



# Borough of Cape May Point

## Getting to Resilience Recommendation Report

### January, 2016

### Final Report

Prepared for the Borough of Cape May Point  
215 Lighthouse Avenue  
Cape May Point, New Jersey 08212



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# **“Getting to Resilience” Report**

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# “Getting to Resilience” Report

## 1. Introduction

The Getting to Resilience (GTR) questionnaire was originally developed and piloted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Coastal Management in an effort to foster municipal resiliency in the face of flooding, coastal storms, and sea level rise. The questionnaire was designed to be used by municipalities to reduce vulnerability and increase preparedness by linking planning, hazard mitigation, and adaptation. Developed by the State of New Jersey’s Coastal Management Program, the Getting to Resilience process was later adapted by the Coastal Training Program of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR), converted into a digital format, and placed on an interactive website. Further improving the questionnaire, the JCNERR added “linkages” to evaluation questions including the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), Hazard Mitigation Planning, and Sustainable Jersey. The GTR is available on a publically accessible website, [www.PrepareYourCommunityNJ.org](http://www.PrepareYourCommunityNJ.org), in which any municipality can complete and create a report based on the results at any time. The GTR has become an important first step towards flood disaster preparedness and resilience for municipalities across New Jersey.

### Getting to Resilience – Five Topic Areas

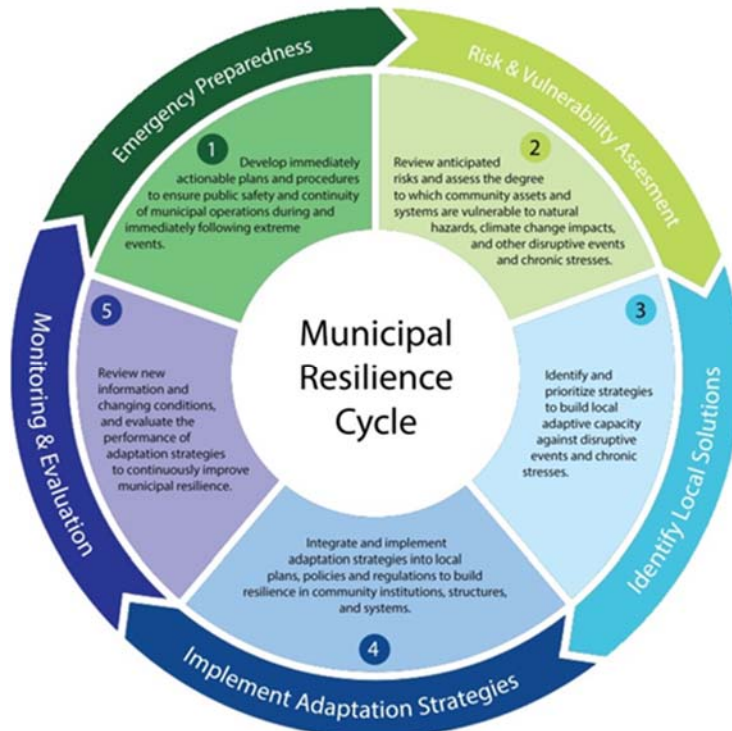
The GTR questionnaire includes five separate sections that focus on the various aspects of municipal resilience. The five sections include:

1. Risk & Vulnerability – an assessment of how a community has assessed risk & vulnerability of coastal hazards in the past. It includes discussion on sea level rise, types of risk & vulnerability assessments completed, and how assessments are shared within the community.
2. Public Engagement – an assessment of how a community communicates with the local residents and businesses about hazards, sea level rise, risk, and vulnerability.
3. Planning Integration – an assessment of how a community integrates hazard mitigation, sea level rise, and resilience into its long-term planning efforts and municipal documents, ordinances, and policy. Documents include the: Master Plan, land use ordinances, open space management, All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Capital Improvements Plan, Economic Development Strategy, and special area management plans.
4. Disaster Preparedness & Recovery – an assessment of how a community has and continues to prepare for disaster events through community-wide preparation activities. The section also includes discussion of post-disaster recovery planning efforts.
5. Hazard Mitigation Implementation – an assessment of how a community participated in and implements respective County-Wide All-Hazard Mitigation plans within the community.

