

# **VIRGINIA COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLAN PHASE ONE, DEC 2021**

**VLWA Virginia Water Conference  
March 8th, 2022**

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# Outline

- Why This Plan
- What We've Done
- What We've Learned
- What We're Doing About It
- What's Next



# Why This Plan?



# Why Virginia needs a Coastal Master Plan

Whole of  
Government  
and  
Community  
Approach



Ensure  
Equity



Broader  
View



Funding  
Strategy



# Master Planning Process Framework



Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor

## Executive Order

**NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR (2018)**

### INCREASING VIRGINIA'S RESILIENCE TO SEA LEVEL RISE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

#### Importance of the Initiative

Sea level rise, land subsidence, higher average temperatures, more frequent and intense weather events, severe drought, and increased development, have increased risk and will continue to increase and exacerbate risk from natural hazards across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The number of federally declared disasters has steadily increased nationally and in Virginia. The number has experienced a 250 percent increase in federally declared disasters over the past 20 years, including declarations for flooding, hurricanes, severe storms, and wildfire.

The best available science predicts that this trend will continue to worsen. A recent report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that the world is likely to experience dramatic increases in coastal flooding and severe weather events. Additional studies show that water levels in the Hampton Roads region are now 18 inches higher than they were a century ago, and that they are expected to gain up to five more feet, while the land sinks as much as 7.5 inches, by 2100. That combined rise is faster than anywhere else on the East Coast. The most recent National Climate Assessment reported that the intensity, frequency, and duration of North Atlantic hurricanes, as well as the frequency of the strongest hurricanes, have all increased.

This increase in extreme weather events and natural disasters will continue to have a profound impact on Virginia. It threatens public health and safety, our environment and natural resources, and the economic wellbeing of the Commonwealth, including our ports, military installations, transportation infrastructure, tourism assets, farms, and forests. We must act now to protect lives and property from multiple threats and reduce taxpayer exposure through fiscally responsible planning.



Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor

## Executive Order

**NUMBER FORTY-FIVE**

### FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND PLANNING STANDARDS FOR STATE AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND PROPERTY

#### Importance of the Initiative

Executive Order 24 "Increasing Virginia's Resilience to Sea Level Rise and Natural Hazards," issued in November 2018, set the Commonwealth on a course towards addressing its risk and resilience to natural hazards, including flooding. A key element of that Order required an analysis of flooding and flood preparedness in the Commonwealth. Based on that analysis, the Commonwealth must establish new policies and directives to ensure that necessary actions are taken to protect state property from the risk of floods.

#### Background

Flooding remains the most common and costly natural disaster in Virginia and the United States. With more than 100,000 miles of streams and rivers, as well as 10,000 miles of estuarine and coastal shoreline, Virginia's flood risk is statewide, comes in many forms, and is increasing because of climate change and increased development in flood-prone areas. In 1987, in order to improve Virginia's flood protection programs and to consolidate all related programs in one agency, responsibility for coordination of all state floodplain programs was transferred from the State Water Control Board to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Section 10.1-602 of the *Code of Virginia* names DCR as the manager of the state's floodplain program and the designated coordinating agency of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Code stipulates that the Director of DCR or his designee shall serve as the State Coordinator for the NFIP.

DCR's Floodplain Management Program was created to minimize Virginia's flood hazards. In particular, it aims to prevent loss of life, reduce property damage, and conserve natural and beneficial values of state rivers and coastal floodplains. To achieve these goals, DCR promotes

## VIRGINIA COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLANNING FRAMEWORK

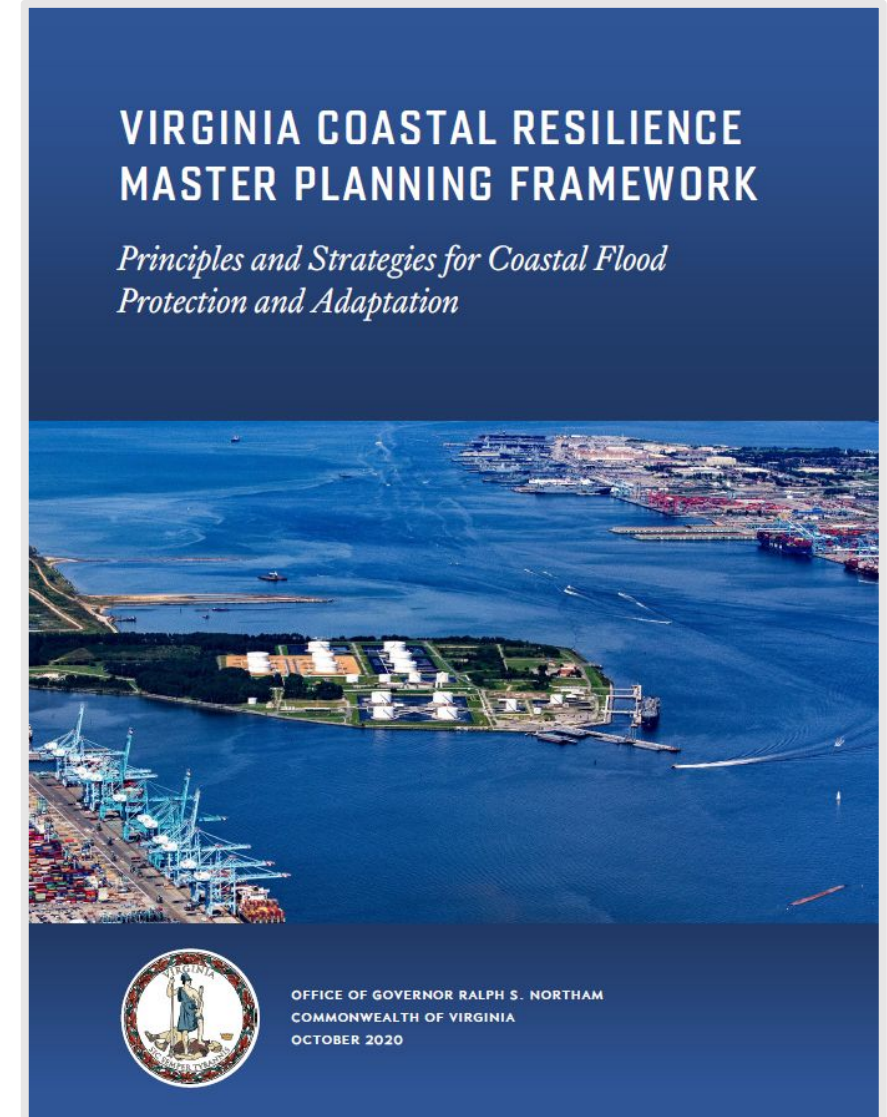
*Principles and Strategies for Coastal Flood  
Protection and Adaptation*



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RALPH S. NORTHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
OCTOBER 2020

# Guiding Principles

- **Acknowledge climate change and its consequences**, and base decision-making on the **best available science**.
- Identify and address **socioeconomic inequities** and work to **enhance equity** through coastal adaptation and protection efforts.
- Recognize the importance of **protecting and enhancing green infrastructure** like natural coastal barriers and fish and wildlife habitat by **prioritizing nature-based solutions**.
- Utilize **community and regional scale planning** to the maximum extent possible, seeking region-specific approaches tailored to the **needs of individual communities**.
- Understand **fiscal realities** and focus on the most **cost-effective solutions** for protection and adaptation of our communities, businesses and critical infrastructure.



