Atchison Village: Groundwater Flooding, Sea Level Rise (SLR), and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



March 12, 2023 presented to the Atchison Village Community at Atchison Village Hall, live and by Zoom Jim Jacobs jaajacob@ucsc.edu DRAFT- PRELIMINARY DATA

Putting Sea Level Rise Into Perspective and Developing a Plan







Concept of Stages – Days of High Tide Flooding (HTF)





Concept Stage 1 – Occasional Flooding, Nuisance About once per month – flooded roads, occasional sewer spill Richmond, CA, Tam Valley, CA

US High Tide Flooding and Sea Level



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Stage 1 – Occasional Flooding, Nuisance: What will I lose? Richmond, CA (Atchison Village)



Concept of Stages – Days of High Tide Flooding (HTF)





Concept Stage 2 – Common Flooding, Life Disrupting Hampton, NH, Boston, MA, Annapolis, MD, Baltimore, MD, Charleston, SC, Miami, FL



https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/2021_State_of_High_Tide_Flooding_and_Annual_Outlook_Final.pdf

Concept Stage 2 – Common Flooding, Life Disrupting NOAA - Days of High-Tide Flooding By 4 East Coast Cities

Since 2001, water has reached flood levels an average of 20 days or more a year at the four tide gauges below. Before 1971, none averaged more than five days a year.

Atlantic City., NJ - Annapolis, MD - Wilmington, NC - Charleston, SC



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Concept Stage 2 – Common Flooding, Life Disrupting NOAA – 2021 High Tide Flooding (HTF) Mapping: How much longer can I live with this? Is it worth it?

Bay Waveland, MS

Charleston, SC



Figure 1. Map for minor (red), moderate (orange) and major (yellow) HTF layers for a) Bay Waveland, Miss. and b) Charleston, S.C. mapped by the same methods as NOAA's Sea Level Rise Viewer.⁴ Red is used for the minor HTF layer since it will be flooded under all three HTF categories.

Concept Stage 2 – Common Flooding, Life Disrupting

Annapolis, MD – one of most vulnerable US cities to sea level rise flooding



Concept Stage 2 – Common Flooding, Life Disrupting

Myrtle Beach, SC



Concept of Stages – Days of High Tide Flooding (HTF)

Stage 1Stage 2Stage 3Occasional Flooding
NuisanceCommon Flooding
Life DisruptingConstant Flooding
Unlivable





https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/2021_State_of_High_Tide_Flooding_and_Annual_Outlook_Final.pdf

Stage 3 - Last house on Holland Island in October 2009 The house fell into the Chesapeake Bay in October 2010

What can I save?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holland Island#/media/File:Holland Island house.jpg

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(1888 - 2010)

Stage 3 – Holland Island Pine Tree in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland



https://www.baltimoremagazine.com/section/sciencetechnology/the-sea-also-rises

Concept of Stages – Days of High Tide Flooding (HTF)

Stage 1Stage 2Stage 3Occasional FloodingCommon FloodingConstant FloodingNuisanceLife DisruptingUnlivable



Willing to Lose

Tipping Point

Want to Salvage

Community Responses – Solutions and Planning



Community Responses – Communicate the Risk of Sea Level Rise



Community Responses – Green Infrastructure (Short Term)

Marshes and Wetlands: Bothin Marsh, Tam Valley, CA



Green Infrastructure – cost effective and sustainable flood management to remove water at its source

- Open Spaces
- Marshes and Wetlands
- Rain Gardens and Bioswales
- Beach Dunes and Renourishment
- Natural Barriers

Modified after https://floodfactor.com/zip/94941/94941_fsid#community_solutions

Community Responses – Gray Infrastructure (Short Term – Medium Term)





Gray Infrastructure - Concrete and Steel Structures, Pumps

- Seawalls, Floodwalls, Rip-Rap
- Upgraded and Elevated Roadway Infrastructure
- Elevated or Floating Infrastructure
- Levees, Dams, Dikes, and Weirs
- Tide and Flood Gates
- Stormwater and Groundwater Pumps
- Upgraded Stormwater Systems
- Tight Wastewater Systems
- Control of Preferential Pathways
- Regular Operations and Maintenance

Community Response – Resilience (Long Term)



Source: City of Pacifica Preliminary Draft Sea Level Rise Adaption Plan

Community Resilience – Major Adaptation to sea level rise

- Community Response Workplan (needs and concerns)
- Managed Retreat property buyout plan, building relocation,
- Floodplain Ordinances (Planning and Zoning Dept.)



