



# HRPDC RESILIENT DESIGN GUIDELINES

---

Urban Stormwater/Climate Resiliency Workgroup Joint Meeting  
October 19, 2021

Benjamin J. McFarlane, AICP, CFM  
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

The background is a dark blue-grey color with a faint, hand-drawn sketch of a landscape. On the left, there are vertical lines and scribbles representing trees or reeds. On the right, there's a more detailed sketch of a tree. At the bottom, there are horizontal lines and small circles, possibly representing water or a path. The overall style is artistic and sketchy.

Performance standards such as design storms are based on risk.

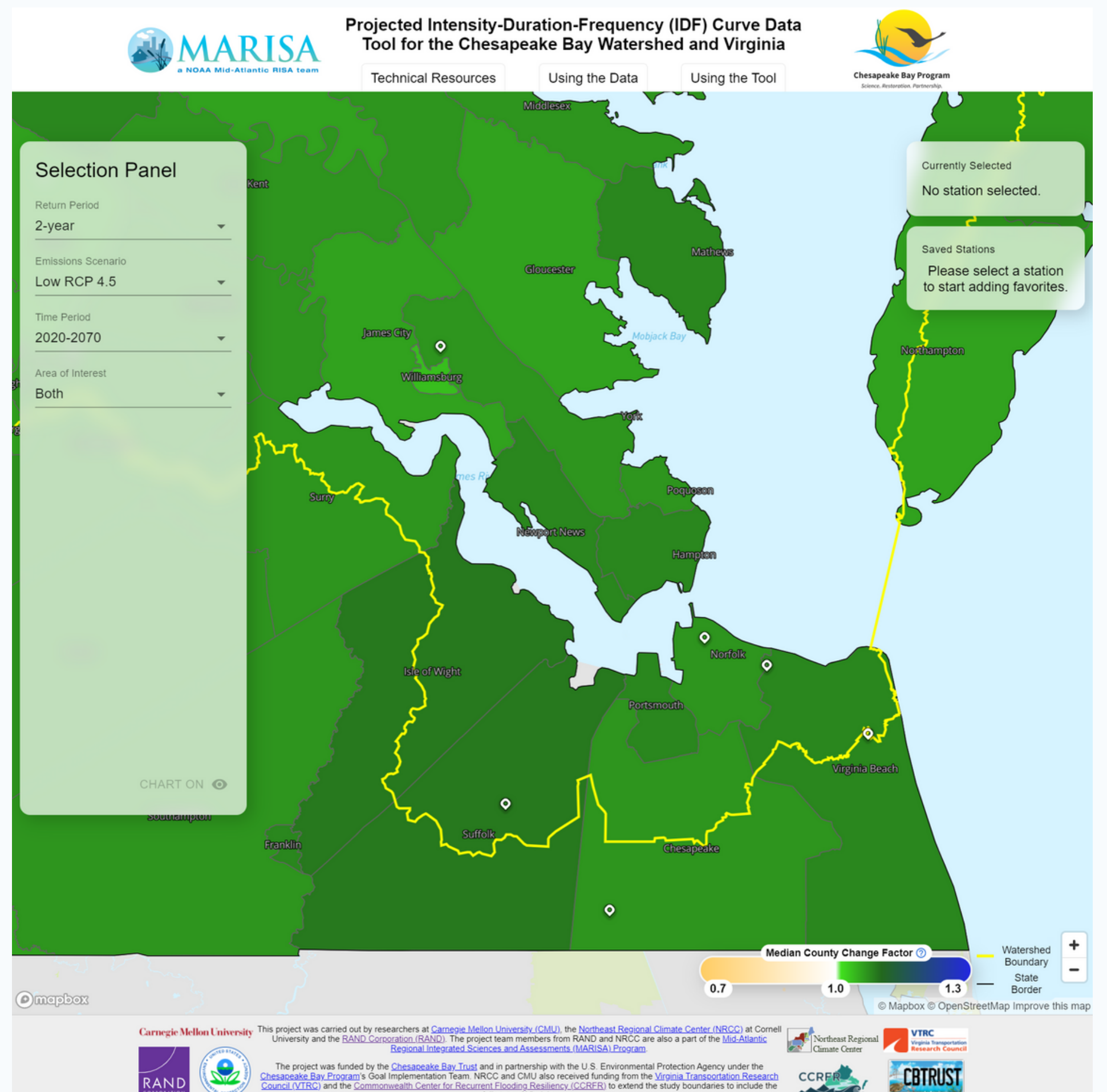
Risk is a function of the probability of an occurrence and its consequences.

