



Kitsap County

**Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk
Assessment**

Community Engagement Plan



Introduction

Kitsap County has received grant funding from the Washington Department of Ecology to conduct a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Vulnerability and Risk Assessment. The assessment will identify potential losses or damages from flooding due to sea level rise; characterize the risk of loss; and highlight areas of the community, resources, infrastructure, or assets considered most vulnerable.

To complete the assessment, County staff will be reaching out to residents, community groups, businesses, and Tribes in Kitsap County, to inform, engage, and obtain input. The overarching goal of this outreach is to generate a SLR Vulnerability and Risk Assessment to educate the County and the public, inform planning, and identify potential actions for adaptability and resilience.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a unified public outreach approach for the various components of the Assessment. This includes determining the county's public participation goals, identifying project key parties, and developing a communications approach and schedule. This plan describes how the County will implement early and continuous public participation opportunities throughout the SLR Assessment process and ensure that effective engagement and outreach is extended to historically underserved communities and residents.

This project will include several public outreach events to educate and engage stakeholders. Outreach events will focus on discussion of the additional assessment results, review of maps, and identification and review of proposed regulatory language. A component of these events will also include education on adaptation strategies. A technical advisory committee (TAC) will be identified to provide input and recommendations on technical elements of the project. Stakeholders will be individuals who can affect change, have relevant knowledge or skills, represent the interests of particular groups, and/or will be impacted by SLR. Local Tribes will be consulted to determine how they would like to be involved and what support they require to participate. Outreach materials will be produced and shared to communicate regulatory requirements and SLR vulnerability.

This public participation plan will guide County staff in gathering public comments and ideas on Kitsap County's SLR planning initiatives. The plan will also help create positive community engagement, build trust, ensure transparency, foster healthy discussion about SLR in the County, and improve coordination between jurisdictions. The plan provides for robust public participation, vital to identification of vulnerable community assets and public supported planning actions.

The Assessment can incorporate both the concerns and ideas of the public that would not be possible without engagement.

SLR Vulnerability and Risk Assessment will address critical facilities. Outreach may target interest groups, stakeholders, or communities associated with these critical facilities that are identified as vulnerable. These facilities may include:

- Agricultural Land/Farmland
- Airports
- Brownfield Sites
- Coastal On-Site Septic Systems
- Coastal Residences
- County Buildings
- Fire Stations
- Group A Water Systems
- Hospitals
- Landfills
- Libraries
- Marinas
- Navy
- Police Stations
- Ports
- PUD Stations and Structures
- Roads
- Sewer Districts/Water Treatment Plants
- Schools
- Shellfish/Seafood Industrial Facilities

1.0 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Raise awareness about the project.

Objectives:

- Inform the public about the project scope, goals, schedule, and anticipated outcomes.
- Recruit interested parties to ensure diverse and continuous participation throughout the project.

Goal 2: Provide the public with an accessible and equitable process for involvement to ensure that the project decision making process is informed and inclusive.

Objectives:

- Provide the public with timely information and opportunities to review and comment on the SLR Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.
- Ensure transparency and predictability throughout the process by engaging with the public early and often to inform the public about the project and solicit input that will guide project outcomes.
- Assist the public to easily and constructively contribute comments on the draft assessment and maps by providing accessible formats for providing feedback on the project webpage and through an online survey.
- Provide opportunities for formal public input throughout the review process and especially at key milestones prior to decision making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from federal and state agencies, and Native American Tribes in Kitsap County.
- Engage a diverse population, representing the demographics of Kitsap County, equitably and inclusively, especially communities that have been historically underserved, so that the resulting SLR Assessment is well-grounded in the experiences and knowledge of the public. This engagement effort will include early coordination

with schools, neighborhoods and Kitsap County Public Health to help reach a diverse population.

Goal 3: Provide a coordinated effort to determine the existing issues through “ground truthing” related to infrastructure and flooding to better understand the future impacts from a changing climate and how best to mitigate them. The public will be consulted to determine where flooding already exists and discuss solutions through connection with communities with authentic knowledge of the area.