### What is Resilience?

Municipal resilience is defined by Sustainable Jersey as the ability of a community to adapt and thrive in the face of extreme events and stresses. The Municipal Resilience Cycle (Figure 1 below) illustrates a

strategic process for local governments to build and strengthen resilience. The cycle begins with encouraging municipal leaders to achieve early “wins” by shoring up the internal systems that increase their readiness to respond – and bounce back from – disasters of all kinds. The following four steps outline a traditional planning process, accentuating the importance of effective planning for the localized impacts of climate change. The cycle ends with a phase focused on iterative, data-driven management and emphasizes the importance of building a culture of learning in the face of uncertainty. The GTR rests with in step 2 of the Municipal Resilience Cycle, Risk & Vulnerability Assessments. The GTR helps municipalities start the discussion of risk and vulnerability in relation to future sea level rise, flooding, and storm events.



**Figure 1. Municipal Resilience Cycle Diagram**

In addition to being a starting point to discussing Municipal Resilience, the GTR report is eligible for points in the Sustainable Jersey’s Municipal Certification Program under the Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk Action. Sustainable Jersey certification is a prestigious designation for municipal governments in New Jersey. Municipalities that achieve the certification are considered by their peers, by state government and by the experts and civic organizations in New Jersey, to be among the leading municipalities in sustainability.

## 2. Borough of Cape May Point - Background

Cape May Point is located at the southern-most point of New Jersey within Cape May County and on the Cape May peninsula where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. The borough encompasses 202 acres of land comprised with over 2 miles of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay. Cape May Point has a year-round population of 291 residents according to the 2010 census, and swells to a peak of approximately 2,500 in the summer season. Cape May Point has a significantly older population,

with a median age of 66, and 83% of the population over age 55. The borough is almost entirely residential, of which the majority are single family homes. As of 2010, there were 691 homes in Cape May Point, of which 164 were occupied year-round, 272 were seasonal or recreational homes, and the remaining were vacant or for sale.

### 3. Cape May Point Getting to Resilience Process

The Getting to Resilience tool is a municipal self-assessment process that helps communities identify vulnerabilities and increase preparedness by linking planning and hazard mitigation efforts. The resiliency team at Sustainable Jersey facilitated the GTR process for Cape May Point in July 2015. The process started with the convening of a working group of municipal officials and community members (see Table 1, below, for a list of participants) to represent the borough throughout the GTR process.

**Table 1. Municipal Officials and Process Participants**

Participant	Title	Affiliation
Anita Van Heewsyk	Deputy Mayor	Cape May Point
Irene Schreiner	Emergency Management Coordinator	Cape May Point
Bill Gibson	Public Works Director	Cape May Point
Ed Grant	Administrative Consultant	Cape May Point
Mike Keosky	Planning Board	Cape May Point
Rick Brown	Planner	NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Jack Heide	Resiliency Manager	Sustainable Jersey
Emma Melvin	Green Infrastructure Coordinator	Sustainable Jersey

In addition to convening a working group, the Cape May Point was asked to provide and familiarize themselves with multiple official municipal plans, ordinances, and policies (see Table 2, below). The various documents (i.e. Master Plan, All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, etc.) form the backbone of the community and form the working documents in which a community will base its answers throughout the GTR process. Working Group members and facilitators reviewed the municipal documents prior to the GTR meeting.

**Table 2. Cape May Point Municipal documents used in GTR process**

Plans, Ordinances, and Codes	Y	N	Adoption Year	Notes
Municipal Master Plan	X		2007	Reexamination
All-Hazards Mitigation Plan	X		Updating	Cape May County Plan
Floodplain Management Plan		X		
Evacuation Plan		X	N/A	
Emergency Operations Plan	X		Updating	
Continuity of Operations Plans		X		
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan		X		
Capital Improvements Plan	X		2015-2020	Borough Budget
Economic Development Plan	X		2007	Master Plan Element
Coastal Plan or Element		X		

Open Space Plan	X		2007	Conservation Element
Stormwater Management Plan	X		N/A	Ordinance
Historic Preservation Plan	X		2007	Master Plan Element

The Getting to Resilience process was facilitated on July 21, 2015 in the Cape May Point Borough Hall. The meeting was attended by representatives of Cape May Point, Sustainable Jersey, and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (See Table 1 above).

