



Toxic Floodwaters Webinar: Protecting Communities and their Water Resources from Extreme Weather and Chemical Disaster

September 24, 2020

Thank you for joining the webinar.

** We will begin shortly. **

Housekeeping

- ▶ If you have problems with the webinar audio, you can join by phone at 1-646-558-8656; Webinar ID: 956 4979 3075
- ▶ All participants will be muted during the webinar.
- ▶ If you have questions during the presentation, please type them into the Q&A box located at the bottom of your screen. Your questions will be visible to the moderator and presenters only.
- ▶ The webinar is being recorded and will be shared after the event.
- ▶ Members of the press may be joining today's webinar.

What is CPR?



- ▶ **Vision:** CPR is a “think-and-do tank” helping to build thriving communities on a resilient planet.
- ▶ **Mission:** CPR pursues a strategic agenda that emphasizes education, advocacy, and community collaboration.
- ▶ CPR operates with a network of 60+ Member Scholars who are leaders in various legal academic fields, and a professional staff of policy analysts, communication experts, and others.
- ▶ We work together on a variety of programs—national and regional—all dedicated to the idea that government safeguards and other regulations are a key to social justice and planetary health.

Presenters



Jordan Macha,
Executive Director and
Waterkeeper,
Bayou City Waterkeeper



Victor Flatt,
Professor,
University of Houston
Law Center



Jamie Brunkow,
Senior Advocacy Manager
and James Riverkeeper,
James River Association



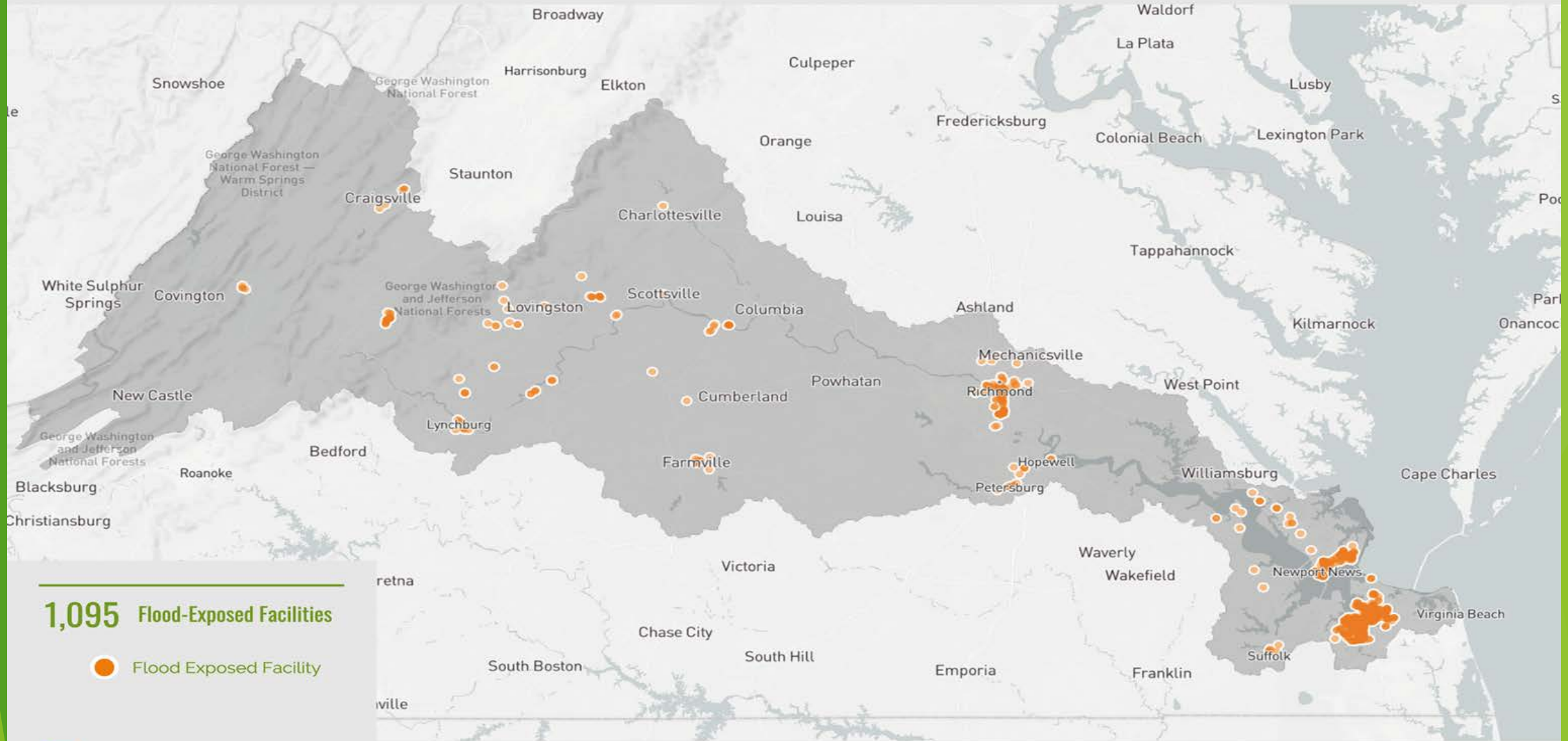
David Flores,
Senior Policy Analyst,
Center for Progressive Reform

