

PUBLIC INPUT DURING SCOPING

FLORIDA KEYS COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- One of the nation's oldest environmental laws.
- Applies to federal agencies.
- Requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental effects of their proposed actions in a public document.
- Encourages federal agencies to make environmentally responsible decisions.

What type of NEPA document will be prepared?

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) intends to prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- An EA would be prepared if there are no anticipated significant impacts. An EIS would be prepared if there are anticipated significant impacts.
- The integrated report/NEPA document is scheduled for public release in February/ March 2020.
- If preparation of an EIS is needed, a Notice of Intent would be published in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>) and the NEPA public scoping period would be extended.

What environmental topics may be considered?

- Air Quality
- Climate Change/Sea Level Rise
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Demographics
- Economics
- Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Materials
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Navigation
- Noise and Vibration
- Recreation
- Protected Species
- Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
- Traffic
- Water Quality

How can I provide comments?

- You may fill out a written comment form at this meeting and place it in the comment box.
- You may e-mail or mail comments to:
Kimberly Koelsch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Email:
Kimberly.C.Koelsch@usace.army.mil

Street Address:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Norfolk District
ATTN: Kimberly Koelsch
Planning and Policy Branch
803 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone Number: 757-201-7837

NEPA Scoping Comments are due by January 8, 2019. The comment period will be extended if an EIS is prepared.

What is "scoping"?

"Scoping" is the step in the NEPA process when the public is invited to participate in identifying issues, alternatives, and potentially significant effects to be considered in the analysis. This helps the USACE identify and eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review.



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THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS: KEY DECISION & PRODUCT MILESTONES



Alternatives Milestone
January 2019

Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
January 2020

Agency Decision Milestone
August 2020

Draft Report Released for Concurrent Review

Chief's Report Signed
September 2021

 Decision Milestone
 Product Milestone

Focus on alternatives identification and evaluation to identify a recommended plan for more detailed design

Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan

The draft integrated report/EA will be available for public review in approximately February/March 2020.



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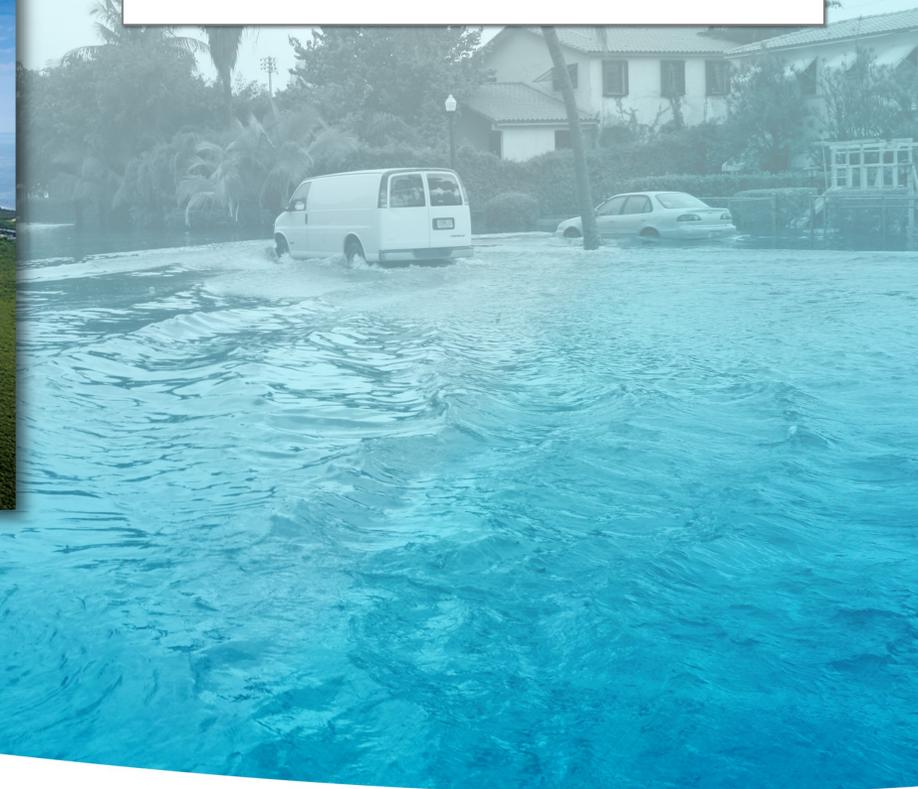


FLORIDA KEYS COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY



This study is focused on reducing the potential damages caused by coastal storms. The study will focus on improving safety and reducing the risk of damages to building and other infrastructure.

