



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA
324 EAST PINE STREET
2ND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of September 2024 meeting minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. Vulnerability Assessment - Post Hurricane Update
2. Climate Action Plan update
3. Upcoming Meetings - schedule

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

STAFF COMMENTS

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is open to the public. Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The City of Tarpon Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for access for the disabled. Anyone needing assistance regarding this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (727) 938-3711, fax a written request to (727) 942-5619, or email a written request to cityclerk@ctsfl.us at least two days prior to the meeting. For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (727) 937-0017 or TarponCode@tspd.us

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, September 19, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DENISE MANNINO	CHAIRPERSON
DR. CAROL MICKETT	MEMBER
ROBIN SAENGER	MEMBER
TAYLOR MANDALOU	MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	THOMAS KIGER	DIRECTOR -PUBLIC SERVICES
	HOLLY LANGSTON	SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Holly Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2024 MINUTES:

MOTION:	ROBIN SAENGER
SECOND:	DR. CAROL MICKETT

To approve the minutes of August 2024 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting and amend that moving forward, consistently use last names of all presenters/staff in minutes.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson Mannino stated that the committee welcomes the public and would love to have more public input.

DISCUSSION

1. **ECOFEST RECAP – HOLLY LANGSTON**

Ms. Langston provided a brief synopsis of the EcoFest event, including showing the eco-friendly items that were given away to City residents as outreach and education regarding small swaps they can make to incorporate more sustainable products and actions into their daily lives and homes. Chairperson Mannino asked if there is

any plan to expand EcoFest. Staff responded that there are entities such as Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Brooker Creek, and Forest Service present in addition to City Departments - each year there could be opportunity to include additional similar agencies. There are also other Sustainability related events happening throughout the year, such as an upcoming gardening in Florida workshop through the library. There will be opportunities to coordinate/help publicize events as further connections between departments are made.

2. WATER UPDATE: PFAS ISSUES – THOMAS KIGER

Mr. Kiger provided a presentation on an emerging water issue: PFAS. PFAS are per- and polyfluoroalkyl synthetic chemicals that are also known as “forever chemicals” because they do not degrade easily. Mr. Kiger discussed the potential health concerns, limits, and the class settlement lawsuit of which the City is a part. Additionally, there are resources for how people can limit their exposure. Mr. Kiger shared that the City’s water is safe, and that the City of Tarpon Springs will ensure the drinking water stays safe. The Committee members engaged in a brief discussion on the PFAS topic.

3. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN OVERVIEW/SYNOPSIS – HOLLY LANGSTON

Ms. Langston provided a one-page synopsis of a forthcoming communications plan for Sustainability outreach. The plan will cover public channels, internal staff work and responsibilities, potential training for staff and Committee members, as well as a communications timeline. Committee member Robin Saenger recommended engaging with other groups where sustainability discussions are taking place, such as the Garden Club of Tarpon Springs and the local moms’ group that meets at Moonberry Mercantile.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – HOLLY LANGSTON

Ms. Langston shared the status of members’ terms on the Sustainability Committee. There are three members whose terms end on 9/30/2024: Denise Mannino, Taylor Mandalou, and Robin Saenger. To extend Chairperson Mannino’s service, on 9/17/2024 the Board of Commissioners approved her to continued service on the Sustainability Advisory Committee for an additional year. Robin Saenger notified staff prior to the meeting that she will be leaving the Committee as of the end of her term on 9/30/2024. Taylor Mandalou announced at the meeting that he will also step off the Committee as of the end of his term on 9/30/2024. All members were thanked for their service and dedication on the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Ms. Langston also updated the Committee regarding recruitment of new members and the work staff has put into seeking new members. As of October 1, 2024, the Committee only has three members; all three would need to be present for a quorum. Dr. Mickett stated she was not sure she could attend the October 17, 2024 meeting. A motion was made to defer the next meeting until November.

DEFER/CANCEL OCTOBER MEETING:

MOTION: ROBIN SAENGER
SECOND: TAYLOR MANDALOU

To cancel the October 17, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting and defer items for the next Agenda until the November 21, 2024 meeting.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Energy Efficiency initiatives/projects
- Climate Action Plan- policy discussion

- FY 2025 Implementation Actions review
- Committee asked about Whitcomb Bayou project – Mr. Kiger stated that he can ask but it has not been funded to his knowledge so there isn't much to update on at this time.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff commented that the West Klosterman Preserve fundraising campaign is ongoing and an updated December deadline is in effect.

Staff also closed the discussion on energy independence after discussing with the City Manager and learning that this has been investigated about 15 years ago. The City will not be spending any funds to explore this but will be watching to see what Clearwater finds out with its feasibility work.

Staff announced upcoming City events related to Sustainability though not planned by the Sustainability department:

- Florida gardening workshop at the library
- Beach Cleanup Nov. 2

Staff will plan to announce upcoming events during staff comments at future meetings.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Committee thanked each other for their years of service- there is much gratitude for the hard work of creating the Sustainability Plan as well as moving the topic and work of Sustainability into the forefront of many conversations. Chairperson Mannino stated that she has started the Citizens Academy and that is a positive way to be involved. Additionally, she was able to attend a workshop at the Florida Planning Conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: ROBIN SAENGER
SECOND: TAYLOR MANDALOU

To adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

THOMAS KIGER
DIRECTOR –
PUBLIC SERVICES

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

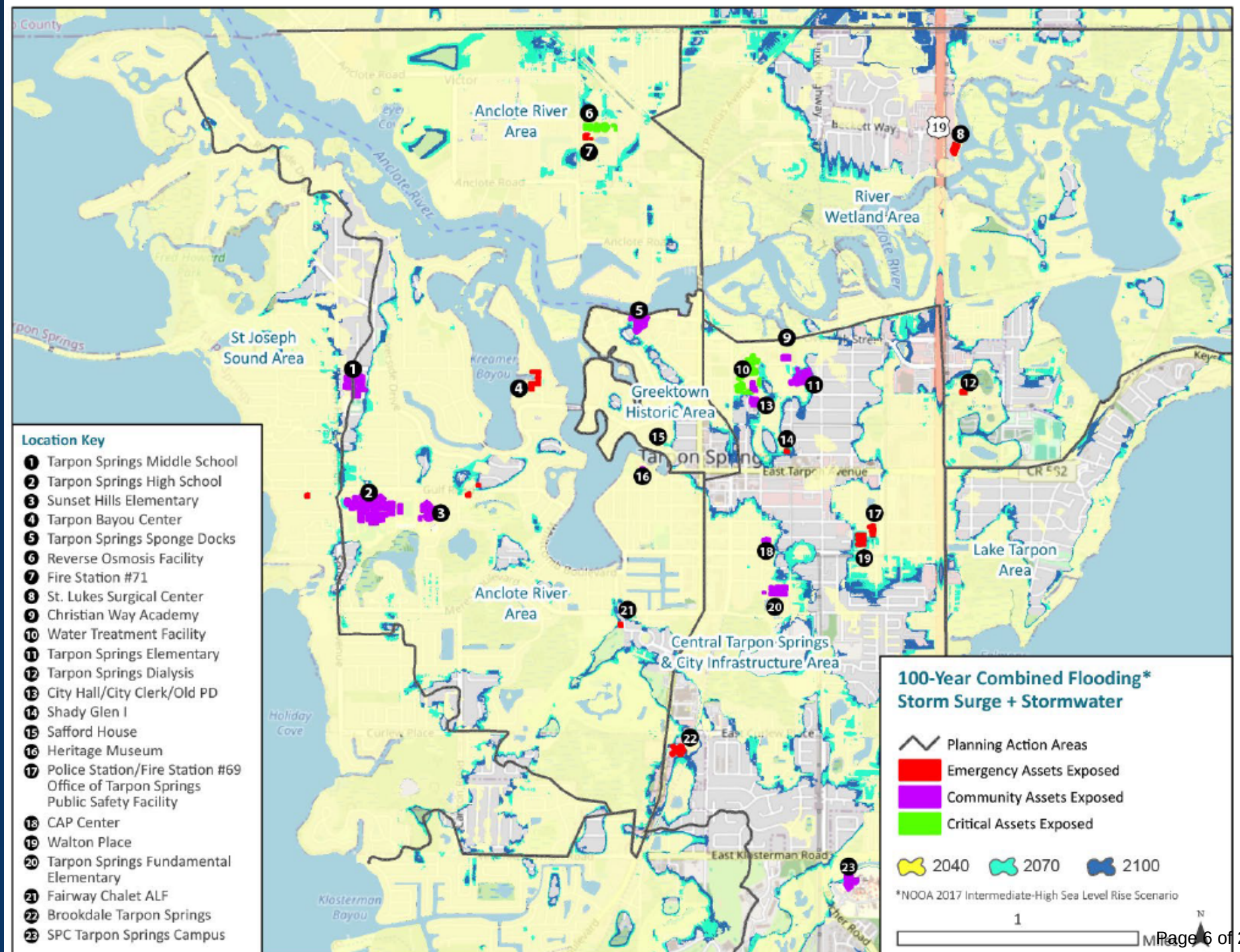
TARPON SPRINGS VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT POST-HURRICANE UPDATE