2019 Toxic Floodwaters Report: Threat of Climate-Driven Chemical Disaster in the James River Watershed

- Geography:
 - James Watershed
 - CDC SOVI
- Sites:
 - EPA FRS
 - DEQ VEGIS
- Exposures:
 - NOAA SLOSH
 - NOAA SLR
 - FEMA flood-zones



Flood-Exposed Hazardous Chemical Facilities in Census Tracts Scoring in the Highest Quartile Nationally for Social Vulnerability Located in the James River Watershed

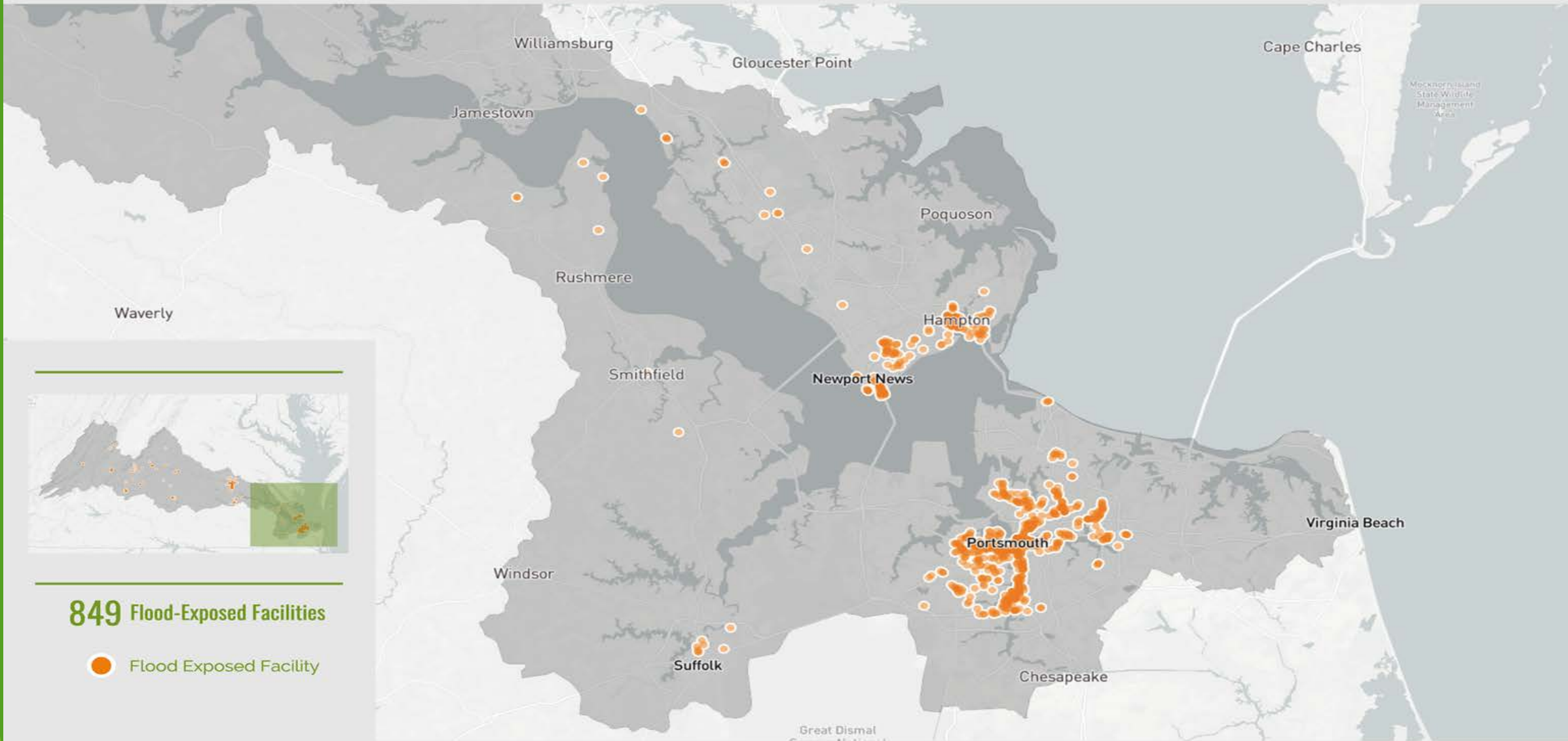


1,095 Flood-Exposed Facilities

 Flood Exposed Facility



Flood-Exposed Hazardous Chemical Facilities in Census Tracts Scoring in the Highest Quartile Nationally for Social Vulnerability Located in Hampton Roads, Virginia



849 Flood-Exposed Facilities

 Flood Exposed Facility

Figure 1: Industrial Facilities Exposed to Flooding from Hurricane Storm Surge, James River Watershed

