



Coastal Flood Resilience News

July 22, 2025

This newsletter provides a summary of news and research journal articles related to coastal storms and rising sea levels. It is a product of the [Coastal Flood Resilience Project](#), a network of nonprofit organizations working for stronger programs to prepare for coastal storm flooding and rising sea levels along the coast of the United States. Prior issues of the CFRP News can be found [here](#).

Science

1. **Trump Administration Shuts Down Rain Forecasting Report:** NOAA has been working to update nationwide datasets describing current and projected rainfall (i.e. Atlas 15) for use by engineers and planners working on stormwater and water management projects. This [article](#) in the *Washington Post* explains that the Trump administration has put “on hold” work to finalize and publish the crucial element (i.e. Volume 2) of Atlas 15 describing projected future changes in rainfall due to a changing climate.

“...the speed with which rising global temperatures are altering precipitation patterns means that the Volume 1 estimates “will be out of date very quickly,” said Jeremy Porter, head of climate implications research at the nonprofit First Street Foundation.”

2. **Translating Natural Infrastructure into Reduced Insurance Premiums:** This [article](#) in *Southern Science* describes work along the Gulf coast by the Water Institute to evaluate whether investments in natural infrastructure will result in reductions in insurance rates, including rates under the National Flood Insurance Program. The team is now collecting data on changes to insurance rates and assessing the role of investments and other factors in driving these changes.
3. **540 Million Years of Sea Level Change Mapped:** This [new research](#) provides “a continuous quantification of maximum amplitude short-term sea level change during the last 540 million years.” This [article](#) in PHYS ORG provides background information and analysis.

4. **Wetland Migration Webinar:** This [video](#) from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science does a nice job of describing science of tools related to marsh migration -- the gradual shifting of tidal wetland habitats to higher elevations in response to sea level rise. This [page](#) has links to the interesting and helpful presentations.

National Policy

5. **States Sue to Restore FEMA Mitigation Funding:** This [article](#) in the *New York Times* describes how 20 states have sued FEMA for “unlawful termination” of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Here is the [complaint](#).
6. **Trump Administration Cuts National Weather Service and FEMA Capacity:** This [article](#) in the *New York Times* explains that the Trump Administration is dismantling the government’s disaster capabilities at a time when climate change is driving more damaging weather events and quotes CFRP participant Alice Hill:

“The Trump administration is leaving communities naked, without the necessary tools that could help them assess risks or reduce those risks,” said Alice C. Hill, who worked on climate resilience and security issues for the National Security Council during the Obama administration and who is now a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.”

7. **Urban Institute Finds States Lack Disaster Capacity Without Federal Support:** A [new study](#) by the Urban Institute reviewed state budgets to determine whether states could manage disasters with reduced federal funding and concluded:

“...we find that many states—especially those at high risk of disasters and with limited fiscal capacity—lack resources to shoulder a greater share of disaster recovery costs. If the administration reduces the federal government’s role in disaster management, states will need to adjust their budgeting practices to account for their increased responsibilities.”

8. **Stop Building In Floodplains:** This [oped](#) in the *New York Times* reviews recent flooding in Texas and calls for limiting new development in floodplains and relocating people now in floodplains.

“We are living in a new age of flooding. We can no longer deny the increasing danger posed by these floods. Nor can we afford to continue believing we have

the solutions to stop or contain the rise of water. The best option to save American lives is reducing our vulnerability and exposure to these floods. That means preventing unnecessary new development on floodplains, and amping up efforts to help people move their homes from high-risk areas to safe territory.”

- 9. New Book on Resettlement of Climate/Coastal Displaced People:** Here is an interesting [interview](#) in *Common Edge* with Hillary Brown, author of a recent book offering a “blueprint for how we might relocate climate-displaced residents to chronically underpopulated towns and do so in an orderly, planned fashion.” The article and book include interesting demographic graphics related to sea level rise migration. Here is a [link to the book](#).