Objectives:

- Provide opportunities to participate in the development of draft amendments to County ordinances and plans as outlined in the Outreach Timeline in Section 4.4.
- Coordinate with stakeholders to understand existing conditions based on local knowledge and identify potential gaps in data, mapping and GIS modeling efforts. This effort will include distribution of draft maps for comment as outlined in the Outreach Timeline in Section 4.4.
- Provide timely information on, and an understanding of the process of developing a GIS model to demonstrate and characterize SLR risk in the focus areas.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Team Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Organization	Role	Responsibility
Scott Diener	Kitsap County	PEP Division Manager	Program Management
Jim Rogers	Kitsap County	Project Manager	Public Engagement and Event Process
Cindy Read	Kitsap County	Technology Analyst	Website, GIS support, outreach, website, project support
Alexandra Plumb	Facet	Consulting Team Member	Project Manager
Dawn Spilsbury	Facet	Consulting Team Member	SLR Technical Manager
Dan Nickel	Facet	Consulting Team Member	Principal in Charge; QA/QC
Chuck McDowell	Facet	Consulting Team Member	Outreach Specialist
Donna Keeler	Facet	Consulting Team Member	Outreach Specialist
Jessica Cote	Blue Coast Engineering	Consulting Team Member	Coastal Processes
Greg Curtiss	Blue Coast Engineering	Consulting Team Member	Coastal Processes

2.2 Engagement Responsibility Matrix

Engagement Group	Project Phase & Responsibility			
	Data Collection & Develop Project Methodology	Vulnerability Analysis Mapping & Draft Recommendations	Draft Regulatory Review & Assessment Report	Finalize Regulatory Recommendations & Assessment Report
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Provide input on assets and SLR scenario to be mapped	Provide input on asset mapping	Provide input on draft assessment report, draft recommendations	NA
Planning Commission	informed about project scope and schedule, input on Community Engagement Plan	Informed on project progress, input on draft report and recommendations	Informed on project progress	NA
Board of County Commissioners	informed about project scope and schedule, input on Community Engagement Plan	Informed on project progress, input on draft report and recommendations	Informed on project progress	NA
Community Advisory Councils	informed about project scope and schedule	NA	Provide input on draft assessment report, draft recommendations	NA
Public	informed about project scope and schedule	Provide input on flood prone areas, provide input on recommendations	Provide input on draft assessment report, draft recommendations	Informed about final report and recommendations

3.0 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee will include invitations to stakeholders who represent the interests of particular groups, can effect change, have relevant knowledge or skills, and/or are working to address the issues of coastal flooding, storm surge, and erosion damage within Kitsap County. The TAC will help provide assistance on planning scenarios, assets included in the vulnerability assessment, mapping priorities, identifying specific areas of concern and gaps, and will provide feedback on future code and plan amendments. As other entities are identified and included on the TAC, they will be added to the contact list and the final committee members will be documented in the final report.

Potential TAC members are expected to include:

Organization	Name	Email
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Kitsap County Public Works	Michelle Perdue	mperdue@kitsap.gov
Kitsap County Public Works	Anthony Burgess	AWBurgess@kitsap.gov
Kitsap County Public Works	Joe Rutan	JRutan@kitsap.gov
Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management	Jan Glarum	JGlarum@kitsap.gov
Port of Kingston	Greg Englin	GregE@portofkingston.org
Washington Department of Transportation	Ally Bradley	ally.bradley@wsdot.wa.gov
Kitsap Public Utility District	Angela Bennink	angela@kpud.org
Shore Friendly Kitsap	Christina Kereki	CKereki@kitsap.gov
Washington State Department of Ecology	Cinde Donoghue	cdon461@ECY.WA.GOV
Naval Base Kitsap	Anna Whalen	anna.m.whalen.civ@us.navy.mil
Skokomish Indian Tribe	Lisa Belleveau	lbelleveau@skokomish.org
Suquamish Tribe	Alison Osullivan	aosullivan@suquamish.nsn.us
Suquamish Tribe	Steve Todd	stodd@suquamish.nsn.us
Point No Point Treaty Council	Cynthia Rossi	crossi@pnptc.org
Point Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Benjamin Harrison	bharrison@pgst.nsn.us
Kitsap County Department of Community Development	Heather Cleveland	Hcleveland@kitsap.gov
Kitsap County Department of Community Development	Colin Poff	Cpoff@kitsap.gov
Kitsap County Department of Community Development	Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech	Kyobech@kitsap.gov

4.0 Outreach and Engagement Approach

The County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for the public and stakeholders to increase their awareness about risks posed by SLR and extreme flood events. The County will take advantage of various modes of communication to inform the public, which may include, but not limited to social media and/or other web presence and email distribution lists. Meetings will be held virtually or in-person with a virtual option (hybrid). Engagement strategies include:

4.1 Public Meetings

Up to four (4) stakeholder workshops will be held to collectively gather existing information and provide specific feedback to aid in the analysis and GIS modeling and/or the subsequent draft code and plan amendments. A minimum of 2 (two) workshops will be held in-person. The

workshops will be held to seek feedback from the broader group, refine specific details, and review the maps and proposed draft amendments developed by the project team and the TAC, once complete.

