



COMMUNITY MEETING TAKEHOME PACKET
ROUND 3 MEETING EDITION
08.11.17



CONTENTS

1. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2. LA SAFE OVERVIEW

3. COASTAL INFORMATION

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

ABOUT THIS PACKET

This document was prepared by Concordia for the Louisiana Office of Community Development — Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD) and Foundation for Louisiana (FFL). The LA SAFE project is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the National Disaster Resiliency Competition. This document is meant to serve as an update to community members participating in the LA SAFE meeting process. It is not a finished document meant for wide publication.

Waggonner and Ball created the maps in this document based on data from CPRA. The Data Center gathered and organized the data. Concordia documented and organized community ideas from Meetings 1 and 2.



CENTER for PLANNING EXCELLENCE



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is LA SAFE all about?

LA SAFE is about community adaptation to a future with higher flood risk and continued land loss. We work with residents across six coastal parishes (Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Terrebonne) to strategically plan for future projects, programs, and policies that will support communities as the coast changes.

What will be the outcomes of this plan?

The plans will articulate a long-term vision for each parish and recommend specific projects, programs, and policies over the 10, 25, and 50 year time horizon. Each plan will take into consideration relevant environmental, social, demographic, and economic factors.

Additionally, we will implement six pilot programs and projects across the parishes as an initial investment. During all of this, OCD and Foundation for Louisiana will seek more funding from other sources for plan implementation.

How does this relate to CPRA and their structural and restoration projects?

LA SAFE complements, but does not duplicate, CPRA's work developing the Coastal Master Plan's structural and restoration projects. LA SAFE contributes aspects of community adaptation to this planning work. LA SAFE will develop plans for what communities can do to adapt to higher risk and land loss, which will occur in areas even with Master Plan implementation. The goal of LA SAFE is to inform the 2022 Coastal Master Plan's "non- structural" recommendations.

Where can I find more information?

LA SAFE Website: lasafe.la.gov

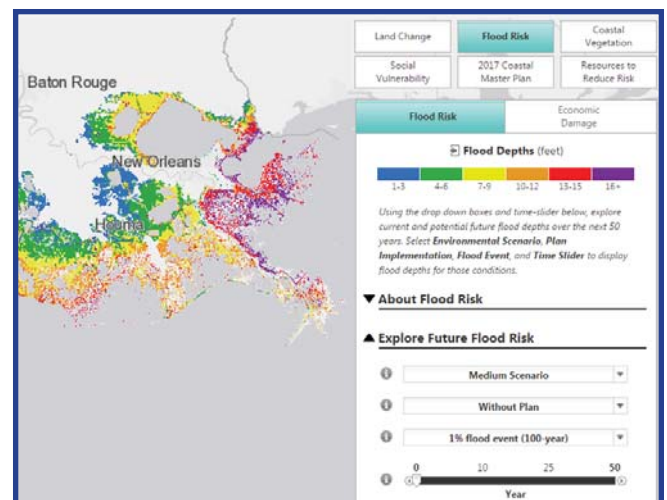
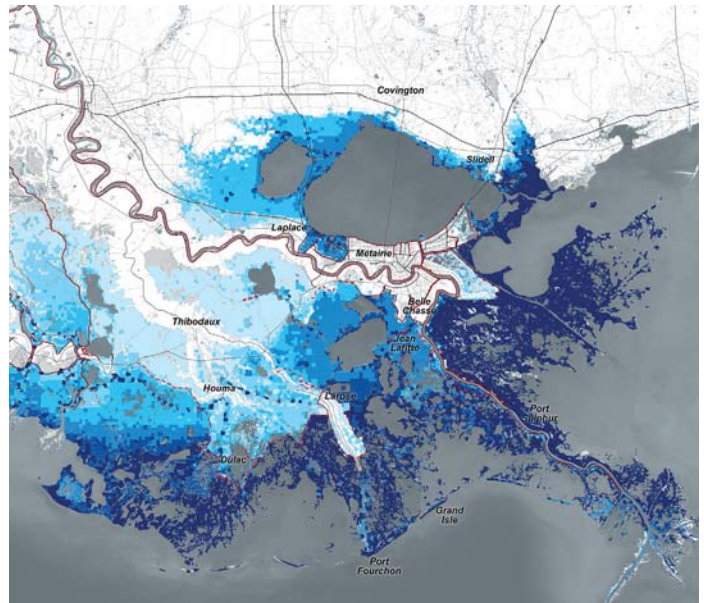
Facebook: facebook.com/livelasafe

Instagram: [@livelasafe](https://instagram.com/@livelasafe)

Twitter: [@livelasafe](https://twitter.com/@livelasafe)

Email: info@livelasafe.org

CPRA's Master Plan Data Viewer is the best way to see future risk projections over time across the coast:
cims.coastal.la.gov/masterplan/



LA SAFE OVERVIEW

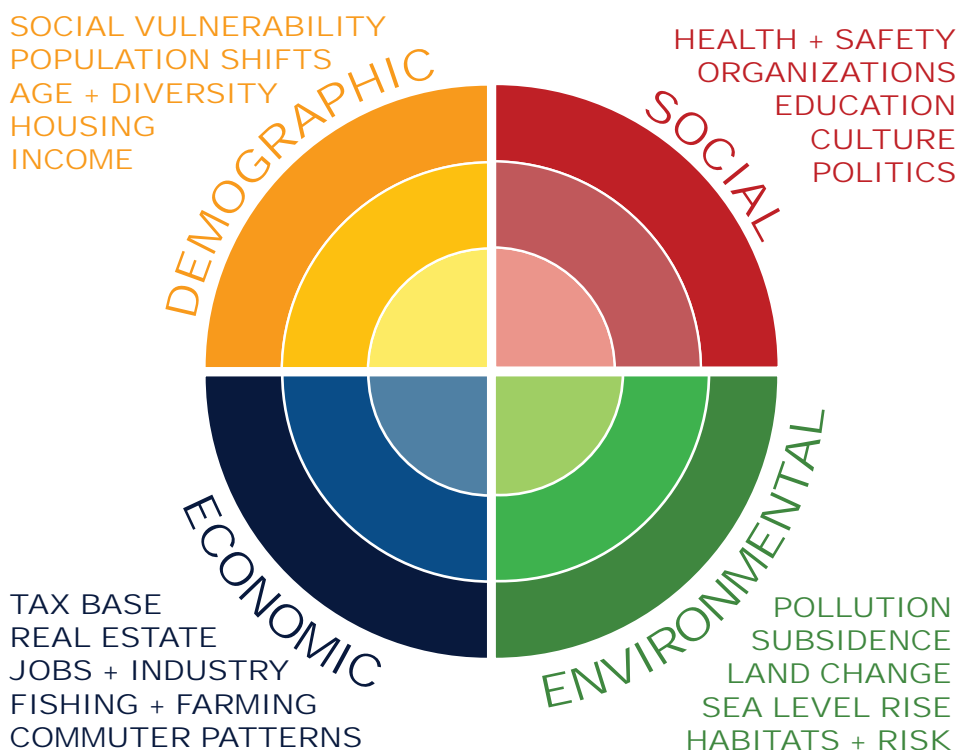
As the climate continues to change, the state, region, and individual communities will need to prepare for increased land loss and flooding across the coast. The Coastal Master Plan will protect communities and restore as much land as possible within a limited budget. Despite this, our coastal communities, economies, and culture will undergo difficult changes in the coming generations. Now is the time to prepare and plan for those changes.