Prepared by the Public Services Department

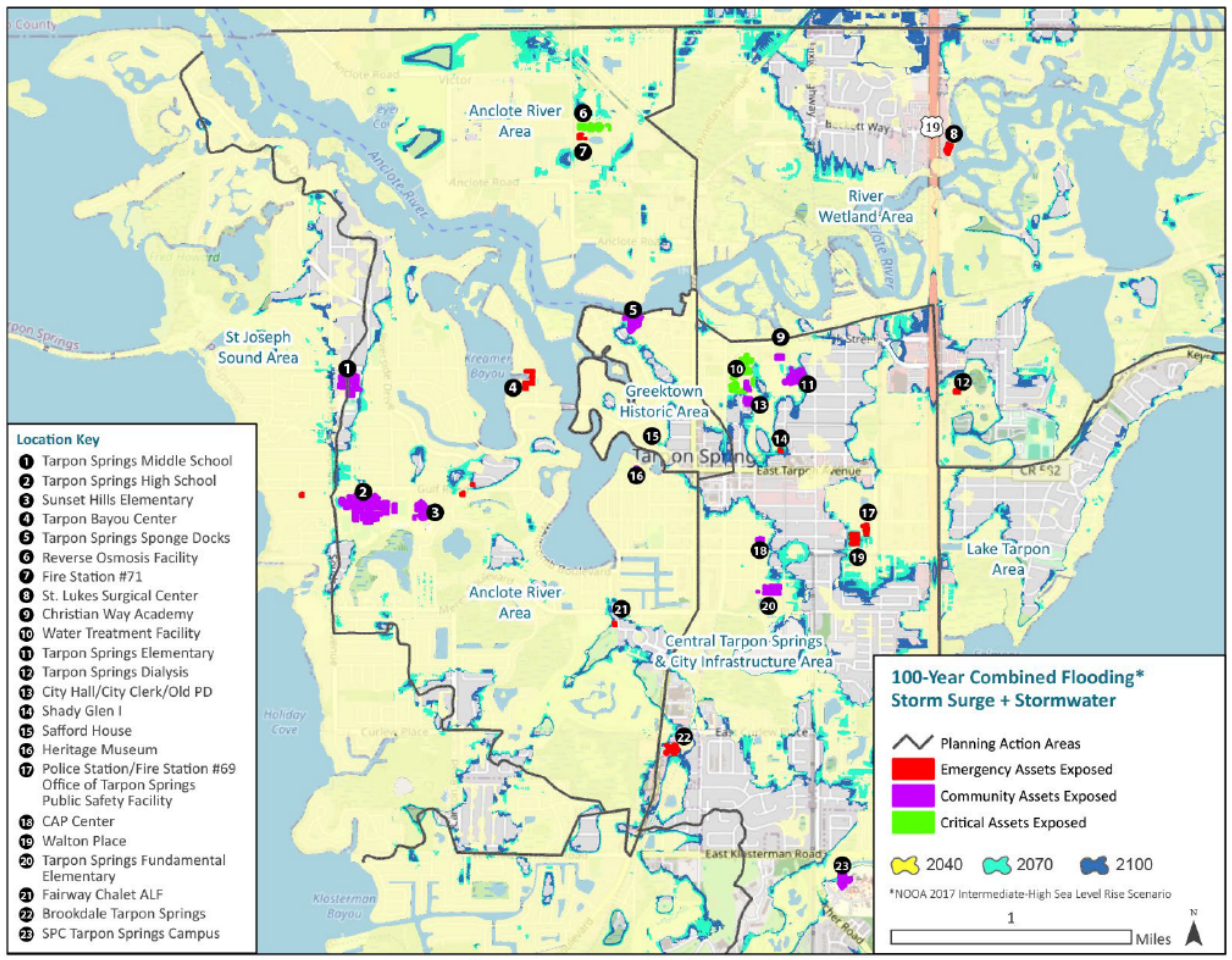
11/15/24



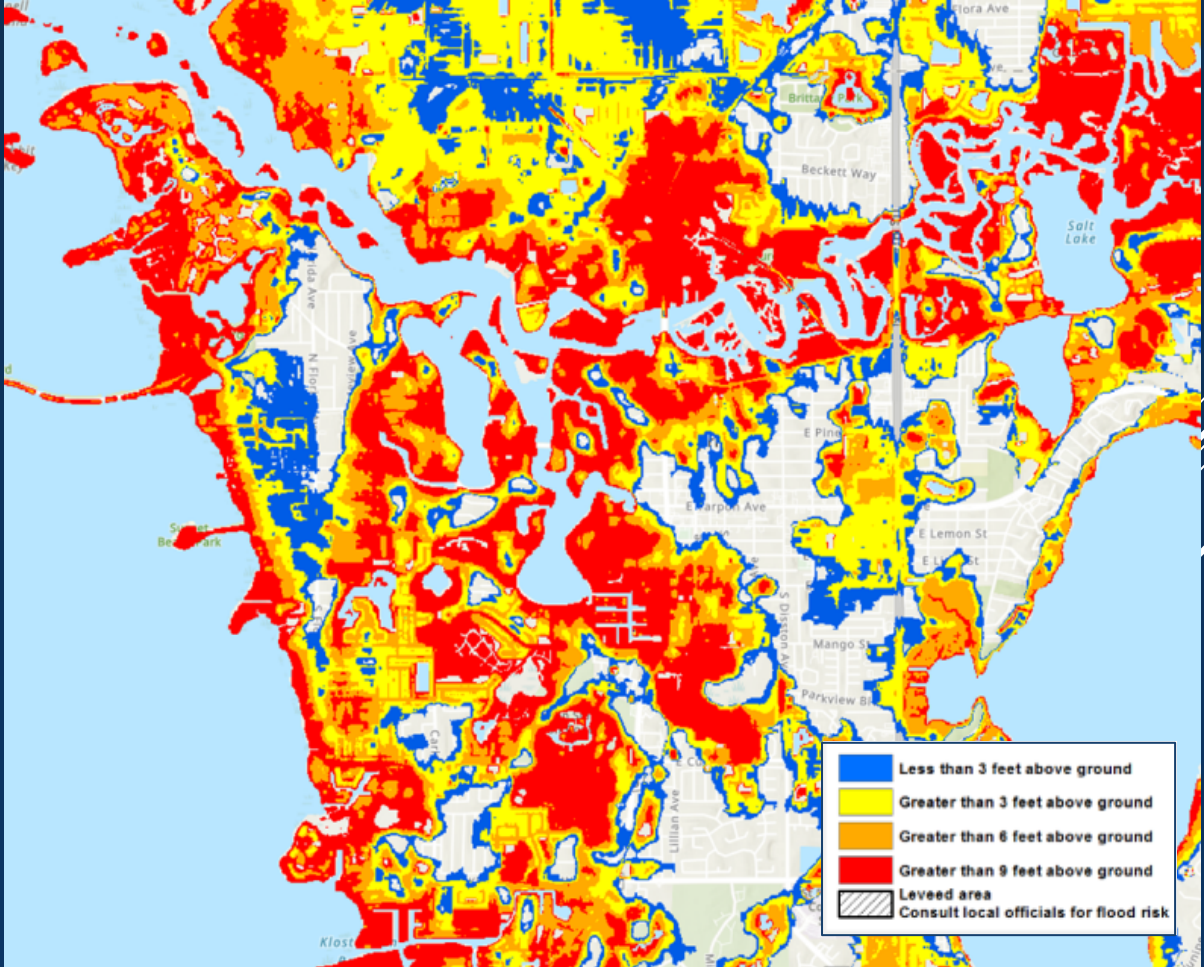
