



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION 2025-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION ENCOURAGING  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN HAMPTON ROADS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING POLICIES TO  
IMPLEMENT REGIONAL RESILIENT DESIGN GUIDELINES**

**WHEREAS**, the tide gauge at Sewell's Point in Norfolk has recorded approximately 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise since 1927, equivalent to a change of 1.57 feet per 100 years.

**WHEREAS**, reports by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Hampton Roads local governments have found the Hampton Roads region and many of its localities to be vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise.

**WHEREAS**, the "Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan Phase I," completed in 2021 by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at the request of the General Assembly, found that sea level rise will have significant impacts on Coastal Virginia in the near-term and long-term.

**WHEREAS**, several federal agencies have found, as described in the technical report, "Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States," published in 2022, that "By 2050, the expected relative sea level (RSL) will cause tide and storm surge heights to increase and will lead to a shift in U.S. coastal flood regimes, with major and moderate high tide flood events occurring as frequently as moderate and minor high tide flood events occur today. Without additional risk-reduction measures, U.S. coastal infrastructure, communities, and ecosystems will face significant consequences."

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Sea-Level Report Card for Norfolk, Virginia, projects relative sea level rise of 1.5 feet of sea level rise between 1992 and 2050, with a 95% confidence that sea level will rise between 1.0 feet and 2.1 feet over the same interval.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Virginia Beach has adopted, based on locally and regionally specific analysis of sea level and precipitation trends and projections, resilient design standards related to stormwater management and climate adaptation as part of its "Public Works Design Standards Manual."

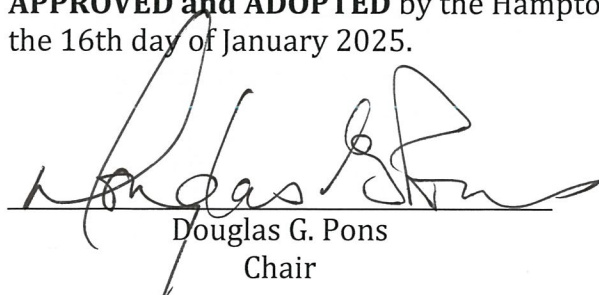
**WHEREAS**, several Hampton Roads localities, including Chesapeake, Gloucester County, Hampton, Isle of Wight County, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, have adopted or are developing plans and programs to address floodplains, coastal resiliency, or sea level rise.

**WHEREAS**, incorporating resilient design guidelines into local policies for stormwater management and other planning and engineering applications is sound public policy that will help mitigate current and long-term flood risk and help protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of Hampton Roads communities and residents.

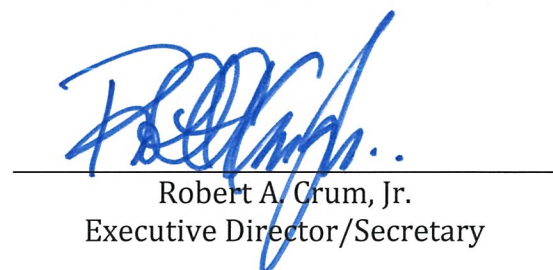
**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the HRPDC hereby:

1. Encourages localities in Hampton Roads to consider amending their stormwater management and other policies to incorporate sea level rise and increased rainfall as described in the attached document, "Regional Resilient Design Guidelines for Hampton Roads," which has been developed by the HRPDC staff in concert with the HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee and other local, regional, state, and federal partners;
2. Recommends that the adopted policies include planning for 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise above the 1983-2001 National Tidal Datum Epoch by 2050, 3 feet of relative sea level rise by 2080, and 4.5 feet of sea level rise by 2100;
3. Recommends that the adopted policies include accounting for watershed-specific tailwater conditions that account for sea level rise in areas that drain to tidal waterbodies;
4. Recommends that the adopted policies include precipitation levels that account for projected climate change, with a minimum of a 10% increase above NOAA Atlas 14;
5. Recommends that the adopted policies include design storms that include both tidal elevations and rainfall, accounting for both sea level rise and increased rainfall due to climate change; and
6. Directs the HRPDC staff and Coastal Resiliency Committee to keep apprised of developments in the monitoring, research, and analysis of sea level and precipitation trends and projections and provide updated information and recommendations to the Commission and to its member localities as appropriate.

**APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission at its meeting on the 16th day of January 2025.



Douglas G. Pons  
Chair



Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Director/Secretary