

Sea Level Rise Response Plan

Why are the City, LOTT and the Port Developing a Sea Level Response Plan?

City of Olympia

Downtown Olympia is South Puget Sound's regional hub for economic and social activity. In recent years, public and private investments have set the stage for a budding renaissance.

The City's Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2014, reflects the community's vision and goals for the next twenty years, and includes the policies that will make the vision and goals a reality.

Vision for Downtown

Downtown Olympia will be...

- A vibrant, attractive regional destination
- Full of distinctive pedestrian-oriented places and spaces
- A mixture of urban housing options
- A home for a variety of businesses
- A place to connect with our cultural and historic fabric
- Protected from the effects of sea level rise

Downtown Growth Target

Downtown will absorb 25 percent (approximately 5,000 residents) of the City's population growth over the next 20 years (by 2035).

Olympia's Comprehensive Plan Goal for Sea Level Rise

The City uses best available information to implement a sea level rise management plan that will protect Olympia's downtown. (Comp Plan Goal U11)

- Evaluate different scenarios for sea level rise, including varying magnitudes and time horizons, and develop a progression of adaptation and response actions for each scenario.
- Develop plans, cost estimates and financing options for addressing sea level rise that include regulatory, engineering and environmentally sensitive solutions.
- Maintain public control of downtown shorelines that may eventually be needed to help manage flood water.
- Incorporate sea level rise planning into the design of public and private infrastructure where needed.
- Use the best available science and the experiences of other communities in formulating plans for sea level rise.
- Partner with government entities and other key stakeholders, such as, the federal government, State of Washington, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, downtown property owners, businesses and residents, environmental groups, and other interested parties.
- Engage the community in a discussion of various sea level rise scenarios, how the City will respond to lessen the impact, and what the costs would be.
- Require development to incorporate measures, such as higher finished floor elevations, that will reduce risks and avoid future costs associated with rising sea levels; and to encourage acknowledgment of such risks by state and federal agencies.

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

LOTT provides wastewater treatment services for the urban areas of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater. Most of our communities' wastewater is treated at LOTT's centralized facility – the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant, located on the Port peninsula in downtown Olympia.

Why is it important to protect LOTT's Budd Inlet Treatment Plant from sea level rise?

- The plant is an essential piece of public infrastructure, treating an average of 12 millions of gallons in wastewater each day. The plant represents one of our communities' largest joint investments, estimated at a value of over \$500 million.
- Sea level rise puts the plant at risk in two major ways:
 - Inundation of the treatment plant from overland flooding would result in catastrophic damage to critical above and below grade infrastructure and create dangerous conditions for treatment plant staff.
 - Flooding of downtown Olympia would allow sea water to enter the combined storm/sewer system, resulting in dramatic increases in the amount of water flowing into the treatment plant. Higher flows could overwhelm the plant's capacity to hold and treat the water, and the salt water could kill off the microorganisms that are critical to treatment. This would result in discharges of untreated wastewater into Budd Inlet, putting public health and the environment at risk.
- Relocating the treatment plant to an area not affected by sea level rise would cost an estimated minimum of \$1.2 billion. This estimate includes property acquisition, relocating all treatment plant processes, and rerouting of pump stations and collection system piping to carry flows to a new location.

Port of Olympia

The mission of the Port of Olympia is to create economic opportunities by connecting Thurston County to the world by air, land and sea. The Port of Olympia has a proud history in Thurston County. It serves the community in a wide variety of ways, leading the way for many of the area's economic development efforts. The Port is committed to fostering economic growth of the South Puget Sound region and serving the needs of global customers through a triple bottom line approach.



Why is it important to the Port of Olympia to plan for sea level rise?

The Port of Olympia owns over 150 acres in downtown Olympia. Some of the community's most treasured assets are managed or located on downtown Port properties. Three of the organization's key businesses operate downtown: Real Estate, the Marine Terminal and Swantown Marina and Boatworks. The Port of Olympia is committed to protecting these assets through proactive planning and partnerships, as it has for nearly 100 years.

- The Marine Terminal provides over 40 family wage jobs to people in our community.
- 31 ships visited the Port in 2016. This resulted in a 27% increase in longshore labor hours.
- Swantown Marina is the 7th largest marina in Washington State.
- A state-of-the-art fueling facility is being built at the Marina which will have economic and environmental benefits.
- Boatworks hauls over 500 boats a year and operates an environmentally sustainable hazardous waste recycling program for boat paint.
- The Olympia Farmer's Market is located on Port of Olympia property.
- The East Bay trail, that allows citizens to walk along the shoreline, is owned and sustainably managed by the Port.



olympiawa.gov/sealevelrise

In collaboration with:

