



AIA
Florida

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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AIA Florida Publishes Position on Future Sea Level Rise

Tallahassee, Fla. — During its recent quarterly meeting, the Board of Directors of The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) unanimously adopted a new position advocating building and community design based on inexorable sea level rise. The policy was recommended by the newly convened AIA Florida Strategic Council. The council was created as a “think tank” of advisors to the association.

The policy states:

It is the policy of the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to encourage in the strongest possible terms, that government officials at all levels give immediate consideration to address consequences of generally attributed scientific research and evidence regarding increasing sea level rise and the potential impact on current as well as future development and construction in Florida.

“Although there is no way to precisely predict how quickly sea level will rise, architects should advise clients of associated risks of sea level rise in order to plan for a built environment that is more resilient to temporary flooding from storms and extreme tides, which will be impacted greatly by rising sea levels,” says Andrew M. Hayes, AIA, AIA Florida Strategic Council Chair.

“It is vital that as architects we acknowledge the risks that buildings and communities often face when constructing infrastructure with a life-span of fifty years or even a century,” says Martin Diaz-Yabor, FAIA, 2016 AIA Florida President. “The responsible course of action is to adapt with a precautionary principle so that the built environment continues to be a good investment long-term.”

Strategic Council Members: Jason Alread, AIA, Director of University of Florida School of Architecture; Saad Alam, Ph. D., Advent Health System Data Scientist; Yovanna Alvarez, Assoc. AIA; David Bailey, AIA; Reinaldo Borges, AIA; Nathan Butler, AIA, AIA Florida Past President; Erinn Collinsworth, AAI, Past President of Independent Insurance Agents of South Florida; Rodolphe el-Khoury, Ph. D., Dean of University of Miami School of Architecture ; Dawn Emerick, Ed. D., CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville and Surgeon General Appointee to Florida’s Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee; John

Englander, Oceanographer and Author of best seller: *High Tide on Main Street: Rising Sea level and the coming Coastal Crisis*; Erika Hagan, AIA; Andrew M. Hayes, AIA, AIA Florida Immediate Past President; Jeffrey Huber, AIA; Patrick Thorpe, AIA; Rodner Wright, AIA, Dean Florida A&M University School of Architecture; Donald Yoshino, FAIA, AIA Florida Past President.

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The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,500 members in Florida. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect's dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.