

August 8, 2018

Campbell River planning for sea level rise: 3.5-acre gets go-ahead with adaption measures

Recommendations for the downtown 3.5-acre site by the City's Waterfront Task Force's have received a green light in a review by sea level rise specialists, thanks to adaptation measures that can be built into the original proposal.

As part of an ongoing planning initiative to prepare for sea level rise along the marine and river shores, the City reviewed the task force's vision for the 3.5-acre site.

"Campbell River already has a history of storm and tide-related temporary flooding in low-lying areas, and given climate change predictions, we anticipate that this currently vacant area will be subject to temporary localized flooding," says Amber Zirnhelt, long range planning and sustainability manger for the City of Campbell River. *"Working with specialists, we've confirmed that adaptation could minimize the depth and the duration of the flooding to manageable levels."*

Over the longer term, adaptation measures to the proposed plan for the site may include:

- Setting primary structures back from the shoreline
- Keeping all habitable spaces above the highest potential water level
- Including on-site drainage that allows flooding from wave spray to drain away effectively
- Upgrading and potential design modifications the existing rock armouring along shore to minimize overtopping of water and woody debris
- Nourishing the beach to raise the elevation of the proposed pocket beach
- Installing structures on top of the proposed pocket beach to reduce wave run-up

In terms of walkway work currently planned for the site, and to begin as early as this fall, *"no significant modifications to the foreshore are planned because this work can be upgraded to fit into future development of the site, including any adaptation measures to address sea level rise,"* says Drew Hadfield, acting general manager of assets and operations for the City.

"As the City continues to develop along our waterfront, we have to consider sea level rise and climate change impacts to ensure that new buildings and infrastructure are resilient into the future," adds City manager Deborah Sargent. *"This study is good news, and incorporating its recommendations will help us ensure that this waterfront development site remains a significant asset to the community throughout its design lifetime."*

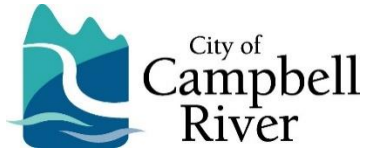
Proposed plans for the 3.5-acre site were developed through public consultation during summer 2017 and would maintain large parts of the property as public space, with an urban park, an aquarium, entertainment areas, a salmon research centre, a venue for cultural events and conferences, meeting rooms, a market and a restaurant.

To keep the community updated on upcoming studies and events related to sea level rise, the City is launching a new webpage. For more information on *Campbell River Rising Seas*, and to register for email updates on the project, visit campbellriver.ca/SLR-Overview

###

Contact: Chris Osborne, Senior Planner

250-286-5745



News Release

Background:

Given Campbell River's flooding history and anticipated climate change, temporary flooding events are expected to become more regular and more severe as higher seas push damaging storm surges farther inland, weather events become more destructive, and the community experiences heavier rainfall.

The City of Campbell River is preparing to respond to future sea level rise through a multi-year planning initiative - *Campbell River Rising Seas*. The City is engaged in the first phase of a four-phase process, funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Union of BC Municipalities and the City, to evaluate the effects of sea level rise on the community and to develop long-term adaptation strategies.

The City is working with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd. to carry out wave modeling studies and determine flood levels and hazards along the foreshore, as well as potential adaptation strategies. The first of these studies examined the undeveloped City-owned 3.5-acre downtown waterfront site at 1300 Island Highway.

The Province of British Columbia advises communities to plan for one metre of sea level rise by the year 2100, and two metres by 2200. The City of Campbell River's planning approach follows similar work by other low-lying coastal communities such as the City of Surrey and Town of Qualicum Beach. By 2019 Campbell River is set to produce its own adaptation strategy to inform land use and infrastructure decision-making.