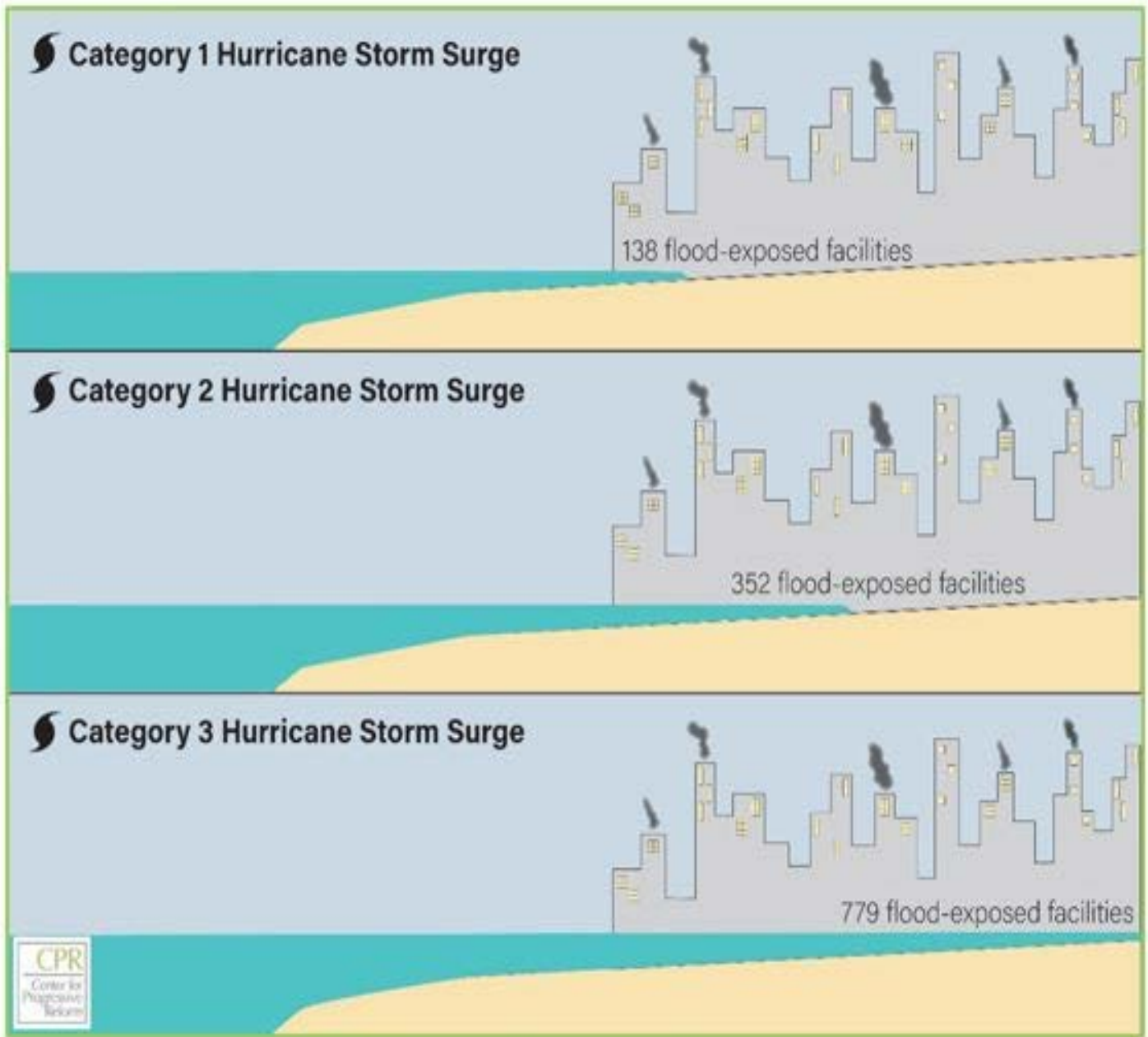
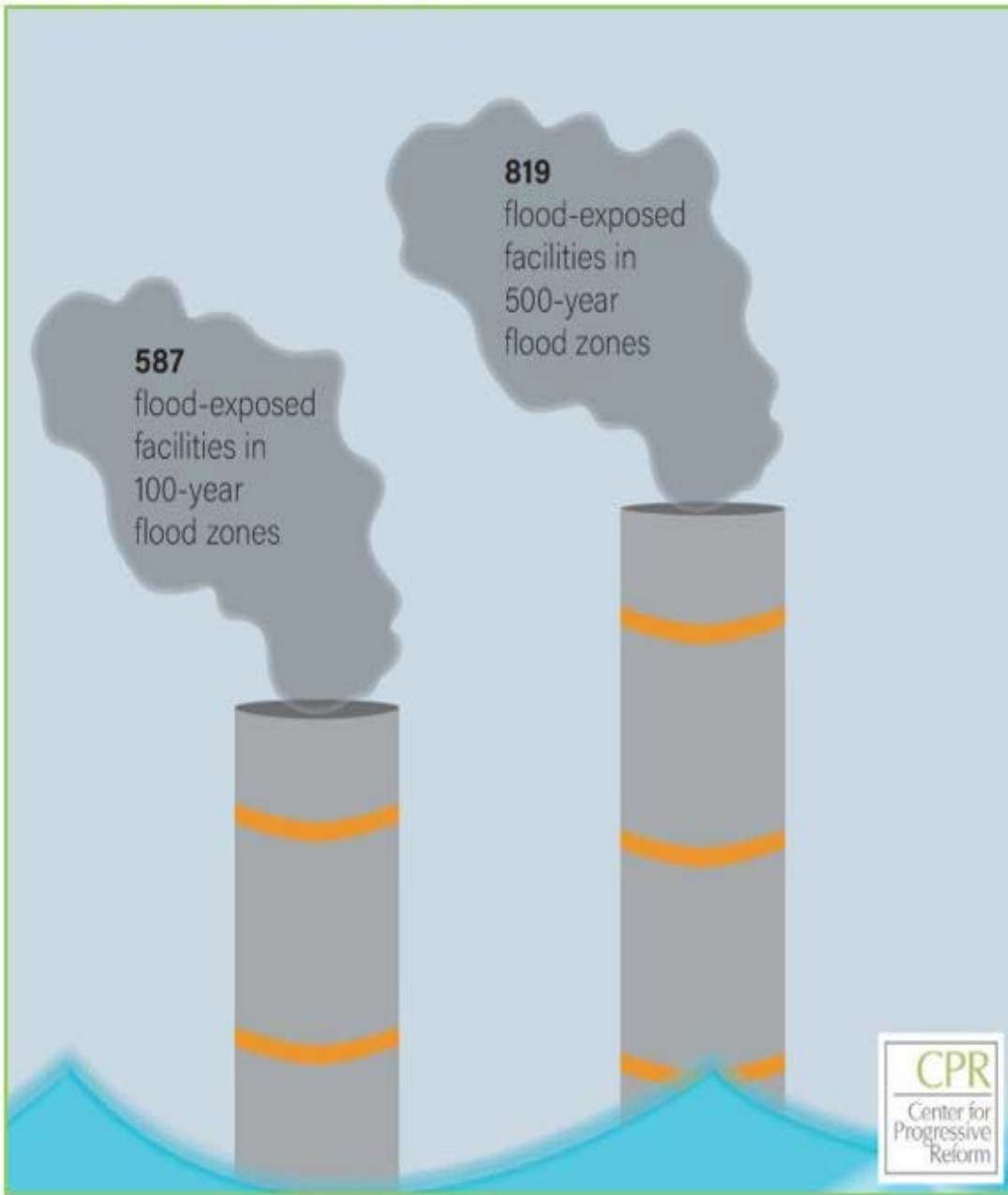