Our planning process relies on grass-roots input from start to finish. We created a feedback loop of community meetings across each of our 6 target parishes.

LA SAFE understands that increasing flood risks and environmental challenges lead to population shifts, cultural upheaval, economic change, increased social vulnerability, and new educational needs. So to address this holistically, we are collecting data and perspectives on all of these issues to find adaptation strategies that can provide multiple benefits across the spectrum of community life. These include all the possible solutions outside of CPRA's structural protection and restoration focus.

By the end of this process, the parishes will have a plan that includes programs, policies, and projects that will support southeast Louisiana communities over the next 50 years, as land loss and flood risk continue to increase.

So far, we have engaged over 1000 residents during our first three rounds of meetings. At these meetings, residents deeply informed the program that is being developed for the final plans.



March & April, 2017

Following the introduction, community members participated in two sets of activities and discussions. At round tables, groups of 6 to 8 residents talked about the changes in their lifetimes, what they think are most important to protect, and their hopes for the future of the parish.

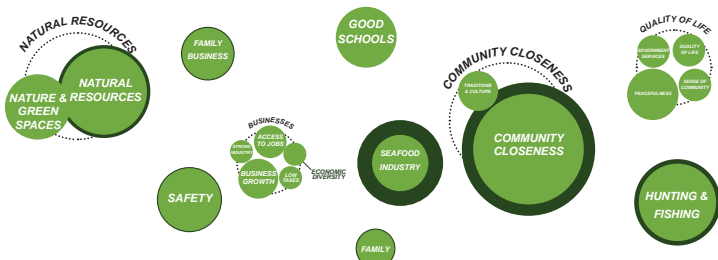
The project team organized all of the comments into Strengths, Challenges, and Opportunities, shown on the right.



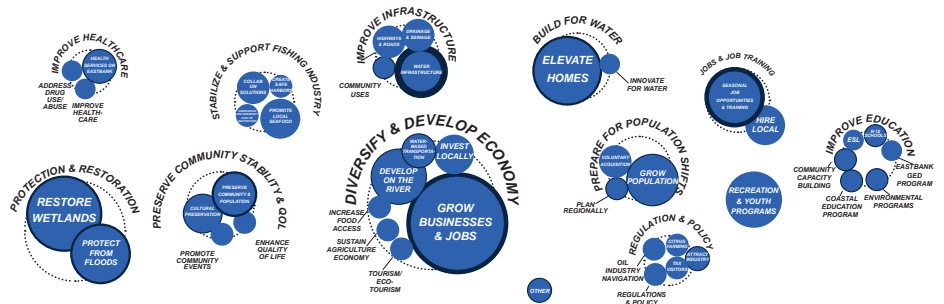
CHALLENGES



STRENGTHS



OPPORTUNITIES



These circles represent ideas collected at Community Meeting 1.

The size of the circles indicate how many people said similar things ideas.

Participants placed stickers on ideas that they chose to prioritize. The number of those prioritizations are shown here as line width around the circles.

 Prioritized Once *Prioritized 10 times*

MEETING 1 RESULTS EXAMPLE

Plaquemines Parish

THE SECOND ROUND OF MEETINGS

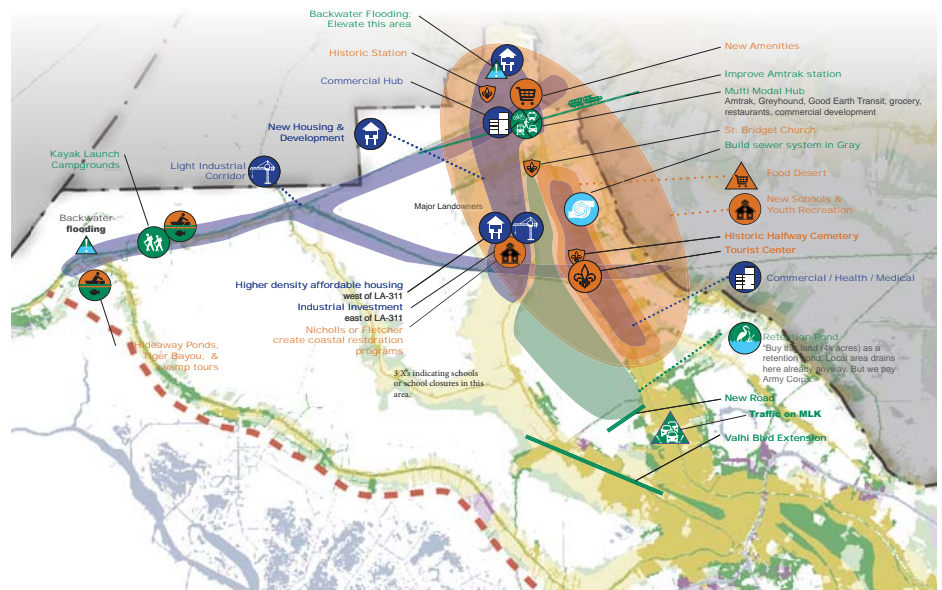
May & June, 2017

The second round of LA SAFE meetings focused on conversations in smaller communities. These meetings occurred in twenty-one specific towns and places suggested by residents in the first round of meetings. Meeting at this level allowed the team to present a more in-depth view of the social, environmental, and economic trends in each community.

