



Jefferson County/City of Port Townsend
Climate Action Committee



March 13, 2018

To: Port Townsend City Council

RE: Climate Action Committee Motion Regarding Stormwater Master Plan

Councilmembers,

At the February 28, 2018 Climate Action Committee, a motion was passed that we highlight to the Port Townsend City Council the importance of including climate change projections into the Port Townsend Stormwater Master Plan. (The motion passed 9-0, with Deb Stinson abstaining.)

The Climate Action Committee appreciated being included in the Stormwater Master Plan Taskforce, and it provided representatives at both meetings of the taskforce. At the workshops, the representatives expressed the need to include climate change into the plan, and that the key aspects of concern were increased extreme precipitation events and sea level rise. The climate projections from the Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula that were provided to the Taskforce included:

- Extreme precipitation: "Specifically, events in Washington State with more than 1 inch of rain falling in 24 hours are projected to increase 13% by the 2050s." (p 20)
- Sea level rise: Projections for Port Townsend are found on page 29, presented as both sea level rise alone (with a range in 2100 of 1' - 5.2' depending on the probability chosen), or sea level rise plus coastal flooding due to tides and storm surge (with a range in 2100 of 2.8' - 7.3') Projections are also given for 2030 and 2050, see the report for specifics.

The update provided to the CAC indicated that climate change projections would not be included in the modeling done for the Stormwater Master Plan, instead, the consultant had recommended the City consider, through a separate process, a risk assessment of all capital facilities and infrastructure. One concern expressed at the CAC was that part of the stormwater planning includes the ability of soils to handle precipitation, which would not be part of a capital facilities analysis. The other concern expressed was that the recently updated Port Townsend Comprehensive Plan states that climate change would be included in future utilities planning, and given this was the first plan being developed after that was adopted, there was concern about the precedent that was being set. (Specifically, the Port Townsend Comprehensive Plan in the introduction of the utilities chapter states that "A changing climate – The City faces the challenge of responding to climate change both in designing facilities for changing sea levels and in adapting to changing weather patterns that impact water supply and quality and the hydrology of the City's wetlands and natural drainage ways" and Policy 1.9 of the Utilities section that states "Policy 1.9: Develop resilient utility systems where planning and investment decisions account for changing conditions, such as climate change, sea level rise, natural disasters, technological changes, and increased renewable energy generation.")

Note that the City of Seattle has recently worked with the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (UWCIG) to get updated local models of precipitation projections, and the city is incorporating that

information into their stormwater planning. There was a presentation on this last fall at the Pacific Northwest Climate Conference by Jim Simmonds, from King County's Department of Natural Resource and Parks, which can be found [here](#). Two of their priority actions listed in the presentation (page 8) were to "assess climate impacts on storm intensity" and "update stormwater design requirements". Note that UW CIG has created projections for heavy precipitation for some other areas of Western Washington, including Quilcene. That data is available [here](#).

Thank you for considering our input on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Jayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy Jayne

On behalf of the Climate Action Committee