



**SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION GUIDELINES
FOR SEA DIKES AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**
Draft Overview and Summary - September 23, 2011

1. Introduction

Scientists and agencies around the world confirm that climate change is causing increased rates of sea level rise. On the BC coast, sea level rise will escalate the risks of coastal flooding, erosion and associated impacts. To prepare for the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, British Columbia's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy directs government agencies to assess the implications of climate change for government operations and begin the process of planning for and implementing adaptation actions (to see the Strategy go to <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/adaptation/strategy.html>).

In 2010, with support from Natural Resources Canada and the Fraser Basin Council, the ministry contracted Ausenco Sandwell Ltd. to prepare "Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines for Sea Dikes and Coastal Flood Hazard Land Use". The Ausenco Sandwell (2011) report is available on the ministry web page in three volumes (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/public_safety/flood/structural.html):

- Volume No. 1 – Draft Policy Discussion Paper
- Volume No. 2 – Sea Dike Guidelines
- Volume No. 3 – Guidelines for Management of Coastal Flood Hazard Land Use

Later in 2011, to extend and supplement the above work, the ministry contracted Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. to prepare "Coastal Floodplain Mapping Guidelines and Specifications" with consideration of sea level rise. This report (also available on the ministry web page) recommends standards for topographic mapping and engineering analyses for establishing building elevations in coastal areas.

Public and stakeholder comments are being solicited on the Ausenco Sandwell (2011) and the KWL (2011) reports through a series of presentations and workshops. This Draft Overview and Summary plus the Ausenco Sandwell and KWL reports jointly comprise the Draft Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidelines (the "Draft SLR Guidelines"). It is expected that a formal guideline document will be developed and published in 2012.

If you would like to provide input, to comment on any of the documents, or require further information, please contact Jesal Shah, Flood Safety Engineer, at either (250) 387-9962 or Jesal.Shah@gov.bc.ca.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Draft SLR Guidelines do not represent provincial policy at this time; they have been prepared for information and discussion purposes.