# Goals

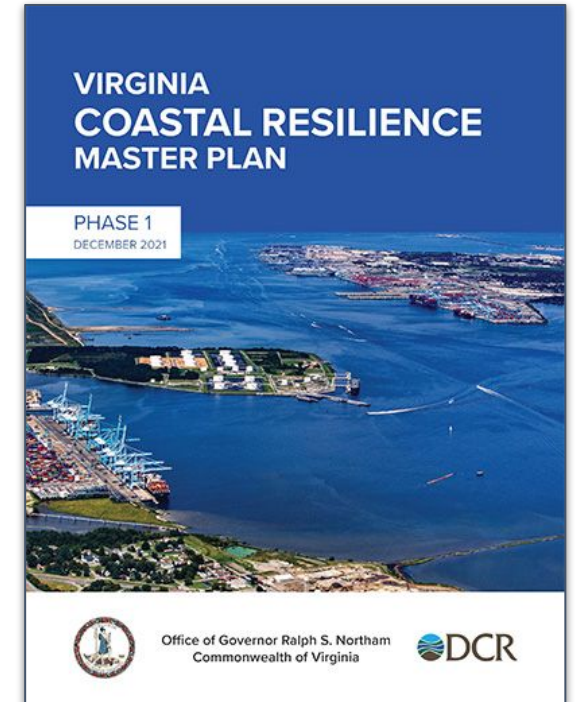
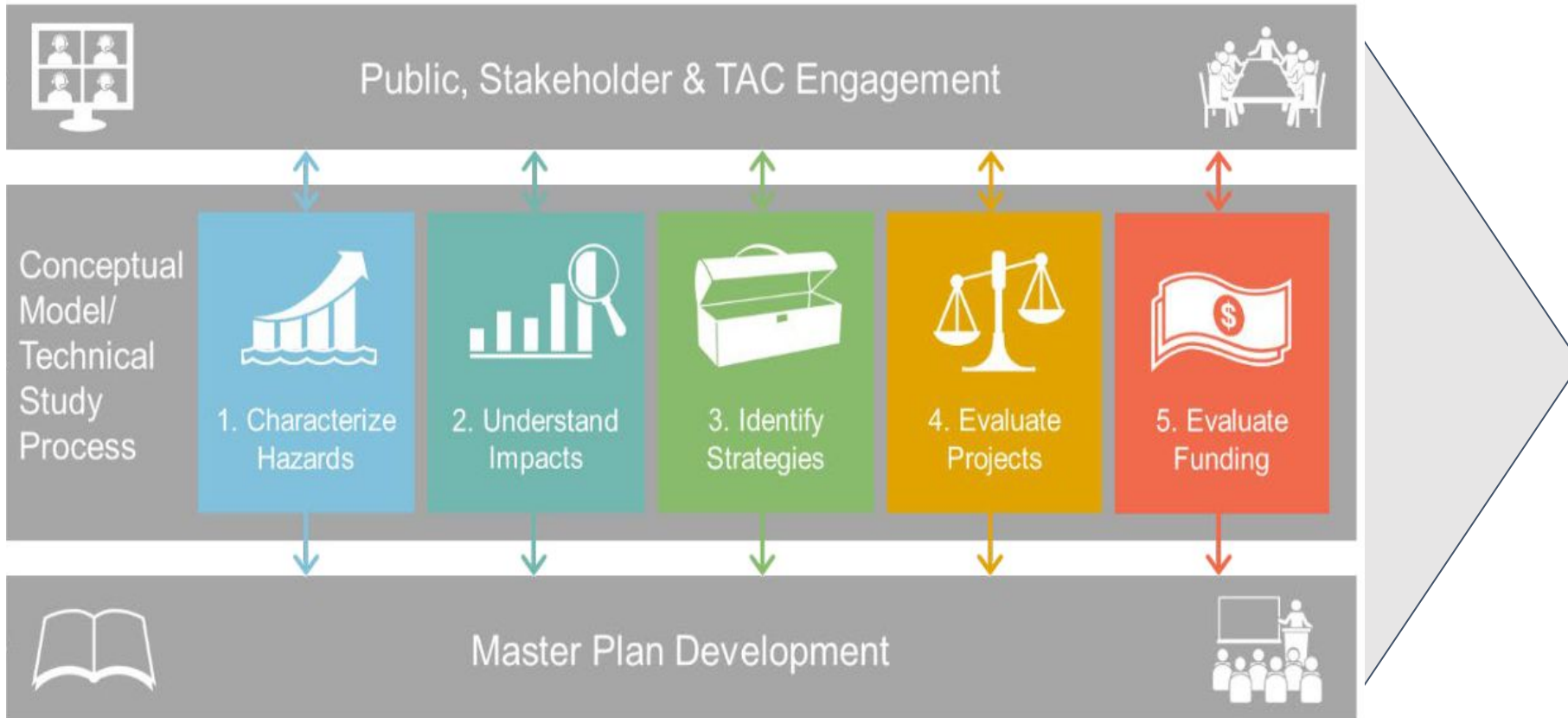
1. Identify and prioritize projects to **increase the resilience of coastal communities**, including both built and natural assets at risk due to flooding and sea level rise
2. Establish a **financing strategy**, informed by **regional** differences and **equity** considerations
3. **Incorporate and promote climate change projections** into Commonwealth's programs addressing coastal adaptation and protection
4. **Coordinate state, federal, regional, and local** coastal region adaptation and protection efforts

