




FEMA

December 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators
Regions I-X

ATTENTION: Regional Mitigation Division Directors
Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chiefs

FROM: Roy E. Wright 
Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation

SUBJECT: Sea Level Rise and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs

Pursuant to the FEMA directive to integrate climate change adaptation into its programs, policies and operations, FEMA will fund cost effective hazard mitigation projects that include sea level rise estimates. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have recently released sea level rise estimates for various coastal areas. These tools will allow applicants to determine the projected sea level rise at a specific site for various time horizons.

In order to use the FEMA Benefit Cost Tool to calculate the benefit cost ratio for a mitigation project that includes sea level rise, the user should add the estimated sea level rise to the current 10-, 25-, 50-, and 100-year flood elevations for the area. In jurisdictions that have adopted a freeboard requirement, the amount of freeboard should be added to the flood elevations as well. The FEMA Benefit Cost Tool contains depth-damage curves for certain facilities and will calculate the benefits associated with mitigating to higher elevations. Attached is a list of Frequently Asked Questions on incorporating sea level rise into Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (202) 646-3461, or Kayed Lakhia, Deputy Director, Risk Reduction Division at (202) 646-3458.

Attachment