Atchison Village – Long History of Flooding

(Photo – Barbara Postel)

Richmond, CA (Atchison Village) – Lake Curry, Dec 1960



Photos courtesy of Barbara Postel

Richmond, CA (Atchison Village) – Lake Curry, March 2012



Winter 2016-2017



Richmond, CA (Atchison Village) – Flooding

Historic flooding may be related to inoperable:

- Stormdrain systems
- Clogged drainage ditches and channels
- Tide gates blocked by sea water

Solution: Operations and Maintenance

Sidewalk flooding 1 week after rains





Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

- Sea Level Rise?
- King Tides?
- Extreme Rains?
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems?
- Groundwater Emergence?

(Photo – Barbara Postel)

Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



Question 1 - Will sea level rise (SLR) impact groundwater at Atchison Village, and can "king tides" be a proxy?

Rising Sea Level (in meters), San Francisco (NOAA data: San Francisco Area, NOAA, 2017



Sea Level Rise: Marine Overtopping or Groundwater Inundation (Emerging Groundwater)



From Univ. Hawaii, Manoa, Coastal Studies Group

Atchison Village – 0.5 Miles from Santa Fe Channel; 12-15 feet above sea level



Lack of discharge elevation – king tides, SLR, storm surge, small tides





Atchison Village Stormdrain

Pt. Richmond



Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

- Sea Level Rise?
- King Tides?
- Extreme Rains?
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems?
- Groundwater Emergence?

(Photo – Barbara Postel)

Question : Can Highest Astronomical Tides ('king tides") be a proxy for future higher sea level?



"Spring tide" means springing forth, highest tides, during new moons ("king tides") https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/springtide.html





San Francisco; 12/1/22 to 12/31/22 (NOAA data) highest monthly tides from 12/22/22 to 12/24/22; rainless; Question: With sea level rise, can king tides be a proxy for future average tides?



https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/est/est_station.shtml?stnid=9414290

Tides and Atchison Village – AVW2; King Tide on 12/24/22

ft AMSL





Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

- Sea Level Rise?
- King Tides?
- Extreme Rains?
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems?
- Groundwater Emergence?

(Photo – Barbara Postel)
Radar graphic from January 8, 2023 of an atmospheric river condition (ARC) which produced 0.72-inches of rain in Richmond, California on that date and 0.85-inches on 1/9/23

Atmospheric River Condition (ARC)

Similar concept for 43-day ARC in 1861 and great flood of 1862





Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

- Sea Level Rise?
- King Tides?
- Extreme Rains?
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems?
- Groundwater Emergence?

(Photo – Barbara Postel)

Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



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Reduce impacts of ARCs and high groundwater:

- 1) Fix French drain system
- 2) Develop a large-scale pumping plan
- 3) Sewer trench dewatering
- 4) Maintenance of storm drains
- 5) Improve Richmond Yacht Harbor outflow flapper

Improvements in Drainage - Atchison Village – Maintenance (week of 11/21/22) and Operations of Stormdrain System

Maintenance and Operations



(Photos Barbara Postel)

RR1 location prior to maintenance (11/17/22)



RR1 location after maintenance (12/31/22)

Less Surface Flooding: Atchison Village and the Atmospheric River; 12/31/22 and 1/14/23

Reduced December 2022-January 2023 flooding due to maintenance and operations





"Lake Curry" on 1/14/23

(photos: Barbara Postel)



Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

- Sea Level Rise?
- King Tides?
- Extreme Rains?
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems?
- Groundwater Emergence?