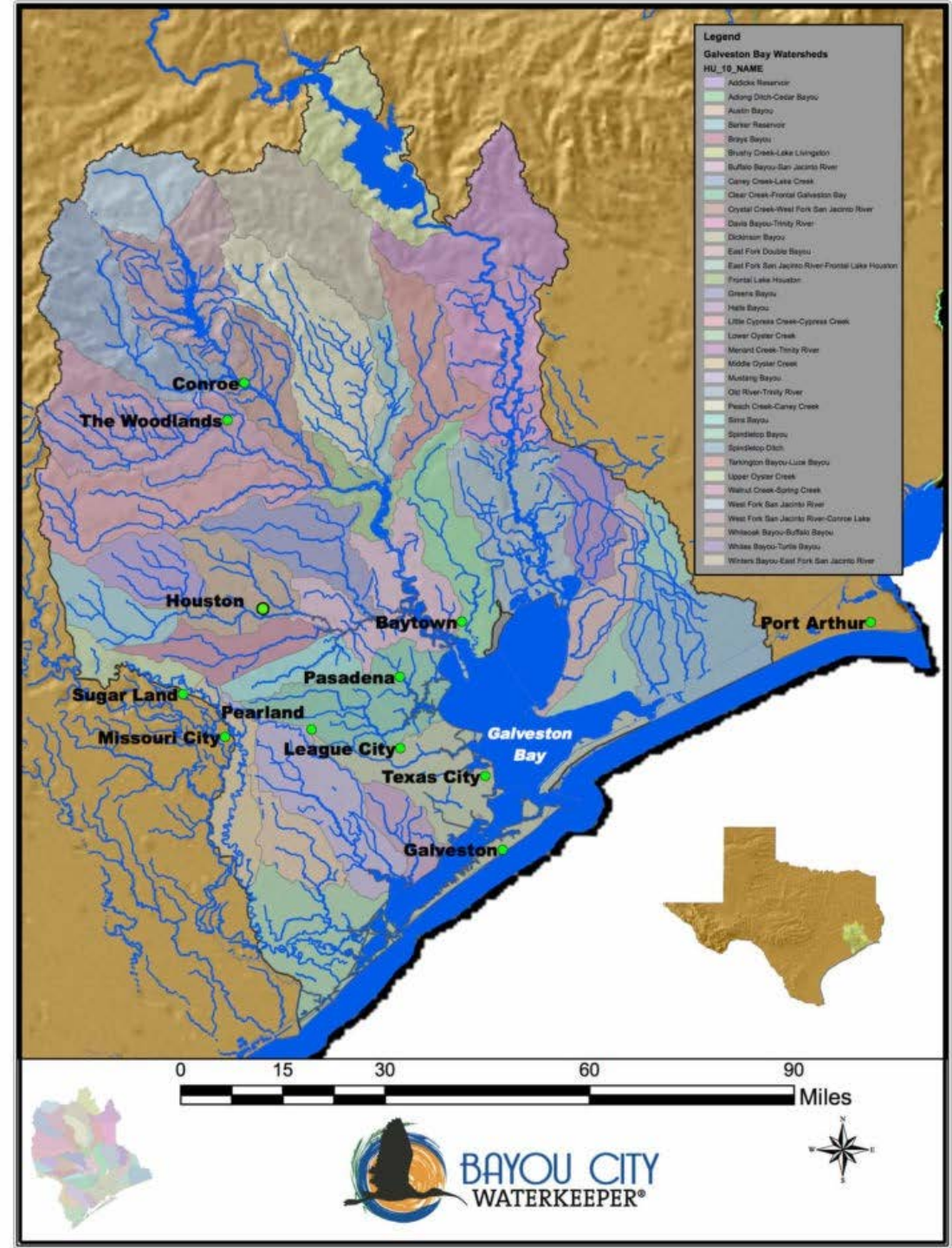