For public policies to work, it's important for expectations align with reality,  
which means we need to factor in climate change.

Uncertainty in future conditions and climate modeling increases the  
difficulty in developing and implementing cost-effective public policies.

# Future Precipitation

HRPDC is working with its local governments, other regions, and state agencies in Virginia on how to use the RAND/MARISA tool.

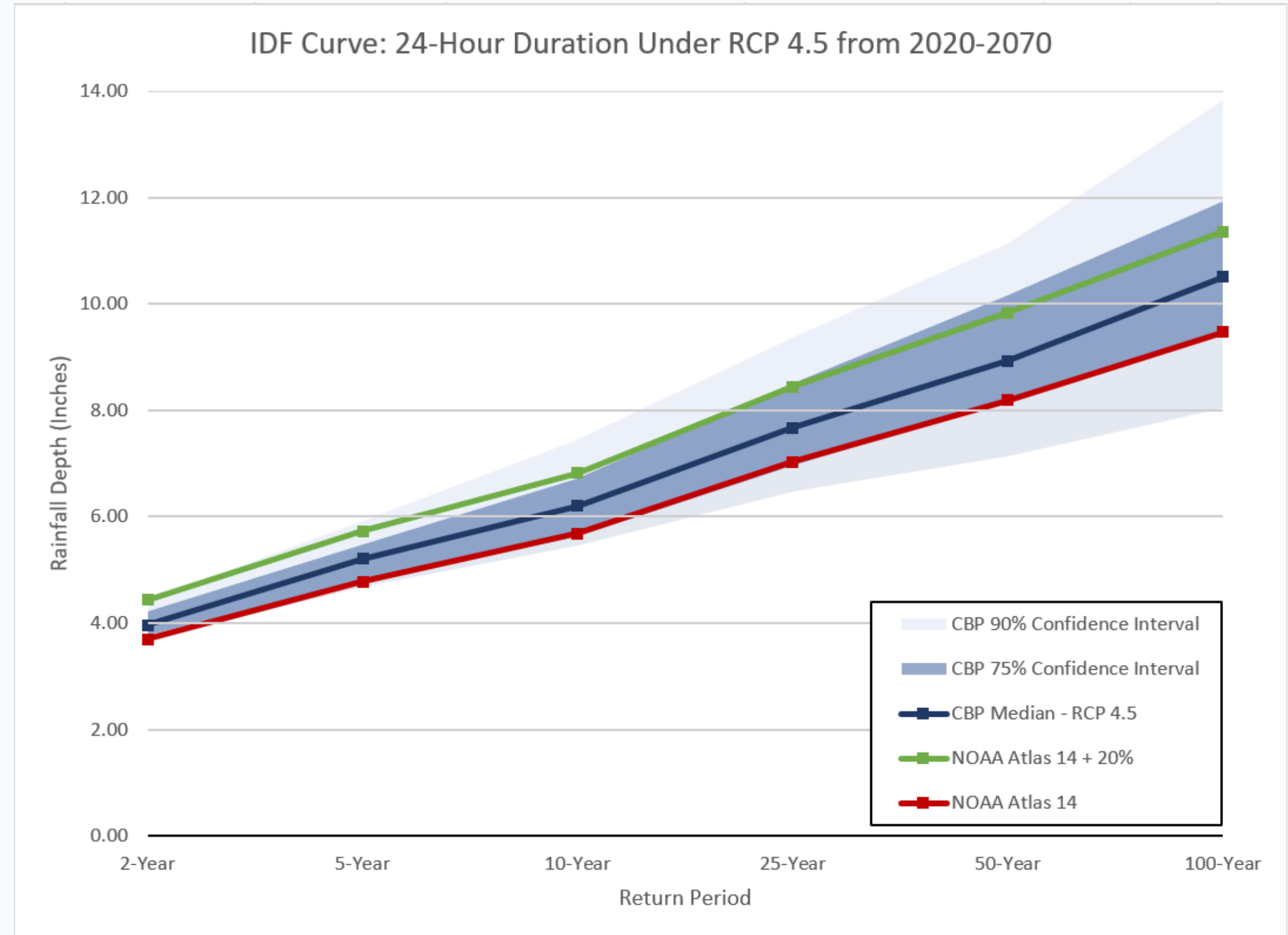


