Brief Description of Proposed Priority Options

Current Built Environment Technical Working Group

CBE-1: – Public Awareness Building

Enhance public education programs aimed at informing the public about sea level rise and coastal hazards. This includes the development and implementation of standardized community education materials on coastal hazards that addresses the relationship between climate variability and climate change.

CBE-2: Observation System for Changes in Coastal Zones

Develop and/or strengthen a system for the comprehensive surveillance, monitoring, documentation, and dissemination of rates and locations of sea-level rise in Maryland. This includes the installation of surveillance equipment in coastal sites where current public/private infrastructure is potentially vulnerable to small increases in sea level.

CBE-3: - Assessment of the Vulnerability of Coastal Zone Infrastructure

Conduct a comprehensive adaptation assessment for all public and private properties located in coastal zones susceptible to sea level rise. The assessment should include an evaluation of existing and future unprotected reaches of shoreline with respect to existing infrastructure.

CBE-4: Coastal Zone Inundation Mapping

Develop a system for the regular updating of flood inundation mapping from changes due to sea level rise. This includes the development of a comprehensive system to integrate the results of the observation system into a series of spatial maps amenable to regular updating.

CBE-5: Assessment of the Vulnerability of Coastal Zone Infrastructure

Develop an inventory of potentially impacted infrastructure and maintain this database relative to emerging projected sea level rise findings. This includes the identification of public and private systems and facilities at serious risk from sea level rise, the development of a system for siting such facilities away from vulnerable areas, and the evaluation of the presence and significance of threatened historical structures and develop plans for their relocation and/or protection.

CBE-6: Assessment of Coastal Zone Adaptation Options

Evaluate potential structural and non-structural options for beach protection including flood walls, dune restoration and creation, and periodic beach nourishment. This includes the evaluation of shoreline protection structures to determine their effectiveness under varying sea level rise scenarios, evaluation of the need for modification/replacement/abandonment, and the evaluation of shoreline erosion buffers for zones subject to flooding in which significant infrastructure is located.

CBE-7: Adaptation Planning

Increase erosion and hazard planning focused on all coastlines, especially sheltered coastlines. This includes the development and implementation of an early warning system (i.e., enhance hazard preparedness) through incorporation of sea level rise in hurricane and storm-surge evacuation planning.

CBE-8: – Building Code Revisions

Strengthen existing building codes for new infrastructure and incorporate an increase in building inspection effectiveness as part of the strengthened codes. This includes the evaluation of infrastructure design standards/codes associated with retrofitting activities for existing infrastructure to account for sea level rise and increased severity of storms and storm surges, as well as a strengthening of construction protocols/conventions for piers and wharves for wave strength.

CBE-9: Hazard Preparedness

Improve hazard preparedness of residential homes and commercial entities by providing operational assistance or incentives. This includes the development of some sort of central information dissemination center in the State where such assistance and incentives would be offered.

CBE-10: Disclosure

Develop operational protocols that specify disclosure requirements for coastal hazards. This includes information related to the purchase/sales of property for residential and commercial properties.