Figure 2: Industrial Facilities Exposed to Flooding from Rainfall Events, James River Watershed



Lower Galveston Bay Watershed

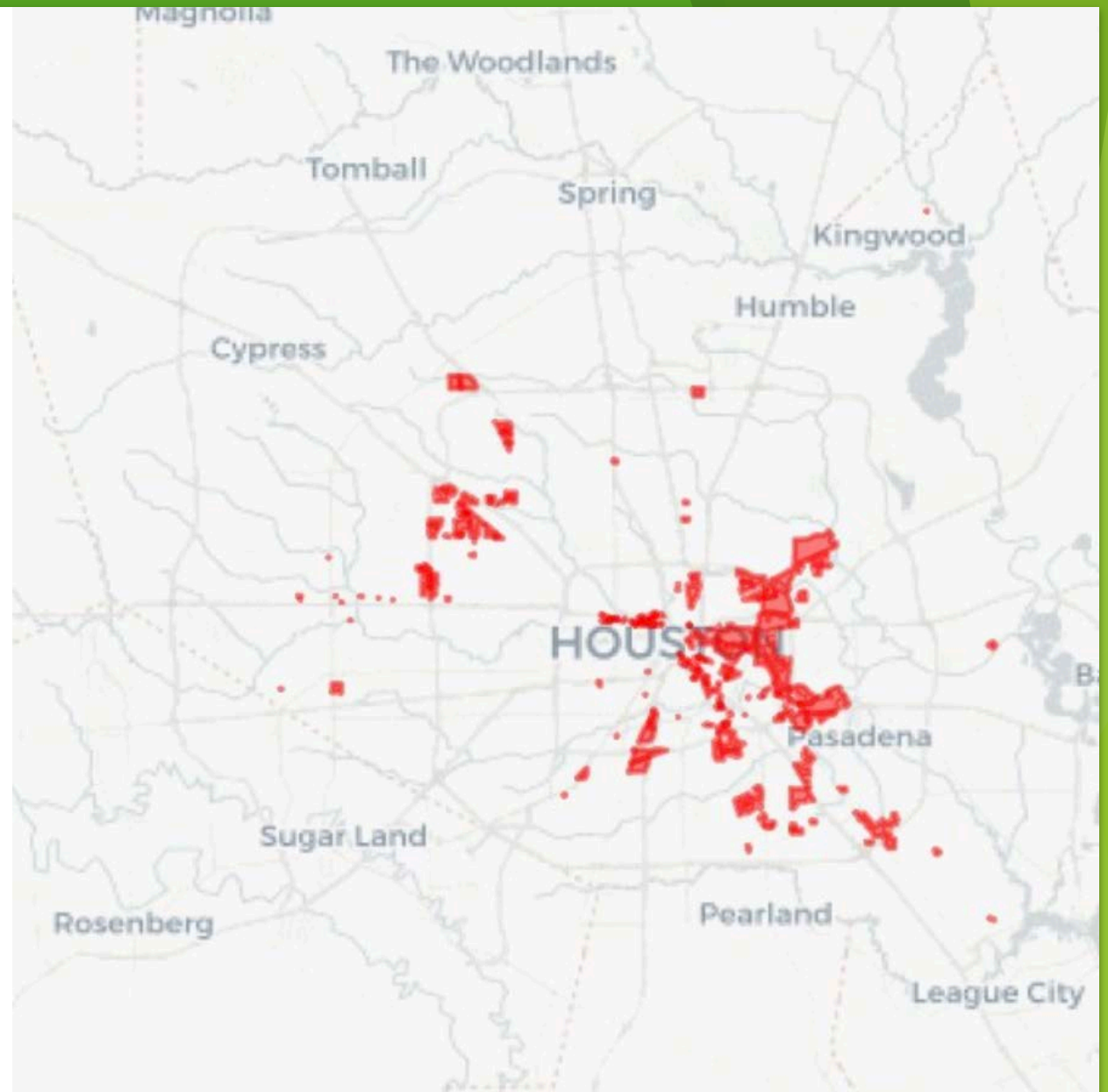
- Comprised of 10 Counties
- Hosts Third Largest County in U.S.
- Hosts Fourth Largest City in U.S.
- Largest Petrochemical Complex in U.S.
- Largest Petrochemical Manufacturing in the World (such as, synthetic rubber, fertilizer, insecticide)
- Over 2500 Miles of Bayous, Streams, & Creeks
- 2 Major Rivers
- 2nd Most Productive Estuary in the U.S.



