



The Flooded City: Adapting to the New Reality of Extreme Water Events in Texas

Sam Brody

Texas A&M University

ABSTRACT

The catastrophic impacts of Hurricane Harvey a year ago has sparked renewed interest in how to mitigate the adverse impacts of flooding from both rainfall and tidal events in both Texas and across the United States. Given the far-reaching impacts of recent major storms, including Harvey, it has become clear that the rising cost of floods is not solely a function of changing weather patterns or a problem that can be solved through engineering solutions alone. Rather, flood risk and associated losses can only be mitigated through multiple strategies working synergistically across jurisdictional boundaries. This presentation traces the causes, consequences, and policy implications of flood losses from Harvey and other flood events in the U.S. A comprehensive mitigation framework being adopted by the state of Texas is presented as a way for local communities to stem the tide of growing flood losses in the future.