# What We've Done





# The Process

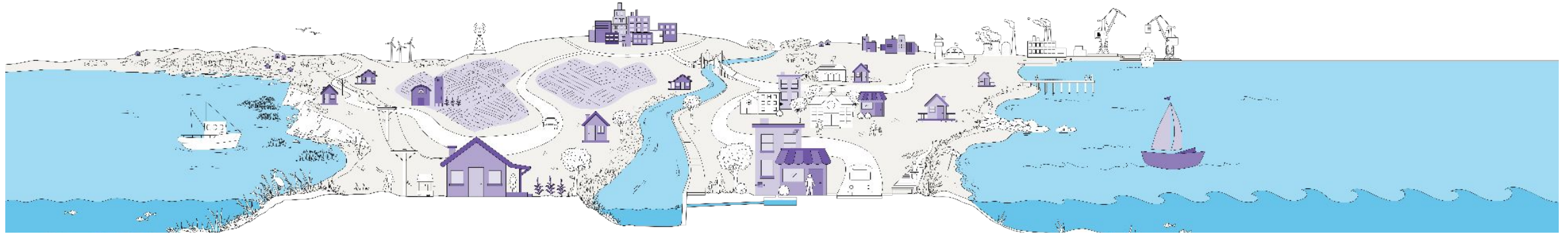


# Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan



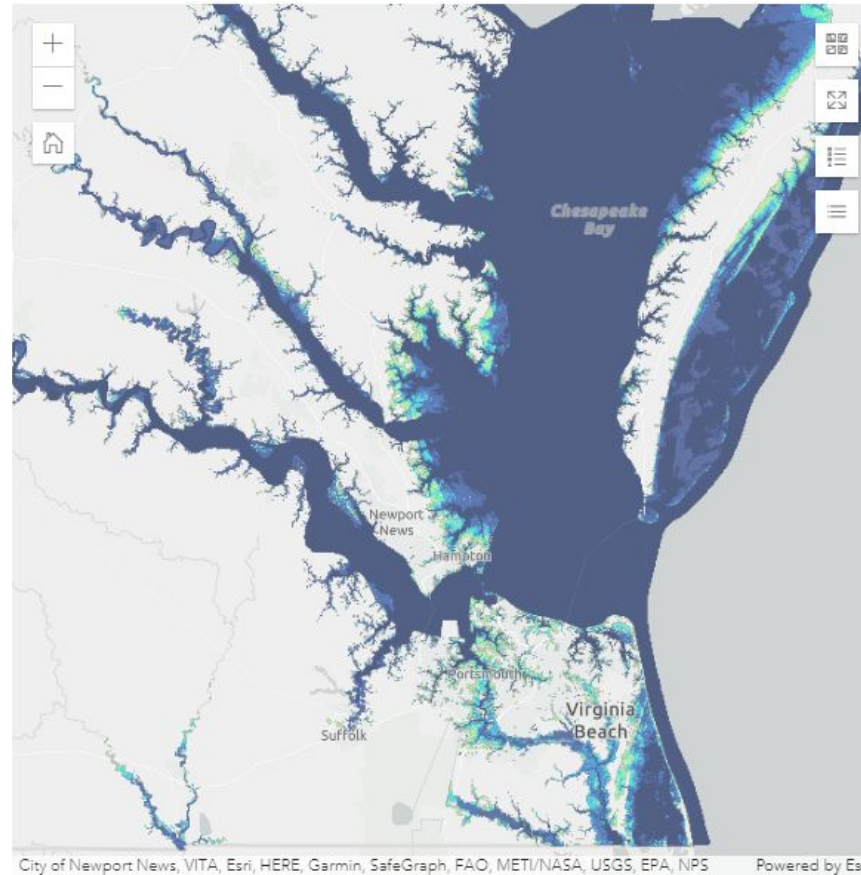
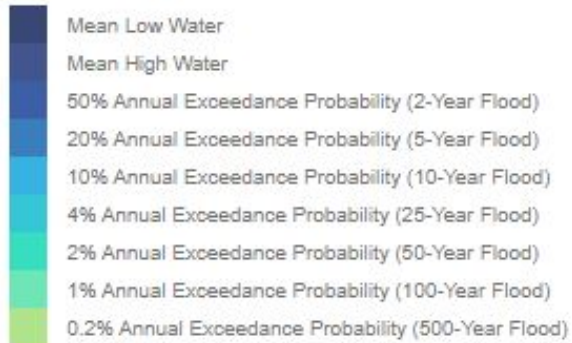
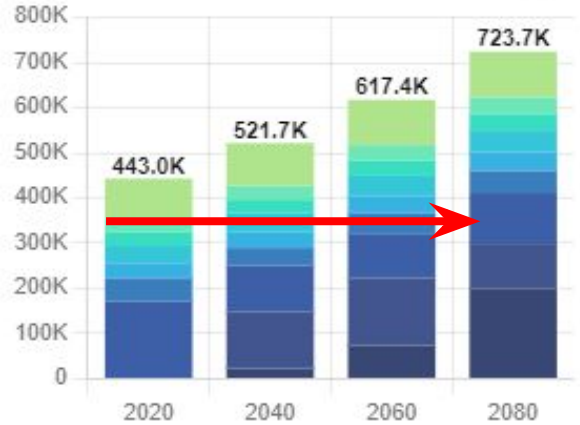
[dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/](https://dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/)

# What We've Learned

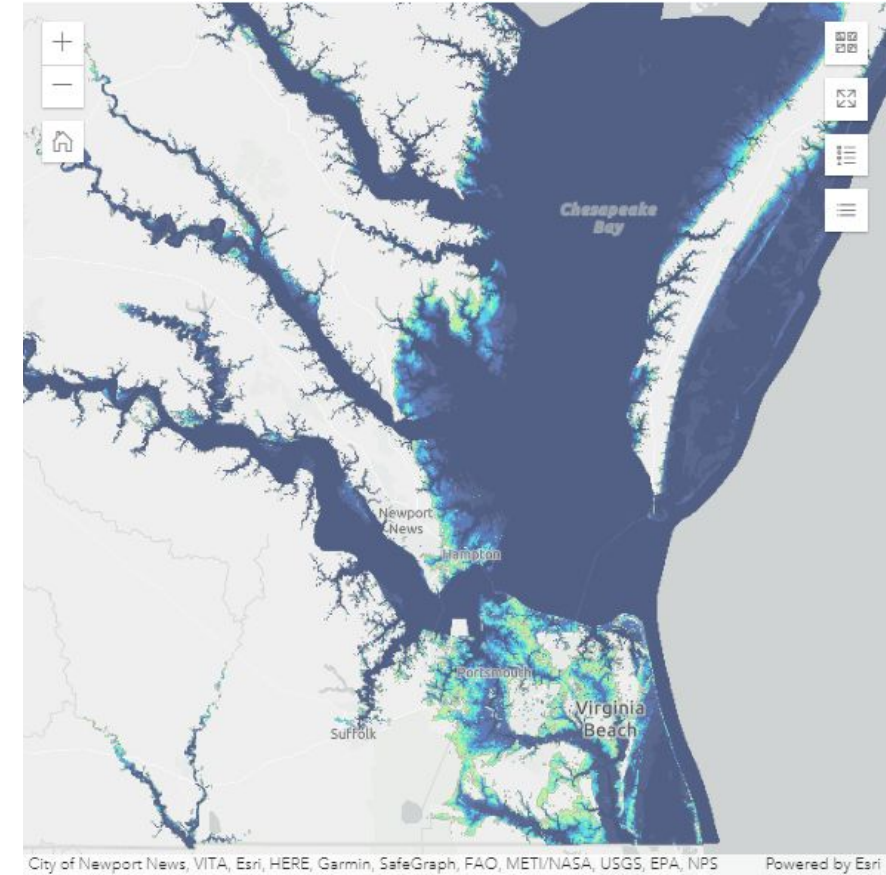


# Coastal Flood Hazard with SLR [NOAA 2017 Int-High]

Acres of Land Area Inundated Across Flood Event Type



2020



2080

# Coastal Flood Hazard with SLR [NOAA 2017 Int-High]

Sea level rise increases coastal flood hazards in both extent and frequency. ⓘ

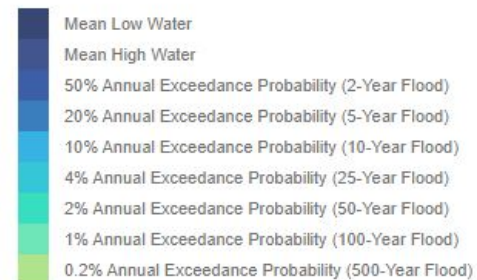
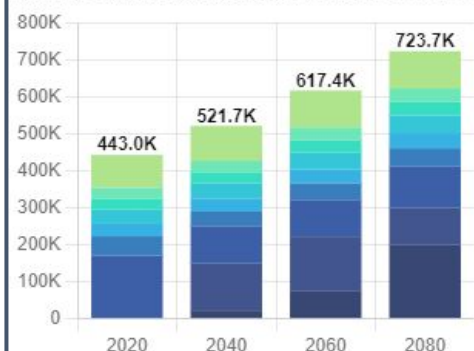
## Select Area of Interest:

