

Resolve 1-11/12

Passage: 7/18/11 6-0 (Anton, Donoghue, Leeman absent)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
DORY RICHARDS WAXMAN (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEA-LEVEL RISE
ADAPTATION PLAN.**

WHEREAS, recorded data in Casco Bay indicates that sea-level rise is occurring in Portland Harbor; and

WHEREAS, international scientific theories indicate that sea-level rise is accelerating and may result in sea-level rise of an additional three to six feet over the next one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, many of Portland's economic, cultural, and ecological resources, and public infrastructure is located at low elevations at or near the shoreline; and

WHEREAS, estimated sea-level rise may cause permanent flooding of certain low elevation areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, potential permanent flooding represents an economic, cultural, ecological, and public infrastructure loss for the City; and

WHEREAS, there is community interest to understand the implications of and prepare for sea-level rise and the City Council believes it is important to understand the implications of sea-level rise; and

WHEREAS, communities around Maine, New England and throughout the world are currently grappling with sea-level rise adaptation and provide feasible models for Portland's citizens to consider; and

WHEREAS, there are financial and technical resources available to conduct a sea-level rise study;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council supports the development of a sea-level rise adaptation plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a draft timetable and draft scope of work shall be developed and presented to the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Committee no later than September 1, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City should seek to coordinate planning efforts with the City of South Portland, the Greater Portland Council of Governments, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, the New England Environmental Finance Center, and other

coastal communities in Casco Bay as practical and feasible and learn from sea-level rise planning efforts already undertaken in Maine.