<https://midatlantic-idf.rcc-acis.org/>



# Methodology

Uncertainty in how precipitation will change as a result of climate change is significant. Using the median or mean may not be the best option.



Values for Chesapeake, Virginia  
Data Source: NOAA Atlas 14, MARISA/Chesapeake Bay Program

# Methodology

Sound science does not always make for easy public policy decisions.

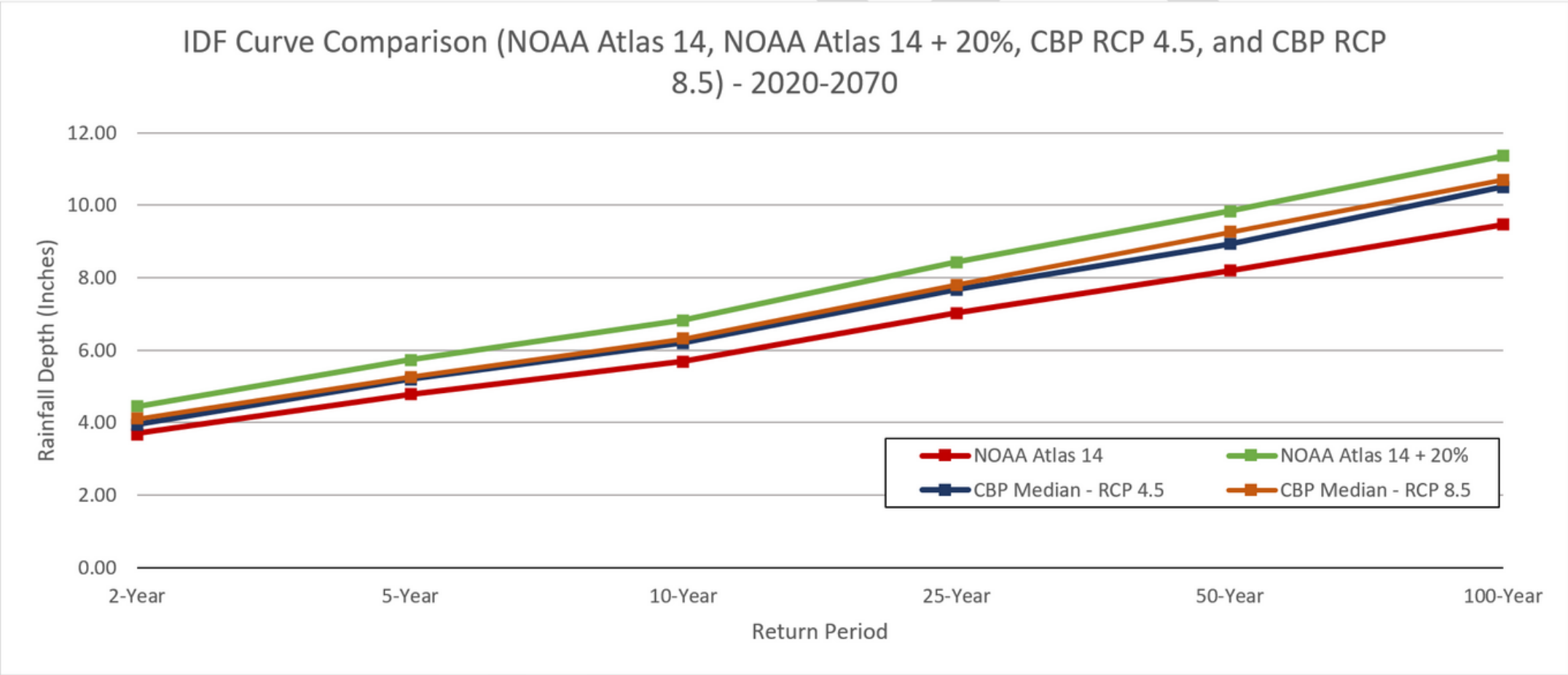
Which climate scenario to use?