Commonwealth  Virginia

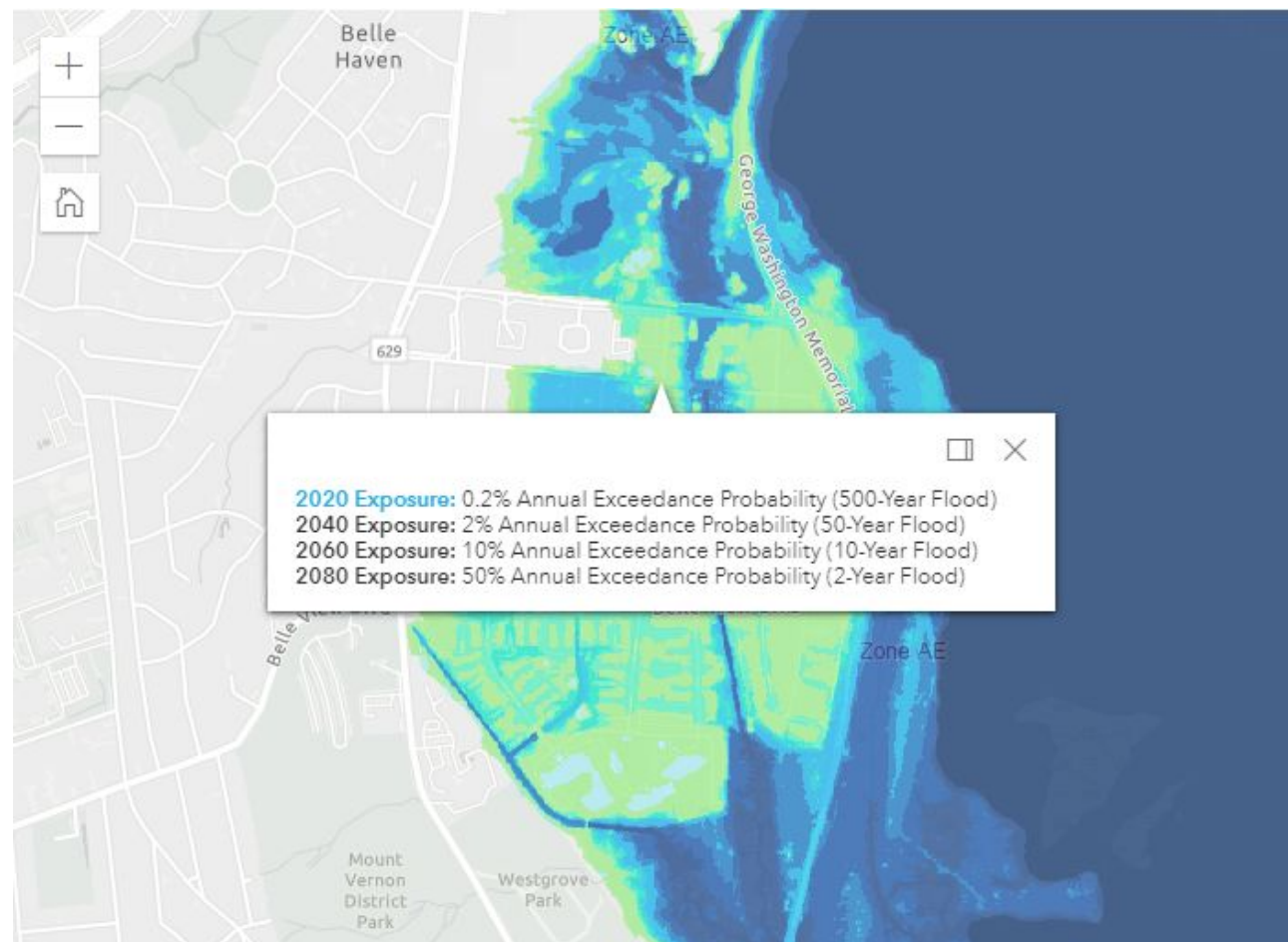
## Coastal Flood Time Horizon:

2020 2040 2060 **2080**

Acres of Land Area Inundated Across Flood Event Type



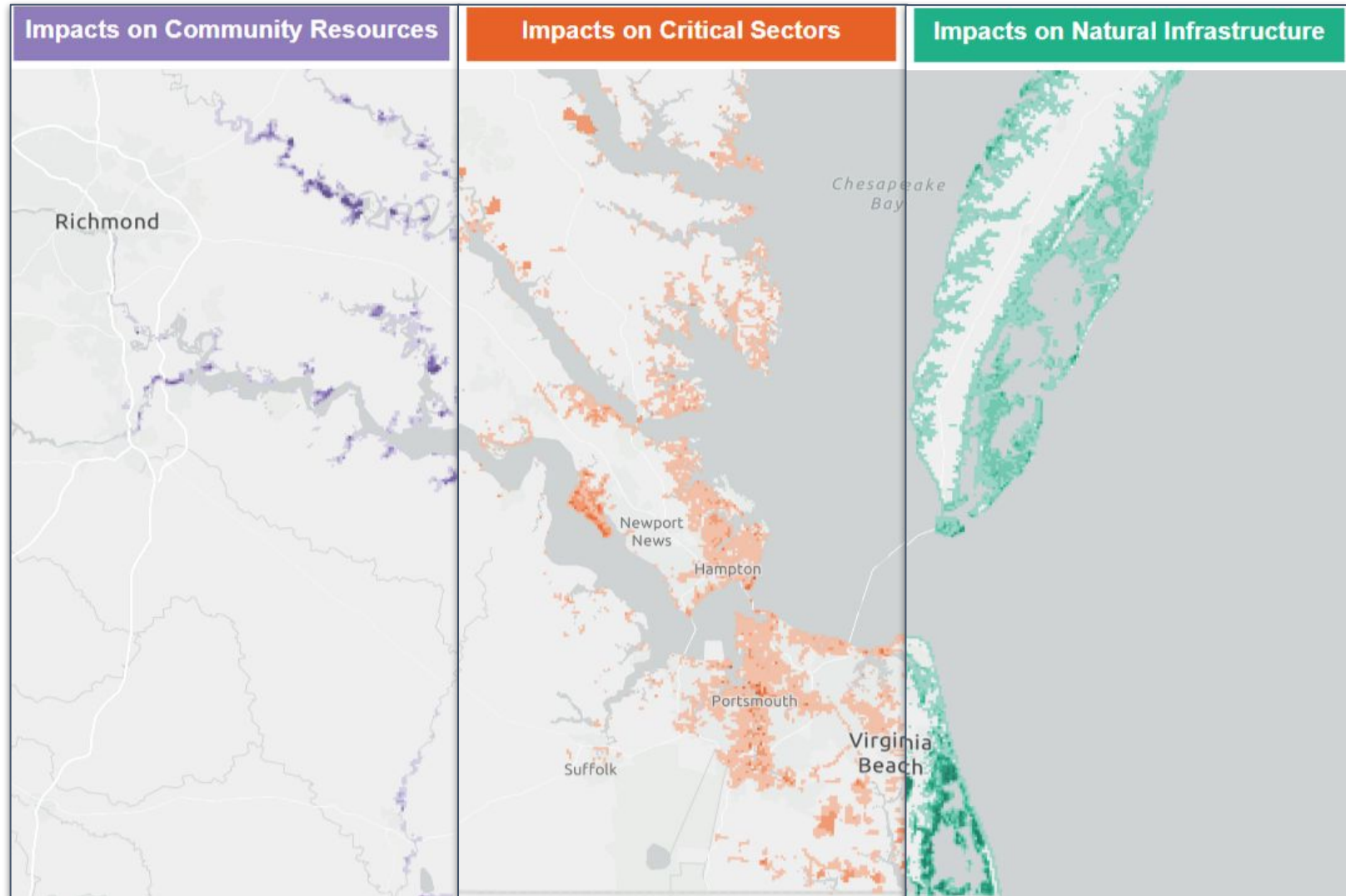
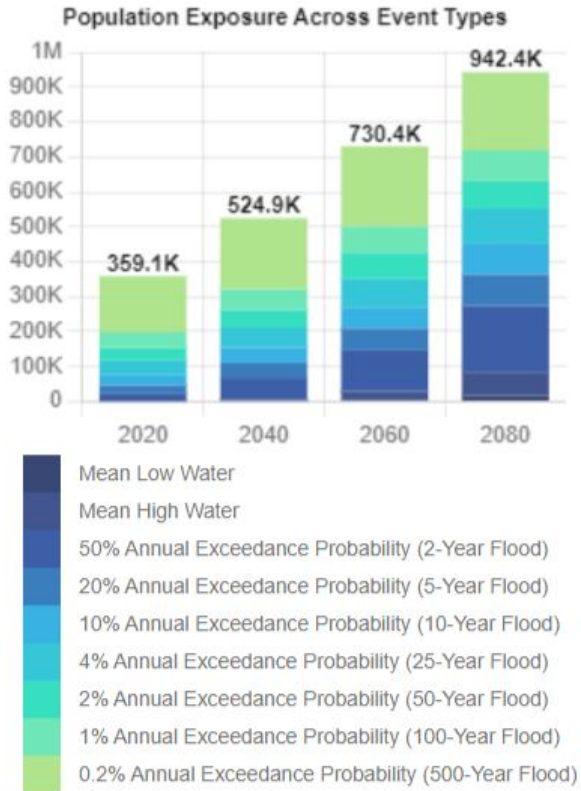
## Notes and Limitations