The LA SAFE team identified the most discussed topics in the first round of meetings, and created nine question card topics, sorted into three categories: Economy & Jobs, Environment & Sustainability, and Community & Culture. At the meeting, residents discussed one topic from each category, and placed ideas on the map provided. For each card, residents described immediate, mid-term, and long-term solutions for adapting to future change.

In this series of twenty-one community meetings, residents pinpointed challenges, proposed solutions, and collectively described a future across different types of environments and different levels of risk. The project team combined their ideas and mapped proposed strategies. These community recommendations will form the basis for the projects, programs, and policies that LA SAFE pursues going forward. The project team will review these ideas, taking into consideration current and future environmental risk, as well as best practices in planning.

ROUND 2 MEETINGS: 551 participants described over 3300 ideas



MEETING 2 RESULTS EXAMPLE
Terrebonne Parish- Gibson, Gray, Schriever



THE THIRD ROUND OF MEETINGS

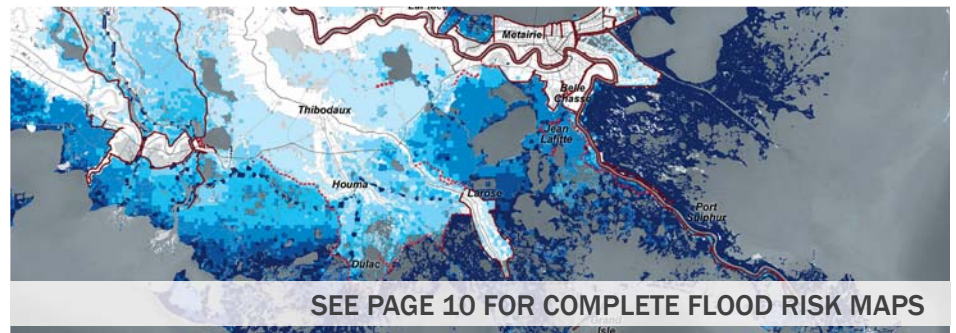
July & August, 2017

At the third round of meetings, the project team presented an overall vision based on the combination of three criteria: 1) the vision residents described at previous community meetings, 2) current and future environmental conditions, and 3) best planning practices.

At the meetings, residents engaged in a series of instant-polling questions using a real-time polling tool, and then evaluated the overall vision presented by the project team. Then, they reviewed and gave preference feedback on a wide range of strategies that the project team is considering for inclusion in the final plan. Residents used stickers to indicate which strategies are the best fit for their parish and added more ideas and comments.



ACTIVITY SHEETS FROM ROUND 3 MEETINGS



LOW RISK AREAS	Residents in Low Risk Areas envisioned a future with more residential and commercial development, better stormwater management, more green space, and improved multi-modal transportation.
MODERATE RISK AREAS	Residents in Moderate Risk Areas described the need for elevated transportation routes, protected harbors, safe housing, recreational space, and access to vital resources like grocery stores and health services.
HIGH RISK AREAS	Residents in High Risk Areas described a future with expanded recreational and ecotourism resources, safe evacuation and commuter routes, a well-supported seafood and industrial economy, and clean energy development.
PARISH-WIDE & REGIONAL	Residents identified the need for regional stormwater management coordination, a cross-parish public transportation system, a passenger rail system, and better policy coordination between parish, state, and federal governments.