The remainder of this report summarizes the GTR process and the discussions and recommendations that followed. These steps included:

- Review of Flood Hazard maps and Potential Impacts on selected community assets
- The Getting to Resilience Questionnaire
- Summary of the Borough’s Resiliency Initiatives
- Recommendations to Increase Preparedness for Disaster and Strengthen Resiliency based upon responses to the Questionnaire

#### 4. Cape May Point Flood Hazards and Impacts

The GTR process began with a review of flood hazard maps to help the Borough officials understand potential future storm and flooding risks, and help frame the context for the GTR questionnaire. For this mapping exercise, Sustainable Jersey used NJ Flood Mapper, an interactive mapping website designed and created by the NOAA Coastal Services Center and Rutgers University. The flood hazard maps were reviewed for their potential impact on select community assets. The following data layers were used in this discussion:

- 1) FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRM) - This includes the high risk flood zones, known as the 1% flood events or 100 year floodplain, of the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area
- 2) FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and sea level rise projected at 2050 – This includes both the (1%) and (.02%) storms, also known as the 100 year and 500 year floods, respectively, and sea level rise
- 3) SLOSH Model CAT 1 Storm Surge Data derived from storm surge inundation data created by the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model. This model uses historic data to project the increased storm surge heights and the extents of inundation for hurricane category 1 created by sea level rise.
- 4) Estimated sea level rise data at increasing one foot intervals up to a maximum of six feet, and
- 5) Locations of community assets defined as important and/or critical to the community.

Four community assets were chosen for this assessment because they represented the most significant civic buildings, emergency facilities, civic and ecosystem locations found within borough limits. The four assets, listed below, were evaluated for potential flood or sea level rise impacts.

1. Cape May Point Fire Station
2. Cape May Point Borough Hall
3. Cape May Point Evacuation Route

#### 4. Lake Lily

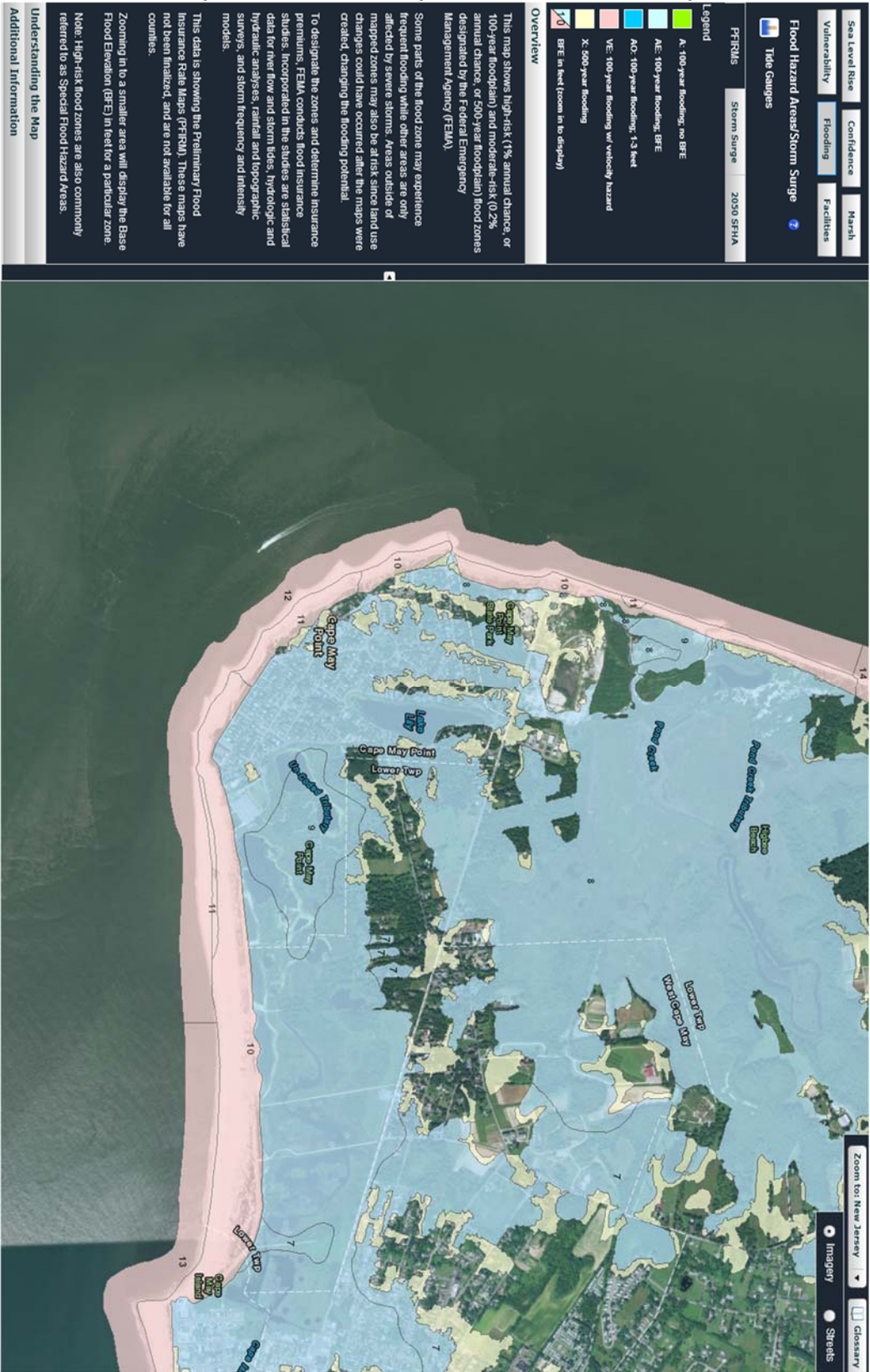
A review of the flood hazard maps and their potential impact on the critical assets follows. Note that while this mapping exercise provides an important overview of the potential impacts of flood hazards and sea level rise, it is limited in scope. The sea level rise maps are not associated with any given time horizon, the maps may not account for possible mitigation activities practiced by the community, and the available community assets shown on the maps are few.