What confidence level?

Which time frame?

Chesapeake – 24-Hour Design Precipitation Depths (Inches)

Return Period	Atlas 14	Atlas 14 + 20%	RCP 4.5 10th	RCP 4.5 25th	RCP 4.5 50 <sup>th</sup>	RCP 4.5 75 <sup>th</sup>	RCP 4.5 90 <sup>th</sup>	RCP 8.5 10th	RCP 8.5 25th	RCP 8.5 50 <sup>th</sup>	RCP 8.5 75 <sup>th</sup>	RCP 8.5 90 <sup>th</sup>
2-Year	3.70	4.44	3.66	3.77	3.96	4.22	4.44	3.63	3.85	4.11	4.25	4.40
5-Year	4.78	5.73	4.68	4.78	5.20	5.49	5.92	4.63	4.97	5.25	5.63	5.97
10-Year	5.69	6.83	5.46	5.63	6.20	6.71	7.45	5.52	5.92	6.31	6.83	7.28
25-Year	7.04	8.44	6.47	6.96	7.67	8.51	9.36	6.47	7.32	7.81	8.65	9.22
50-Year	8.19	9.83	7.13	8.19	8.93	10.16	11.14	7.29	8.44	9.26	10.41	11.06
100-Year	9.47	11.36	8.05	9.47	10.51	11.93	13.82	8.24	9.66	10.70	12.12	13.16

