

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIRECTIVE NO. _____
July 16, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY HEADS

FROM: KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

SUBJECT: CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE
CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

I. PURPOSE

To establish policies to address, minimize risks from, and adapt to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the City and County of Honolulu ("City") Climate Change Commission ("Commission") *Sea Level Rise Guidance* ("Guidance"), and accompanying *Climate Change Brief* ("Brief"), both adopted on June 5, 2018, and the State of Hawai'i *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (2017)* ("Report").

II. SUMMARY

The Report finds that for O'ahu specifically, with no actions, 3.2 feet of sea level rise and its associated erosion, flooding, and waves will chronically impact, displace, and/or permanently inundate:

- 9,400 acres of land (over half of which is designated for urban land uses);
- \$12.9 billion in building and land values, which does not account for public infrastructure and other utilities;
- 13,300 residents;
- 3,880 structures; and
- 17.7 miles of major roadway.

The Commission also stresses that impacts from high tide flooding will be observed decades before permanent inundation by sea level rise. Tidal flooding will become more frequent and more damaging as ocean levels rise. Even smaller tide heights, when convergent with rainfall, will impede drainage leading to flooded roads and properties, and disrupt traffic. Furthermore, the Commission finds that, because of continued high levels of global carbon emissions, it is reasonable to set as a planning benchmark up to 6 feet of sea level rise in the latter decades of this century.

III. **SCOPE**

These guidelines shall apply to all executive branch departments and agencies.

IV. **POLICY**

Each City department and agency shall, consistent with the Paris Agreement and Chicago Climate Charter, consider the need for both climate change mitigation and adaptation as pressing and urgent matters, to take a proactive approach in both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to impacts caused by sea level rise, and to align programs wherever possible to help protect and prepare the infrastructure, assets, and citizens of the City for the physical and economic impacts of climate change.

V. **PROCEDURES**

All City departments and agencies are required to:

1. Use the most current versions of the Commission's Guidance and accompanying Brief, and the Report and associated Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Viewer as resources for managing assets, reviewing permitting requests, and assessing project proposals; and
2. Consider how sea level rise and associated climate change risks will impact the City's residents and visitors, infrastructure, communities, policies and programs, investments, natural resources, cultural and recreational sites, and fiscal security; and
3. Use the Guidance, Brief, and Report in their plans, programs, and capital improvement decisions, to mitigate impacts to infrastructure and facilities subject to sea level rise exposure, which may include the elevation or relocation of infrastructure and critical facilities, the elevating of surfaces, structures, and utilities, and/or other adaptation measures; and

4. Develop place-specific guidance for shoreline policy changes based on additional policy guidance from the Climate Change Commission regarding: new regulations; management procedures for affected coastal assets; and, additional sea level rise projections that are as specific as possible, regularly updated, and delineate associated impacts; and
5. Work cooperatively to develop and implement land use policies, hazard mitigation actions, and design and construction standards that mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise; and
6. Work cooperatively to propose revisions to amend shoreline rules and regulations to incorporate sea level rise into the determination of shoreline setbacks and Special Management Area considerations for the safety and welfare of people and structures, provision of municipal services, as well as the protection of open space, the environment, public access to and along the shoreline, public trust resources including beaches, and public use and enjoyment of these resources; and
7. Work cooperatively to develop a process to review applications for new development in shoreline areas in conjunction with other agencies and entities with expertise in shoreline hazards and erosion in order to protect and enhance open space, the environment especially beaches, public access to and along the shoreline, public safety, and public resources; and
8. Work to conserve and enhance a natural, dynamic shoreline wherever possible. Temporary emergency measures may be utilized to address acute erosion events, especially on sandy beaches, where consistent with these guidelines and in alignment with other agencies. Permitting permanent shoreline armoring is generally inconsistent with this directive and should only be considered as a last resort where it supports significant public benefits and will result in insignificant negative impacts to coastal resources and natural shoreline processes.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

All City departments and agencies under the Mayor's jurisdiction shall work cooperatively to ensure the success of the missions outlined above. Independent agencies, City-affiliated entities, and City-related institutions are also strongly encouraged to work to help advance these efforts and adopt similar initiatives, where applicable. All actions and outcomes shall be in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

All Department and Agency Heads
July 16, 2018
Page 4

VII. GENERAL

This Directive shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until amended or rescinded in writing by the Mayor. The applicable procedures are delineated in Administrative Directives Manual (“ADM”) Subject No. _____, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Attachments:

Sea Level Rise Guidance
Climate Change Brief
ADM Subject No. _____

Subject No. _____

Effective Date: 07/16/18

Subject

ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

Subject Matter Expert

CCSR

Reference

Mayor's Directive No. _____

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