COASTAL INFORMATION

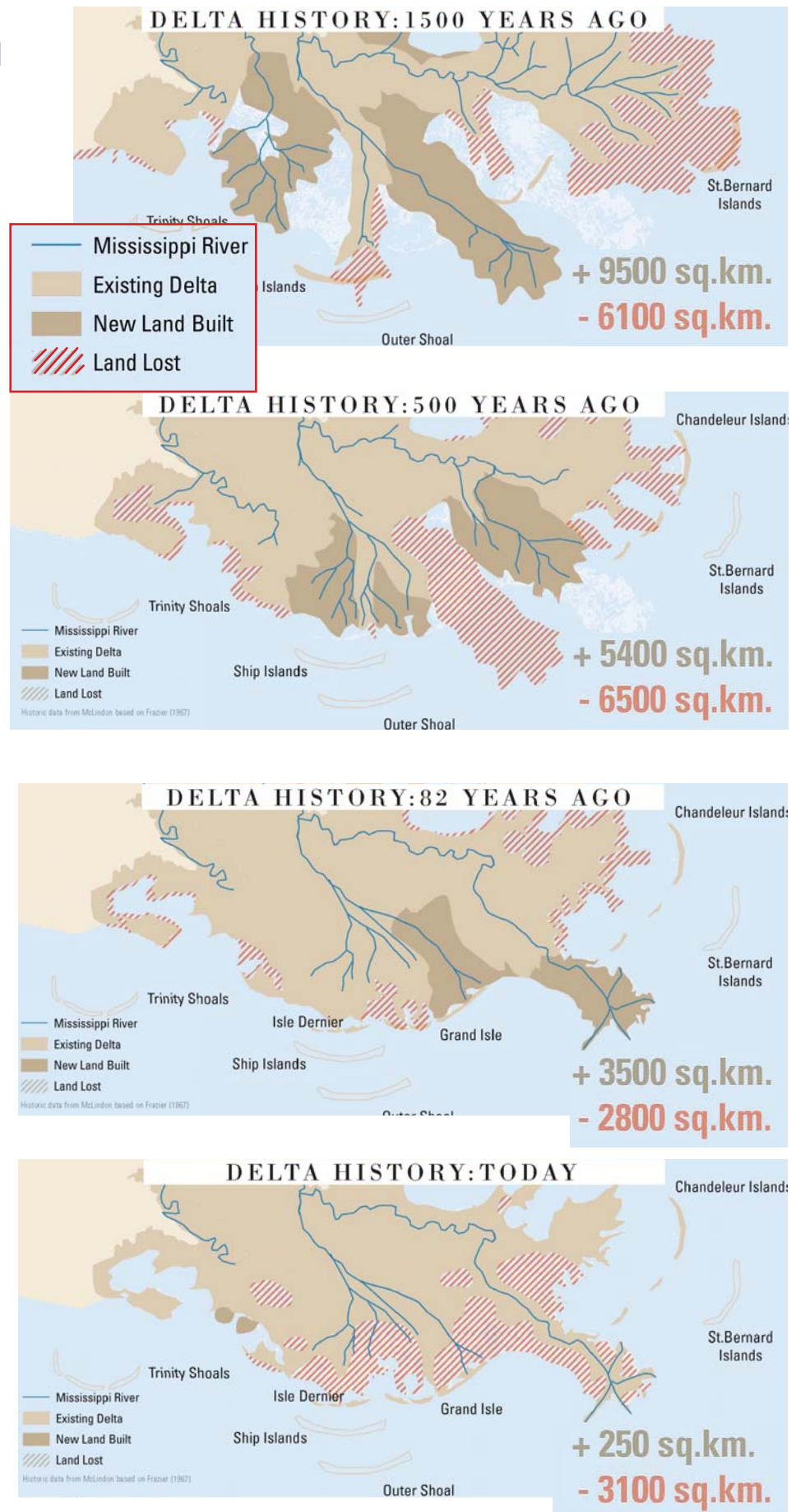
HOW WE GOT HERE

During the centuries preceding European settlement, Louisiana's landscape continuously changed. The Mississippi River, always seeking the shortest path to the Gulf, jumped courses often and spread through countless distributaries. With every course change, old land was lost, and new land formed. The River flooded often, blanketing the delta with layers of silt hauled from as far as Montana and Pennsylvania.

During these periodic river floods, the heaviest sediment settled on the banks, while thinner, lighter silt floated further away into back-swamps. Consequently, the banks of the river and bayous were the highest ground and the best land to settle.

Unfortunately, the natural flooding that built and maintained the delta was hazardous for development. Some of Bienville's very first works at La Balize and New Orleans in the 1700s involved building up levees, controlling water flow at the Bird's Foot, and generally trying to dry up wet land.¹

After the Great Flood of 1927, the Corps of Engineers constructed federal levees along the river, in an effort to protect property and improve river navigation for maritime commerce. Water that had nourished thousands of miles of wetlands became confined to a narrow, artificially-controlled channel. Sediment that previously built the delta now paves the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. While the levees initially provided residents with almost a century of temporary safety, our area now experiences the long term consequences: fast subsidence, wetland and wildlife loss, and higher flood risk. In short, we are losing land faster than we can possibly rebuild it.



HISTORY OF THE DELTA LAND GAIN AND LOSS

BAIRD Changing Course Final Report; Historic data from McLindon based on Frazier (1967)

¹ Campanella, 2008

SUBSIDENCE

Without new sediment and fresh water, the delta subsides. The ground here is like a sponge – when it dries out, it shrinks. The land protected by levees – the high ground by the river – has subsided faster than the rest of the coast because it was kept the driest. Once built on natural ridges, settlements are now in artificial bowls. Where the first levees were built to resist relatively minor flooding, now they are rebuilt to protect against complete devastation.

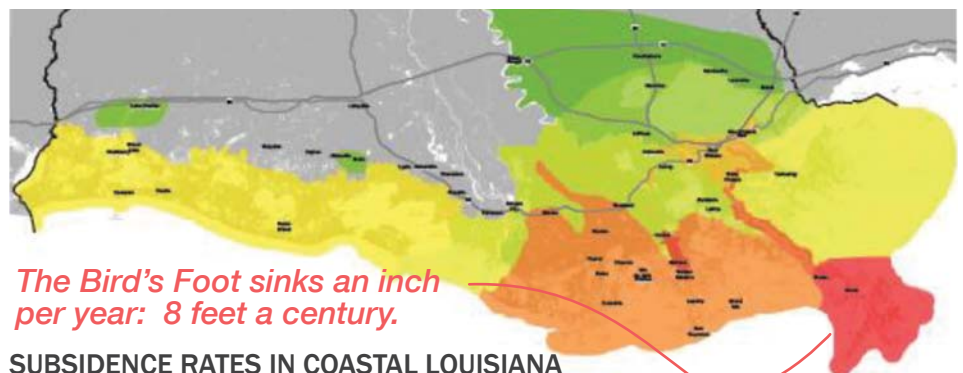
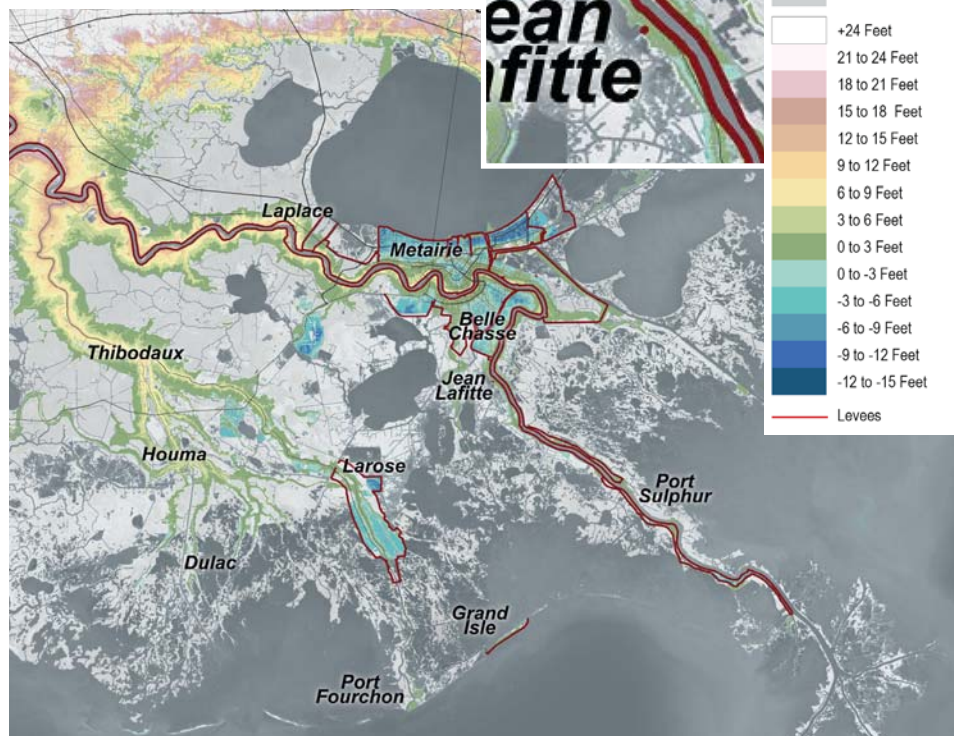
Although levees are popular short-term solutions to flood risk, they accelerate subsidence in the land they are built to protect. Levees create a situation in which they must be constantly maintained and sometimes upgraded. If they ever fail, the protected community risks destruction.