RESULTS: COMBINED FLOODING – STORM SURGE AND RAINFALL



FLOODING COMPARISON

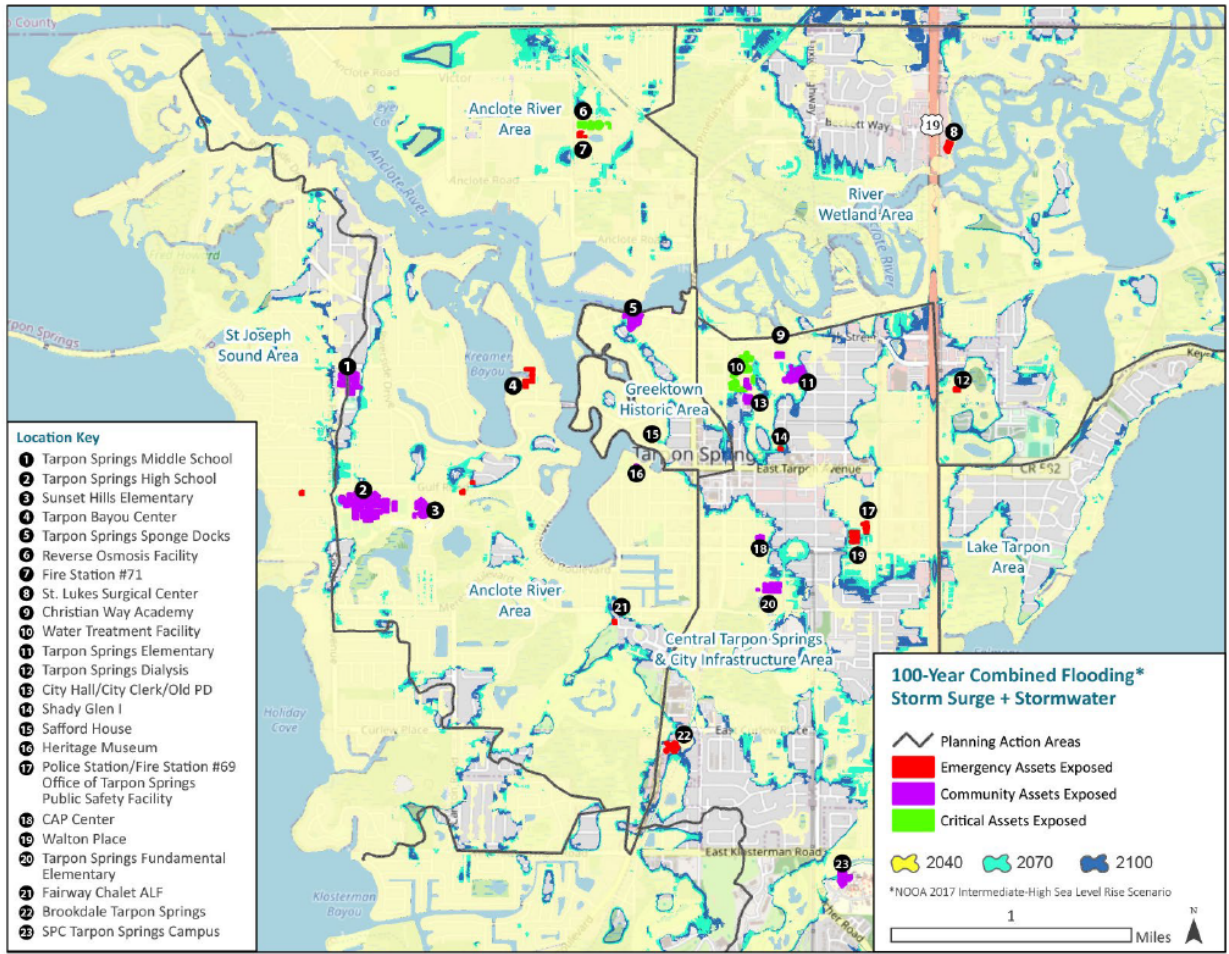


100-year Storm (VAAP)

