lead to regular, daily tidal flooding in some areas.



# Shoreline of Broad Channel



# Flood Risk and Land Use Planning – South Queens

## Broad Channel Characteristics

- Entirely within the current 1% annual chance floodplain, including areas subject to high velocity wave activity
- The area already experiences periodic tidal flooding, a condition likely to worsen with sea level rise
- Limited vehicular access to/from neighborhood
- Zoning was updated in 2017 to limit increasing the population of this highly vulnerable area
- \$48M street and bulkhead raising project

Super moon high tide flooding in Broad Channel



**Late 1800s:** Area developed with small houses built on stilts as a summer getaway

**1914:** Formally settled by Broad Channel Development Corporation (BCDC)

**1930s:** Cross Bay Boulevard constructed

**1939:** BCDC declared bankruptcy; City became owner

**1982:** Agreement reached for residents to purchase property from City

**1988:** First sanitary sewers constructed

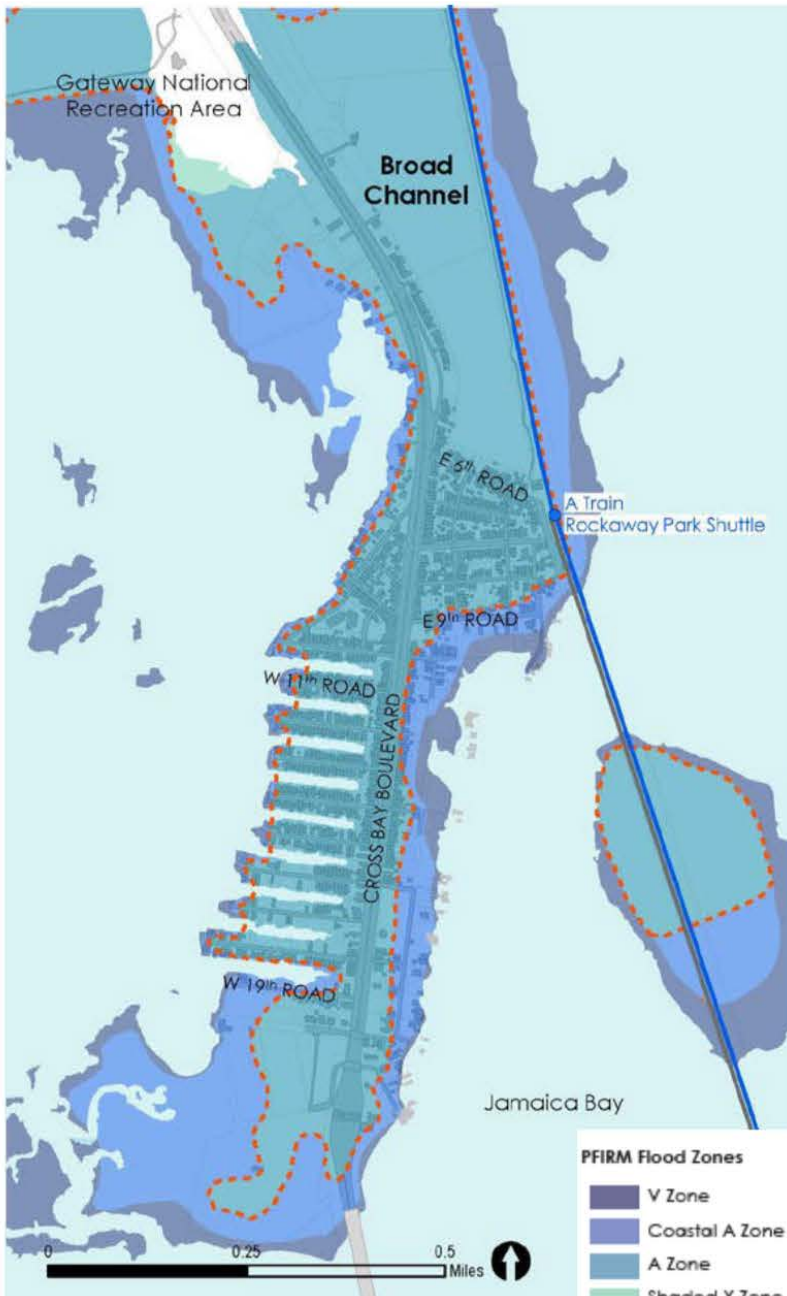
**2012:** Hurricane Sandy



1924



2012



### In Broad Channel:

- **2,500** Residents
- **1,000** Buildings
- **\$68,900** Local Median Household Income (Queens \$57,210)
- **78%** of Housing Units are Owner-Occupied (Queens 44%)

