

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #11-G: COASTAL ZONE PROGRAM – SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLAN FOR VIRGINIA BEACH FINAL REPORT

SUBJECT:

The HRPDC staff has completed the final Report, “Developing a Local Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan for Virginia Beach,” for a grant funded in part by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

BACKGROUND:

The final Report, “Developing a Local Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan for Virginia Beach,” documents the work completed under a Section 306 Grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The Report consists of five major sections. The first part consists of a code and policy review of existing plans, policies, and ordinances from Virginia Beach and other communities. The second documents several case studies from other parts of the United States. The third provides an overview of efforts to create a comprehensive list of critical infrastructure facilities in Virginia Beach and to rank those facilities based on relative importance. The fourth outlines a series of steps for city staff to take in developing and implementing a strategy to educate the public and officials on sea level rise. The final section describes the methods used to map areas vulnerable to various combinations of sea level rise and storm surge flooding, and includes a series of maps. The overall goal of the Report is to provide a roadmap for Virginia Beach’s efforts to incorporate sea level rise planning and adaptation into its projects, policies, and regulations.

The Report has been reviewed by the Regional Environmental Committee, which recommended approval at its meeting on October 2, 2014.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The HRPDC staff and Regional Environmental Committee recommend the Commission approve the Report for publication and distribution.