4.2 Technical Advisory Committee

A technical advisory committee (TAC) composed of identified stakeholders will be formed early in the project. The TAC will help provide assistance on planning scenarios, assets included in the vulnerability assessment, mapping priorities, identifying specific areas of concern and gaps, and will provide feedback on future code and plan amendments. The TAC will meet up to four (4) times throughout the project and will consider and utilize feedback obtained from the Public Meetings in developing priorities, maps, and strategies.

4.3 Targeted Outreach

Focused conversations with specific stakeholders will also help refine the understanding of the project's needs and provide subject matter expertise on elements identified by the project team, TAC or during public meetings. It is anticipated that individual meetings will be held with various stakeholders, as needed, such as businesses, community groups, non-profit organizations, Kitsap Community Resource, school districts, Shore Friendly Kitsap, Navy, and neighboring jurisdictions. Additional outreach will be facilitated with Tribes, depending on their preferred level of involvement. Determination of targeted outreach needs will be reviewed during TAC meetings and at key decision points in the project.

4.4 Outreach Timeline

The County is committed to providing various opportunities for the public to learn about and participate in the SLR assessment process. Input will be solicited throughout the project, generally following the tentative schedule below.

Project Kick-off	June 2024	Public Announcement, Website Materials
TAC Meeting #1	June 2024	Kick off meeting with TAC, Review project and roles
TAC Meeting #2	July 2024	Determine SLR projection to be used in Assessment
Planning Commission / Board of Commissioners Brief	August 2024	Project Overview and Outreach Approach
Community Advisory Council Briefs	September 2024	Project Overview
Public Meeting #1	September 2024	Project Overview
Public Survey	Sep-Oct 2024	Public and Agency Surveys on Concerns and Priorities

TAC Meeting #3	November 2024	Review of Preliminary Maps
Public Meeting #2	December 2024	Review Draft Maps, Survey Results and Preliminary Findings
Draft Documents	January 2024	Draft Maps Published
TAC Meeting #4	February 2025	Review and Discussion of Draft Audit Summary Memorandum and Report
Planning Commission Meeting /Public Meeting #3	Mar/Apr 2025	Review and Discussion of Draft Audit Summary Memorandum and Report
Board of Commissioners/Public Meeting #4	Apr/May 2025	Review and Discussion of Final Documents and draft amendments contained within the Audit Summary Memorandum.
Final Report	June 2025	Final Documents Published

5.0 Implementation Actions

5.1 Workshops and Meetings

To achieve the objectives outlined in Section 1.0, a minimum of eight (8) meetings will be convened as follows:

- Up to four (4) Technical Advisory Committee meetings will be convened at different stages of the project. These meetings will provide opportunities for input on the GIS analysis, draft maps, and draft amendment language as identified in the Audit Summary Memorandum. The TAC will meet at the beginning of the project to discuss the approach, once the maps are drafted for feedback, and then once again during the review of the draft amendments.
- Up to four (4) public meetings, including presentations to Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners, will be held to introduce the project, review the draft maps, draft Audit Summary Memorandum, and draft report.
- The draft amendments identified in the Audit Summary Memorandum will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and Tribal Council, if requested.

TAC meetings will be approximately 60-90 minutes long. The public meetings will be approximately 60 minutes long and will include two in-person meetings.

The County will host up to four (4) public meetings for the SLR Assessment process. The virtual or hybrid general meetings will be held in the early stages of the update process and will inform the public about the assessment process, the topics that are subject for review, the project timeline, and future opportunities for public comment and engagement. Prior to all meetings, a

meeting agenda that includes meeting goals, meeting structure, and meeting activities will be developed.

5.2 Notifications

The County will develop notification materials including press releases, email notification, and social media advertisements to ensure broad participation. Notifications will also be sent via the “Gov Delivery” system and “Constant Contact.” Interested parties from the Comprehensive Plan process may be contacted, and the County will keep an updated list of key partners and interested parties specific to this project. The County may inform media outlets of the project.

5.3 Targeted Outreach

Suquamish Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Point No Point Treaty Council have been invited to participate on the TAC to share modeling and analysis results, determine the Tribes’ priorities, level and means of engagement, and coordinate accordingly. Additional outreach strategies will be dependent on the audience identified. Email and phone calls will be utilized for individual interviews and email be utilized for stakeholder engagement. The public will be notified of meetings and opportunities to engage through various modes of communication that may include notifications on social media platforms, webpages, appropriate email distribution lists, posted flyers at key community resource centers, and mailers to target areas. Interest groups that are identified through the analysis of critical facilities and initial engagement with the TAC may be engaged to help share project information and engagement opportunities with their represented user groups to reach a broader audience with those materials. Recommendations and support for specific modes of online communication will be identified during the initial TAC meeting.

