

Baker Bay and Grays Bay: 2024 Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy

Executive Summary

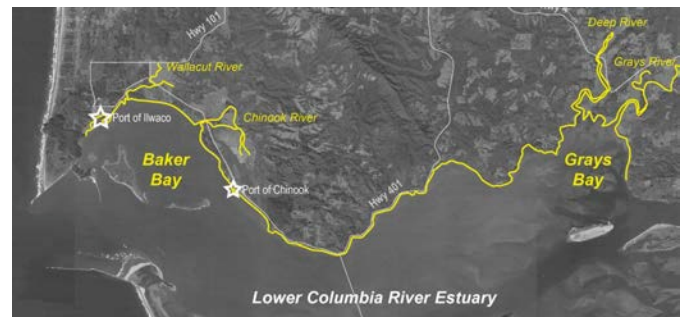


image: Rosburg Hall by Mark Letham

Collaborations to support community assets and habitats

The “*Bay to Bay: Community-Based Hazards and Habitat Resilience Planning in the Columbia River Estuary*” project ran from 2021-2024.¹ The project team conducted outreach and hosted eight public workshops² to identify activities that can build resilience to long-term water level change³ while also addressing today’s priorities, and helped local project proponents to take next steps. Some activities were already active, while other opportunities had not yet been identified.

Bay to Bay advanced conversations across community members and city, county, state, federal, and Tribal governments. Workshop participants shared ideas and information, developed actionable and fundable steps for complex issues, and built relationships between interested parties. The project team provided technical assistance such as project scoping, engineering support, grant-writing, and meeting facilitation.



This *Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy* documents this process, shares participant’s insights, suggests next steps for locally-prioritized activities to assist competitive funding proposals, and identifies cross-cutting recommendations for cross-organizational resilience collaborations. This template can support locally-driven coastal resilience activities elsewhere and was preceded by 2019-21’s *Resilience Action Demonstration Project*.⁴



Debris-filled waves crash over the US 101 seawall in Chinook (Natalie St. John, Chinook Observer)

¹ Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s National Coastal Resilience Fund; see wacoastalnetwork.com

² Four workshops each for Baker Bay (at the Historic Chinook School Gym) and Grays Bay (at Rosburg Hall, pictured above)

³ Such as sea level rise and precipitation change

⁴ Led by Washington Sea Grant and Washington State Department of Ecology; see wacoastalnetwork.com

Outcomes: Resilience projects and suggested next steps

Workshop participants identified the following projects, which were refined through the project team's direct support and engagement with local project proponents. By moving forward with this network of interrelated proactive measures, we can build local capacity to safeguard critical infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities against the impacts of climate change. Projects that resulted in funding requests or other tangible next steps are marked with a star (★).

Activity	Suggested next steps
Baker Bay	
1. <u>Ilwaco shoreline flood protection</u>	Identify a competitive funding strategy to assess alternatives, incorporate public input, and design and implement this project.
2. <u>Ilwaco distributed stormwater management</u> ★	Secure funds to analyze existing conditions, assess alternatives in coordination with community members, and develop resulting projects, plans, and incentives.
3. <u>Lower Willacut River water management and flood adaptation</u>	Secure funds to analyze existing conditions, assess alternatives in coordination with community members, design relevant synergistic project components, and implement preferred project components.
4. <u>Chinook Hatchery and Houchen Street flood impacts reduction</u>	Secure funds to coordinate with adjacent landowners and regulators, analyze hydrology and habitats, assess alternatives, and develop project design(s).
5. <u>Chinook shoreline erosion reduction and habitat enhancement</u> ★	Secure funds to analyze existing conditions, coordinate with community members and landowners to identify goals and concerns, assess potential alternatives, and develop initial design to inform permitting discussions
6. <u>Ilwaco and Chinook (Pacific County) upland housing planning and development</u>	Develop a working group to - among other tasks - conduct local, state, and federal outreach; identify potential pathways to acquiring and developing uplands for housing; and create a work plan and feasibility assessment with a dedicated lead.
Grays Bay	
1. <u>Grays River dredging to reduce flood impacts</u> ★	Work with US Army Corps and others to conduct relevant studies and economic assessments to determine feasibility of dredging
2. <u>Grays River: coordinated flood impacts reduction projects across watershed</u> ★	Convene active parties to better understand local watershed processes and how other communities have dealt with similar issues (see Wahkiakum County Marine Resource Committee's coastal resilience outreach activities).
3. <u>Grays River gages</u> ★	Prioritize gages/locations and identify funding. Continue ongoing conversations and update interested parties about gage-related developments/needs.
4. <u>Grays River modeling</u> ★	Continue PNNL's modeling with multiple opportunities for community input.
5. <u>Deep River navigation channel dredging</u> ★	Work with US Army Corps and others to conduct relevant studies and economic assessments to determine feasibility of dredging
6. <u>Deep River: coordinated flood impacts reduction projects across watershed</u>	Continue collaboration with CREST and others to reduce flood impacts while improving habitat (see Wahkiakum County Marine Resource Committee's coastal resilience outreach activities).