

*******FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*******

**Kent County Vulnerability and Adaption Report Ready for Comment
Public Information Session To Be Held
Wednesday, 24 August 2016 at 6pm in the Commissioners Hearing Room**

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Chestertown, MD—Kent County is pleased to share its Draft Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report. The results of the report will be the subject of a public informational session to be held on Wednesday, 24 August 2016 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room located at 400 High Street. The Draft Report is available for public review at <http://www.kentcounty.com/planning>, as well as in the Planning Department.

Kent County, in partnership with the Coastal Resilience Program at the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, received a Coast Smart Communities grant from the Department of Natural Resources to complete a first-of-its-kind vulnerability assessment in the County. The intent of the project is to understand the County's vulnerability to sea level rise and climate change impacts and to identify potential actions the County can take to reduce risk and mitigate impacts.

The County recently completed an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. An analysis of how the County's coastal resources may be vulnerable to sea level rise is perfectly-timed to influence how the next Comprehensive Plan addresses long-term vulnerability and builds resilience.

This project employs the Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning Scenarios (VCAPS) methodology for assessing vulnerability. This draft report is a result of intensive stakeholder involvement which included interviews with local experts to better-understand the threats to residents, businesses, and infrastructure posed by sea level rise and climate change. In addition, the County and ESCL hosted a two-day workshop in which the VCAPS methodology was implemented.

Both the County and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy encourage the community's review and comment on the Draft Plan. Please direct any questions regarding the Draft Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report or the informational session to County Environmental Planner Stephanie Jones at 410-778-7475.