In addition to holding focused conversations with County staff, stakeholders will be encouraged to use social media, at their discretion, to learn about the project and provide input at various phases of engagement, and extend project messaging to the groups or organizations that they represent. To reach a wider audience and share what they learn with others, stakeholders will be encouraged to use any common messaging themes that may be developed or identified by the TAC to ensure a unified vision and alignment of intent throughout the duration of the project.

5.4 Public Survey

An online public survey will be conducted to solicit feedback on the project vision and goals and to help with the identification of vulnerable community assets that will inform mapping and analysis. The survey will be hosted online and a link to the survey will be shared via digital and print flyers as well as on the project website. The survey will include a project description, project goals and anticipated outcomes. The survey will ask the public about any areas of concern such as areas of frequent flooding that may support inventory. The survey will include optional demographic questions to better understand who the survey is reaching.

5.5 Community Advisory Councils

The County will engage with the Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCCC), Central Kitsap Community Council (CKCC), Suquamish Community Advisory Council (SCAC), and Manchester Community Advisory Council (MCAC) to help spread awareness of the project and upcoming events. The County will provide one briefing to each Community Advisory Council to summarize the project and point members to the online Storymap.

5.6 Documentation

Meeting notes will serve as documentation for participants, discussion and concerns that will inform language and plan amendments. Meeting notes will be captured and disseminated to the TAC for review to ensure conversations are correctly represented. Presentation materials will be retained and will be available on the dedicated sea level rise webpage. Meeting summaries will be created for each engagement meeting.

5.7 Website

[Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment \(kitsap.gov\)](https://kitsap.gov/Sea-Level-Rise-Vulnerability-and-Risk-Assessment)

The County has a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment webpage where interested residents and community members may visit for status updates, draft documents, official notices, and other project information. This webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the SLR Assessment. The website will host an ArcGIS StoryMap or similar online web map to help the public review the results in a user-friendly and informative interface. Near the beginning of the project, an ArcGIS StoryMap or web map will be created to include an initial introduction to SLR background and project description. The ArcGIS StoryMap or web map will be updated as the project is completed. An e-mail link for questions or comments will be provided on the website and website visitors will also be invited to sign-up for the County's email distribution list.

5.8 Educational Materials

Educational materials such as print and digital flyers will be posted digitally and physically at key locations within the community to inform the public about upcoming meetings. The flyers will include the meeting location, date and time, overview of meeting topics, and a QR code and link to the project website. Digital flyers will be posted to the county's social media pages.

Print flyers may be posted at the following locations:

Administration Buildings:

- Kitsap County Administration Building

Libraries:

- Bremerton - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Bremerton - Sylvan Way
- Kingston

- Little Boston
- Manchester
- Port Orchard
- Poulsbo
- Silverdale
- **Community Centers:**
- Burley Hall
- Givens Community Center
- Greater Hansville Community Center
- Marvin Williams Recreational Center
- Sheridan Park Community Center
- Village Green Community Center
- Haselwood Family YMCA
- Bremerton Family YMCA

Kitsap Community Resources:

- KCR Port Orchard
- KCR Bremerton
- KCR Silverdale

5.9 Implementation Plan

The following implementation plan represents the approximate dates of outreach events and the activities associated with those events. Unscheduled events will be noted with approximate dates and will be updated as the schedules are finalized.

Outreach Event	Activity	Schedule	Responsibility
Project Kick-off			
	Publish Website	June 2024	Kitsap County
TAC Meeting #1			
	Schedule TAC	3 weeks before meeting	Kitsap County
	Meeting agenda & draft materials to Kitsap County	1 week before meeting	Facet
	TAC Meeting	June 14, 2024	Kitsap County/Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
TAC Meeting #2			
	Schedule TAC	3 weeks before meeting	Kitsap County