### In the floodplain:

- **2,500** Residents
- **1,000** Buildings

# Existing Zoning and Land Use



## R3-2

- Allows all residential building types
- 0.6 FAR (includes 0.1 attic allowance)
- 40' min. lot width (D); 18' min. lot width (SD, A)
- 21' max. perimeter wall height
- 35' max. building height
- 15' required front yard
- 5' min. side yard width (D)
- 1 parking space required per unit
- 1.0 FAR for community facilities

## C1-2 Overlays

- Max. commercial FAR is 1.0 when mapped in R3-2
- Permits local commercial uses
- Parking requirements vary by use, but typically one off-street parking space is required for every 300 sq ft of commercial floor area



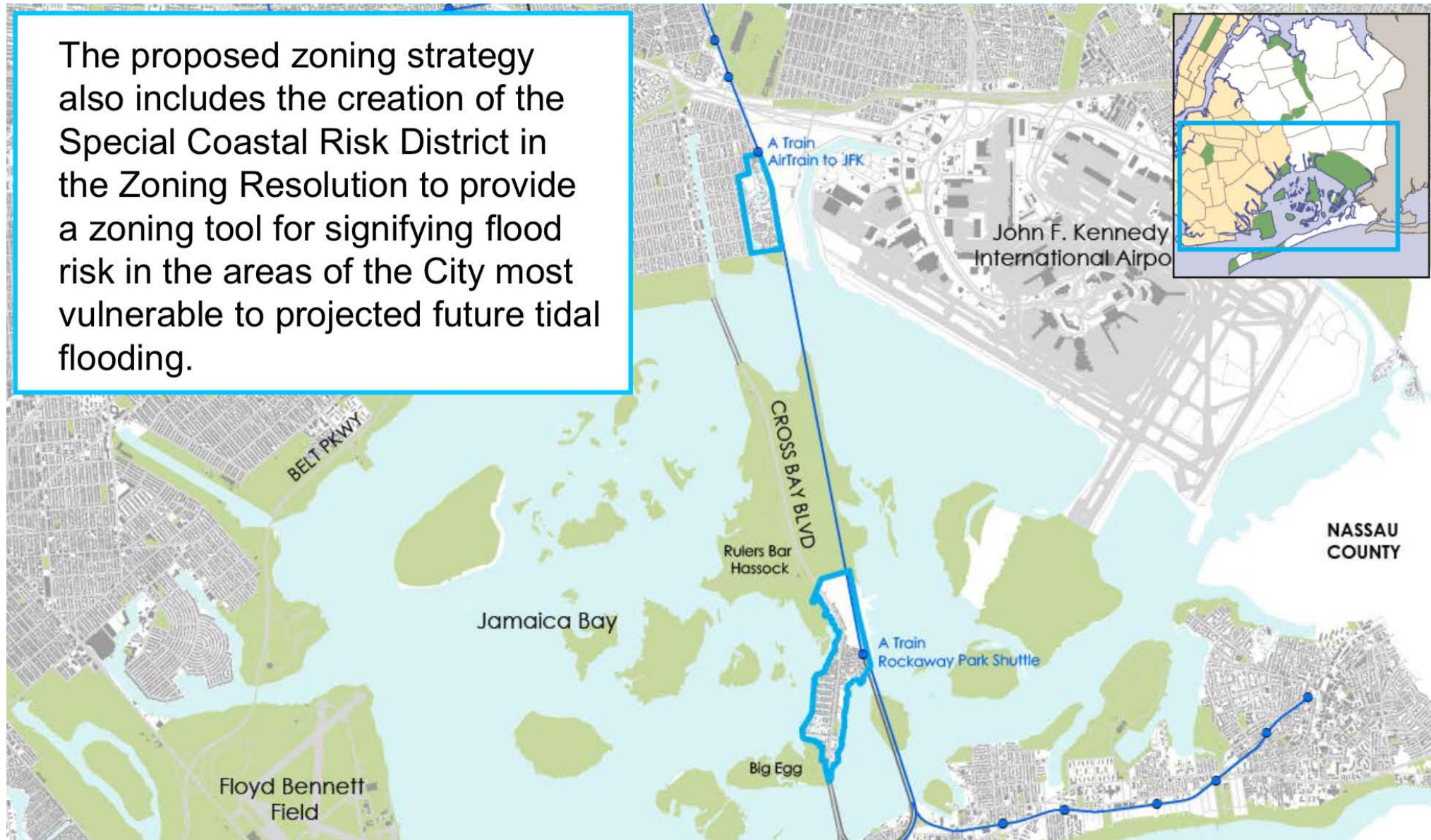
## Broad Channel: 2050s Sea Level Rise Projections