(Photo – Barbara Postel)

Selected Flood Factors Impact Wastewater and Transit Infrastructure

sea level rise (no ebb) groundwater flooding (days to months) isolated ponding (days to months) heavy rain (days to weeks) barometric pressure (low)

stormwater backflow (hours to days) excessively high tides (king tides) (hours) creek overflow (hours) lunar nodal cycle (18.6 years; 2025 = +6 cm) wind direction (toward shore) (hours to days)

Overtopping and groundwater emergence



Flooding in the BSNF railroad property near sample RR2 (center, right) shows groundwater mixing with rainwater and stormwater on 12/31/22

Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

- Sea Level Rise?
- King Tides?
- Extreme Rains?
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems?
- Groundwater Emergence?
- or rainwater sitting on clay?



Sources of Water: Water isotopes Dissolved Salts

(calcium, sodium, magnesium, etc.)

Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



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Question 2 - Can community science volunteers make a meaningful contribution to the study?

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Participation and Assistants

Part of the NOAA grant was to encourage community involvement. Several volunteers from Atchison Village have participated in helping the project. Most notable is the resident historian, field volunteer, and photographer Barbara Postel. Barbara has also corresponded with residents of the ongoing field work. Other community science volunteers include Breana George, past president of the AVMHC, Kaylynn Schreve who has provided flood photographs, and Ellis McCauley, who has allowed access for soil boring on her property. Martin and Estela Gutierrez and Allen Schaaf have pre-existing irrigation wells on their property and have allowed access for sampling.



Kevin Pope



Barbara Postel

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Introduction to Atchison Village

Atchison Village in the City of Richmond – Blue flood zones in 3 ft of Sea Level Rise



Atchison Village

https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#/layer/vul-soc/4/-13630431.20059246/4570058.172637184/12/satellite/none/0.8/2050/interHigh/midAccretion NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer – Richmond, CA (Atchison Village) 1 ft Sea Level Rise – No Flooding

SEA LEVEL RISE Visualization Location Nater Depth Low-lying Areas Area Not Mapped 🚺 Seveel Areas 🔘 (P) Magging Hadeling

Atchison Village

Richmond, CA (Atchison Village) – Victory Ships and Rosie the Riveter









Historic 1941 Atchison Village Photographs (Warnecke Archives, Healdsburg, California)

Thanks to Barbara Postel for her historic research





Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



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Atchison Village Geologic Setting

Atchison Village – flood plain adjacent to historic wetlands; plastic clays at 2.00 ft below ground surface



Geology of Richmond, California featuring Quaternary fluvial channels



https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_18709.htm; USGS, 1997 OFR-OF-97-98; Helley, E.J. and Graymer, R.W.

Atchison Village Soil Boring SB1	the second se	Water test – no water
Fill, sandy clay (CL) with red brick shards @ 2.0 ft		10/15/22 10/16/22; 10/21/22 11/17/22
Native gray clay (CH), plastic, moist; 2.0 - 3.0 ft		
Sandy clay (CL), moist; 3.0 – 4.9 ft		



SB1 at 12 West Chanslor Ct., within sewer easement – brown gravely clay (GC) with 1-inch pebbles 0.0 to 2.0 ft



Limited access pilot test: 10/15/22: hand auger to 4.9 ft in 1 hour

Fill, sandy clay (CL), broken pieces of red brick, tree roots 0.0 – 2.0 ft Native gray clay (CH), plastic, moist; 2.0 - 3.0 ft

> Water test – no water 10/15/22 10/16/22; 10/21/22 11/17/22

Sandy clay (CL), moist;

3.0 – 4.9 ft

Atchison Village

Atchison Village Soil Boring SB1 Atchison Village Soil Boring SB2 2/11/23





Atchison Village: Concept diagram; clay layers and multiple water table depths (NOT TO SCALE)





NOTES: Sewer laterals and sewer mains were partially upgraded by pipe bursting (2011-2015); original trench backfill from 1941

Atchison Village: Crawl spaces and sewer pipe exiting foundation walls (photos by Barbara Postel)









Crawl spaces beneath Atchison Village houses: dynamic environment as evidenced by undulating surfaces





Photos courtesy of Barbara Postel

Crawl space left (7/11/17) and right (9/18/14) showing sewer pipes exiting through foundation walls with evidence of sitting water (photos, Barbara Postel)

Engineered penetration for sewer line, gas line, and water line through the perimeter foundation wall





Current discharge of some sump pumps – pumps in almost all of the 163 buildings, all crawl spaces wet to varying degrees



Sump pump hose to lawn

Desiccation cracks and accumulated salts reflect wet and dry periods in crawl spaces. The water lines are clearly visible on the concrete post on the left and side perimeter wall on the right.