Many people now realize that the sense of security that levees once provided led to unsafe development within them, including slab-on-grade development in lower-lying areas. Therefore, the levees have directly contributed to the human and economic loss that they were meant to prevent.

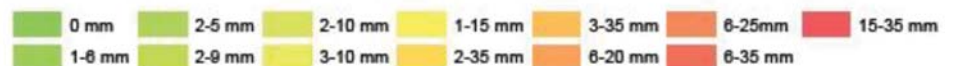
Regionally, levees prevented the land-building and land-maintaining processes of the river. Like other past delta lobes that disappeared when the river changed course, low-lying land across the coast will compact and subside below sea level without the river's continuous replenishment of sediment and freshwater.



Mississippi River from Space (MODIS)
May 20, 2008.
<http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



Yearly subsidence rates, LA CPRA (2012)

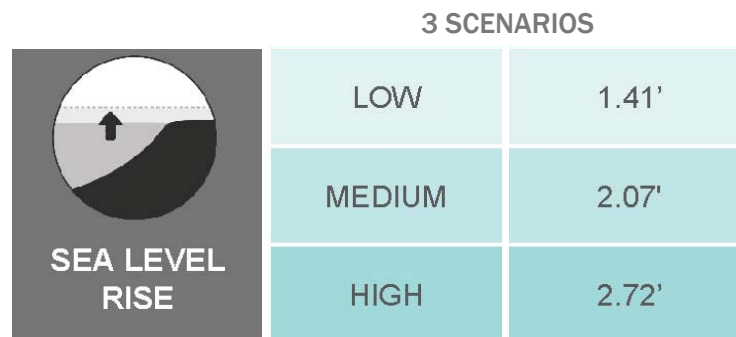


SEA LEVEL RISE

Although the Louisiana coast has experienced subsidence and wetland loss for the past century, the rate of loss is due to accelerate in the coming century, as melting polar ice caps and warming seas raise the level of the Gulf of Mexico.

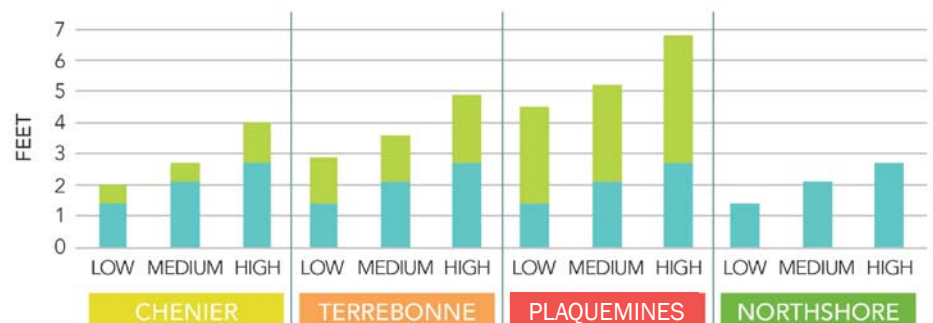
CPRA predicts that in 50 years, sea level rise in the Gulf will be between 1.4 and 2.7 feet. Recent reports estimate that over the next 100 years, the rise could be as high as 6 to 10 feet.

If current conditions hold, and if nothing is done to replenish land, much of the remaining wetlands across the coast will be absorbed into the Gulf in the next half century, leaving populations more vulnerable to flooding and storms.



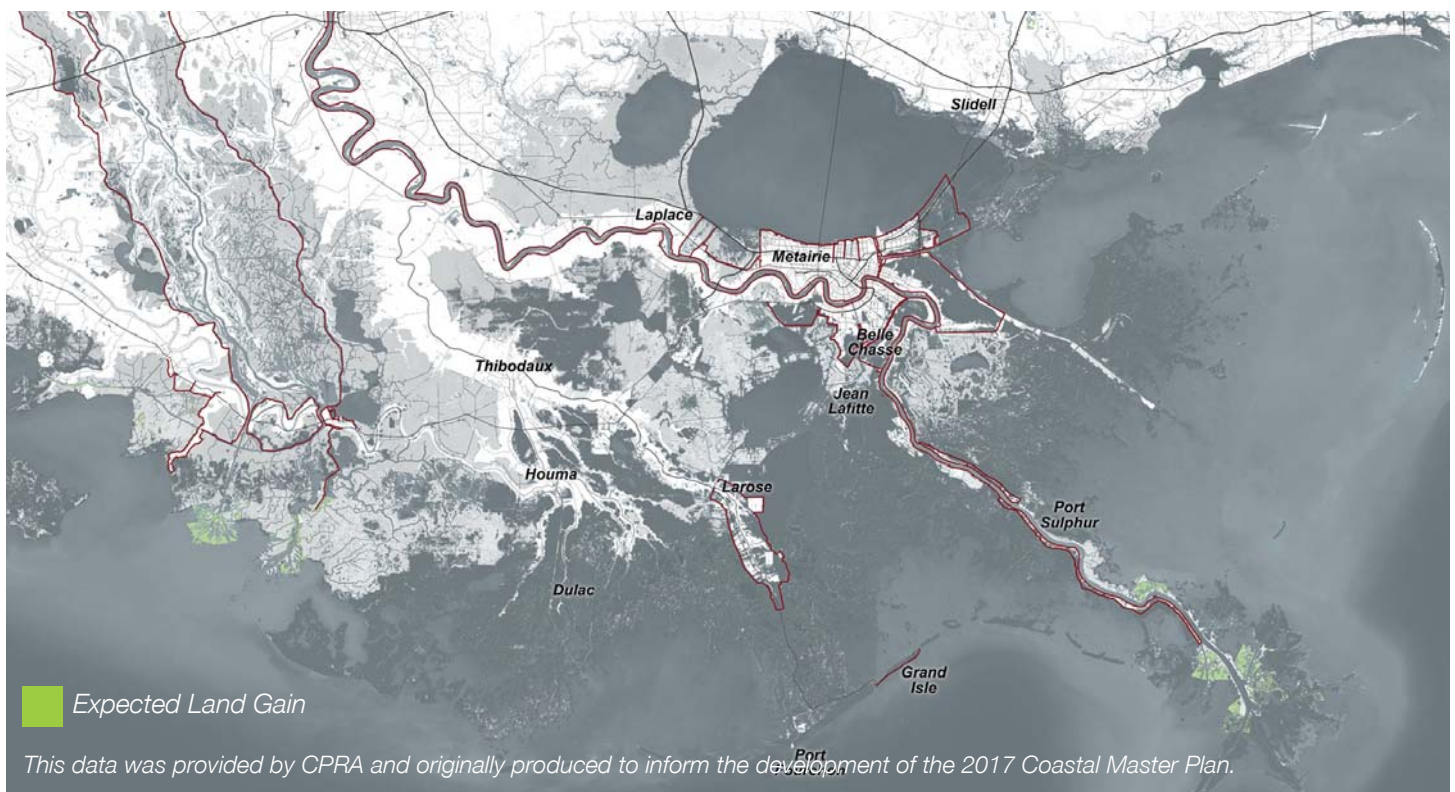
Sea Level is expected to rise between 1.41' and 2.72' by 2067
Source: CPRA Draft 2017 Coastal Master Plan