Tabular Hazards Data

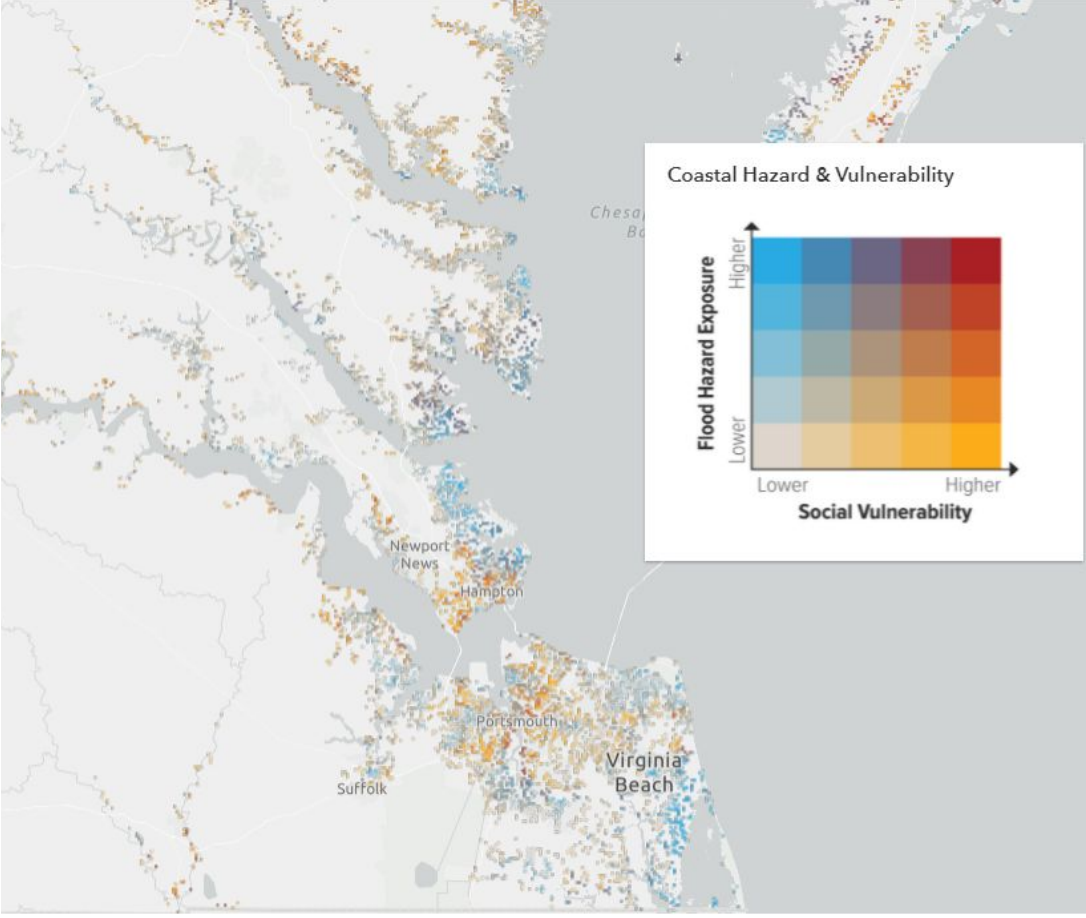
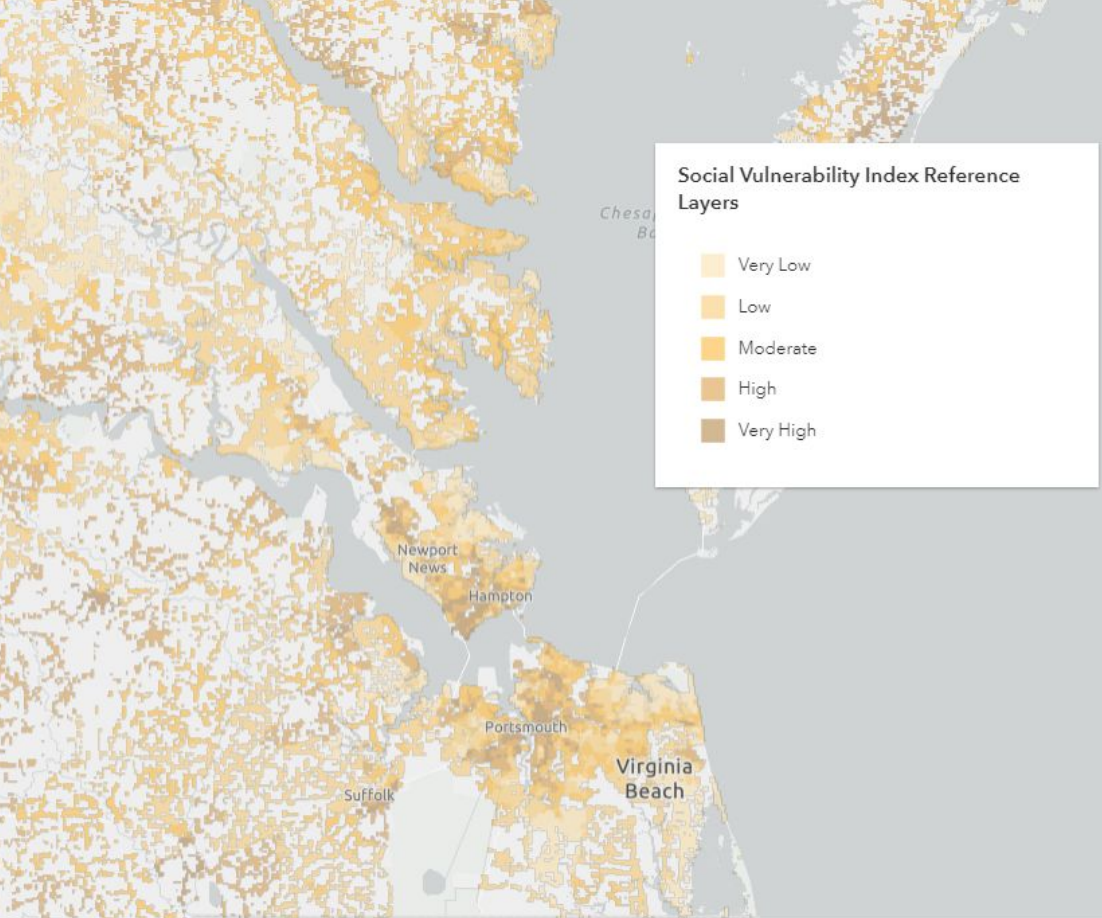
Open Data Portal