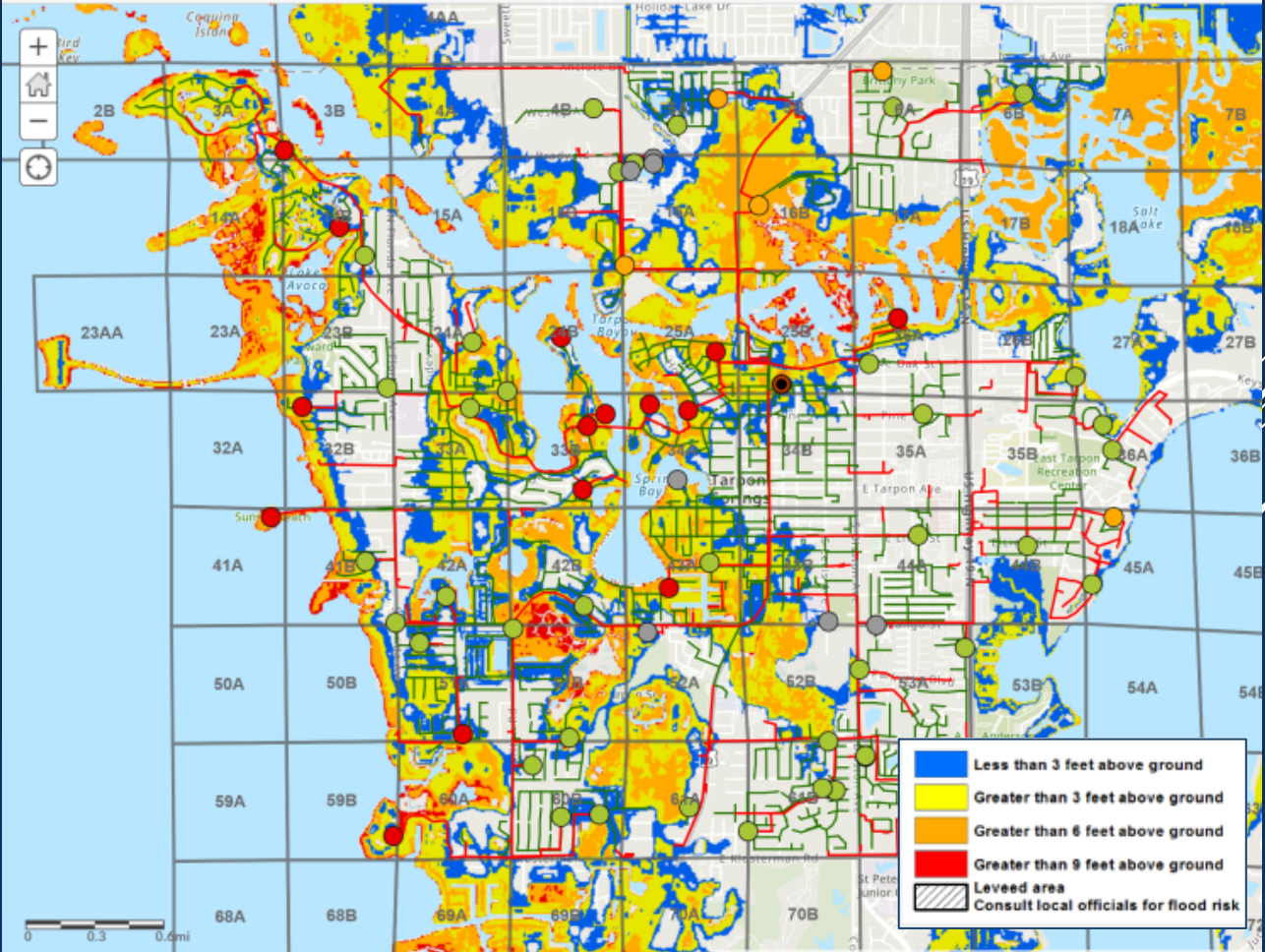


Cat 2 Hurricane Storm Surge
(National Hurricane Center)

FLOODING COMPARISON VAAP VS HELENE



100-year Storm (VAAP)



Hurricane Helene Modelled Storm Surge (National Hurricane Center)

STORM SURGE IMPACTS

Approximately 9 ft storm surge

400- 600 residences impacted by flooding

Over 100 commercial properties impacted by flooding

19 of 64 sewer lift stations out of service

Major disruptions to sewer service in coastal areas

Temporary disruption of emergency services in coastal areas during the storm surge (Please Evacuate as Directed)

Significant onsite flooding at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility

Significant damage at Sunset Beach and coastal parks

LESSONS LEARNED

Improved mapping during emergency operations

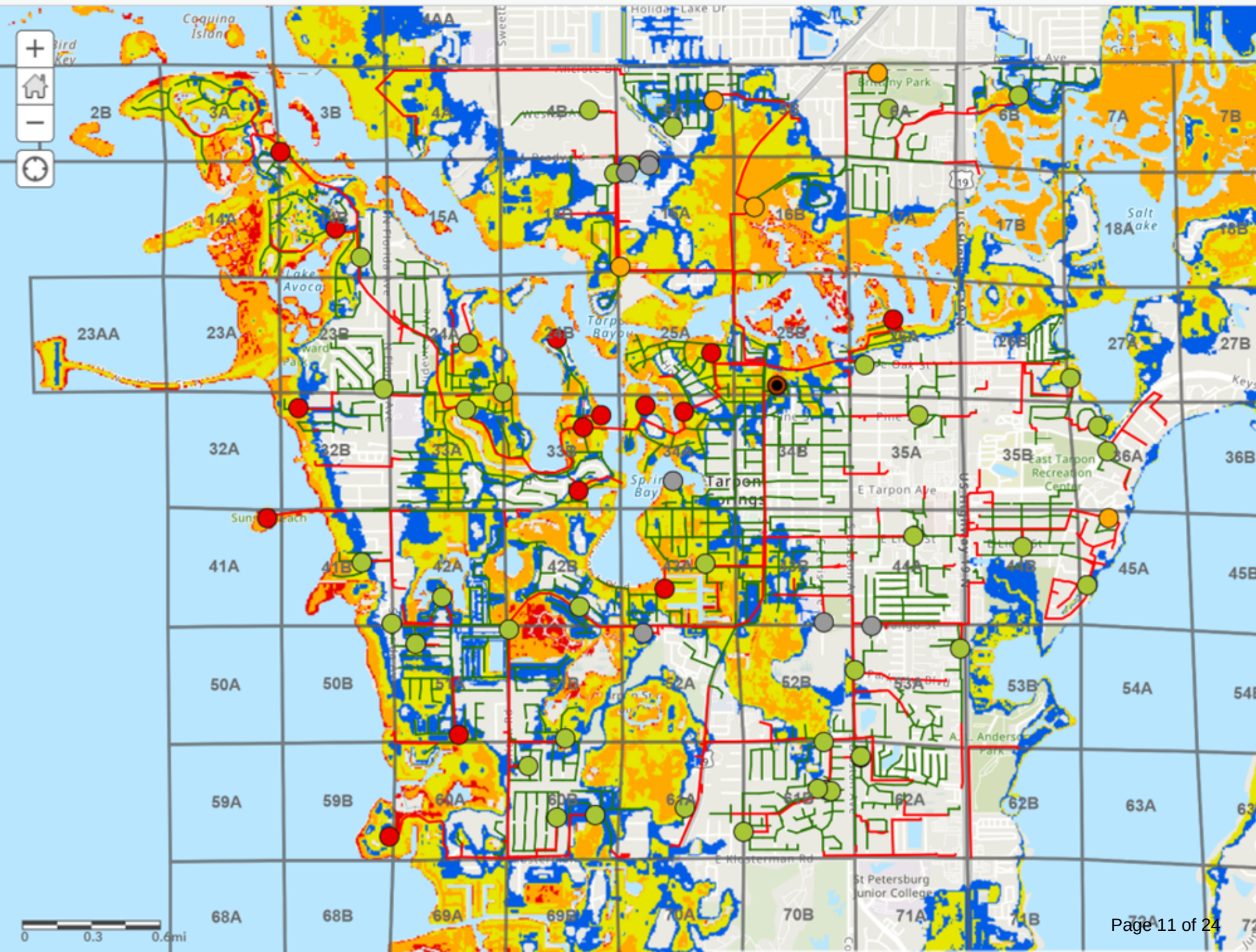
Improved public communications

Continue hardening sewer lift stations
– Raise electrical panels

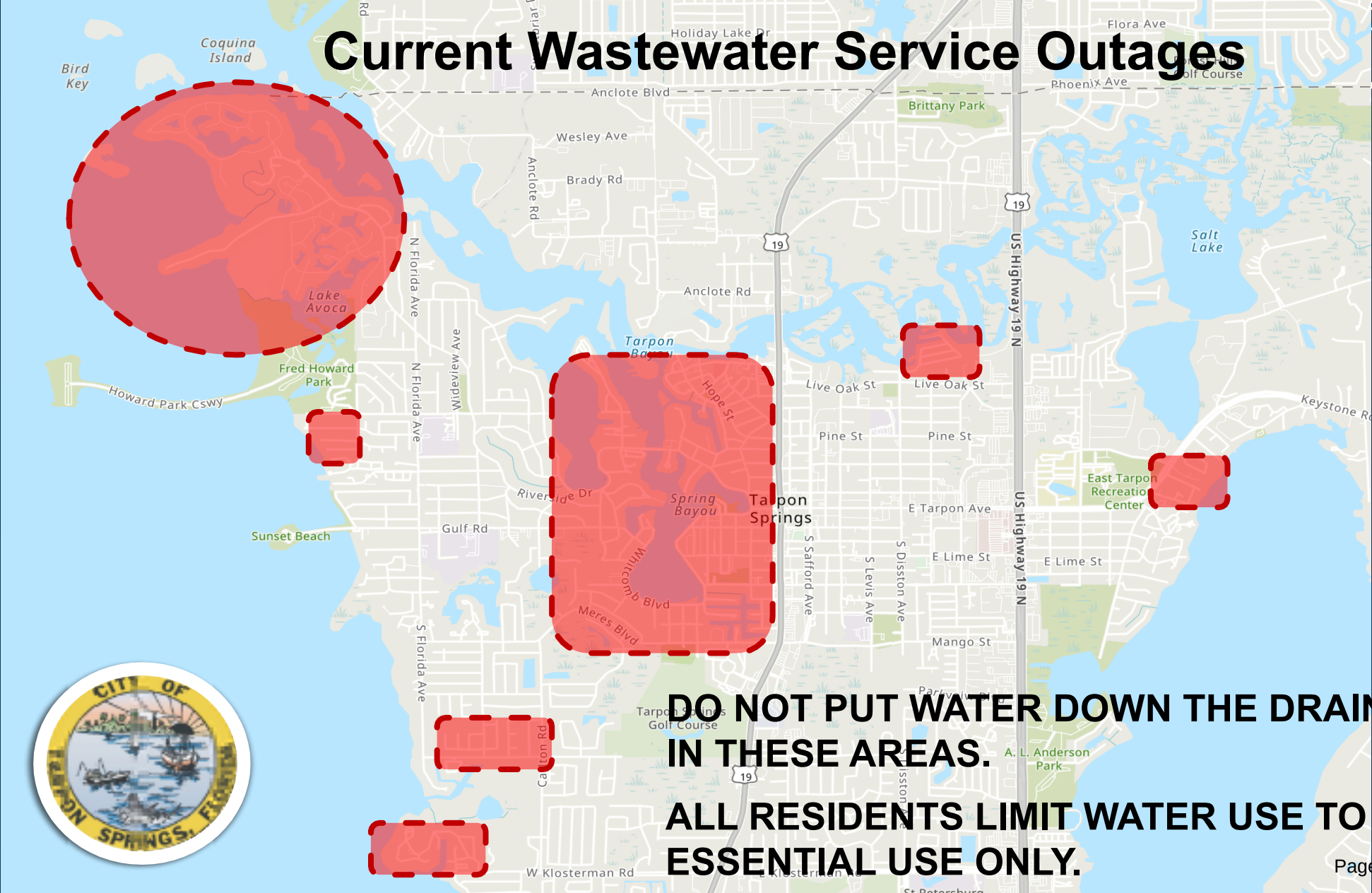
Need permanent storm surge
protections at WWTF



IMPROVED MAPPING



IMPROVED PUBLIC COMMUNICATION



TIGER DAM INSTALLATION AT WWTF



LIFT STATIONS



LIFT STATIONS



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

An aerial photograph of a coastal area. In the upper right, a building with a green, gabled roof is visible. The surrounding land is sandy and dotted with palm trees and low-lying vegetation. Long shadows are cast across the sand. The lower portion of the image shows the ocean with varying shades of green and blue, indicating different depths or seabed features. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text "CLIMATE ACTION PLAN".

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: ACTIONS 16, 18, 48

Action Number	Action	Action Category	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe	Aligns with Strategic Plan Goals?	Project Implementation Timeframe
1	Net Zero Canopy Loss Policy		\$	O&M	SHORT		2024 - 2027
5	Ordinance requiring control of invasive species on City property		\$	O&M	SHORT		2024 - 2027
6	Land Use Regulations that establish appropriate wetland, stream and shoreline buffer widths		\$	O&M	SHORT		2024 - 2027
14	Seawall Ordinance		\$	O&M, Grant, Capital	SHORT		2024 - 2027
16	Climate Action Plan		\$\$\$	O&M, Grant	SHORT		2024 - 2027
18	GHG Reduction Target		\$	O&M	SHORT		2024 - 2027
48	Adopt a "Climate in All Policies" or "Sustainability in All Policies" statement		\$	O&M	SHORT		2025 - 2028

Action 16: Draft a Climate Action Plan with *actions to transition the city toward clean energy goals including increasing on-site **renewable energy** production and the use of electric vehicles and alternative fuels*. Create staff incentives to encourage the use of alternatives modes of transportation and the transition to electric vehicles.

