

## 2009 Current Fiscal Year Report: Coastal Elevations and Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

### 2. Fiscal Year

2009

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Coastal Elevations and Sea Level Rise  
Advisory Committee

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

29137

### 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

06/06/2008

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

10/30/2008

### 9. Agency

### Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b.

### Legislation Pending?

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Agency Decision  
Document

### 13. Effective Date

05/02/2006

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Advisory Board

Scientific Technical Program

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

### 16b. Report Date

10/01/2008

### Report Title

Report of the Coastal Elevations and  
Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee

### Number of Committee Reports Listed:

### 17a. Open

1

### 17b. Closed

0

### 17c. Partially Closed

0

### Other Activities

0

### 17d. Total

1

### Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
To consider and approve the Committee's final report.	10/16/2008	10/16/2008

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1**

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$18,500.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.10	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

FY 2009 Accomplishments: The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the EPA Administrator on the conduct of a study titled Coastal Elevations and Sea Level Rise to be conducted as part of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. Within the context of the basic study plan, CESLAC will advise on the specific issues to be addressed, appropriate technical approaches, the nature of information relevant to

decision makers, the content of the final report, compliance with the Information Quality Act, and other matters important to the successful achievement of the objectives of the study. CESLAC met once in FY 2009 to complete its report to the EPA Administrator. The need and purpose of the Coastal Elevations and Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee (CESLAC) relate to the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). In February 2002, the President created a cabinet-level organization to improve government-wide management of climate science and climate-related technology development. Two collaborative interagency programs were launched in response to the President's direction: the CCSP and the Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP). The CCSP is sponsored by thirteen federal agencies, including EPA, and is overseen by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Council on Environmental Quality, the National Economic Council, and the Office of Management and Budget. In July 2002, a year-long process to prepare a ten year strategic plan for the CCSP was initiated. The resulting Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program identified a comprehensive set of issues and questions to be analyzed and assessed, including human contributions and responses to climate change. Specifically, the Strategic Plan identified the development of elevation maps depicting areas vulnerable to sea-level rise and planning maps depicting how state and local governments could respond to sea-level rise. EPA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are leading an effort to develop these types of maps as part of a synthesis and assessment product titled Coastal Elevations and

Sensitivity to Sea Level Rise. The results of this effort will be combined with other assessments being undertaken pursuant to the Strategic Plan in a comprehensive CCSP synthesis and assessment report to be produced by December 2007. The science of climate change, including its potential impacts on sea level rise and coastal areas, along with the resulting impacts on human communities, structures and systems of all types, as well as flora and fauna are extremely complex. Consequently, there are a variety of views and interests that should be considered in an assessment of this type. The purpose of CESLAC is to advise on the specific issues which should be addressed in the assessment, appropriate technical approaches, the nature of information relevant to decision makers, the content of the assessment report, and other scientific and technical matters that may be found to be important to the successful completion of the assessment.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Membership in CESLAC consists of four Federal Government employees (RGEs) chosen from agencies with significant responsibilities relevant to the study area, five representatives of State Governments physically located in the study area, and six representatives of non-governmental organizations with interests directly affected by the subject study area. All members have technical knowledge relevant to the subject matter.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

CESLAC met once in FY 2009 to prepare and approve its report.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), large-scale impacts of climate change are expected to include changes in mean global sea level. Many coastal areas will experience increased levels of flooding, accelerated erosion, loss of wetlands and mangroves, and seawater intrusion into freshwater sources. The extent and severity of storm impacts, including storm-surge floods and shore erosion, will increase. However, changes in relative sea level vary locally due to uplift and subsidence caused by other factors. Significant human and natural resources are located in the coastal areas of the United States. In many of these areas, population and attendant social and economic resources are currently increasing and are projected to continue increasing for decades. Detailed and scientifically sound information on the physical vulnerability of specific areas to changes in sea level and options for responding to these changes is essential for effective and responsible planning and management of these areas. CESLAC will provide essential expertise to the EPA, NOAA and USGS led synthesis and assessment product titled "Coastal Elevations and Sensitivity to Sea Level Rise"; No other forum or Agency committee exists that can ensure that all relevant views and interests are expressed and considered in this assessment. EPA staff cannot perform the functions of the advisory committee because there is only one EPA staff person with nationally recognized knowledge in the area of coastal elevations and sea level rise. That person is expected to participate on the advisory committee but he does not embody all knowledge, views and

interests relevant to the subject area. No other existing EPA advisory committee can perform the functions of CESLAC because no other such committee has either the experience of its members or the subject area mandate in its charter. The functions of the committee cannot be successfully performed by other means such as a public hearing because of the close relationship of the committee to the production of the synthesis and assessment report under the CCSP titled "Coastal Elevations and Sensitivity to Sea Level Rise." This product is time sensitive and requires a range of frequently highly technical knowledge in an emerging subject area. There are no other existing public forums that can offer this range of qualifications in a sufficiently timely manner. CESLAC is the most efficient and cost-effective approach for providing this input.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

No meetings were closed to the public.