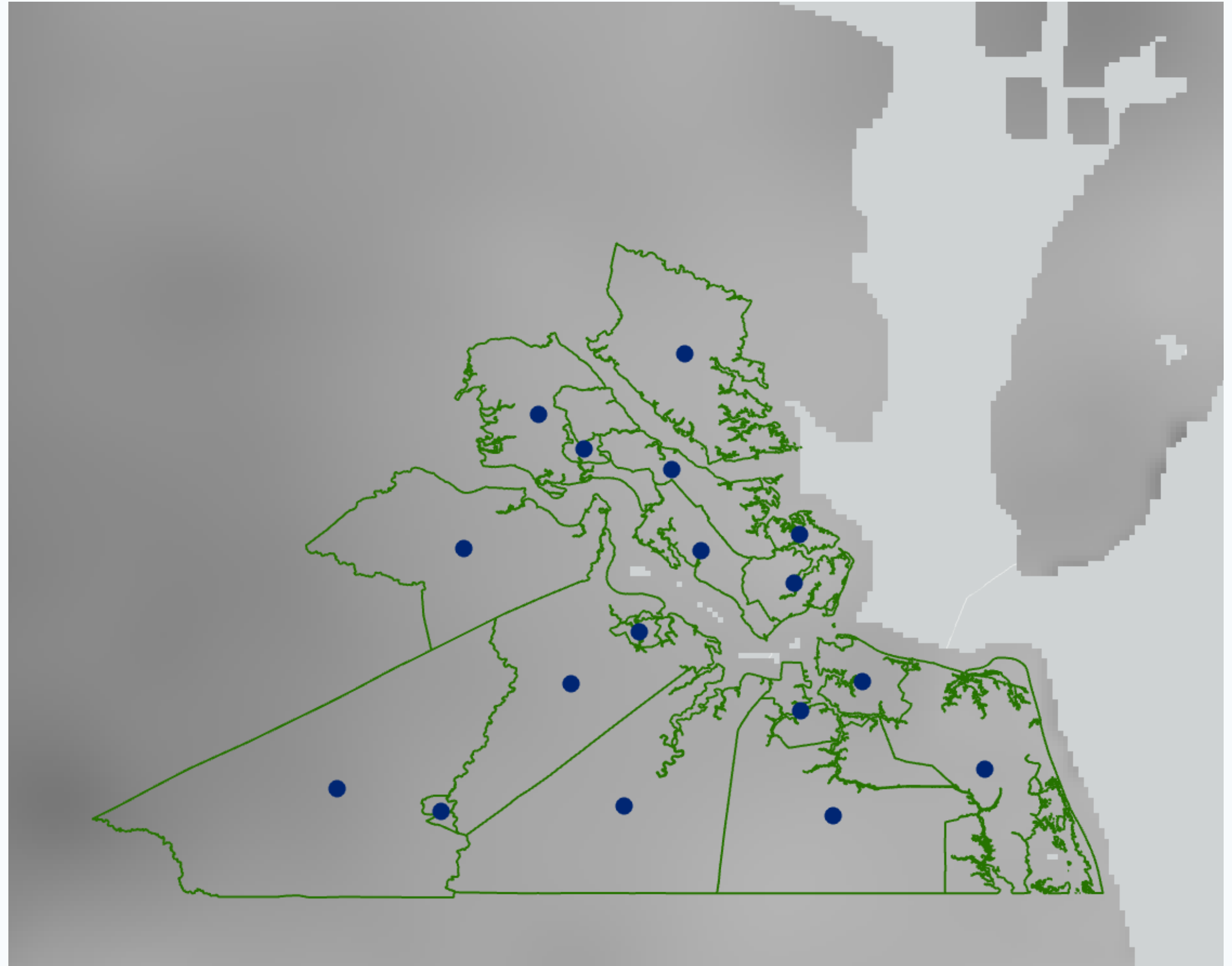


Values for Chesapeake, Virginia  
Data Source: NOAA Atlas 14, MARISA/Chesapeake Bay Program

# HRPDC Approach

---

Calculate baseline NOAA  
Atlas 14 values using  
NOAA precipitation grid  
for each return period  
and locality centroid



Data Source: NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2

# HRPDC Approach

---

Use MARISA tool to calculate future precipitation values based on locality centroids and Atlas 14.

## Return Periods

2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, and 100-year return periods

## Emissions Scenarios

RCP 4.5 (Low)  
RCP 8.5 (High)

