



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Councils of Scarborough, Old Orchard Beach, Saco and Scarborough  
**From:** Jonathan T. Lockman AICP, Planning Director, SMRPC  
**Date:** 30 December 2010  
**RE:** End of Calendar Year Report from the Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG)

Attached is the 2010 year-end report of the group you appointed last fall, the Sea Level Adaption Working Group (SLAWG), which is entitled: "Sea Level Rise And Potential Impacts by the Year 2100...A Vulnerability Assessment for the Saco Bay Communities" The conclusions of the report can be summarized, as follows:

The sea level in Saco Bay has risen approximately 7.2 inches since 1912, as actually measured by the Portland Tide Gauge. The working group has assumed that between the present time and the year 2100, sea level in the Bay will rise an additional 2 feet. The assumption is based on the middle sea level scenario from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2001) and sea level predictions adopted by the State of Maine in the Coastal Sand Dune Rules. Observed sea level changes in Maine have been following global trends over the past century. This report predicts damage to land and buildings based on a projection of two feet of additional sea level added to the highest annual tide (also known as the Spring Tide), as well as two feet of additional sea level added to the highest storm level, recorded in 1978.

**Based on the most recent tax assessments, the total value of all land and buildings that could be flooded in all four communities, by the year 2100, at the time of each spring tide, is estimated at approximately \$400 million. The total value of all land and buildings that could be flooded in all four communities, by the year 2100, should a storm occur with sea levels two feet higher than in the 1978 storm, is estimated at approximately \$1 billion.**

Locations of the land and buildings predicted to be inundated with rising sea level are shown in a series of color figures in the report, with the highest losses predicted in Old Orchard Beach and Scarborough, but with losses shown in all four communities.

In the calendar year of 2011, the SLAWG is planning to meet 20 times, to continue its work in completing the vulnerability assessment, and to create an action plan with identified and prioritized projects for Council consideration by each community. Representatives from the committee would be happy to appear before you at a regular meeting or workshop, should you desire, in the beginning of 2011, for the purpose of presenting this assessment. Pages 9 and 10 of the report contain a description of the next steps in the SLAWG's work program, should you wish additional details.

The State Planning Office has recently announced that it will award \$12,500 in grant funds to the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, to fund the work of the SLAWG during 2011. This is contingent upon SMRPC receiving an equal match from the four community partners. Therefore, at this time, we are attaching a request to this letter for \$3,125 in contribution from each of your four communities (totaling \$12,500) for the calendar year 2011. We appreciate your continued support of this unique and important regional planning effort. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- Acton
- Alfred
- Arundel
- Baldwin
- Berwick
- Biddeford
- Brownfield
- Buxton
- Cornish
- Dayton
- Denmark
- Eliot
- Fryeburg
- Hiram
- Hollis
- Kennebunk
- Kennebunkport
- Kittery
- Lebanon
- Limerick
- Limington
- Lovell
- Lyman
- Newfield
- North Berwick
- Ogunquit
- Old Orchard Beach
- Parsonsfield
- Porter
- Saco
- Sanford
- Shapleigh
- South Berwick
- Stoneham
- Stow
- Sweden
- Waterboro
- Wells
- York