

## **AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

#### **SUBJECT:**

HRPDC Regional Planning staff has completed the second year of research and planning for the impacts of climate change on the Hampton Roads region and produced a synoptic report.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The report, entitled Climate Change in Hampton Roads Phase II: Storm Surge Vulnerability and Public Outreach, summarizes the research, data, and methodologies used to estimate the region's vulnerability to hurricane storm surges and sea level rise. The report describes historical sea level rise in the region and how sea level rise due to global warming could increase sea level rise rates experienced by Hampton Roads localities. The report also includes descriptions of several case studies of similar projects. The main focus of the report is an analysis of the region's vulnerability, in terms of population and assets, at risk of flooding due to storm surges or inundation due to sea level rise. The report describes the data and methodologies used and the results of the analysis, and includes a series of tables and maps summarizing the results at the regional level and for each locality. The report also describes the various public outreach efforts HRPDC staff conducted or participated in during the grant period. The general costs and benefits of various adaptation options are described, as are several planning techniques that could be used to help the region adapt to climate change and sea level rise.

HRPDC's efforts to help the region plan for climate change continue into the third and final year of this Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program-funded project. This final phase will focus on working with local governments and other stakeholders and experts to further develop policy recommendations and decision-making tools for the region and localities to use in adapting to climate change. HRPDC will also continue to work with other organizations in the region working on projects related to climate change.

HRPDC Regional Planner Benjamin McFarlane will provide an overview of the report.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the Climate Change report for distribution.

#### **STAFF COMMENTARY:**

The HRPDC Joint Environmental Committee has reviewed the report and recommended approval by the Commission at its June 2, 2011 meeting.