



Ice Mass & Sea Level Change Unit 5: Discussion Questions

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NYC Discussion Questions

Figure 1 in your handout shows the current floodplain (blue), the floodplain that will exist by projecting sea level rise estimates to 2020 (orange) and the floodplain that will exist by projecting sea level rise estimates to 2050 (red).

- 1). Are most of the floodplain differences between current estimates and 2020 or between 2020 and 2050?
- 2). In some places the floodplains extend quite far inland. What can you infer about these regions?
- 3). What floodplain zone do you think the city should be planning for now? Why?
- 4). Figure 2 shows the location of electricity generating facilities in NYC and which ones were shut down during Hurricane Sandy. Why do you think so many power plants are located near the water?
- 5). Describe two impacts that electricity outages had on the city during Hurricane Sandy.
- 6). Why were so many gas stations shut down after Hurricane Sandy?
- 7). What are some health concerns associated with flooding in NYC.

Southern California Discussion Questions

- 1) Which California ports are responsible for transporting the most cargo?

- 2) Why do we care about the number of hazardous waste sites that are located in the floodplains? What might happen?

- 3) Who do you think should pay to relocate hazardous waste sites or flooded roads?

- 4) Which two counties have the highest increased risk of land loss due to flooding?

- 5) Describe the difference between structural measures and nonstructural measures as strategies to prepare for flooding. Give one example of each.