

EXHIBIT A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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The Commonwealth of Virginia has embraced the opportunity to apply to the US Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) National Disaster Resiliency Competition (NDRC). Virginia seeks to: (1) address unmet recovery needs in the most impacted and distressed areas of its Hampton Roads region, which suffered damage from the qualifying disaster, Hurricane Irene, in 2011, and (2) facilitate the longer-term resilience of the region in response to extreme weather events, recurrent flooding, and sea level rise.

Innovation is found in Virginia's holistic regional resiliency approach that extends beyond infrastructure to encompass community and economic development. That is, the development of infrastructure and water management approaches will be informed by, and work in concert with, enhancing the health and wellbeing of citizens and stimulating economic growth. We will be building resilience in our population and leverage these changes as an economic accelerator. This innovative living with water approach, called "**THRIVE: Resilience In Virginia**," aligns with HUD's National Objective to directly benefit low- and moderate-income persons and households by focusing on unmet recovery needs, as well as build regional resilience capacity to manage extreme weather events and adapt to sea level rise .

THRIVE: Resilience In Virginia has five major goals: (i) Unite the Region, (ii) Create Coastal Resilience, (iii) Build Water Management Solutions, (iv) Improve Economic Vitality, and (v) Strengthen Vulnerable Neighborhoods. This comprehensive approach capitalizes on the region's strengths and converts risks and vulnerabilities into opportunities: Hampton Roads will reduce risk to its most vulnerable communities and thrive with water by developing a model maritime region that derives its economic vitality from its position on the water.

Together, the Hampton Roads and Eastern Shore regions include the cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Poquoson, Williamsburg and the counties of Accomack and Northampton, with a population over 1.7 million. Following Hurricane Irene, all of these localities were declared by the President to be major disaster areas. Recurrent flooding, threat

of catastrophic loss, and risk to our citizens is forecast to increase in response to sea level rise , which is exacerbated by land subsidence: Hampton Roads has the highest rate of relative sea level rise along the U.S. East Coast. Old Dominion University research shows that while global sea levels have risen 5-8 inches in the last century, sea level has risen over 14 inches in Hampton Roads since 1930 (Atkinson, Ezer, and Smith, 2013). As a result, among US population centers at risk from rising water, Hampton Roads is second only to New Orleans; increasing the region’s resiliency is critical.

Further, the region includes Naval Station Norfolk, the world’s largest military base (with a plant replacement value of over \$4.2 billion), as well as other major Navy, Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard installations, and Federal facilities such as NASA Langley. Almost a quarter of US active-duty military personnel are stationed in Hampton Roads, and 31% of US naval shipbuilding and repair capacity is housed there. The region also is home to the Port of Virginia, the only East Coast port with shipping channels deep enough to accommodate the new Post-Panamax ships. These assets position the region as a global leader in security and trade.

Governor Terry McAuliffe has selected the Commonwealth’s Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to coordinate development of its NDRC Phase I application. DHCD encompasses a wide range of services and frequently collaborates across disciplines to serve vulnerable populations. The agency has partnered with state, regional and local government, academia, business and nonprofit entities to design an approach that will cultivate resilience. Under the leadership of DHCD, the Commonwealth, its qualifying localities and stakeholders have collaborated to create such an approach to resilience.