## Time Period

2020-2070

## Confidence Intervals

50th Percentile  
75th Percentile

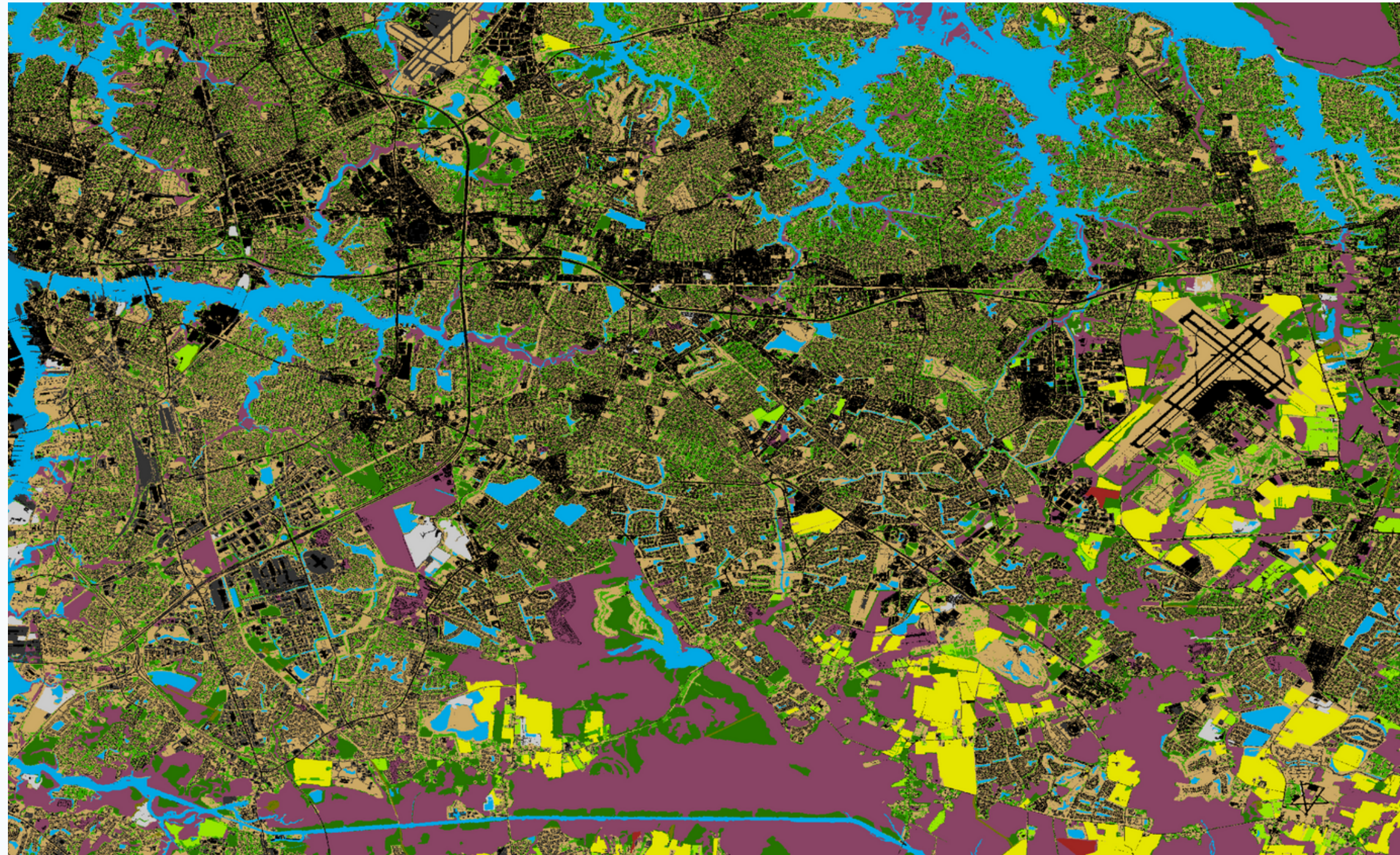


# HRPDC Approach

---

Impervious cover is used as a proxy for watershed capacity to absorb rainfall.

More impervious cover means potentially higher consequences if rainfall is greater than predicted.



Data Source: Chesapeake Bay High-Resolution Landcover



# HRPDC Approach

Recommend single multiplier for each locality by averaging 2020-2070 values for all return periods and both emissions scenarios

Percentile selected based on local impervious cover\*

- < 10% - use 50th
- > 10% - use 75th

Multiplier	Localities
1.1	Gloucester County Isle of Wight County Southampton County Surry County
1.15	James City County Suffolk Williamsburg York County
1.2	Chesapeake Franklin Hampton Newport News Norfolk Poquoson Portsmouth Smithfield Virginia Beach

# Other Considerations

It's not just rainfall - we need to account for sea level rise, tides, and compound events.

