

Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment

Pacific County completed an initial [sea level rise \(SLR\) vulnerability and risk assessment\[1\]](#) and [StoryMap\[2\]](#) in 2023 to develop saltwater inundation scenarios for 2050 and 2100.

The assessment was on a county-wide scale and included the shorelines within Ilwaco city limits. The assessment identified stormwater drainage capacity and drainage infrastructure management as priority topics of concern for future study. The community and residents within city limits were specifically concerned about existing flooding issues near the city center and the neighborhood of Vandalia as a part of the Pacific County Phase 1 assessment.

The City of Ilwaco built upon the [County's Phase 1 assessment \[3\]](#) by investigating these priority topics of concern, conducting groundwater and stormwater drainage mapping and analysis on prioritized areas within city limits to inform development of planning priorities, strategies, and regulations to mitigate SLR impacts.

The City consulted with a hydrogeologist to assess stormwater flooding and drainage capacities in high-priority areas of known flooding, as identified through stakeholder engagement. The City Public Works staff were consulted to evaluate infrastructure needs and existing improvement plans. These analyses were used to assess where policy and/or regulatory language should be amended to help mitigate the loss of development.

This project resulted in:

- Mapped areas of increased risk of impact;
- Recommended resiliency strategies; and
- Draft amendments to applicable plans to incorporate the identified strategies.

Outreach

This project included several public outreach events to educate and engage stakeholders. Outreach events focused on discussion of the assessment maps and results, review of recommended actions, and identification of potential new regulatory language. Information and education on adaptation strategies is available in the report and accompanying StoryMap.

A technical advisory committee (TAC) was convened to review the model results and interpretation and to guide communications and follow-up actions. The same TAC was used to advise the Pacific County Phase 2 project that is being conducted at the same time as the City of Ilwaco's Phase 2 project. Meetings will also be held in tandem, to reduce meeting times for stakeholders that would be affected by both projects.

Outreach Summary

Below is the expected schedule for meetings that will be held in 2024. This project will continue into 2025 with an anticipated completion date of June 2025.

Public Outreach Events

The following outreach events were held to gather input on the draft maps, results and recommendations:

Meeting Type	Date
City of Ilwaco Planning Commission	March 5, 2024
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1	March 12, 2024
Public Meeting #1	May 16, 2024
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2	August 21, 2024
Public Meeting #2	August 22, 2024
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #3	March 12, 2025
City of Ilwaco Planning Commission	June 3, 2025
City Council	June 9, 2025

Pacific County Phase 1 Assessment

The Pacific County Phase 1 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and updates
ArcGIS StoryMap

To provide an accessible and interactive format for viewing the methodology, results, recommendations, and next steps outlined in the report, an ArcGIS StoryMap was developed. This StoryMap includes a web map that allows users to navigate to specific properties, view assets and associated risks, and serves as a resource guide to support informed planning decisions within the community. The StoryMap can be accessed [here](#).

Report

The City of Ilwaco was awarded a Washington State Department of Ecology shoreline competitive planning grant to continue the first assessment developed by Pacific County and further investigate areas identified as requiring more in-depth investigation, including hydrologic modeling, to further develop policies and regulation for mitigating sea level rise and climate change impacts. The final report is available [here](#).

regarding the current Phase 2 Assessment can be viewed on the Pacific County webpage here: [Sea Level Rise Risk Vulnerability & Risk Assessment \(pacific.wa.us\)](https://www.pacific.wa.us/sea-level-rise-risk-vulnerability-and-risk-assessment)

The accompanying ArcGIS StoryMap is available here: [Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment \(arcgis.com\)](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/55000000-0000-4800-8000-000000000000)

Related Projects:

- [Baker Bay to Grays Bay Sea Level Rise Resilience - Washington Sea Grant/Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership](#)
- [King Tides Program - Washington Sea Grant](#)

[1] [Planning Level Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment \(pacific.wa.us\)](#)

[2] [Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment \(arcgis.com\)](#)

[3] [Sea Level Rise Risk Vulnerability & Risk Assessment \(pacific.wa.us\)](#)