# Coastal Flood Hazard Impacts

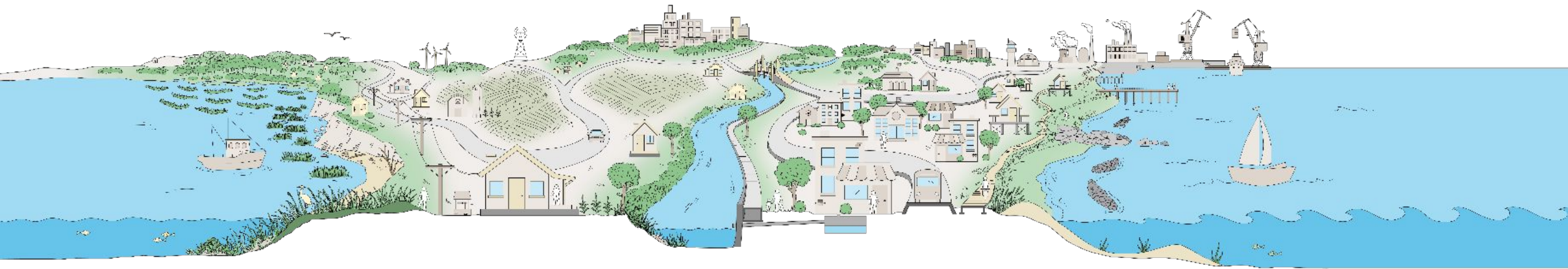


Tabular Impacts Data

# Community Context



# What We're Doing About It





# Building Flood Resilience

**Select Area of Interest:**  
Commonwealth: Virginia

**Filters:**  
Category: All  
Hazard Addressed: All  
Project Class: All  
**Reset All Filters & Map**

**Additional Map Layers:** Clear Map Layers

- Coastal Floodplains +
- Community Resource Impact Areas +
- Critical Sector Impact Areas +
- Natural Infrastructure Impact Areas +
- Coastal Hazard and Social Vulnerability +

**Search:**  **Clear**

Projects and Initiatives (Features: 517, Selected: 0)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	18th Street Drainage Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Crow's Nest Peninsula and Estuary Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	2019 FMA
<input type="checkbox"/>	5th Street Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aberdeen Gardens Drainage Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aberdeen Road Disconnect Wet Pond
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aberdeen School Neighborhood Park ED Wetland Retrofit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amherst Road Wetlands
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual Coastal Bays seagrass restoration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appomattox River Trail (blueway and greenway)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquatic Center Parking Lot
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquisition of LiDAR Data
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aragona Drainage Improvements

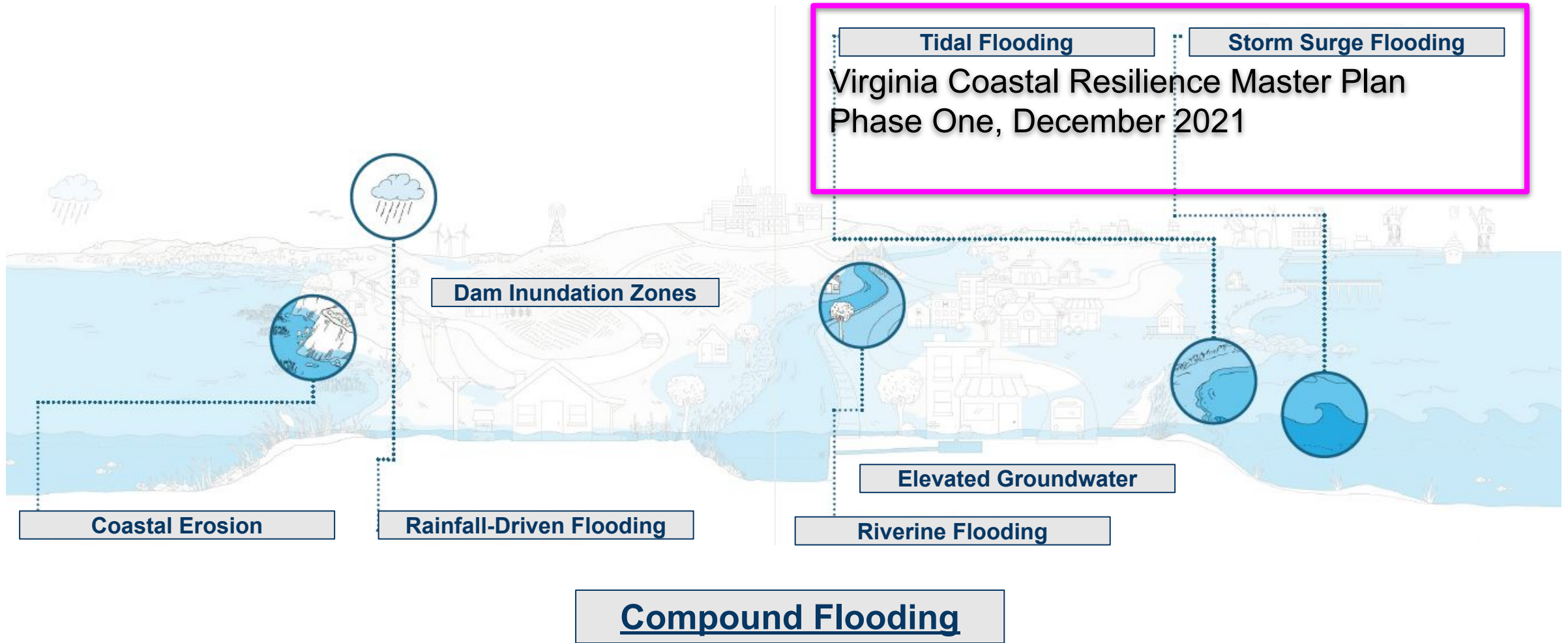
The map displays the state of Virginia with various project locations highlighted in yellow and green. Key cities labeled include Washington, Baltimore, Richmond, Virginia Beach, Lynchburg, and others. The Chesapeake Bay is also visible. The map includes navigation controls like zoom in (+), zoom out (-), and home.

# Funding Flood Resilience

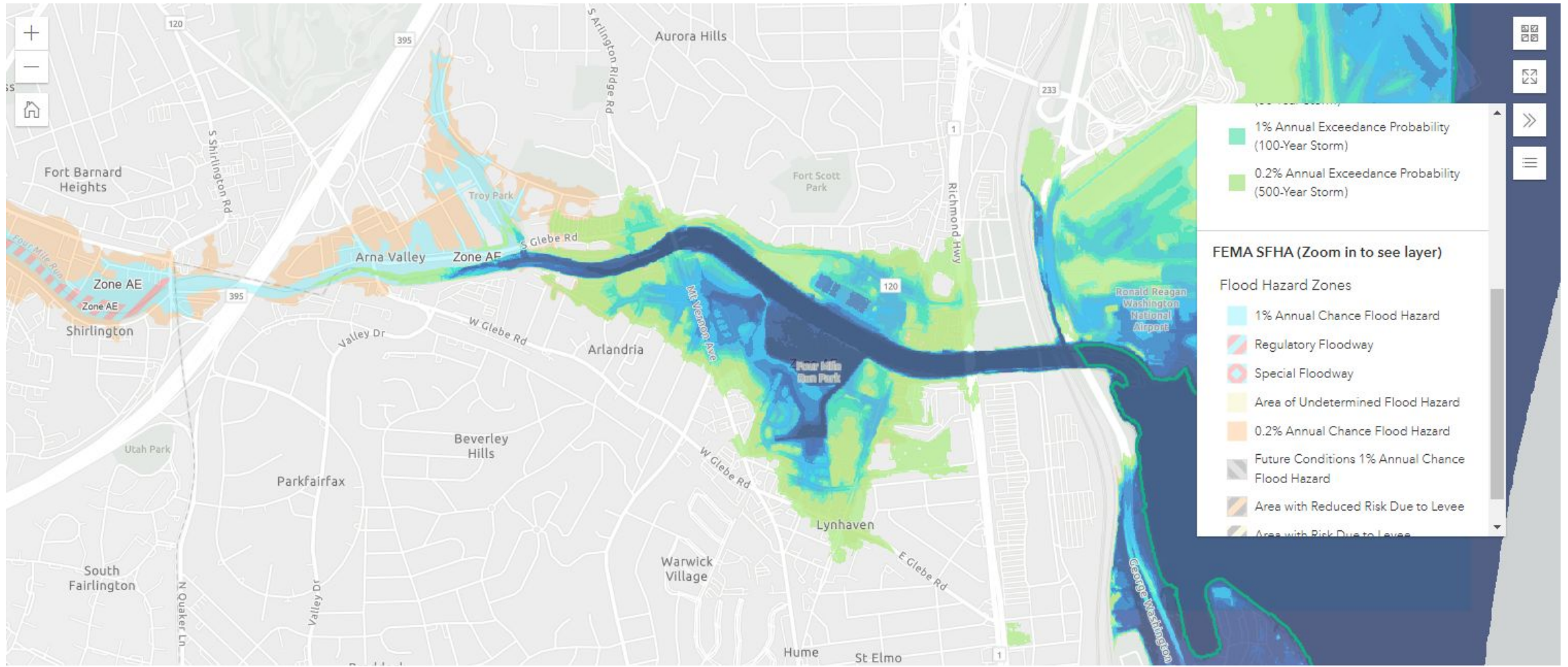
VA Funding for Projects (Features: 96, Selected: 0)