<b>226 Buildings</b>
MHHW + 11" (25 <sup>th</sup> percentile projection)
<b>368 Buildings</b>
MHHW + 21" (75 <sup>th</sup> percentile projection)
<b>744 Buildings</b>
MHHW + 30" (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile projection)





The proposed zoning strategy also includes the creation of the Special Coastal Risk District in the Zoning Resolution to provide a zoning tool for signifying flood risk in the areas of the City most vulnerable to projected future tidal flooding.



# Special Coastal Risk District



A Broad Channel Subdistrict would be created to reflect this neighborhood's exceptional flood risk and established low-density building patterns.

The Broad Channel Subdistrict would modify the underlying regulations of the proposed R3A and C3A districts to limit future residential development to single-family detached houses only.

In addition, community facilities with sleeping or overnight accommodations would be prohibited.

# R3A



R3A is proposed for the majority of the rezoning area.

R3A districts permit one- and two-family detached residential buildings\*

- 0.6 FAR (includes 0.1 attic allowance)
- 25' min. lot width
- 21' max. perimeter wall height
- 35' max. building height
- 10' required front yard
- 4' min. side yard width
- 1 parking space required per unit
- 1.0 FAR for community facilities

\*Modified by proposed Broad Channel Subdistrict of the Special Coastal Risk District

# C3A



C3A is proposed on Broad Channel's southeast shore

C3A would more closely reflect the mix of single-family detached residences and water-dependent uses, including marinas and boat storage facilities in this area

Commercial uses are permitted a maximum FAR of 1.0

C3A districts have a residential equivalent of R3A\*

\*Modified by proposed Broad Channel Subdistrict of the Special Coastal Risk District

# C1-3



A rezoning of Broad Channel's commercial node from C1-2 to C1-3 is proposed to slightly reduce the off-street parking requirement.

C1-2 generally require space one per 300 sq ft of commercial floor area; C1-3 generally require one space per 400 sq ft of commercial floor area

A high off-street parking requirement could present an impediment to property owners should they need to reconstruct a damaged or destroyed commercial building on a small lot

C1-2 and C1-3 permit the same range of commercial uses to serve local shopping needs and have the same maximum 1.0 FAR for commercial uses

What's next?

# Flood Risk and Land Spectrum



## Appendix on Hamilton Beach



# Area Context

## Hamilton Beach



Floyd Bennett Field



# Area Demographics



## In Hamilton Beach:

- **1,400** Residents
- **400** Buildings
- **\$71,400** Median Household Income\* (Queens \$57,210)
- **75%** of Housing Units are Owner-Occupied\* (Queens 44%)