Action 18: Adopt an official **greenhouse gas** emissions (GHG) reduction target, such as a 30% reduction by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2050, in local government GHG emissions.

Action 48: Adopt a "*Climate in all Policies*" or "*Sustainability in all Policies*" resolution to guide local decision-making.

TARPON SPRINGS' LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Table 1: Baseline and Business-as-Usual Projections (the “do nothing”

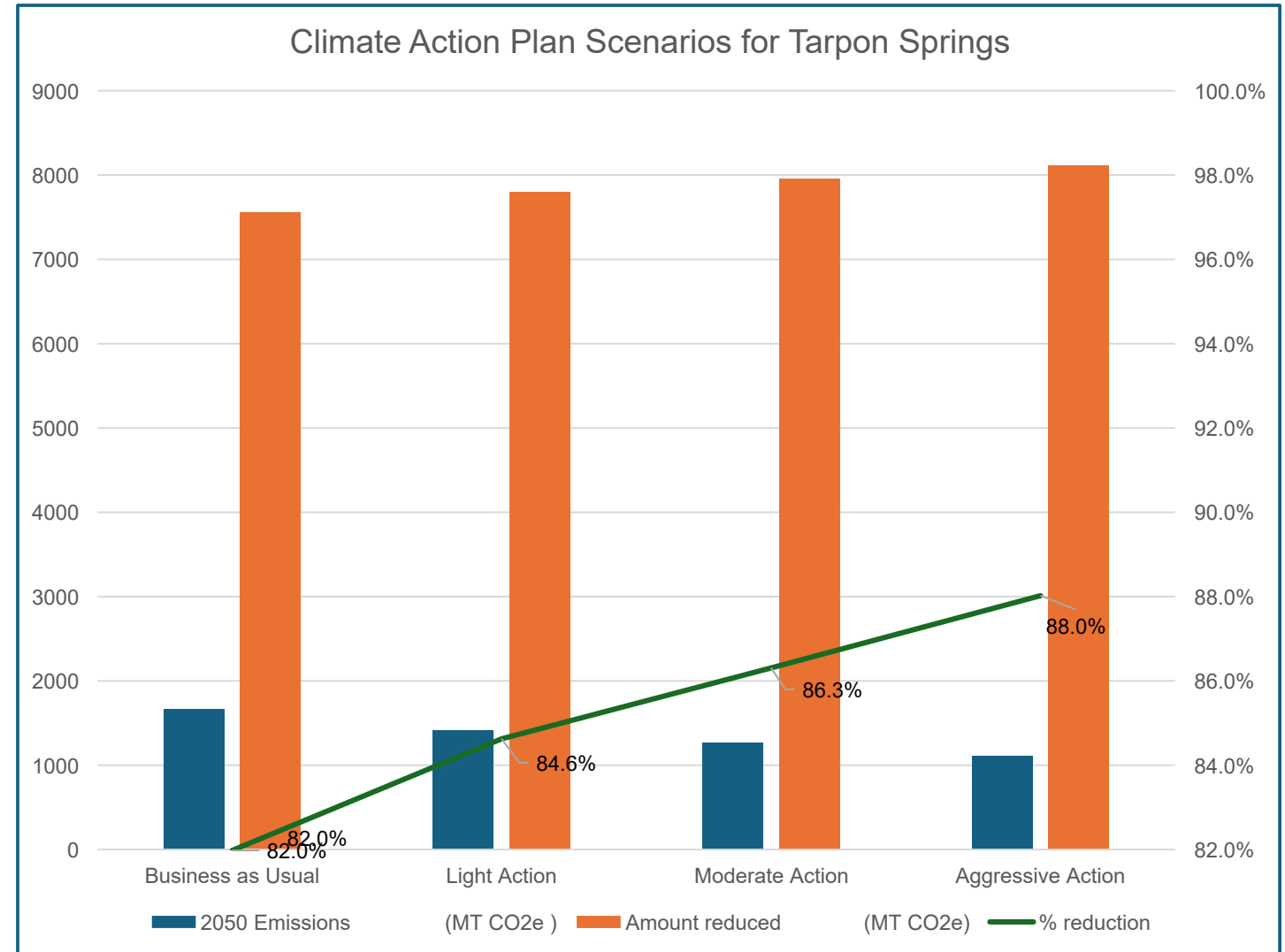
Sector	2019 Baseline (MT CO ₂ e)	2025 Forecast (MT CO ₂ e)	2030 Forecast (MT CO ₂ e)	2040 Forecast (MT CO ₂ e)	2050 Forecast (MT CO ₂ e)
Buildings & Facilities	1,454	1,287	1,217	534	79
Streetlights & Traffic Signals	570	501	472	189	0
Vehicle Fleet	1,715	1,630	1,569	1,444	1,343
Solid Waste Facilities	5	5	5	2	0
Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities	5,473	5,064	4,932	2,207	239
Total	9,217	8,487	8,195	4,376*	1,661**

