



Developing Location-Based Communication and Public Engagement Strategies to Build Resilient Coastal Communities

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Appendix 1

Fairfield and Bridgeport – Focus Group Questions - Coastal Resilience Project

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1. How many of you have heard of the 100-year flood or the 50-year flood?
 - 1a. How many of you think that the 100-year or the 50-year flood projection is a useful or useful frame of reference, and why?
2. Did any of you have your property flooded in an extreme weather event such as *Sandy* or *Irene* in recent years?
 - 2a. If you did get flooded, what was done to help you recover from the damage?
3. How likely or unlikely do you think a big storm like *Sandy* could arrive during the next hurricane season, and why?
4. How do you feel about the potential of a future flooding event that may put your home, your neighborhood or your community at risk?
5. Based on your knowledge, could you name up to 3 major adaptation or mitigation strategies that could be implemented by the city or the state to protect your home, your neighborhood or your community from the damage caused by sea-level rise, flooding or erosion?
 - 5a. Strategy 1:
 - 5b. Strategy 2:
 - 5c. Strategy 3:
6. Some people don't support the flood or erosion control solutions proposed by the city or the state that aim to provide protection for their home, their neighborhood or their community.
 - 6a. How do you think people arrive at a decision to either support or not support these adaptation or mitigation strategies?
 - 6b. How do you think people could get motivated to support these adaptation or mitigation strategies?
7. Implementing these types of projects typically requires government funding. Absent of public funds, what do you think people could do to help prevent or reduce the potential flood damage caused by a severe storm like *Sandy*? I'll begin with three questions for you to consider. Afterwards, please share other solutions that you think are useful.
 - 7a. First up, what do you think the residents who live on the water front and are directly exposed to the impact of sea-level rise, flood and erosion events can do?
 - 7b. What do you think those who live up to several streets back from the water front but are also exposed to the impact of sea-level rise, flood and erosion events can do?

- 7c. What do you think the residents of a municipality can do to lessen the impact of sea-level rise, flood and erosion events on their lives, livelihood and local economy to increase community adaptation and resilience?
- 7d. Above and beyond what we have just discussed, what if any actions might you consider taking and how do you arrive at those decisions?
8. Lastly, I would like to share an example of how residents on the West coast deal with the problem of rising sea level and related environmental concerns. Nine counties in the San Francisco Bay area voted for a \$12 annual parcel tax in June, 2016 to raise \$25 million each year for 20 years to fund shoreline projects that would restore wetlands and preserve a healthy San Francisco Bay.
- 8a. Do you think a parcel tax, which is independent of the property value, could get enough support among the municipalities in Connecticut's coastal area?
- 8b. Do you think a parcel tax could raise enough funding to solve regional flood and erosion problems in Connecticut, which has a much smaller population than California?
- 8c. What would be a dollar amount for a parcel tax that could be acceptable in the region your community is located?
- 8d. Should this parcel tax be designated as a flat rate or prorated for parcel size? Should businesses, institutions and individuals pay the same parcel tax rate?