## In Hamilton Beach's floodplain:

- **1,400** Residents
- **400** Buildings

\*Combined data for Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach

# Broad Channel



# Existing Zoning and Land Use



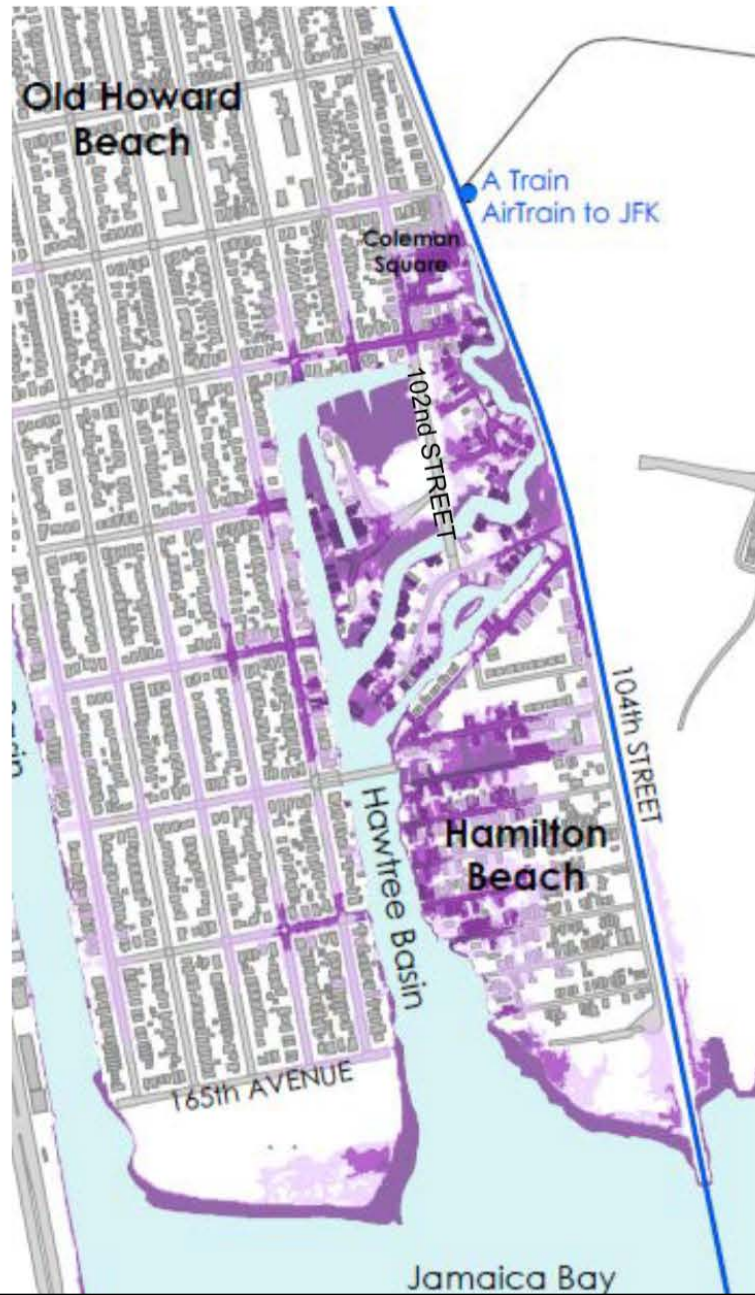
## R3-1

- Allows one- and two-family detached and semi-detached residences allowed
- 0.6 FAR (includes 0.1 attic allowance)
- 40' min. lot width (D); 18' min. lot width (SD)
- 21' max. perimeter wall height
- 35' max. building height
- 15' required front yard
- 5' min. side yard width (D)
- 1 parking space required per unit
- 1.0 FAR for community facilities

## C1-2 Overlays

- Max. commercial FAR is 1.0 when mapped in R3-2
- Permits local commercial uses
- Parking requirements vary by use, but typically one off-street parking space is required for every 300 sq. ft. of commercial floor area