##### ***4.1 FEMA PFIRM Flood Risk Data Layer***

The FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRM) Flood Risk data is a data layer derived from the official preliminary FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and provide maps of the currently accepted flood risk data for the community. This data is depicted in Map 1 and include A zones (shown in blue) representing the 100 year flood zone, the 500 year floodplain (shown in beige), and the V or velocity action zone (shown in pink) representing areas at risk from wave forces and flooding near the coastline.



**Map 1. FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map**



The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) covers roughly 90% of the Borough (Master Plan, 2007), and only a few small areas are elevated high enough to escape this designation. The SFHA, also referred to as the 100 year floodplain, is an area that has a 1-percent annual chance of a storm occurring based upon historical trends. According to the map, the VE zone is located along the Cape May Point beach front and dune area. The VE areas are subset of the SFHA with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. The dunes serve as a buffer between the borough and the V zone located along the Atlantic Ocean. No residential, commercial, or civic structures are located within the V zone.

All the identified community assets are located entirely within the SFHA, or 100 year floodplain. What is not shown on the maps are practices employed by Cape May Point which mitigate the potential for flooding. When a storm event is forecasted, Lake Lily and the associated lakes in the Cape May Point State Park and the Meadows are drained through a series of pumps and weirs. In the past this has mitigated a large portion of the potential flooding impacts.

#### ***4.2 FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and Sea Level Rise (2050)***

Projected delineations of FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and sea level rise at 2050 were viewed to facilitate the discussion of flood risk under a range of sea level rise scenarios ranging from lowest or most conservative (0.3) to highest or most pronounced (2.0) predicted rise increments. This mapping layer, created by FEMA, is color-coded according to a range of projected increases in sea level rise: orange is Lowest (SFHA + 0.3 ft.), light-purple is Intermediate-Low (SFHA + 0.7 ft.), dark purple is Intermediate High (SFHA + 1.3 ft.), and red is Highest (SFHA + 2.0 ft.). Map 2 shows the projected 2050 Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the Cape May Point area.

Map 2. FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and Sea Level Rise projected for 2050



The extent of orange areas in Cape May Point shows that almost the entire municipality would be affected by the combination of the 1% storm and sea level rise at the low end of the range - 0.3 ft. rise of sea level. The small purple and red areas on the eastern border of the borough indicate areas within the mid to higher ranges of sea level rise projections. The 2050 projections indicate that all properties with structures would be located within the 100 year floodplain by 2050.