- 10. Revelator OPED Defends NEPA:** This [oped](#) in *The Revelator* offers a strong, and regrettably rare, defense of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

“It is critically important, though, that neither policymakers nor the public lend their support to quick fixes lacking in evidence and strident denunciations that wind up trashing a law that has served the nation so well.”

- 11. Trump Administration Reverses Pledge to Maintain National Climate Assessment on Web:** The Trump administration removed the *National Climate Assessment* from the website of the Global Change Research Program (GCRP) but pledged that the full *Assessment* would be available on the website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This [article](#) from the *Associated Press* indicates that the *Assessment* will not be posted to the NASA website after all. This [NPR story](#) explains where you can still find copies of the NCA, including [here](#).

State and Local

- 12. Florida Insurance Non-Renewal Rates Higher Inland:** This [article](#) in *Inside Climate News* found that all areas of Florida had high rates of insurance non-renewal but that some of the highest rates are in places with lower incomes and limited capacity to recover rather than the highest risk (i.e., places inland rather than right on the coast):

“In other words, non-renewals were highest in the Florida counties where climate-related hazards are compounded by poverty and other factors that make it harder to withstand and recover from extreme weather events.”

13. New Jersey Scales Back Coastal Rules: This article in [NJ Spotlight News](#) describes how the State of New Jersey made significant changes to weaken final rules for coastal development over strong objections from environmental community leaders and notes that the state:

“...reduced by a foot the height at which new coastal buildings would have to be elevated, and it eliminated language that some claimed would have banned some new building outright. The DEP also created a new exemption to allow more affordable housing to be built in flood-prone places.”

Here is the State of New Jersey [webinar](#) on the changes and here is the [Press Release](#).

14. New York Beach Erosion Control Project Funding Cancelled: This [article](#) in *Inside Climate News* describes how the Trump Administration cancelled funding for a project to restore a three-mile stretch of beach in Far Rockaway to help battle coastal erosion from sea level rise and storm surge. The project funding from the EPA would have employed 60 people from disadvantaged communities.

15. Norfolk Builds Storm Protection: This [report](#) from WHRO describes how construction is about to begin on the first phase of a \$2.4B storm protection seawall project for the City of Norfolk.

“Norfolk’s project is set to include home elevations, pump stations, surge barriers across several waterways and a nearly 9-mile seawall wrapping around downtown to Lambert’s Point.”

16. New Orleans Flood Walls Sinking: This [article](#) in the *New York Times* provides additional information on land subsidence around New Orleans and impacts on the storm defenses (e.g., the New Orleans airport is sinking at a rate of 1 inch per year). Here is the [journal article](#) on which the NYT report is based. See also this [article](#) in the *Times Picayune*.

17. Chesapeake Bay Area Hazard Mitigation Plans Skip Climate Change: This [journal article](#) describes how local Hazard Mitigation Plans required by FEMA mostly do not address future conditions expected as a result of climate change (e.g., more intense precipitation leading to more stormwater pollution). The Biden administration addition of a requirement to address climate change in the plans was removed by the Trump administration. This [article](#) in the *Bay Journal* provides background information.

18. South Carolina Decides Which Historic Sites to Save from Rising Seas: This [article](#) in the *Charleston Post and Courier* describes the process the State of South Carolina is using to choose which of some 2,000 historical sites along the coast to protect from rising seas and which to let go.

19. Charleston Storm Forecasts in Doubt: This [article](#) from the *Charleston Post and Courier* describes some of the impacts of NOAA staff cuts on hurricane forecasting in the Charleston area, quoting the head of the NWS Charleston Office:

“Morales, of NWS Charleston, said short-staffing has been a longstanding problem. He said that early retirement incentives have nudged out some of the agency's most experienced forecasters. “People were like, 'Yeah, what the heck — I'll leave,' ” he said. “I'm one of the ones that contemplated (that). I'll be leaving in December.””