

Climate Change Adaptation And Local Government

NOAA Coastal Cities Climate Change

Washington, DC

March 8, 2007

Richard F. Anderson, Ph.D.

Mayors Water Council



U.S. Conference of Mayors

Who is the USCM ?

- 1,200 – 1,300 Cities with Mayoral forms of Government
- 600 are USCM Members
- 30,000 population +

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Founded in 1933

- in 1932, 14 million people unemployed
- long lines for soup kitchens
- homeowners unable to pay taxes
- nation's cities close to bankruptcy

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Dramatic White House Meeting

- 3 prominent mayors met with President Herbert Hoover
- Hoover signed first of its kind bill creating a \$300 million federal assistance program for cities

U.S. Conference of Mayors

National Focus

- USCM supported the development of the interstate highway construction program

U.S. Conference of Mayors

The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to –

- Promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy;
- Strengthen federal-city relationships;
- Ensure that federal policy meets urban needs;
- Provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and
- Create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.

Agenda Priority Areas

10 Point Plan released in February 2007

See www.usmayors.org Homepage

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Endorsing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- Chicago 2005
- ≈ 500 cities to date
- Kyoto Protocol type agreement
 - CO2e stabilization and mitigation
 - Meet or beat 7% reduction from 1990 CO2e levels by 2012
 - 12 Action Items
 - Adaptative Planning
 - Adaptation is necessary because the build-up of CO2e in the atmosphere has already caused changes, and even dramatic reductions in GHG emissions will not reduce atmospheric CO2e enough in the short-run to reverse the changes

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Mayors Water Council

Serves as a Task Force of Mayors who focus on water resources issues

- National City Water Survey 2005
- Top Priorities
 - Aging Water Resources Infrastructure
 - Security/Protection of Water Resources Infrastructure
 - Water Supply Availability
- 7th Priority: Emergency Planning and Management for Storms, Hurricanes, Etc.

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Biloxi – Katrina Review – June 2006

- Public infrastructure destroyed
 - Drinking Water distribution systems
 - Drinking Water treatment plants
 - Wastewater collection systems
 - Wastewater treatment plants
 - Other: roads, buildings (home, office, commercial), bridges, etc.
- Population loss, loss of tax base, defease bonds, etc.

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Focus on Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources

- Changing weather patterns and prolonged, intense droughts
 - Water shortages
- Changing weather patterns and increased intensity and frequency of precipitation events'
 - Floods
- Increased temperatures
 - Rising sea levels: New York City – the future Venice of the USA?

Rising Sea Levels and Coastal Communities

- Large population centers at some level of risk
 - Preparedness
 - Public education
 - Public alert systems
 - Response
 - Protection
 - Evacuation
 - Recovery

Rising Sea Levels and Coastal Communities

- Land use planning and infrastructure investments
 - Inundation mapping/(flood mapping)
 - Zoning and Codes
 - Preexisting nonconforming use
 - Eminent Domain
 - Public infrastructure siting decisions
 - NWS forecasting
 - Global Warming Modeling

Rising Sea Levels and Coastal Communities

- Market mechanisms
 - Insurance /Reinsurance Industry
 - Balance premium portfolio to balance risks
 - Moratorium on new policies
 - Existing policies
 - Do not renew policies
 - Higher premiums
 - Higher deductibles
 - Exclusions- limit coverage categories

Rising Sea Levels and Coastal Communities

Lessons from “Katrina-Rita-Wilma”

- Evacuation woes
 - Reverse 911
 - Uncoordinated traffic lights on County roads off State Highways
 - Switching two-way to one-way highways
 - Elderly, infirm, handicapped and institutionalized populations suffer from lack of transport redundancy capacity