#### ***4.3 Sea Level Rise Layer at one foot increments***

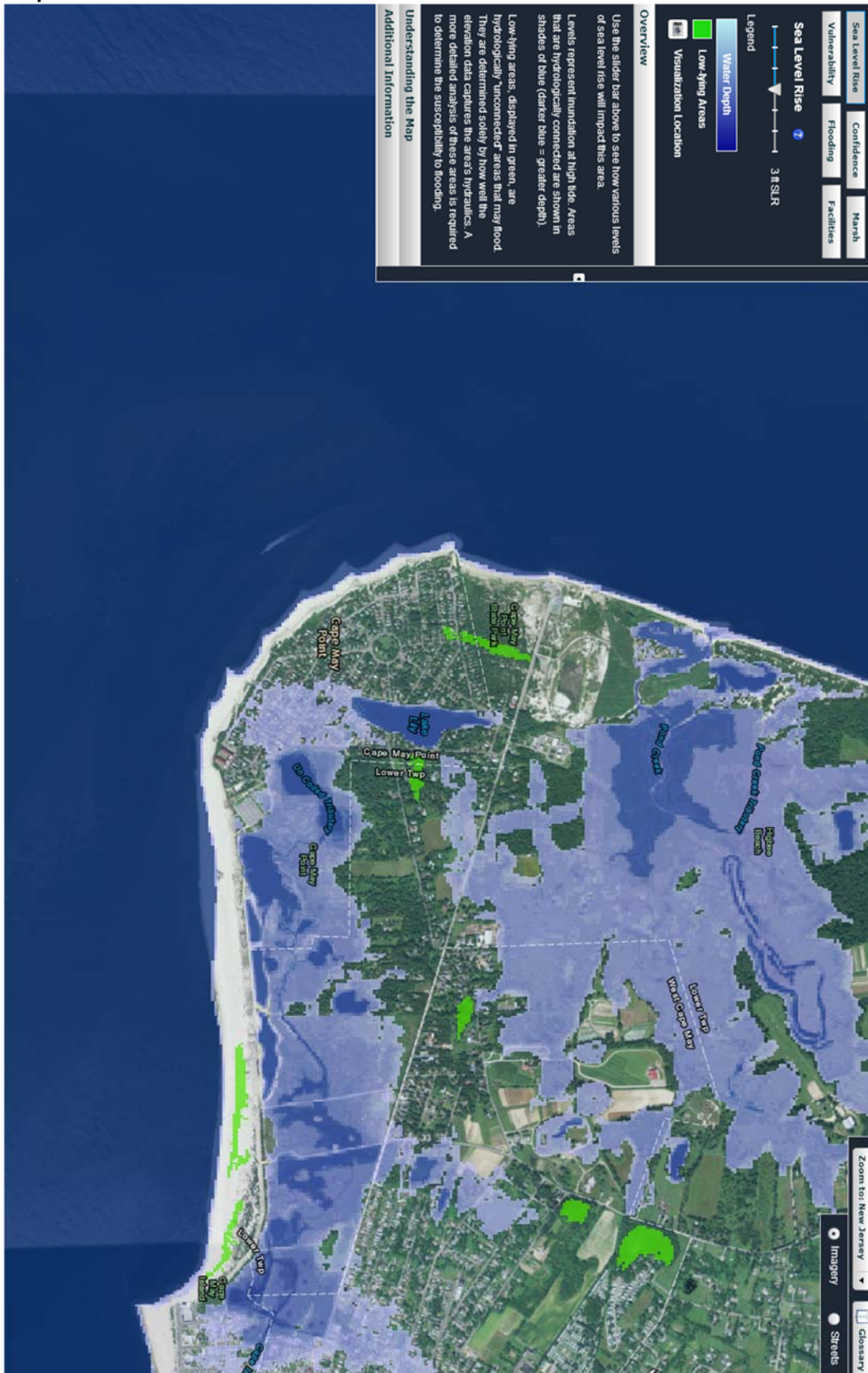
This data represents the extent of inundation due to sea level rise at mean higher high water (MHHW) tide at one foot increments. There are no timeframes associated with these maps. (Note that they do not include the 1% storm as in the previous map.) Areas described as “hydrologically connected” in NJ Flood Mapper (e.g., part of an existing water body such as the ocean, river, creek, or bay) are shown in shades of blue (darker blue = greater depth). Low-lying areas described as “hydrologically unconnected” in NJ Flood Mapper are areas not connected to a water body (e.g., low lying depressions or low elevation urban areas) that may flood more often under future sea level rise conditions. It should be noted that these are estimated impacts, the maps show a large area of flooding, for more accurate projections additional analysis of these areas is required to determine the actual susceptibility to flooding at a neighborhood level scale.

Overall, Cape May Point is not greatly affected by a 1 -2 ft. sea level rise. Map 3 indicates the area of Cape May Point most likely to be affected by a 3 ft. sea level rise is coming from the fresh water marshes along the eastern border moving towards Lake Lily. Most community assets, with the exception of Lake Lily, are not located in areas affected by 1 ft., 2 ft., or 3 ft. sea level rise. However, all community assets will be impacted by a 4-6 ft. sea level rise. Under 6 ft. of sea level rise over half of Cape May Point would be inundated.

For a frame of reference, a 2013 study prepared by Rutgers climate scientists Ken Miller, Robert Kopp et al, (Miller 2013) indicate the mid-range estimate for sea level rise is 0.8 feet in 2050, and 2.2 feet for 2100. Note however, that this study is being update and new figures will likely be available in 2016.