## Design Tidal Elevations

## Design Tidal Elevations for Chesapeake

All elevations in feet relative to the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988

HUC12	Watershed	Design Level	1-Year	2-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	25-Year	50-Year	100-Year	500-Year
020802080201	New Mill Creek-Southern Branch Elizabeth River	Existing Condition	3.9	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.8	6.6	7.2	7.8	9.2
		1.5 ft SLR	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.7	7.3	8.1	8.7	9.3	10.7
		3.0 ft SLR	6.8	7.4	7.7	8.1	8.7	9.5	10.1	10.7	12.1
		4.5 ft SLR	8.3	8.9	9.2	9.6	10.2	11.0	11.6	12.2	13.6
020802080203	Deep Creek-Southern Branch Elizabeth River	Existing Condition	3.4	4.1	4.5	5.1	5.9	6.7	7.3	8.0	10.0
		1.5 ft SLR	4.9	5.6	6.0	6.6	7.4	8.2	8.8	9.5	11.5
		3.0 ft SLR	6.4	7.1	7.5	8.1	8.9	9.7	10.3	11.0	13.0
		4.5 ft SLR	7.9	8.6	9.0	9.6	10.4	11.2	11.8	12.5	14.5
020802080204	Eastern Branch Elizabeth River	Existing Condition	2.9	3.7	4.2	4.8	5.9	6.6	7.3	8.0	10.4
		1.5 ft SLR	4.4	5.2	5.7	6.3	7.4	8.1	8.8	9.5	11.9
		3.0 ft SLR	6.0	6.8	7.3	7.9	9.1	9.8	10.5	11.2	13.6
		4.5 ft SLR	7.5	8.3	8.9	9.5	10.6	11.3	12.0	12.7	15.2
020802080205	Western Branch Elizabeth River	Existing Condition	3.7	4.5	4.9	5.4	6.1	7.0	7.9	8.6	10.3
		1.5 ft SLR	5.2	6.0	6.4	6.9	7.6	8.5	9.4	10.1	11.8
		3.0 ft SLR	6.9	7.7	8.1	8.6	9.3	10.2	11.2	11.9	13.6
		4.5 ft SLR	8.4	9.2	9.6	10.1	10.9	11.8	12.7	13.4	15.2
030102051104	Indian Creek-Northwest River	Existing Condition	0.1	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.8
		1.5 ft SLR	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.9	4.3	5.3
		3.0 ft SLR	3.2	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.6	5.2	5.6	6.0	7.1
		4.5 ft SLR	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.7	6.1	6.8	7.2	7.6	8.6
030102051201	Chesapeake Canal	Existing Condition	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.4	5.0	5.8	6.4	7.0	8.4
		1.5 ft SLR	4.5	5.1	5.5	5.9	6.5	7.3	7.9	8.5	9.9
		3.0 ft SLR	6.0	6.6	7.0	7.4	8.0	8.8	9.4	10.0	11.4
		4.5 ft SLR	7.5	8.1	8.5	8.9	9.5	10.3	10.9	11.5	12.9
030102051203	Upper North Landing River	Existing Condition	0.4	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.5	3.0	4.0
		1.5 ft SLR	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.5	5.5
		3.0 ft SLR	3.5	3.9	4.1	4.5	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.2	7.3
		4.5 ft SLR	5.1	5.5	5.7	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.3	7.8	8.8

**Notes:**

- Sea level rise scenarios are based on HRPDC Sea Level Rise Planning Policy and Approach (2018).
- All elevations sourced from statistical analysis of the distribution of water elevations in each watershed from the FEMA Region III Storm Surge Study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center (2013).
- Conditions related to the 3-ft and 4.5-ft sea level rise design levels include non-linear increases derived from numerical modeling completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study.

## Joint Probability Events

Design Storm	Tidal Elevation	Rainfall
1-Year	10-Year	1-Year
2-Year	5-Year	2-Year
10-Year	1-Year	10-Year
25-Year	2-Year	25-Year
50-Year	2-Year	50-Year
100-Year	3-Year	100-Year



# Next Steps

---

**Locality review of draft design standards**

**Recommendation from HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee in December 2021**

**Consideration by HRPDC Board in Q1-Q2 2022**

# Questions

---

Ben McFarlane  
Senior Regional Planner  
Hampton Roads PDC  
[bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov)