

Game of Floods Outreach Activity

2016 Ocean Climate Summit

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Goal: Share “Game of Floods” as an educational activity for high school students, community groups and public workshops.

Learning objectives:

- Administer a community ‘Game of Floods’ event through understanding the game’s application, instructions and materials.
- Apply adaptation strategies to sea level rise planning with an understanding of costs and effectiveness (environmental, social, economic, etc.).
- Recognize challenges of achieving consensus in a community with diverse and possibly conflicting stakeholder groups.

Partners: Marin County Community Development Agency, Marin County Department of Public Works, Coravai, California Coastal Commission, Shore Up Marin.

Description: The "Game of Floods" was developed by Marin County as an educational activity on sea level rise adaptation for public workshops, high schools, and community groups. Through Youth Exploring Sea-Level Rise Science (YESS), it has been launched in several high school environmental education classrooms to engage youth in conversations about choices they will be faced with through their lives. Through this hands-on activity, participants can gather around a game board and plan for sea level rise adaptation on “North Bay Island”. To prepare for a 3 foot sea level increase, players choose to protect, accommodate, or retreat assets like homes, schools, hospitals, beaches, wetlands, and roads.

Adaptation strategies include traditional flood protection measures such as levees and seawalls; green infrastructure approaches including horizontal levees and beach nourishment; and elevating, retrofitting, or relocating structures. The “Adaptation Strategy Guide” summarizes information about environmental impacts, cost estimates, and duration of the strategies. People who play the game learn about potential approaches and tradeoffs, and bring amazing insights to how we think about sea level rise adaptation.

CDA staff launched the Game of Floods early in the sea level rise planning process because an educated citizenry is critical. Participants have enthusiastically praised its effectiveness at fostering collaborative dialogue and deeper understanding of the environmental, economic and social choices that communities will face. The game was designed to be general enough to represent any California community, and Marin County staff can provide the materials to any local jurisdiction, non-profit, or other group interested in hosting an event. We especially want to connect with high school teachers who may want to include sea level rise in their curriculum through the YESS project.