### Map 3. 3 Feet of Sea Level Rise



#### 4.4 Summary of Flood Hazard Mapping

Key findings from the discussion surrounding this mapping exercise of flood and sea level rise inundation are:

1. The four community assets are located entirely within either the 100 year or 500 year floodplains of FEMA’s Special Flood Hazard Zone.
2. During past flooding and storm surge events the borough’s dunes located along the beach front mitigated flooding from the V zone.
3. The wetland complex containing meadows, freshwater wetlands and ponds and associated tide gates within South Cape May Point Meadows and Cape May Point State Park, located east of Cape May Point also mitigate flooding in the Borough, and pose the greatest risk because of their potential inundation due to future sea level rise and storm events.

The table below summarizes the results of community assets that are potentially in harm’s way in the selected flood events and future sea level rise. Table 3 (X indicates not affected and O as affected).

**Table 3. Critical facilities and potential inundation from flooding and sea level rise.**

Community Asset	100 year	500 year	1 ft. SLR	2 ft. SLR	3 ft. SLR	4 ft. SLR
CMP Borough Hall	o	o	x	x	x	o
CMP Fire Station	o	o	x	x	x	o
CMP Evacuation Route	o	o	x	x	x	o
Lake Lily	o	o	x	x	o	o

#### 5. Cape May Point Getting to Resilience Questionnaire

After a thorough review and discussion of the mapping exercise, the working group started the GTR online questionnaire. Questions are of a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ format and were asked one by one. Clarification of questions and answers were facilitated through group discussion led by Sustainable Jersey members. The questionnaire relies on a wide-range of municipal officials and municipal knowledge. The Cape May Point working group comprised several decades of local knowledge and borough administration and activities.

##### Cape May Point’s Resiliency Initiatives

Cape May Point answered ‘yes’ to the majority of questions in the GTR questionnaire. Several questions were not applicable to the borough. As a self-assessment, the borough’s response of ‘yes’ to most questions reflects Cape May Point’s commitment and activities demonstrate a community which is committed to building resilience. Through the questionnaire and subsequent discussions, the following three areas of effective resilience planning were identified by the Cape May Point group:

1. Cape May Point has addressed hazards mitigation planning over many years and has benefited from the consistent leadership of Cape May Point elected officials, staff, and engaged citizens. Some examples of resilience planning actions are a community-wide level

of accepted risk, the sharing of FEMA flood risk mapping with the public, efforts to reduce repetitive flood loss properties (only 1 remaining in town), and a wide range of communication efforts aimed at ensuring safety prior to, during, and after storm and flooding events.

2. Planning efforts have enabled effective mitigation measures to be into place over a multiyear time period. Cape May Point continues to focus efforts on the beach front and dune system that mitigates and protects the borough from storm and flooding events, through beach nourishment and dune protection ordinances. In addition, the community effectively protects itself through preemptive draining of Lake Lily prior to potential storm events;
3. Cape May Point's CRS rating of 6 indicates a strong commitment to mitigating flood risk and sharing as much information on risks from flooding and hurricanes with both full time and seasonal residents.

### Recommendations to Improve Disaster Preparedness and Resiliency

Based upon the answers and discussions of the Borough's GTR questionnaire this report offers additional actions Cape May Point should consider pursuing in order to further and enhance the resilience efforts within the borough. Recommendations are separated by the five sections of the Getting to Resilience Questionnaire.

#### 5.1 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

##### *5.1.1. Complete a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment*

Cape May Point should follow up the Getting to Resilience process with a coastal vulnerability assessment (CVA). A CVA is an in-depth analysis of the vulnerability of community assets – both the structural and functional components, and discusses the consequences of those vulnerabilities on the entire community. A CVA was developed by Sustainable Jersey and is being piloted in NJ's coastal and tidal communities.

##### *5.1.2. Complete a Fiscal/Financial Risk Assessment*

A fiscal/financial risk assessment based on future sea level would identify the number and location of potentially impacted community assets and properties and outline a detailed plan for reducing these losses through strategies such as hardening, buyout or relocation. It will also allow the town to see the potential losses in future revenue if these assets are not protected. Cape May Point could receive additional CRS points under Section 510 by completing this activity. We recommend undertaking this activity after the completion of a vulnerability assessment so that the full range of flood-hazard vulnerabilities is understood.

##### *5.1.3 Complete a triple bottom line assessment of natural and nature based systems*

Completing a triple bottom line assessment on the value of Cape May Point's natural systems would help justify the continued public costs in constructing and maintain these systems in the future. The assessment might evaluate the financial, environmental, social, and public safety value of the natural systems, and be incorporated into the Borough's capital budgets, hazard mitigation plan and municipal master plan.