# Flood Risk and Sea Level Rise Projections

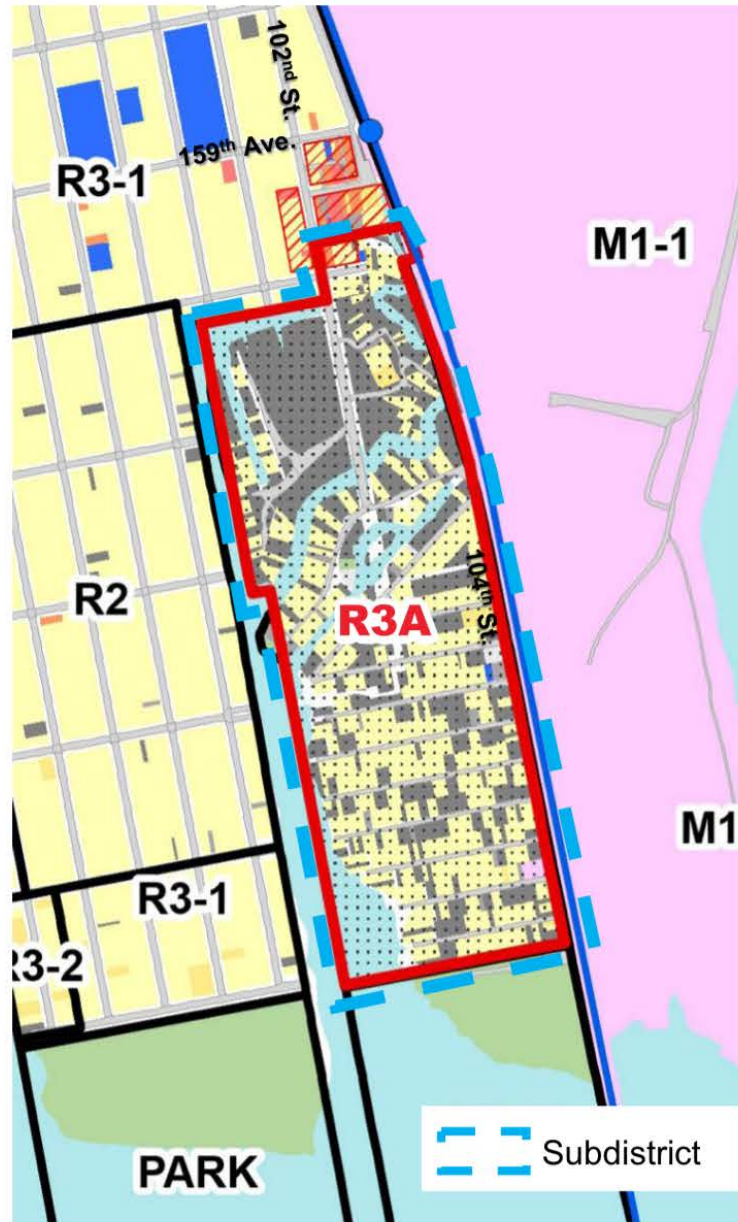


## Hamilton Beach: 2050s Sea Level Rise Projections

<b>65 Buildings</b>
MHHW + 11" (25 <sup>th</sup> percentile projection)
<b>178 Buildings</b>
MHHW + 21" (75 <sup>th</sup> percentile projection)
<b>310 Buildings</b>
MHHW + 30" (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile projection)



# Special Coastal Risk District – Hamilton Beach Subdistrict



The proposed zoning strategy would establish the Hamilton Beach Subdistrict in the Zoning Resolution as part of the newly created Special Coastal Risk District.

The Hamilton Beach Subdistrict would modify the underlying regulations of the proposed R3A district to limit new development to single-family detached residences, except on lots at least 40 feet wide where two-family detached residences would be permitted.

This modification would limit future development in an area vulnerable to projected future tidal flooding while recognizing the range of lot widths in the neighborhood.

In addition, community facilities with sleeping or overnight accommodations would be prohibited.

# Proposed R3A



R3A is proposed for the majority of the rezoning area.

