



May 6, 2024

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
Deputy Director for Climate and Environment  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Subj:** Support for New Federal Interagency Sea Level Rise Website

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

We are writing to thank you for the important work you and your team are doing to address the climate crisis and to express our strong support for the current interagency work to design and launch an interagency website to offer the most current and objective information available about the risks posed to the U.S. coast by rising sea level.

As you know, rising sea levels threaten to inundate parts of hundreds of communities and homes of millions of people in the decades ahead. Many coastal wetlands will be drowned by rising waters and critical infrastructure assets that support the daily operation of society are at risk. Rising sea levels also drive storm surge flooding from coastal storms further inland heightening damages.

Decision-makers for governments and the private sector need the most current and reliable information about the risks they work to improve coastal flood resilience. The federal government now provides valuable information relating to rising sea level on numerous websites, but this service has some weaknesses:

- The lack of a central assess point for federal web information causes confusion to users and results in delays in access to the most appropriate information or tools;
- Different websites are updated on different schedules and some sites may lack the most current information and scientific conclusions;
- Without a central coordination mechanism, different agency websites provide overlapping, and sometimes conflicting, information; and

- The significance of the most important and useful new findings is sometimes not highlighted or recognized consistently across federal web platforms.

Federal agencies have designed a new “sealevelrise.gov” website that promises to address issues with the diverse existing websites and significantly improve the sea level rise information services that federal agencies provide to decision-makers and the public. The work to date reflects input from interested parties and the interests of multiple agencies. **We strongly recommend that the remaining design work be completed quickly and that a new, “sealevelrise.gov” website be launched by this summer.**

The [Coastal Flood Resilience Project](#) is a coalition of organizations working for stronger programs to prepare the United States for the more severe coastal storms and rising sea level along the U.S. coast. Organizations and individual supporting this letter are listed below. In the case of individuals, the views expressed in this letter do not represent the views or endorsement of their organizations.

Thank you for your help with this important project.

- Environmental Defense Fund
- Healthy Ocean Coalition
- Rich Innes; Association of National Estuary Programs
- Bethany Kraft; National Audubon Society
- League of Conservation Voters
- Charles Lester; Director of the Ocean and Coastal Policy Center at UC Santa Barbara and former executive director of the California Coastal Commission
- Middlebury Center for the Blue Economy
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Ocean Conservancy
- Ocean Defense Initiative
- Jeffrey Peterson; Environmental Law Institute and former Deputy Associate Director for Water, White House Council on Environmental Quality
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sustainable Ocean Alliance
- Shana Udvardy; Union of Concerned Scientists
- Wetlands Watch