## **5.2 Public Engagement**

### *5.2.1. Placing Publicly Visible High Water Mark Signs*

Cape May Point may consider participating in FEMA's High Water Mark Initiative (HWM). The HWM Initiative was created by FEMA and partner Federal agencies as a community-based awareness initiative to remind residents of major local floods and encourage residents to prepare for the next one. Communities looking to participate in the Initiative, plan and execute a HWM Project. Completing this activity would provide additional CRS points under Section 300.

### *5.2.2. Participate in a Program for Public Information (PPI)*

Cape May Point could lead their own Program for Public Information (PPI) or participate in a regional PPI such as one being discussed through the Atlantic-Cape May Municipal Coastal Coalition. A PPI is a larger organization of participants working towards sharing flood risk information and can include municipal officials and local business leaders. Cape May Point could receive additional CRS points under Section 330 which focuses on methods for sharing information with the public.

### *5.2.3. Hazards Disclosure in Real Estate*

Cape May Point could focus on expanding upon as well as documenting how flood risk information is shared with real estate agents. In addition, Cape May Point could implement a local hazard disclosure policy with application to the real estate market. Completing this activity would provide additional CRS points under Section 340.

## **5.3 Planning Integration**

### *5.3.1. Complete the Sustainable Jersey Flooding Risk Action*

Cape May Point has already begun the process for completing the SJ Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk Certification Action. This action is worth 20 SJ points and is also a priority action under the certification system. A benefit of completing this action is the creation of a Flood Risk Team, a working group of municipal officials and citizens working directly on flood mitigation and resiliency issues in Cape May Point. SJ recommends this group continue to meet on a regular basis to continue their work in making Cape May Point a more flood resilient community. More information on the Sustainable Jersey Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk action is found at: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/#/open/action/513>.

### *5.3.2. Integrate municipal resilience concepts, hazard mitigation, and climate adaptation into the municipal master plan.*

To maximize the compatibility and integration of flood hazard planning and mitigation with land use policies, flood hazard and mitigation plans should be referenced and integrated into the master plan. Background information on natural hazards, including historic and future events and impacts should be included, as well as maps of existing and future flood hazards, include future sea level rise and storm events. Information should be included from the County All Hazards Mitigation Plan, climate adaptation plans, and any vulnerability assessments completed for the municipality, including the Getting to Resilience Report.

## **5.4 Disaster Preparedness and Recovery**



#### *5.4.1. Register and Participate in the Storm Ready Community Program*

The Storm Ready Community Program is a National Weather Service sponsored program that enables communities to be more prepared for storms and flooding through more effective communication. Cape May Point could receive an additional 25 CRS points under Section 610 by participating in the Storm Ready Community program. More information on Storm Ready Communities is found at: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm>.

#### *5.4.2. Form a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program*

Cape May Point currently has two volunteers who are trained in the CERT program, but no formal team exists. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. More information on the CERT program is found at: <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>

#### *5.4.3. Digitize and Back-Up all Municipal Public Records, Past and Present*

Cape May Point has kept and maintained all municipal documents back to the town's founding in 1878. Municipal public records are important to the history, place making, and understanding of how a community was formed, changed, or stayed the same throughout its history. Public records are also important to the day-to-day operations of a municipality. The ability of a municipality to keep thorough, detailed public records prior to, during, and after disaster events is critical to the continuity and recovery of municipalities. Only recently has the borough maintained a digital, back-up, copies of public records. Cape May Point should conduct a needs assessment of the borough's public records. A needs assessment will determine how many documents, on what material, historical importance, and fragility of documents that need to be digitized. With a needs assessment of public records the borough can pursue grant opportunities available in the state to digitize their records.

### **5.5 Hazard Mitigation Implementation**

#### *5.5.1. Plan for Maintaining and Improving Current CRS Rating*

The Community Rating System is a vital component of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and saves residents on the costs of flood insurance premiums. Currently, Cape May Point has a rating of 6 which saves residents 20% on their premiums. Cape May Point could improve their rating to a 5, the highest rating attained by a municipality in New Jersey, with a few additions to their CRS program to follow nearby towns which have received this rating including Avalon and Sea Isle City. More information on the CRS point system is found at: <http://crsresources.org>.