Name	Administering Office	Funding Source	Funding Type	Purpose
Addressing the Impacts of Multiple Stressors on Shellfish Aquaculture Through Research/Industry Partnerships	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	NOAA	Federal	Supports: establishing, continuing, and/or expanding collaboration between researchers and shellfish growers in order to address how acidification and at least one other environmental stressor affects the U.S. shellfish aquaculture industry. Project priorities of this funding opportunity are to (1) build or strengthen relationships between the shellfish aquaculture industry and aquaculture research community (including university, industry, private sector, tribal, state, and/or federal scientists representing perspectives), (2) develop scientific knowledge on the impact of ocean and coastal acidification in combination with other stressors on shellfish aquaculture, and (3) create data products, tools, technologies, management practices, or other deliverables that are applicable to building resilience within the shellfish aquaculture sector.
Building Resilience Against Climate Effects: Implementing and Evaluating Adaptation Strategies that Protect and Promote Human Health	National Center for Environmental Health	CDC	Federal	Supports: the building and enhancement of the resilience of U.S. cities and states to the health impacts of climate change through overarching strategies. These strategies include 1) collaboration with stakeholders to create a Climate Impact Compendium data on local climate projections, health effects, social determinants of health, and current adaptive capacity; 2) implementation and evaluation of adaptation actions that address the threats identified in the Compendium; and 3) use and dissemination of evidence to improve adaptation actions and enhance understanding of effective climate resilience adaptations in public health and research.
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Climate Resilience Program	Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Trust Services, Tribal Climate Resilience Program	BIA	Federal	Supports: tribal resilience and ocean and coastal management and planning. The Tribal Climate Resilience Program supports tribes to prepare for climate change impacts on tribal trust resources, economies, infrastructure, and human health and safety. Available Funding: - Adaptation planning - Ocean and Coastal Management Planning - Capacity Building - Relocation, Mitigation, or Protect-in-Place Planning - Internships and Youth Engagement

# What's Next



# Coastal Flood Hazard $\neq$ Total Flood Hazard

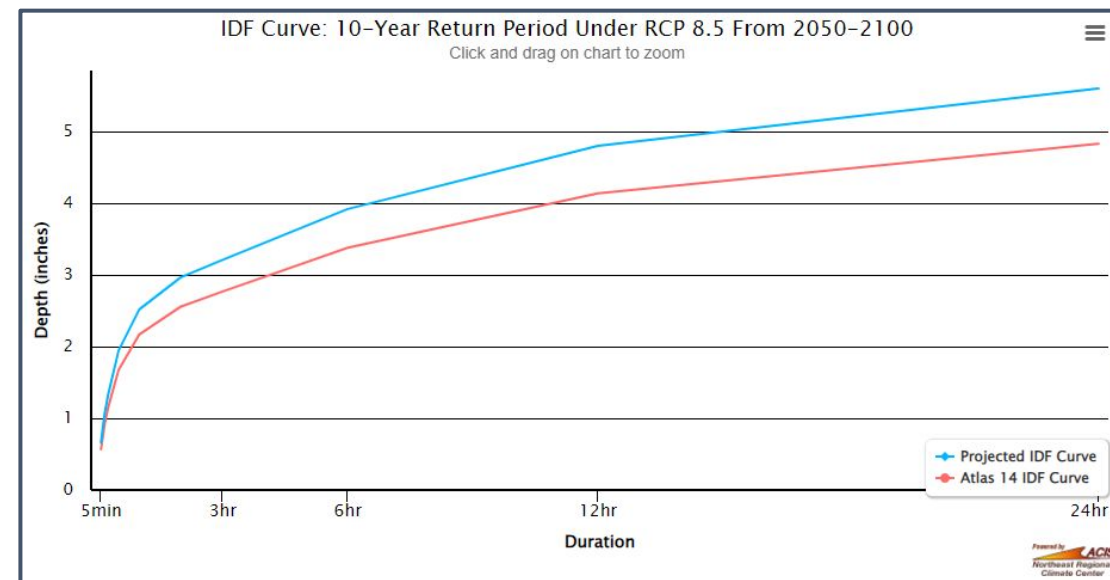
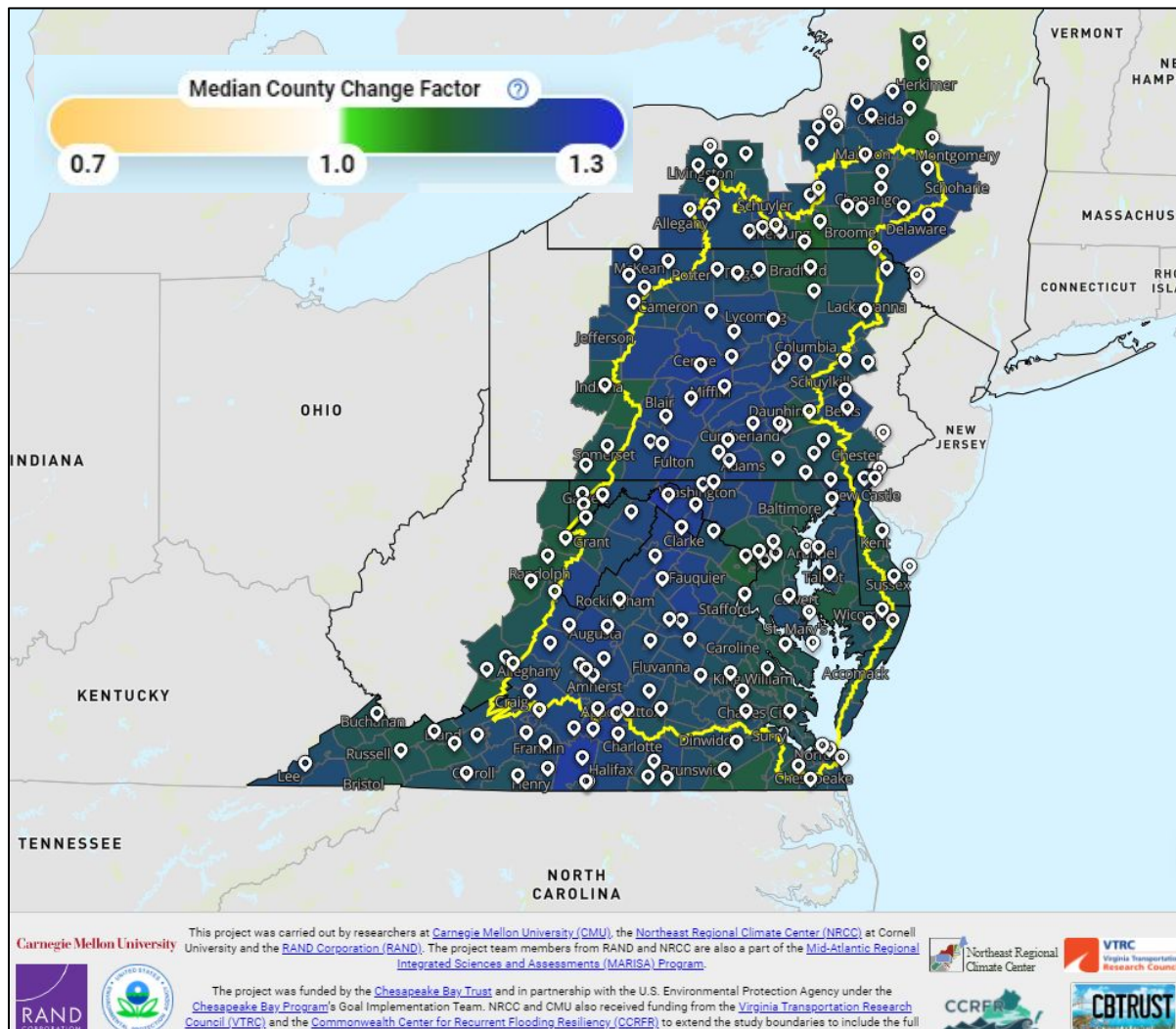


