

## Projecting Sea Level Rise in Oakland

Many Oakland residents think that sea level rise is a **remote** issue that will not likely affect them. However, there are many neighborhoods that are likely to be affected by a **flood** (when water flows over normally dry land) when the Bay's sea level rises or a **global warming-induced storm** occurs, according to most analyses. Because the flatlands are the lowest part of the city, they'll receive the backflow from a storm drainage system that relies on gravity when it overflows. However, when this sewer system is overwhelmed, water and whatever industrial runoff or sewage is mixed with it, would flow back out of storm sewers onto streets, yards and basements.



**Figure 2.** Map showing areas potentially flooded by a 3.4 inch rise in sea level. Arrow points to the water treatment facility in West Oakland that would be flooded. Image from *Our Coast, Our Future* interactive flood map.

4. Floods or globally **induced** storms will cause flooding of sewage in flatland areas. This could cause damage to streets, back yards, and basements.

Sea level rise is no longer an "if" occurrence but a "when." Scientists predict a three-foot rise in waters off the U.S. West coast by the year 2100 (see Figure 2 on previous page) and, more urgently, a 35 percent chance of a climate-induced storm, anytime between now and 2030. These lead to new concerns (worries) over how this change could affect communities and the landscape.

5. Based on the paragraph above, what do you **infer** an increase in sea levels will do to communities and the landscape of the United States West Coast?

There will be more floods causing damage to buildings and roads. With more water there will be more erosion and weathering of landforms