The study authority is Public Law 84-71, June 15, 1955.



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PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES, OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS

PROBLEMS

- Roadway flooding, specifically flooding of U.S. Route 1, impedes evacuation during coastal storms, thereby posing a risk to human life and safety
- Flooding also causes travel delays, and prevents timely return of residents after an evacuation for storm events
- Storm surge from hurricanes and tropical storms
- Flooding due to coastal storm events causes damage to structures (commercial and residential), as well as such critical infrastructure features as roadways, bridges, airports, and hospitals.
- Increasing high tides and king tides resulting from sea level rise
- Loss of Habitats due to coastal storms, and exacerbated by sea level rise

OPPORTUNITIES

- Reduce economic damages to the local economy and communities
- Installing new or rehabilitating existing nature based features and/or restoration of the natural coastal system of defenses that were historically present in the study area (mangroves, corals, etc.)
- Increase resiliency and reliability of critical infrastructure
- Improve the resiliency and reliability of evacuation routes for the population
- Improve neighborhood cohesion and social fabric by

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce damages from coastal storms and coastal flooding to the natural and built environment in Monroe County over the period of analysis
- Reduce the risk to human life, health and safety
- Reduce the vulnerability of Route 1, the primary and only evacuation route from the Keys, to the effects of coastal storms
- Improve the resiliency of the Florida Keys to function during, and after significant coastal storm events by reducing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure in the county

CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Avoid and minimize impacts to natural resources
- Avoid and minimize impacts to cultural resources
- Avoid any potential impacts to navigation
- The majority of the study area are protected lands, including a National Marine Sanctuary, State Parks, and some conservation easements held by NGOs
- There are strict state and local codes that govern building and development within the study area



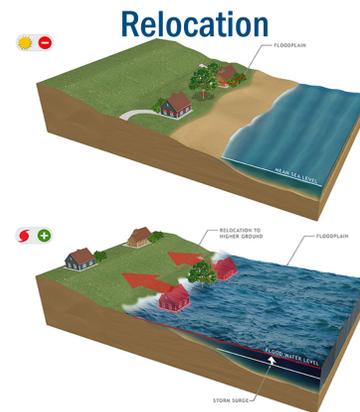
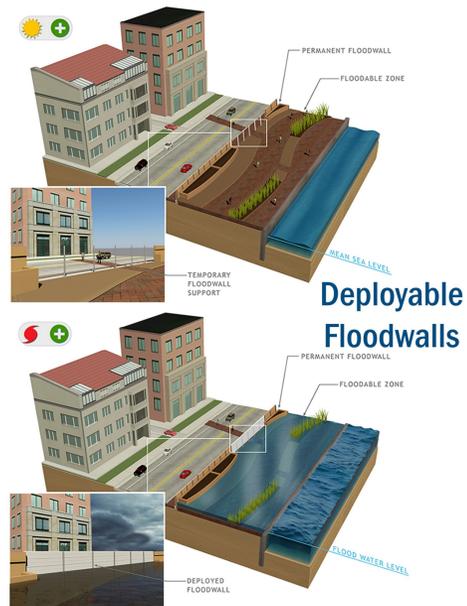
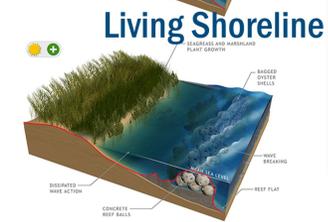
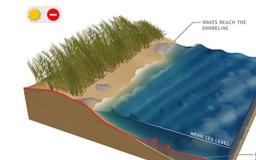
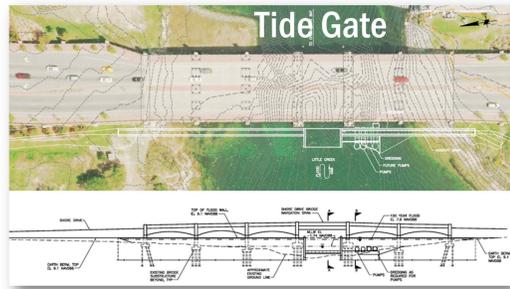
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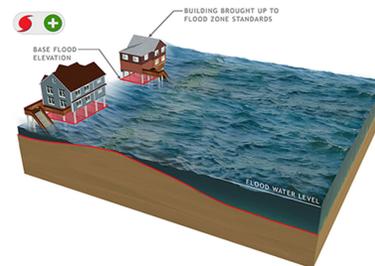
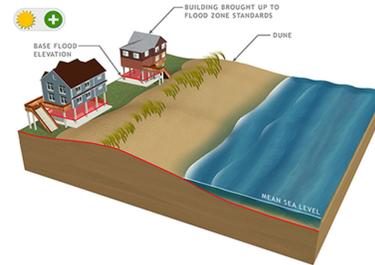
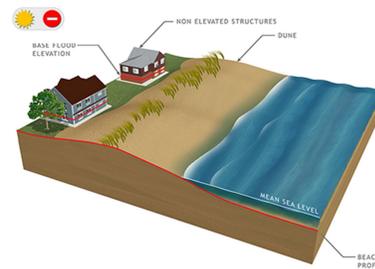
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION

Structural & Non-structural

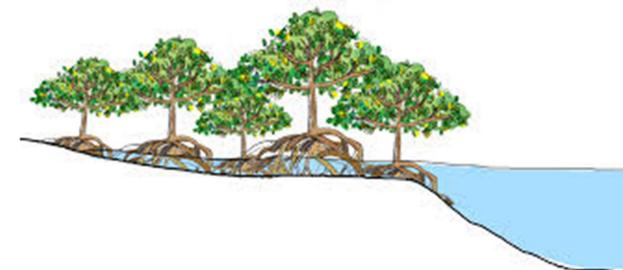
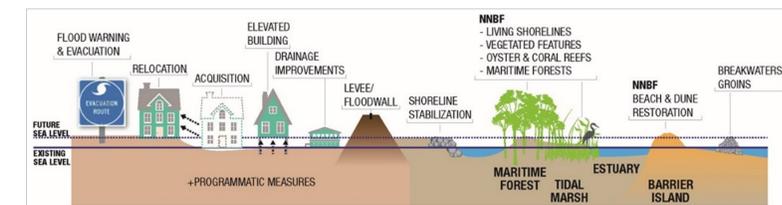
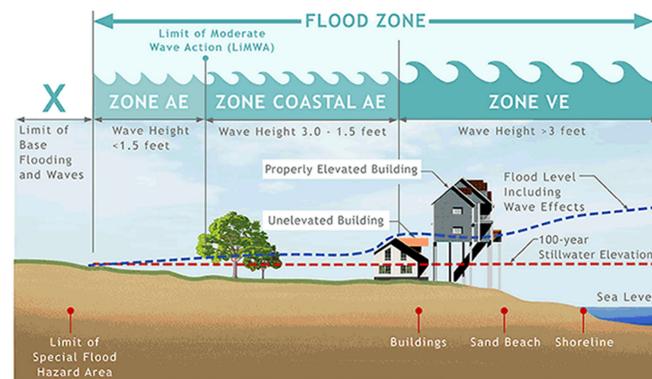
Natural and Nature-based



Elevation or Acquisition



Higher Floodplain Standards



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TOPICS TO BE EXAMINED IN THE INTEGRATED REPORT/ NEPA DOCUMENT



- Air Quality
- Climate Change/Sea Level Rise
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- Demographics
- Economics
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OTHER COASTAL STORM RISK AND RELATED PROJECTS