SEA LEVEL RISE + SUBSIDENCE



Relative Sea Level Rise is Sea Level Rise + Subsidence
Source: CPRA Draft 2017 Coastal Master Plan

PREDICTED LAND CHANGE: FUTURE WITHOUT ACTION 2067, Medium Scenario



WHY WE NEED THE COASTAL MASTER PLAN

Louisiana formed the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to create and update the Coastal Master Plan every five years. Using the best minds, most reliable data, and state of the art modeling software, the Master Plan proposes an effective mix of restoration and protection projects to maximize risk reduction and land preserved over a 50 year time horizon.

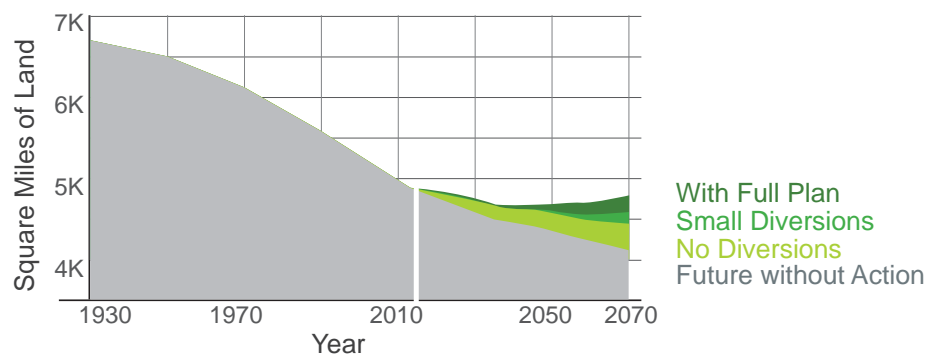
The CPRA recently released the 2017 Coastal Master Plan with revised land loss projections across the coast. Their maps include the most comprehensive data and analysis about coastal Louisiana currently available. Every five years CPRA updates its data and projections consistent with new measurements and models of subsidence and sea level rise.

The map below shows the benefits of Master Plan implementation. However, despite the vast improvement over what would occur without action, the coast will still lose land.

The \$50 billion plan is not fully funded. Funds stemming from the BP oil spill and other disasters will likely finance \$8-\$22B of these projects. The rest is unknown. As other coastal communities (Miami, Norfolk, Boston)

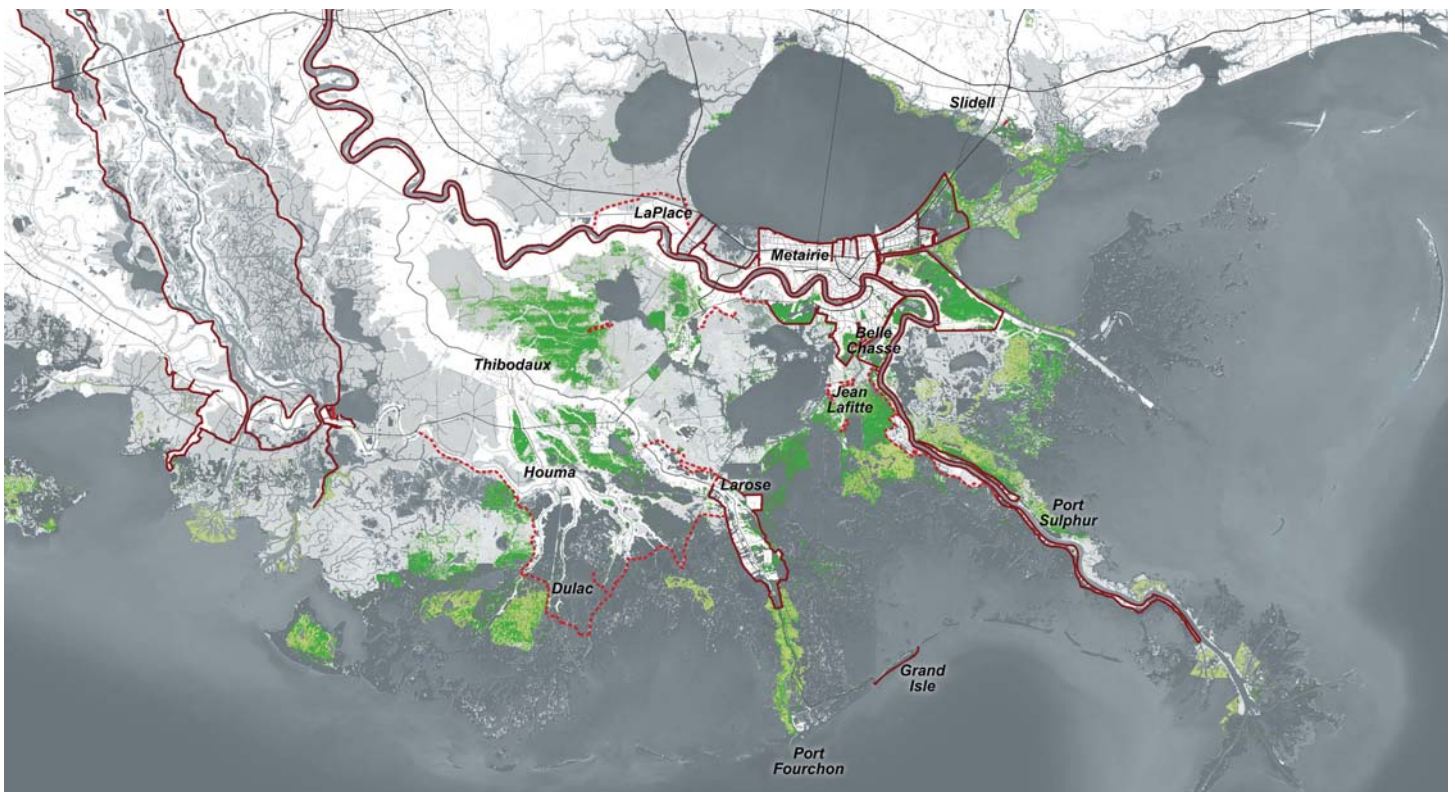
begin to face similar situations, federal dollars may be harder to come by.

