

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #23: REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT – PHASE III FINAL REPORT

SUBJECT:

HRPDC Regional Planning staff has completed the third and final year of a Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZMP) Focal Area Grant for studying the impacts of climate change on the Hampton Roads region.

BACKGROUND:

The report, entitled *Climate Change in Hampton Roads Phase III: Sea Level Rise in Hampton Roads, Virginia* summarizes the third and final year of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission's Climate Change Adaptation project. The report describes a methodology developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to project local and regional sea level rise based on global sea level rise scenarios. The report also describes a sea level rise exposure analysis that estimates the impacts to Hampton Roads localities in terms of population, property, infrastructure, and natural resources. The report also documents HRPDC's coordination and public outreach efforts related to climate change, sea level rise, and flooding. The report makes the following recommendations:

- 1) Localities should incorporate planning for climate change and sea level rise into their comprehensive and other long-term plans.
- 2) Localities should incorporate sea level rise adaptation into their infrastructure planning and maintenance programs.
- 3) Public and private actors should consider the use of the USACE methodology for incorporating sea level rise into project planning and design.
- 4) The region should continue to study subsidence.
- 5) The region should continue efforts to acquire LIDAR elevation data and other useful datasets.
- 6) The region should continue to study the potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise and identify appropriate adaptation measures accordingly.

HRPDC Regional Planner Benjamin McFarlane will provide an overview of the project focusing on the study methodology results recommendations and associated issues.

The Joint Environmental Committee and other local staff are continuing review of the draft report. Although local government staff review of the report is continuing, the HRPDC staff believes that the Commission should be aware of this important regional issue and have an opportunity to discuss it before the report is finalized. Following Commission discussion and receipt of further technical committee comments, the HRPDC staff will finalize the report for presentation and action by the Commission in July.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commission discussion.