#### *5.5.2 Enhance riparian buffer protection via local ordinance and management plan*

Lake Lilly is a valuable community asset which Cape May Point has been modifying their management strategies over the years to protect and improve the condition of the lake, through changing their landscaping practices and enhancing the habitat within the lake and along its banks. A riparian buffer – the vegetation along the lake's edges - provides water quality, water quantity, erosion protection and habitat benefit to the community. Since Cape May Point directs stormwater to the lake and uses the lake as flood storage during storm events, the municipality needs to set a standard of management and practice that are ensure the continued health of both the lake and its flora and fauna. This can be

completed by creating a protection ordinance and a management plan for the riparian buffer around the lake. CRS credits are given to habitat protections including riparian buffer protection actions. More information on the CRS point for riparian buffer protection found within Section 422.g. Natural shoreline protection (NSP).

In addition, the following 13 recommendations are summarized below and assigned a recommended timeframe for implementation.

**Table 4. Summary Recommendations and estimated time frame for implementation.**

<b>List of Recommendations</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
<i>5.1.1. Complete a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment</i>	X	
<i>5.1.2. Complete a Financial Risk Assessment</i>		X
<i>5.1.3 Complete a triple bottom line assessment of natural and nature based systems</i>		X
<i>5.2.1. Placing Publicly Visible High Water Mark Signs</i>	X	
<i>5.2.2. Participate in a Program for Public Information (PPI)</i>	X	
<i>5.2.3. Hazards Disclosure in Real Estate</i>	X	X
<i>5.3.1. Complete the Sustainable Jersey Flooding Risk Action</i>	X	
<i>5.3.2. Integrate municipal resilience concepts, hazard mitigation, and climate adaptation into the municipal master plan.</i>		X
<i>5.4.1. Participate in the Storm Ready Community Program</i>	X	X
<i>5.4.2. Form a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program</i>	X	X
<i>5.4.3. 5.4.3. Digitize and Back-Up all Municipal Public Records, Past and Present</i>		X
<i>5.5.1. Plan for Maintaining and Improving Current CRS Rating</i>	X	
<i>5.5.2 Create a Riparian buffer protection via local ordinance and management plan</i>	X	

### **Recommended Next Steps**

The recommendations found within this report are all important steps to consider in strengthening resilience to disasters and flood hazards. To encourage Cape May Point’s progress and continued efforts towards municipal resilience, the borough should consider the following three recommendations that can be completed in the short-term:

1. Complete the Sustainable Jersey Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk Action (Sustainable Jersey 2014) to better prepare the community for flood risk mitigation and continue the

work of the Flood Risk Team to share information on flood risk and sea level rise for residents.

2. Consider completing additional CRS activities to potentially raise the borough's CRS rating from 6 to 5 and save residents additional amounts on flood insurance costs, in particular, developing a Program for Public Information (PPI) would quickly add more points and may help spur additional implementation of other CRS activities.
3. Complete a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment: A CVA is an in-depth analysis of the vulnerability of community assets – both the structural and functional components, and discusses the consequences of those vulnerabilities on the entire community.

## 6. Conclusions

Increasing resilience to flood hazards is a long term process that involves moving through multiple phases ranging from assessing hazards to implementing strategies. The Municipal Resilience Cycle encourages communities to move throughout all phases of resilience beginning with emergency preparedness, and moving through phases of risk and vulnerability assessment, identifying local solutions, implementing adaptation strategies, and engaging in monitoring and evaluation to close the loop.

The results of the process presented here area represent the first few stages of this cycle as the preliminary assessment of risk provided by the GTR process leads to the identification of recommendations that can be implemented over the short and long term. An example of an immediate outcome of completing the Getting to Resilience process is Cape May Point's application for additional Sustainable Jersey points through the Climate Adaption: Flooding Risk action. A challenging long term goal would be to increase the integration of flood risk discussion into the Cape May Point's next master plan. Of particular difficulty is planning for sea level rise as it is an area that requires educating residents on the potential impacts over the next 25 to 30 years. Cape May Point should take into consideration the impacts of sea level rise when revising its Master Plan and its Capital Improvements Budget.

Overall, the Borough of Cape May Point is a leader in flood risk mitigation and the municipal resilience activities the borough currently engages in could provide a useful model for other municipalities to follow. The recommended next steps for Cape May Point are to: 1) circulate this summary report to the Town Planning Board and Environmental Commission for their review and commentary, 2) to provide a more comprehensive risk analysis conduct a formal Coastal Vulnerability Assessment (CVA), 3) address some of the recommendations provided in this summary report, and 4) continue to integrate information provided on flood hazards and sea level rise into all planning processes.

Sustainable Jersey is available to further assist in addressing future needs and concerns on flooding risk and sea level rise. The Resiliency Program can also assist Cape May Point in addressing the summary recommendations for making Cape May Point even more resilient to future storms and flooding events.



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