City of Houston & Harris County have very lax zoning laws, which allows industrial sites to be placed in residential areas and next to sensitive ecological areas.



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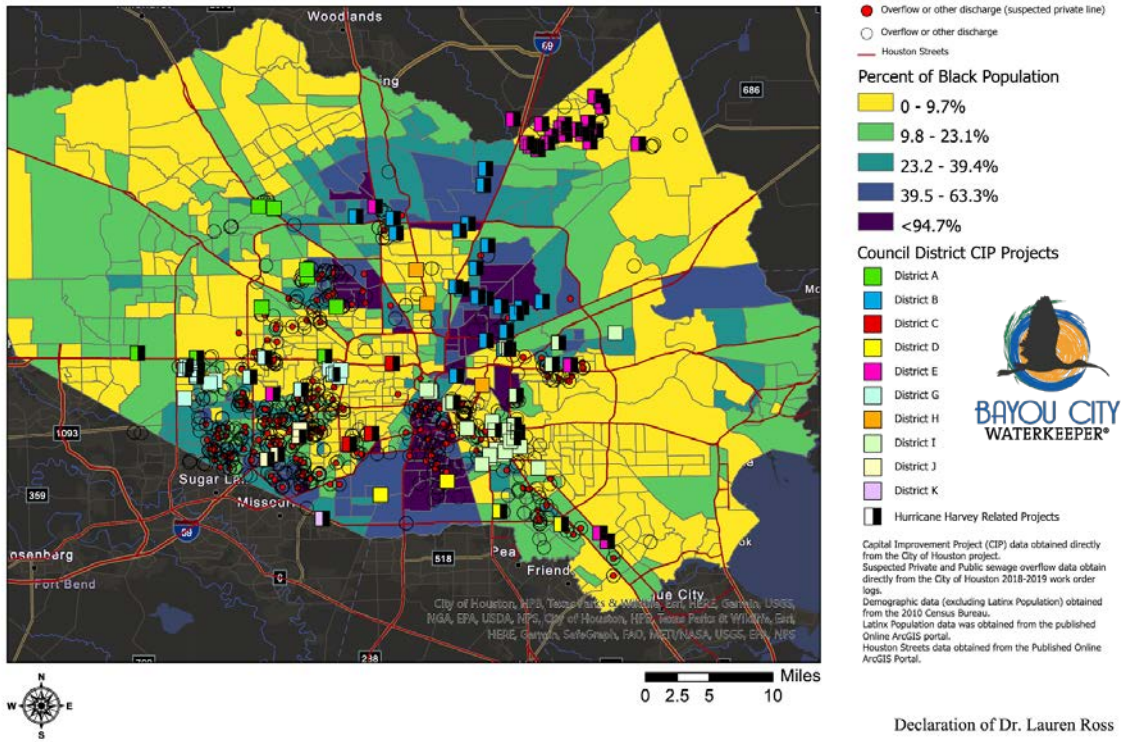


City of Houston's Wastewater Consent Decree (Pending)

Attachment 2.

City of Houston

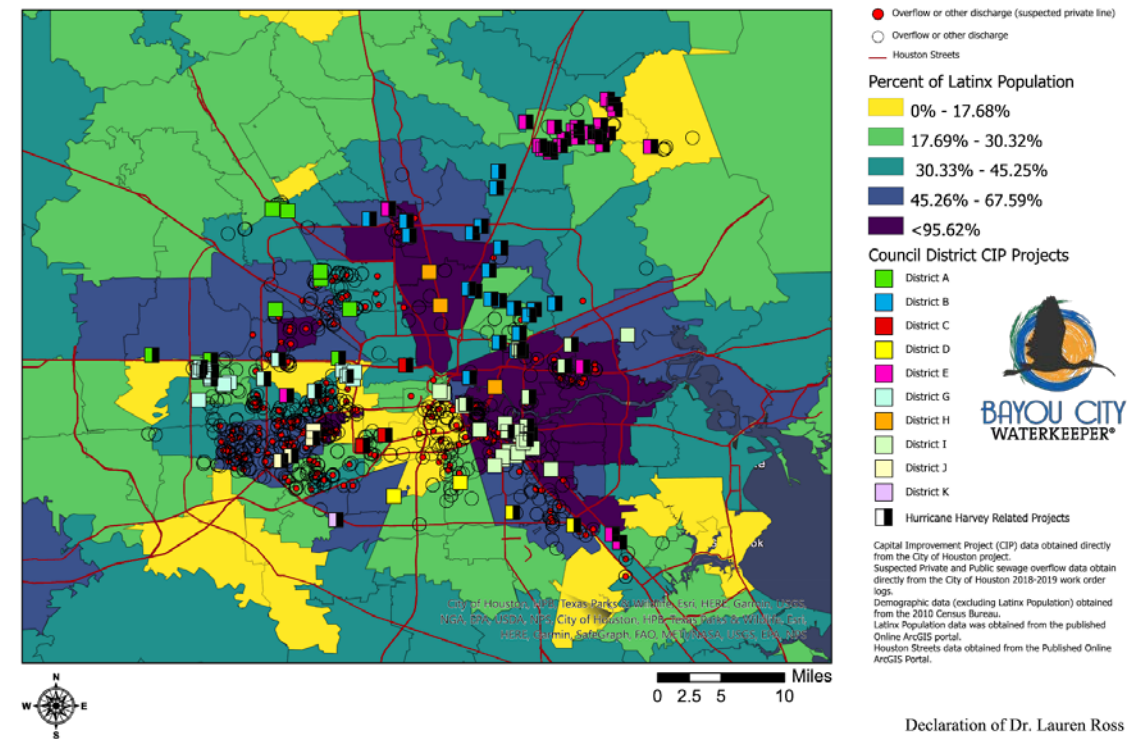
Sewage Failures, Capital Improvement Projects and Black Population



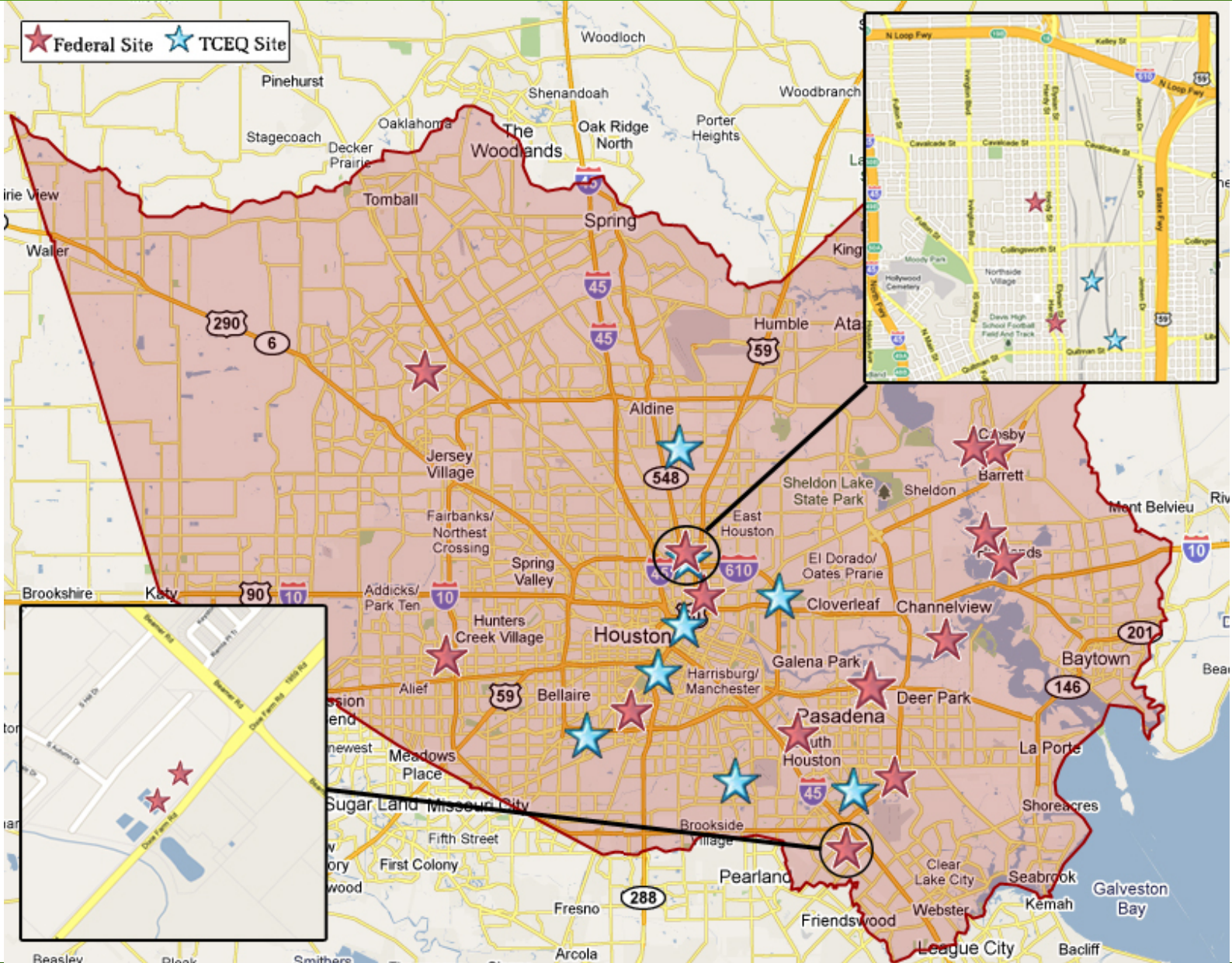
Attachment 3.

