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HARC

Resilience: Going Beyond Recovery



Managing to Extremes in Texas



Flood

Drought

Relative Sea Level Rise

Is the Past a Good Guide for the Future?



- New sources of information & analyses
- Plan for possible future scenarios
- New strategies & solutions



Future Likelihood of Extreme Events



Increasing annual likelihood of Texas rainfall events > 20 inches:

- Yr 2000 ~ every 100 years
- Yr 2017 ~ every 16 years
- Yr 2100 ~ every 5.5 years

K. Emanuel. 2017. Assessing the present and future probability of Hurricane Harvey's rainfall. Proc Nat. Acad. Sci.



Traditional Response & Recovery



Resilience: Going Beyond Recovery



Gray + Green Infrastructure: A Watershed Approach

Houston-Galveston Watershed	HARC Wetland & Development Index	•
Brays Bayou	73%	
White Oak Bayou	67 %	
Buffalo Bayou	56%	
Sims Bayou	50%	
Houston Ship Channel	41%	
Greens Bayou	44%	
Armand-Taylor Bayou	38%	
Clear Creek	42%	
North Bay	30%	
Addicks Reservoir	26%	
Dickinson Bayou	23%	
Barker Reservoir	22%	
South Bay	20%	
Spring Creek	18%	
San Jacinto River	15%	
West Bay	9%	
Cedar Bayou	8%	
West Fork San Jacinto	9 %	
Chocolate Bayou	7%	
Trinity Bay	3%	
East Fork San Jacinto	3%	
Austin-Bastrop Bayou	3%	
East Bay	2%	
Trinity River	2%	

Quality Issues

Water

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Flooding



2017 Galveston Bay Report Card

Rethink development design practices, ordinances & building codes Low Impact Development (LID) **Retrofit existing homes Bayou greenways & buffers** Stormwater detention with created wetlands Rain cisterns, gardens, barrels Wetland protection & conservation easements

EMPLOY A WATERSHED APROACH THAT ACCOUNTS FOR CONNECTIVITY & CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Based on NOAA C-CAP 2010

Is Designing with Nature Possible in Houston?



Drainage swales surrounded by preserved habitat



Natural bank ponds

Collector streets, check dams, water impoundment on soils with good infiltration capacity

- Less stormwater runoff during 100year storms
- Lower nutrient loadings
- Lower levels of forest fragmentation
- Average of 2°C lower land surface temperature
- Higher walkability and pedestrian access to open space

B. Yang & S. Li. 2015. Design with Nature: Ian McHarg's ecological wisdom as actionable and practical knowledge. Landscape & Urban Planning.

Financing Resilience

- Total Harvey costs ~ \$180B
- Harvey, Irma & Maria exceed federal recovery capacity
- Harvey recovery funds → traditional infrastructure & buyout projects

What about everything else?

- Innovative financing needed for future resilience projects
 - Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE Financing)
 - Green Bonds (standard bonds)
 - Resilience Bonds (bond premium rebates)
 - Environmental Impact Bonds (with private sector investment)







Community Adaptation & Resilience Alliance (CARA)

- National trend in resilience collaboratives
- Goal: Build long-term capacity
- Approach: multi-institutional & regional
 - **1. Assess progress and barriers** to community resilience along the Texas Gulf Coast
 - 2. Create a *science information network*
 - 3. Develop a regional *framework of resilience and adaptation strategies* with broad input
 - 4. Build a *community of practice* to share technical expertise, leverage resources, and advance comprehensive and coordinated strategies



Thank You



Lisa Gonzalez President, HARC

Email: lgonzalez@harcresearch.org Phone: (281) 364-6044

HARCresearch.org

We can not solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them ~Albert Einstein

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