R3A districts permit one- and two-family detached residential buildings\*

- 0.6 FAR (includes 0.1 attic allowance)
- 2,375 sq ft minimum required lot area
- 25' minimum lot width
- 21' maximum perimeter wall height
- 35' maximum building height
- 10' required front yard
- 8' required total side yards
- 1 parking space required per unit
- 1.0 FAR for community facilities

\*Modified by proposed Hamilton Beach Subdistrict of the Special Coastal Risk District

# Proposed C1-3 Overlay



A rezoning of the Coleman Square commercial node from C1-2 to C1-3 is proposed to match existing commercial uses and development patterns

C1-2 generally require one space per 300 sq ft of commercial floor area;  
C1-3 generally require one space per 400 sq ft of commercial floor area

In addition, the high off-street parking requirement could present a zoning impediment to property owners should they need to reconstruct a damaged or destroyed building on a small lot

C1-2 and C1-3 permit the same range of commercial uses to serve local shopping needs and have the same maximum 1.0 FAR for commercial uses



# Coastal Hazard Zones, Best Management Practices, Permitting and Planning

American Planning Association  
Hazards Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division  
October 2, 2020

Matthew Simons, AICP, CFM  
Principal Planner and  
Floodplain Administrator  
City of Norfolk, VA



An aerial night photograph of Norfolk, Virginia, showing a dense urban area with numerous lit-up buildings and a waterfront area with a large cruise ship docked at a pier. The city lights reflect on the water, and the sky is a deep blue. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

## Norfolk, VA

- Located in southeastern Virginia
- 1.7 million regional population
- Home to world's largest Naval base
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest port on eastern seaboard
- Urban coastal community; 97% developed



# Living with the Water



American Planning Association

Leading Civil Communities for All

# Hazard Mitigation Policy Guide

Approved by APA Delegate Assembly, May 21, 2020

Ratified by APA Board of Directors, July 16, 2020

[planning.org/policy](https://planning.org/policy)

## Sea Level Rise and Coastal Land Subsidence

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- Policy Outcome 15.7

Encourage local and regional long-term visioning efforts and strategic planning in and around communities threatened by sea level rise that consider a range of alternatives, including adaptation and strategic, managed retreat from the shoreline.

Tested tools such as transfer of development rights can be adapted to ease the financial and fiscal issues of managed retreat.

# Coastal Resilience & Upland Resilience Overlay (CRO & URO) Districts

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- All Special Flood Hazard Areas and the X Shaded (0.2% annual chance) area are located within the CRO.
- The entire X (unshaded) area is located in the URO.
- Higher resiliency standards were introduced in 2018 through new Resilience Quotient (RQ) standards.

# OPPORTUNITY. COLLABORATION. VISION.

## Collaboration

Collective brainpower drives adaptation solutions and new ways of thinking

## Vision

Norfolk is THE coastal community of the future

# Resilience Quotient

- Both the CRO and URO districts subject new development to Resilience Quotient (RQ) development standards.
- RQ standards can be satisfied on a points-based system derived from three components:
  - Risk Reduction
  - Stormwater Management
  - Energy Resilience
- Minimum RQ points are scaled based on the intensity of the proposed development (square footage, number of units, etc.)

# Implementation

- Norfolk has partnered with Wetlands Watch and the Elizabeth River Foundation to develop an environmental land trust to facilitate the implementation of a RQ points market.
- Four RQ points may be captured for use in the URO district for each development right extinguished in the CRO district by direct purchase or easement.
  - Life rights are permissible for properties already developed.



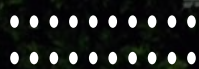
# Enabling Framework

- Virginia is a Dillion Rule state.
- VA State code has been expanded over the years to require a robust comprehensive plan, and further provides an expansive list of factors to be considered into adopted zoning ordinances.
  - Including the recommendations of the Comp Plan.



Red ("Economic Engines")    Green ("New Urban Centers")  
Yellow ("Adaptation Areas")    Purple ("Neighborhoods of the Future")





# Lessons Learned

9

Don't ignore ground zero



# Lessons Learned

## Coastal Erosion Rates





# Lessons Learned

Sunny Day Flooding

A photograph of a flooded urban street. In the foreground on the left, a black lamp post with a white lantern-style top stands in the water. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding environment. In the middle ground, there are several trees, some with green leaves and some with reddish-brown leaves. A sign with a red circle and a diagonal line over a 'P' is visible. In the background, there are multi-story buildings and a person in a blue kayak on the water. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or dusk.

# Questions