Restoration and protection is not enough. Louisiana residents and communities have the opportunity to imagine and develop ways to adapt to a changing landscape.



PREDICTED LAND CHANGE: FULL COASTAL MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

2067, Medium Scenario

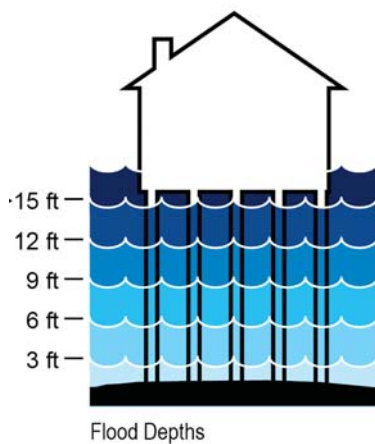


FLOOD RISK

Flood risk over the next 50 years will increase drastically across the coast. Land loss directly increases flood risk due to the loss of the storm surge buffer. Communities are already at much higher risk than they were 50 years ago. Hurricane Katrina broke an unusually long 40-year drought of major hurricanes hitting southeast Louisiana. In addition to ravaging the coast and communities, Hurricane Katrina serves as a reminder of how vulnerable we are to major flooding.

The maps to the right show flood depths during a “100 year flood” - meaning a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

The bottom two maps both show 2067 scenarios. One shows flood risk with the implementation of the Coastal Master Plan, while one shows flood risk without any intervention. Even if the plan is fully funded, many communities across the coast will experience increased flood risk.

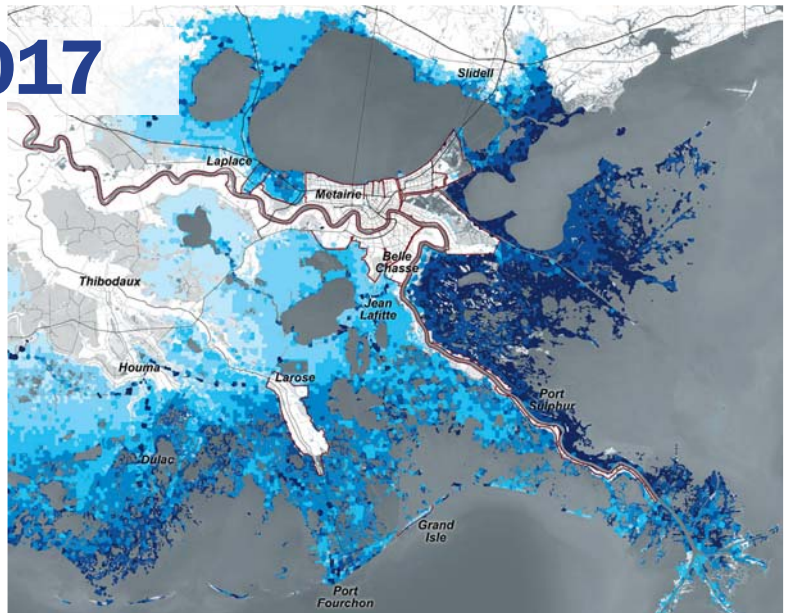


FLOOD RISK

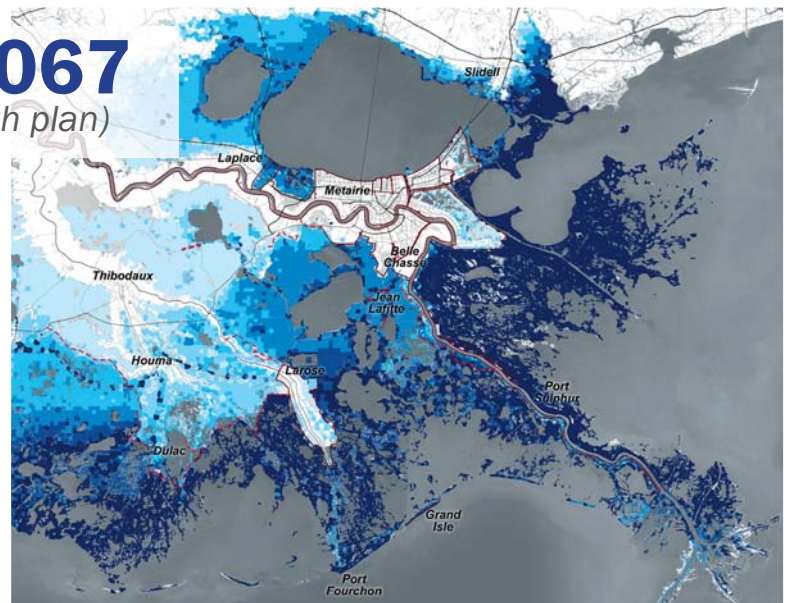
100-year flood depths

This data was provided by CPRA and originally produced to inform the development of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

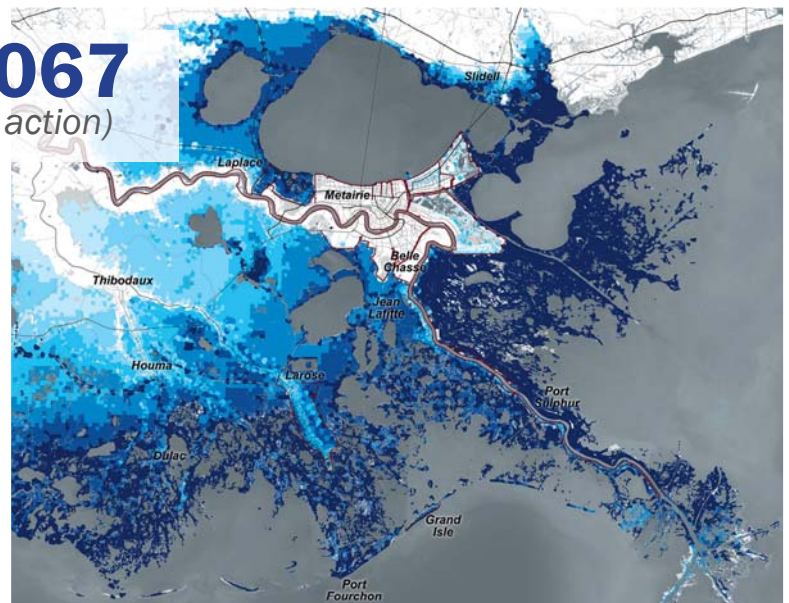
2017



2067 (with plan)