**21. Remarks**

The CESLAC had its last meeting in FY 2009 (October 16, 2008). All members are Tier 1 (parent committee members). There are no Tier 2 (subcommittee) members serving.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Jack Fitzgerald Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Beavers, Rebecca	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Coastal Geology Coordinator, U.S. National Park Service, Denver, CO	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Belenz, Alan	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Lead Scientist, N.Y. State Office of the Attorney General, Albany, NY	Representative Member
Crowell, Mark	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Lead FEMA Official, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Davidson, Margaret	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Director of Coastal Services Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Charleston, SC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Garcia, Andrew	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Principal Investigator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hershner, Carl	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Director, Center for Coastal Resources Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA	Representative Member
Hunkins, Julie	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Director of Office of Environmental Quality, North Carolina Dept. of Transportation, Raleigh, NC	Representative Member
Mauriello, Mark	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Land Use Management, New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ	Representative Member
Monmonier, Mark	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Distinguished Prof. of Geography, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY	Representative Member

Nechamen, William	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Chief of the Floodplain Management Section, New York Representative Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Schenectady, NY	Member
Pearsall, Sam	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Director of Science, North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Durham, NC	Representative Member
Pratt, Anthony	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Environmental Program Administrator, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Lewes, DE	Representative Member
Rudolph, Greg	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Shore Protection Manager, North Carolina Carteret County Government, Emerald Isle, NC	Representative Member
Ryland, Harvey	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, President, Institute for Business and Home Safety, Tampa, FL	Representative Member
Schultz, Gwynne	11/27/2006	10/31/2008	Tier 1, Director of Coastal Zone Management Division, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, Annapolis, MD	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 15**

### **Narrative Description**

CESLAC primarily addresses EPA's Goal 1 - Clean Air and Global Climate Change. CESLAC provides advice to the EPA Administrator on the conduct of a study titled Coastal Elevations and Sea Level Rise to be conducted as part of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. Within the context of the basic study

plan, CESLAC advised on the specific issues, appropriate technical approaches, the nature of information relevant to decision makers, the content of the final report, compliance with the Information Quality Act, and other matters important to the successful achievement of the objectives of the study. In February 2002, the President created a cabinet-level organization to improve government-wide management of climate science and climate-related technology development. Two collaborative interagency programs were launched in response to the President's direction: the CCSP and the Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP). The CCSP is sponsored by thirteen federal agencies, including EPA, and is overseen by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Council on Environmental Quality, the National Economic Council, and the Office of Management and Budget. In July 2002, a year-long process to prepare a ten year strategic plan for the CCSP was initiated. The resulting Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program identified a comprehensive set of issues and questions to be analyzed and assessed, including "human contributions and responses to climate change." Specifically, the Strategic Plan identified the development of "elevation maps depicting areas vulnerable to sea-level rise and planning maps depicting how state and local governments could respond to sea-level rise." EPA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are leading an effort to develop these types of maps as part of a synthesis and assessment product titled "Coastal Elevations and Sensitivity to Sea Level Rise." The results of this effort will be combined with other assessments being undertaken pursuant to the Strategic Plan in a comprehensive CCSP synthesis and assessment report. CESLAC met once in FY 2009 and submitted its report to the EPA Administrator.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety



- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Trust in government                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### Outcome Comments

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### Cost Savings Comments

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

18

### Number of Recommendations Comments

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The Committee's report and recommendations will need to be considered by the new Administration of President Obama.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

The Committee's report and recommendations will need to be considered by the new Administration of President Obama.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

NA

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

### **Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Publications              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Access Comments**

Information is provided on the U.S. Climate Change Science Program website [www.climatescience.gov](http://www.climatescience.gov) and at [www.environmentalinformation.net/CESLAC](http://www.environmentalinformation.net/CESLAC)