***2040 – Duke Energy 80% to net zero**

****2050 - Duke Energy attains net zero carbon emissions**

82% REDUCTION
DUE TO DUKE NET
ZERO ACTIONS

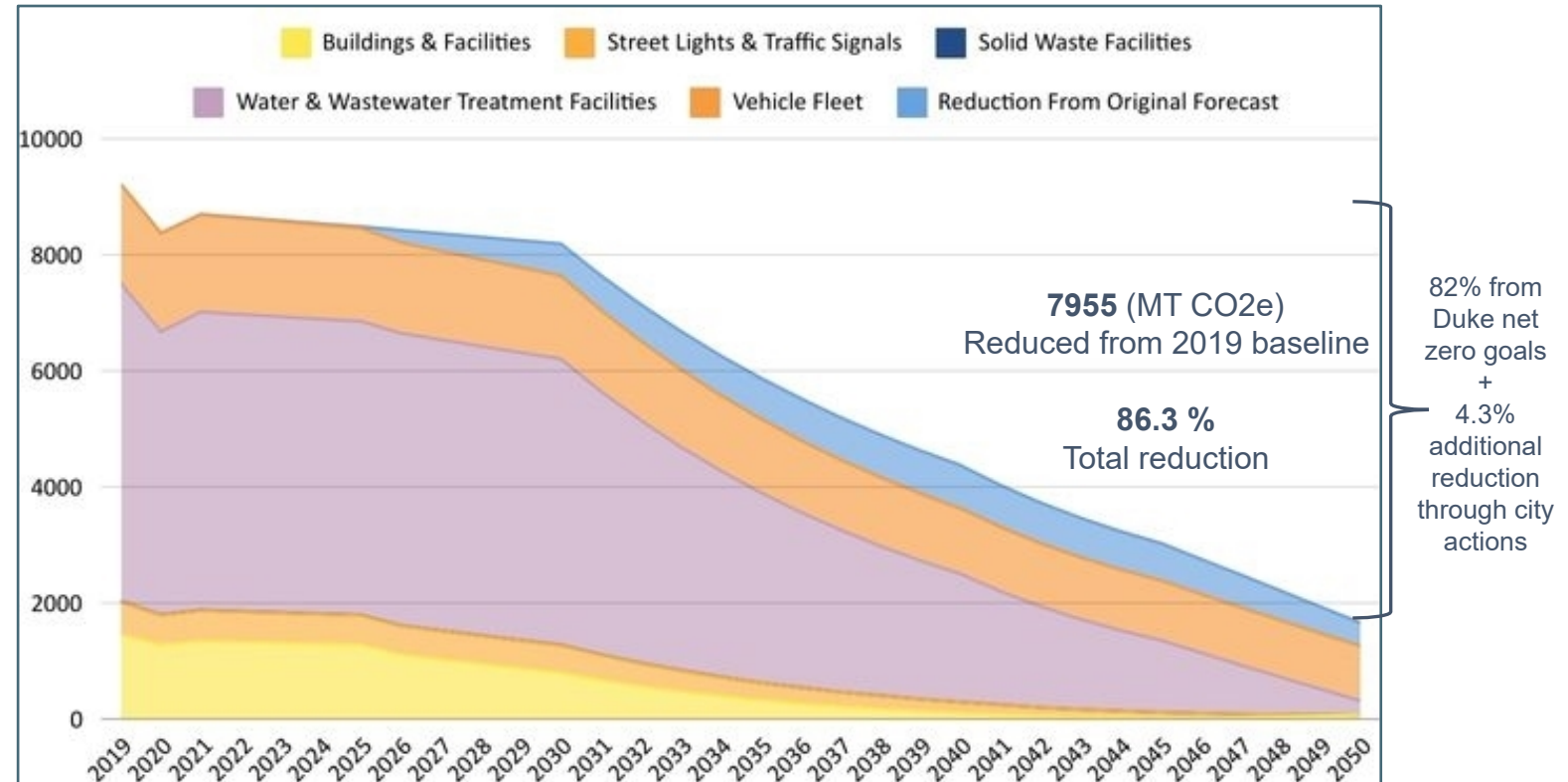
EACH SCENARIO
MODELED BY ICLEI
SHOWS AN
INCREASE IN
REDUCTIONS DUE
TO CITY ACTIONS



ACTIONS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM CITY OPERATIONS: MODERATE SCENARIO



- Solar Photovoltaic Installation
 - (20,000 square feet) new solar installation every 5 years – amount may vary based on space available
- Fleet Vehicle Electrification
 - 50% of fleet electric by 2050
 - Passenger, Light duty & diesel on road
 - VMT Off Road Electrification- Emissions from diesel and gas off-road small utilities equipment
- Retro-Commissioning
 - 50% of buildings retro-commissioned by 2050 on a case-by-case cost justified basis



WHERE SHOULD WE FOCUS?

- Majority of City Emissions are due to power we use from the Duke Energy grid, so we rely on Duke to reduce its (and our) emissions
- What we have the highest level of control over:
 - fuel consumption
 - production of clean energy to reduce from grid usage



Table 3: Moderate scenario strategies with the corresponding net reduction (MT CO₂e) and level of impact.

Type	Net Reduction by 2050 (MT CO ₂ e)	Level of Impact
Solar Installation	863	Very High Impact
Electrification of Gasoline Light Fleet	227	Very High Impact
Electrification of Gasoline Passenger Fleet	95	High Impact
Retro-Commissioning	92	High Impact
CNG Conversion of WM Diesel Fleet 2024-2040	60	Medium Impact
Electrification of Small Engines (Utility/Maintenance)	39	Low Impact
Electrification of Diesel Light Fleet	26	Very Low Impact
CNG Conversion of WM Diesel Fleet 2019-2024	21	Very Low Impact

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. City will continue to participate in Duke CEC program to help achieve Duke's Net Zero goals
2. Fleet Electrification
 - a. Policy to consider electric with every vehicle replacement
 - b. EV Masterplan
3. Solar Installations
 - a. Conduct Solar Feasibility Study – 2025
 - b. Collaborate with solar partners
 - c. File for Tax Credits – 2025 – and create reinvestment plan
4. Energy Efficiency upgrades for facilities when cost & savings justified
 - a. Rebates when applicable for building equipment or materials replacements/upgrades



Next: choose best combination of realistic targets & policies for Tarpon Springs, while acknowledging unknowns

BENEFITS

- Roadmap of actionable items for city to lead by example on climate action
- Groundwork for “climate in all policies” resolution (Action 48)
- Energy efficiency = \$ savings on power and fuel costs
- Clean Energy tax credits support re-investment in solar and fleet
- Report details risks due to climate change & links to VAAP