2067 (no action)



FLOOD INSURANCE

The 100-year flood is a metric that affects all homeowners. FEMA bases national flood insurance rates on the elevation difference between a home's first floor and the flood elevation of a 100-year flood, what they call the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and a subsequent adjustment to it in 2014 set in motion a gradual increase in flood insurance rates in flood areas. Rates will rise until they hit their "actuarial rates" — rates that reflect the risk and value of future loss. In other words, what residents pay in insurance rates will be statistically equal to the cost of rebuilding after anticipated floods.¹

For residents whose homes aren't elevated above the BFE, these new flood insurance rates will be unaffordable. Based on the 50-year outlook, CPRA proposes to give the businesses with under 3 feet of expected flooding grants to help floodproof. For homes on land that

ESTIMATED FLOOD INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Example home with \$100K coverage, VE Area

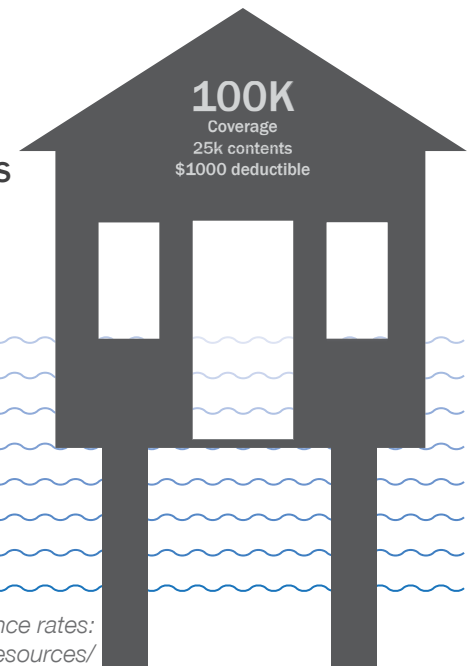
100-year flood depth above or below first floor Monthly Flood Insurance Premium

As the estimated flood risk level increases, so will flood insurance premiums.

+3 ft	\$480
+2 ft	\$369
+1 ft	\$279
0 ft	\$209
-1 ft	\$159
-2 ft	\$103
-3 ft	\$80
-4 ft	\$69

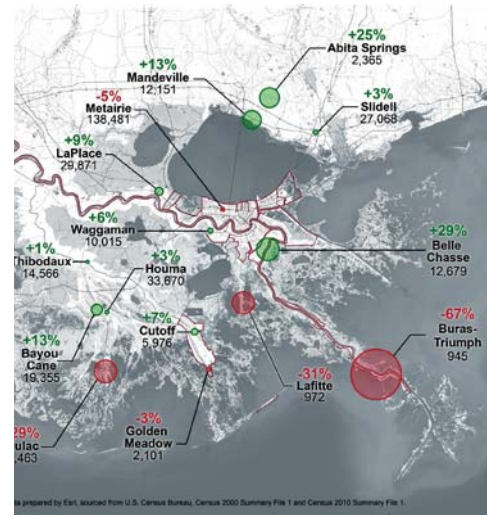
Rates based on FEMA sample flood insurance rates:

Source: <http://www.ncafp.com/resources/>



will be inundated with between 3 feet and 14 feet of water during a 100-year flood, CPRA recommends providing grants to elevate homes above flood levels. At 8 feet of elevation, some home insurance providers drop their wind policies, forcing homeowners to buy a wind damage insurance separately, at a higher cost.

Rising insurance costs make life on the coast unaffordable for many. In fact, many with the means to move are doing so already.



% change in population, 2000-2010

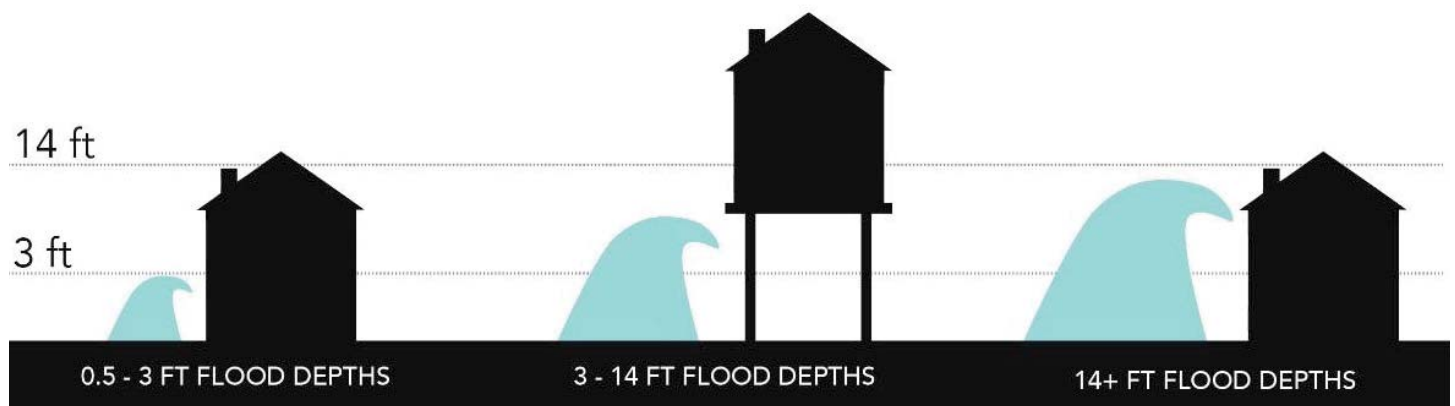
¹ National Flood Insurance Program, 2011

CPRA NON-STRUCTURAL PROJECT TYPES AND FLOOD DEPTHS

FLOODPROOF
commercial

ELEVATION
residential

VOLUNTARY ACQUISITION
residential



Source: CPRA 2017 draft powerpoint

GET IN TOUCH!

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