	Meeting agenda & draft materials to Kitsap County	1 week before meeting	Facet
	TAC Meeting	July 15, 2024	Kitsap County/Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
Planning Commission / Board of Commissioners Briefing			
	Schedule briefing	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Draft presentation to Kitsap County	1 week before meeting	Facet
	BOCC Briefing	August 19, 2024	Kitsap County/Facet
	PC Briefing	August 20, 2024	Kitsap County/ Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
Community Advisory Council Briefs			
	Schedule briefing	1 month before meetings	Kitsap County
	Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCCC)	October 9, 2024	Kitsap County
	Central Kitsap Community Council (CKCC)	October 2, 2024	Kitsap County
	Suquamish Community Advisory Council (SCAC)	November 7, 2024	Kitsap County
	Manchester Community Advisory Council (MCAC)	November 5, 2024	Kitsap County
	Briefing summary notes	1 week after meetings	Kitsap County
Public Meeting #1			
	Schedule meeting & reserve location	2 months before meeting	Kitsap County
	Update website with meeting date	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Digital files of print and digital flyers to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet

	Public notification of meeting via digital social media and posted flyers	2 weeks before meeting	Kitsap County
	Draft materials/ Draft Storymap to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet
	Comments on materials to Facet	1 week before meeting	Kitsap County
	Public notification of meeting via digital social media, including survey link	2 days before meeting	Kitsap County
	Publish Storymap, add link to website	2 days before meeting	Facet/ Kitsap County
	Public Meeting	September 11, 2024	Facet/ Kitsap County
	Meeting summary notes	1 week after meeting	Facet/ Kitsap County
Public Survey			
	Draft survey to Kitsap County	2 weeks before publishing	Facet
	Comments on survey to Facet	1 week before publishing	Kitsap County
	Publish survey, add link/QR code to digital flyer	2 days before meeting	Facet
	Add survey link to website, publish digital flyer	2 days before meeting	Kitsap County
	Share link/ QR code at public meeting	September 11, 2024	Facet/ Kitsap County
	Close survey	1 month after publishing	Facet
	Survey results to Kitsap County	1 week after survey closes	Facet
TAC Meeting #3			
	Schedule TAC	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Meeting agenda & draft materials to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet

	Meeting agenda & draft materials to TAC	1 week before meeting	Kitsap County/Facet
	TAC Meeting	November 2024	Kitsap County/Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
Public Meeting #2			
	Schedule meeting & reserve location	2 months before meeting	Kitsap County
	Update website with meeting date	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Digital files of print and digital flyers to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet
	Public notification of meeting via digital social media and posted flyers	2 weeks before meeting	Kitsap County
	Draft materials/ Draft Storymap to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet
	Comments on materials to Facet	1 week before meeting	Kitsap County
	Public notification of meeting via digital social media	2 days before meeting	Kitsap County
	Publish Storymap, add link to website	2 days before meeting	Facet/ Kitsap County
	Public Meeting	December 2024	Facet/ Kitsap County
	Meeting summary notes	1 week after meeting	Facet/ Kitsap County
Draft Documents			
	Draft documents to Kitsap County	2 weeks before publishing date	Facet
	Comments on materials to Facet	1 week before publishing date	Kitsap County
	Draft documents published to project website	January 2025	Kitsap County
TAC Meeting #4			

	Schedule TAC	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Meeting agenda & draft materials to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet
	Meeting agenda & draft materials to TAC	1 week before meeting	Kitsap County/Facet
	TAC Meeting	February 2025	Kitsap County/Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
Planning Commission Meeting /Public Meeting #3			
	Schedule meeting	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Draft presentation to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet
	Final presentation to Kitsap County	1 week before meeting	Facet
	Planning Commission Meeting	April 2025	Kitsap County/ Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
Board of Commissioners/Public Meeting #4			
	Schedule meeting	1 month before meeting	Kitsap County
	Draft presentation to Kitsap County	2 weeks before meeting	Facet
	Final presentation to Kitsap County	1 week before meeting	Facet
	Board of County Commissioners Meeting	May 2025	Kitsap County/ Facet
	Meeting Notes to Kitsap County	1 week after meeting	Facet
Final Report			
	Publish final documents on project website	June 2025	Kitsap County
	Update website/ Storymap	June 2025	

6.0 Deliverables

To facilitate a transparent and well documented process, the following deliverables will be collected, submitted to Ecology, and made available to the public on the dedicated sea level rise webpage:

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
- ArcGIS online map
- Prioritization of public facilities for high-resolution risk assessment
- Schedule of planned outreach meetings to be included on the project website
- Meeting materials, including attendance lists, meeting notes and summary, presentation materials
- Audit Summary Memorandum
- Draft and Final SLR Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Report
- Draft and Final Maps

7.0 Revisiting the Outreach Plan

Throughout the project duration, this Outreach Plan will be revisited to consider the effectiveness of outreach, thoroughness of stakeholder participation, and whether change in communication approach or planned events is warranted.