City of Houston

Sewage Failures, Capital Improvement Projects and Latinx Population

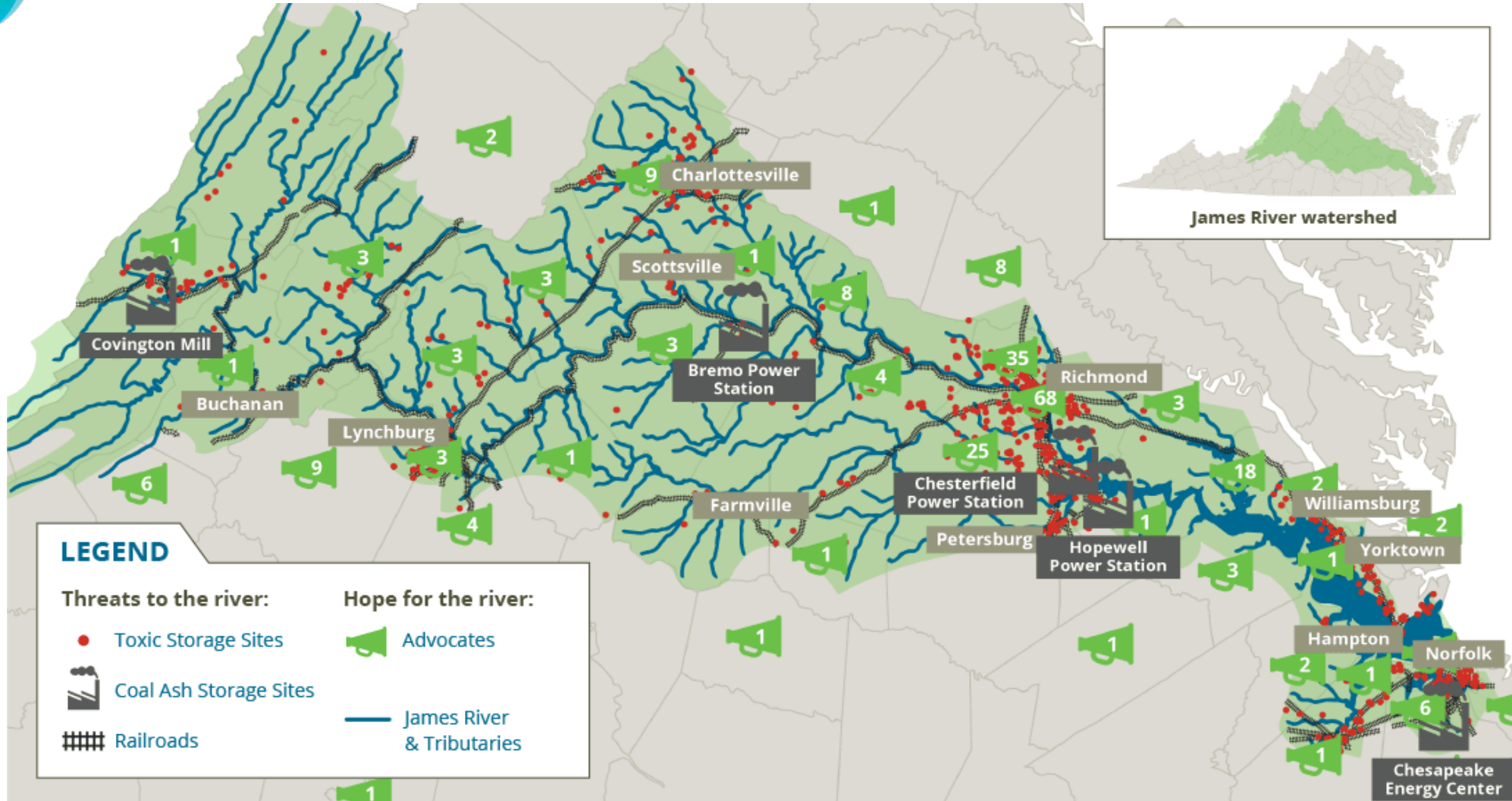


In 2016, the Houston Chronicle reported that lower-income communities and communities of color are “most likely to feel the consequences of Houston’s long-running struggle with sewer overflows.” After federal and state regulators did not take these concerns seriously, we updated this analysis by looking at the City’s more recent data. By examining the City of Houston’s more recent data, Bayou City Waterkeeper’s fellow Naomi Walker, working with Dr. Lauren Ross, confirmed that these environmental injustices are still present and concluded that neither the sewer settlement nor planned Capital Improvement Projects account for these disparities.





River At Risk Campaign 2014



2019 Coal Ash Legislation in Virginia



State lawmakers passed legislation that calls for the full removal of 28 million tons of coal ash from leaking ponds across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Questions?

Please type your questions in the Q&A box.

Thank you for joining us!

Upcoming CPR webinar: Toxic floodwaters and environmental justice, October 20, 2-3:15 pm ET

Please complete the survey on your screen after exiting!

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