

Waterfront West Overlay District — Floodplain Issues & Questions

Ad Hoc Committee on Waterfront West – 15 November 2018

A. What flood levels should the City plan for?

Variables

- Rate and amount of sea level rise (SLR)
 - Increased intensity (and frequency) of storms and river flooding
 - Useful life of proposed buildings and infrastructure (e.g., will the building be impacted by projected SLR in 2050 or 2100, or are those years beyond its life span)?
- ☐ Current FEMA base flood elevation (BFE) = elev. 13' = 5'± above grade
- Based on current sea level and historic river flooding intensity
- ☐ First floor elevation (FFE) 1 foot above BFE = elev. 14' = 6'± above grade (NED proposal)
- No sea level rise
 - No change in intensity of river flooding
 - What is the implied life of the development given SLR scenarios/projections?
- ☐ FFE 3 feet above BFE = elev. 16' = 8'± above current grade
- Intermediate high medium-range SLR scenario (1.5 ft. in 2050) + 1 foot
 - No change in intensity of river flooding
 - Implies 30-year useful life of development with intermediate SLR rate
- ☐ FFE 5 feet above BFE = elev. 18' = 10'± above current grade
- Intermediate high long-range SLR scenario (3.9 feet in 2100) + 1 foot
 - No change in intensity of river flooding
 - Implies 80-year useful life of development with intermediate SLR rate
- ☐ FFE 8 feet above BFE = elev. 21' = 13'± above current grade
- Highest long-range SLR scenario (6.6 feet in 2100) + 1 foot
 - No change in intensity of river flooding
 - Implies 80-year useful life of development with more rapid SLR

B. How will stormwater/floodwater be managed?

- ☐ Storage and collection
- ☐ Connection to City systems

C. Should floodplain constraints be compensated for with increased height and mass?