



March 22, 2013

Dear Planning Director,

As a planner in a coastal or riverfront area in Northeast Florida, I am writing to invite you to participate in a free Community Sea Level Rise Resiliency Assessment offered by the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) of the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc.

The Regional Community Institute (RCI) is a non-profit corporation created by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) to undertake review of regional issues and make policy recommendations to the NEFRC Board. RCI uses regional leaders as volunteers to accomplish its goals. At the request of NEFRC, RCI is currently reviewing how the potential for sea level rise could impact our region. Data suggests our region is vulnerable. We have reviewed possible regional vulnerabilities, reached what we believe to be reasonable assumptions about the threat, and obtained data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that allows us to partner with you to do a broad assessment of your community's vulnerability to sea level rise. The assessment is free. It only requires your City's staff to attend an assessment meeting, identify the community assets you wish to consider and provide your recommendations for best data sources to identify the locations of those community assets.

Based on your input, RCI will create maps that will identify the assets you suggest that are subject to sea level rise. The results of the assessment will be summarized and provided to you after the meeting, and EPC and RCI's policy recommendations will be informed by what we learn throughout the assessment process. RCI will also provide full access to all the data and material it has gathered in this project.

The only commitment we ask is that you invite to the assessment the staff in your local government or organization that are stakeholders and have an interest in the identified assets. A building official familiar with local approaches to hazard mitigation, storm water and flood plain management would be helpful to include in the assessment. Others may be appropriate to include depending on the community assets you choose to review. The assessment will be scheduled at your convenience.

The resiliency assessments are the first step in a process. The information gathered from these assessments will be used to create the policy recommendations that RCI will make to NEFRC in September 2013.

The assessments are only about vulnerability, and will not suggest adaptation or mitigation strategies related to sea level rise. We believe that the assessments will help to initiate dialogue on the issue so that regional strategies and resources are available to local governments and organizations in Northeast Florida when they are needed. NEFRC will review and act on RCI's policy recommendations this fall. When strategies and approaches are developed, NEFRC will engage local governments and organizations.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Assessments will be available until June 28, 2013. Please contact Margo Moehring, RCI Executive Director at 904 279 0885 X161 or mmoehring@nefrc.org if

you have questions or want to schedule an assessment. There is more information available at our webpage <http://www.rcinef.org/Committees.html>.

We look forward to working with you on a safe and prosperous future for Northeast Florida.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Page", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Page, Chair