



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COASTAL & HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Sixth Annual Climate Leadership Summit

National Institute for Coastal and Harbor
Infrastructure
October 1, 2014

www.NICHIusa.org

New York City October 29, 2012





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The Triple Threat of Rising Sea Levels, Extreme Storms and Aging Infrastructure

The Challenge

- Threat to Our National Security
- Threat to our Home Land Security
- Threat to our National Economic Security



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It is time to Totally Re-Imagine our Coasts

- To Protect our Coastal Communities
- To Protect, Preserve and Nurture our Natural Coastal Environment
- To Invest in the Globally Competitive Economic Future of the 22nd Century



We Know Its Time to Act

- 30 Years of Warning from the Scientific Community:
 - warming temperatures,
 - tide gauge measurements,
 - increased flooding incidents,
 - increased severity of storms, the Tragic Impacts of Katrina and Sandy ...Hundreds of lives lost and more than \$200 billion dollars in losses
- As Mike Boots said yesterday,
 “We now have Actionable Data”!
- Why don't we Act?



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To effectively communicate a
“call to action” across sectors and
develop effective strategies that will
form the political will to act
we must understand that we face a
New Reality



The New Reality of Rising Sea Levels, Extreme Storms and Aging Infrastructure

- As Kristin Jacobs said yesterday, “Our Infrastructure was built for a different reality”.
- It is also true that:
- Our national policies were built for a different reality
- Our Governance Structures were Built for a different reality
- Perhaps most troubling our minds were built for a different reality



Moving Forward from the Old Reality to the New Reality

We must use the Old Reality of how we think
as a species and as a body politic

- * We are intuitive, experiential thinkers
- * We engage in cognitive dissonance
- * We calculate with hyperbolic
discounting
- * We procrastinate
- * Too many political leaders kick the
can beyond their terms in office

Americans will act when they believe there is a Crisis and a clear Objective





Crisis and Clear Objective=Action

- The Great Depression = The New Deal
- World War II = Unconditional Surrender
- Recession Bound and stuck in the Mud + FHA
- Space = A Man on the Moon
- The Environmental Crisis = EPA
- The Dirtiest Harbor in America = Creation of the MWRA and the Boston Harbor Cleanup



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**The New Reality requires
New Leadership
New Government Structures**

Local Governments are leading the way

-The Regional Compact is the
Template

The Need for a New Federal Role Local
Government Cannot be Successful without
New Federal Leadership and Funding



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The New Federal Role: NICHI's Three Goals

1. Change National Policy from Respond and Repair to Plan and Invest
2. Establish Single Agency Federal Leadership
3. New Federal Funding with Dedicated Revenues



Moving Key Stakeholders to Action Building Political Will in The New Reality

- Four Key Constituencies- Four Strategies
 - Coastal Communities
 - Business
 - Inside the Beltway (OMB, GCBO, GAO, Committee Staff and elected officials)
 - General Public

Leadership Requires Courage Congress Get Out of Her Way!



"We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation that can do something about it."

President Obama