Crawl space beneath in Atchison Village house, Richmond, California; 12/22/22 (king tides); pre-ARC

Question: What is the source of the water in the crawl space?



Conceptual model (pre-ARC) for water sources for crawl space flooding, including groundwater, rainwater, irrigation water, sewer water, sewer trench water, and leaky potable water lines.



Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



Question 3 - Can isotopes and water conditions and measurements be used to estimate water sources for crawl space water?

Wells and crawl space sample locations for the 1/22/23 sampling event Crawl spaces sampled (green squares)



AVW1 – pre-existing well; water at about 7 feet below ground surface; LTC datalogger installed 10/16/22.

☆SB1 – hand augered to 4.99 ft 10/15/22; no water 10/15/212, 10/16/22, 10/21/22, or 11/17/22

NOTES: Houses in green in sampling plan for 1/22/23






Atchison Village Freshwater (Conductivity < 750 µS/cm) Characteristics: Averaged per Water Source



YSI Meter: DO, ORP (Eh), pH, Conductivity. Hanna Inst. Turbidity Meter: Turbidity; All samples 1/22/23, except (1) tap water and (1) crawlspace, tap water and (1) rainwater (2/3/23); only includes data from <1,000 µS/cm conductivity. 73

Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



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Groundwater Information





Solinst Levelogger Software

Atchison Village – AVW1 (285 Curry St., Richmond, California) (10/16/22 to 11/29/22) highest water = 6.47 ft below ground surface (11/16/22)





Atchison Village AVW2 – Pump and Recovery Test; Drawdown 17.01 ft; 76% recovery in 83 minutes





Atchison Village – AVW2 (253 Curry St., Richmond, California); Pre-Atmospheric River Condition





Atchison Village Soil Boring SB1; 10/16/22

Atchison Village Soil Boring SB2; 2/11/23

Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



Question 4 - What were the Atmospheric River Conditions

(ARC) impacts of groundwater emergence in Atchison Village?

Radar graphic from January 8, 2023 of an atmospheric river condition (ARC) which produced 0.72-inches of rain in Richmond, California on that date and 0.85-inches on 1/9/23

Atmospheric River Condition (ARC)

Similar concept for 43-day ARC in 1861 and great flood of 1862



Atchison Village and the Atmospheric River Condition



https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCARICHM101/graph/2023-01-31/2023-01-31/monthly; Marina Bay Station, Elev 45 ft, 37.91 °N, 122.35 °W 85

Atchison Village – Differences relate to logger sensitivity (M5 versus M30); AVW2 to AVW3 = 554 ft (169 m)



Atchison Village – AVW2 (253 Curry St., Richmond, California)

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Water is freshwater, Water depth is 6.5 ft (12/22/22) and 2.4 ft below the top of the well box (1/22/23)



Atchison Village – AVW2; 12/25/22 to 1/22/23



Pre-Atmospheric River Condition, Tides and Atchison Village – AVW2; King Tide on 12/24/22

ft AMSL







Causes of Atchison Village Flooding

Sea Level Rise – not a large factor

- King Tides not a large factor
- Extreme Rains
- Inoperable Stormwater and Drainage Systems
- Groundwater Emergence

(Photo – Barbara Postel)

Atchison Village: Sea Level Rise (SLR), Groundwater Flooding, and Atmospheric River Conditions (ARCs)



Conclusions:

- Sea level rise does impact groundwater at Atchison Village, in a small way; no overtopping
- Atmospheric River Conditions significantly influence groundwater elevation rise (1" rain = 21" groundwater elevation rise)
- An historic ARC occurred in northern California between December 26, 2022 to January 16, 2023
- Early results show isotopes and water characteristics showed crawl space water is mostly groundwater and rain; more research is ongoing
- Community science volunteers have made a meaningful contribution to the study

References

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Website Links

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https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/01/17/california-storms-the-past-three-weeks-were-the-wettest-in-161-years-in-the-bay-area/

Contact Information

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Questions

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Thank You