# Master Plan Centralized Survey Results

## Flood Hazard Priority by Master Planning Region

Hampton Roads (HRPDC)	Rural Coastal (NNPDC, MPPDC, A-NPDC)	Fall Line South (Crater PDC, PlanRVA)	Fall Line North (NVRC, GWRC)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rainfall-Driven Flooding</b></li> <li>Storm Surge Impacts</li> <li>Tidal Flooding</li> <li>Riverine Flooding</li> <li>Coastal Erosion</li> <li>Groundwater Impacts</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rainfall-Driven Flooding</b></li> <li>Tidal Flooding</li> <li>Coastal Erosion</li> <li>Storm Surge Impacts</li> <li>Groundwater Impacts</li> <li>Riverine Flooding</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rainfall-Driven Flooding</b></li> <li>Riverine Flooding</li> <li>Tidal Flooding</li> <li>Storm Surge Impacts</li> <li>Coastal Erosion</li> <li>Groundwater Impacts</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rainfall-Driven Flooding</b></li> <li>Riverine Flooding</li> <li>Coastal Erosion</li> <li>Tidal Flooding</li> <li>Storm Surge Impacts</li> <li>Groundwater Impacts</li> </ol>

# Rainfall-Driven Flooding

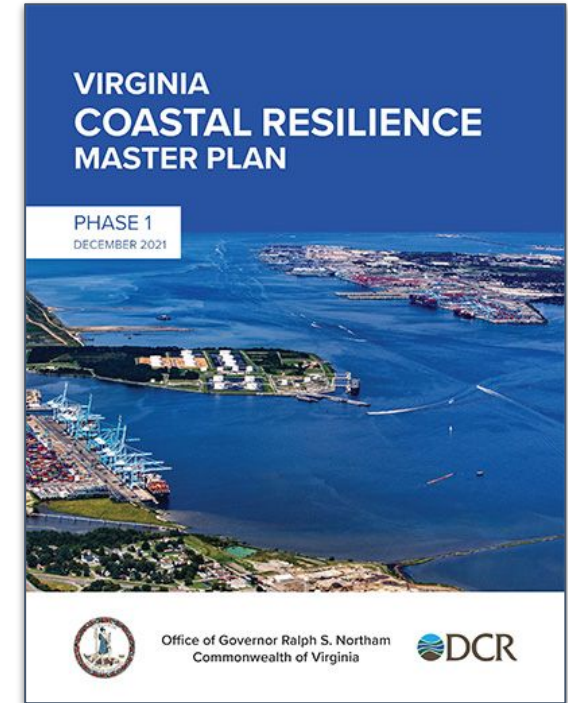
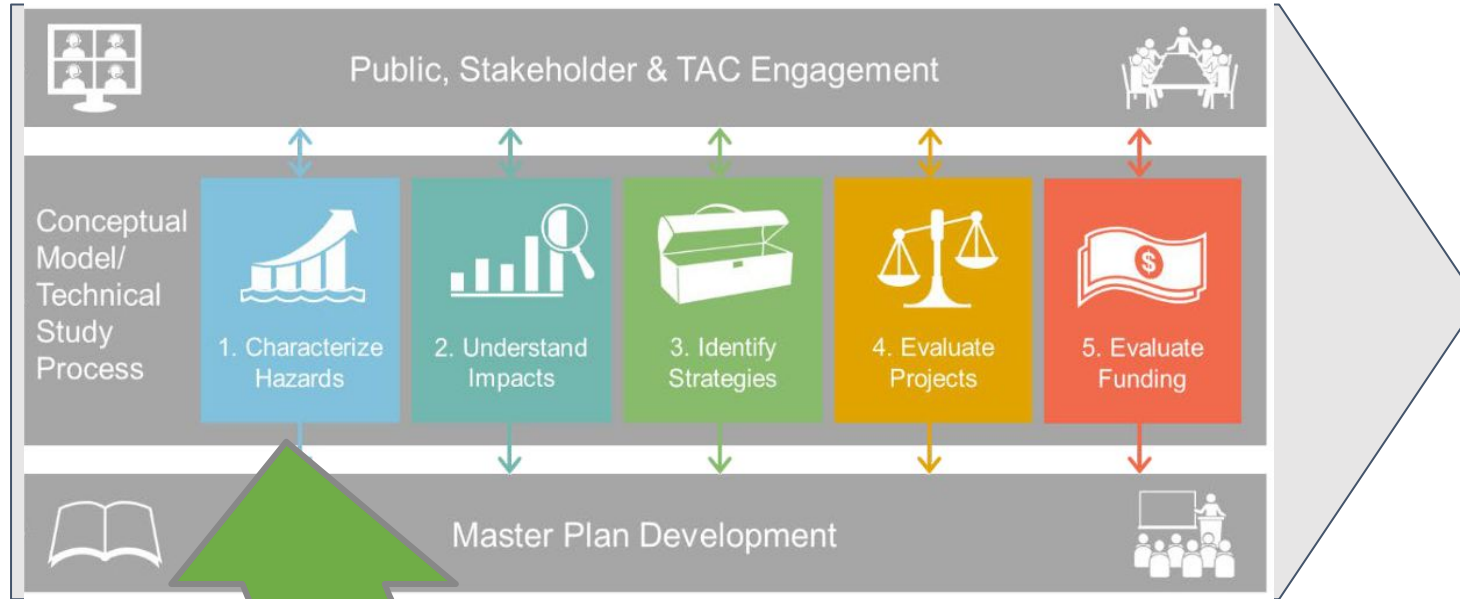


## Atlas 14 Change Factors for Prince William County:

10th Percentile:	1.03
25th Percentile:	1.09
Median:	1.16
75th Percentile:	1.23
90th Percentile:	1.30

*See "Using the Data" above for correct and incorrect application of these change factors.*

# Adaptive Program Management



**Learn and Improve**

# QUESTIONS



**Website:**

**[dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/](https://dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/)**

**Email Questions or Comments to:**

**[Flood.Resilience@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Flood.Resilience@dcr.virginia.gov)**