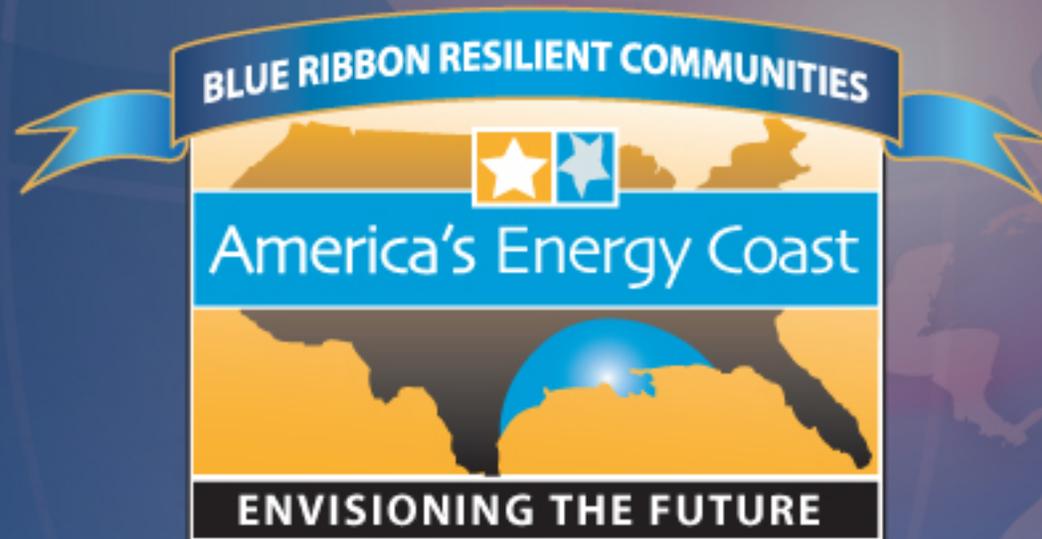


# AMERICA'S ENERGY COAST LEADERSHIP FORUMS



## Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration & Conservation

July 13, 2011



## RATIONALE FOR ACTION

- ◆ Response to growing vulnerabilities along the Gulf Coast in the wake of coastal land loss, degrading landscapes and coastlines
- ◆ Recent natural and man-made disasters demonstrate what future holds without planning, adaptation and investment in resiliency
- ◆ New data on infrastructure vulnerabilities based on comprehensive five-state study and science showing advanced degradation
- ◆ DELTAS2010: World Delta Dialogues recommendations to build local solutions



## LEADERSHIP FORUM PREMISE

- ✓ Convene non-partisan, balanced regional dialogue on local coastal issues
- ✓ Identify specific vulnerabilities of communities who comprise America's Energy coast from Texas – Florida
- ✓ Bring in unique expertise to address the issues
- ✓ Honor core values and build local pride
- ✓ Serve as a catalyst for empowerment of individuals and communities



# DATA SOURCES

## **NOAA – *How Resilient Is Your Coastal Community?***

- A guide for evaluating coastal community resilience vs. hazards
- A blueprint for establishing resiliency factors and web

## **Entergy/AWF – *Building A Resilient Coast Study***

- \$350 billion in economic damage by 2030
- Provided detailed economic forecasting and future at-risk infrastructure in the region



# THE PROCESS

## Pre-Forum:

- *Environmental scan of previous initiatives & studies*
  - *Meeting with local policy leaders*
- *Individual interviews with diverse stakeholders*
  - *Focus group with diverse stakeholders*

## Forum:

- *Research findings & expert presentations*
  - *Working sessions*

## Post Forum:

- *Solicitation of public input*
  - *Report of Findings*
- *Follow-up on recommendations for action*



# DEFINING RESILIENCY

## ***“RESILIENCY”***

*Resiliency is defined as the ability of a community to adapt to change – including environmental, social and economic change.*

## ***“CORE VALUES”***

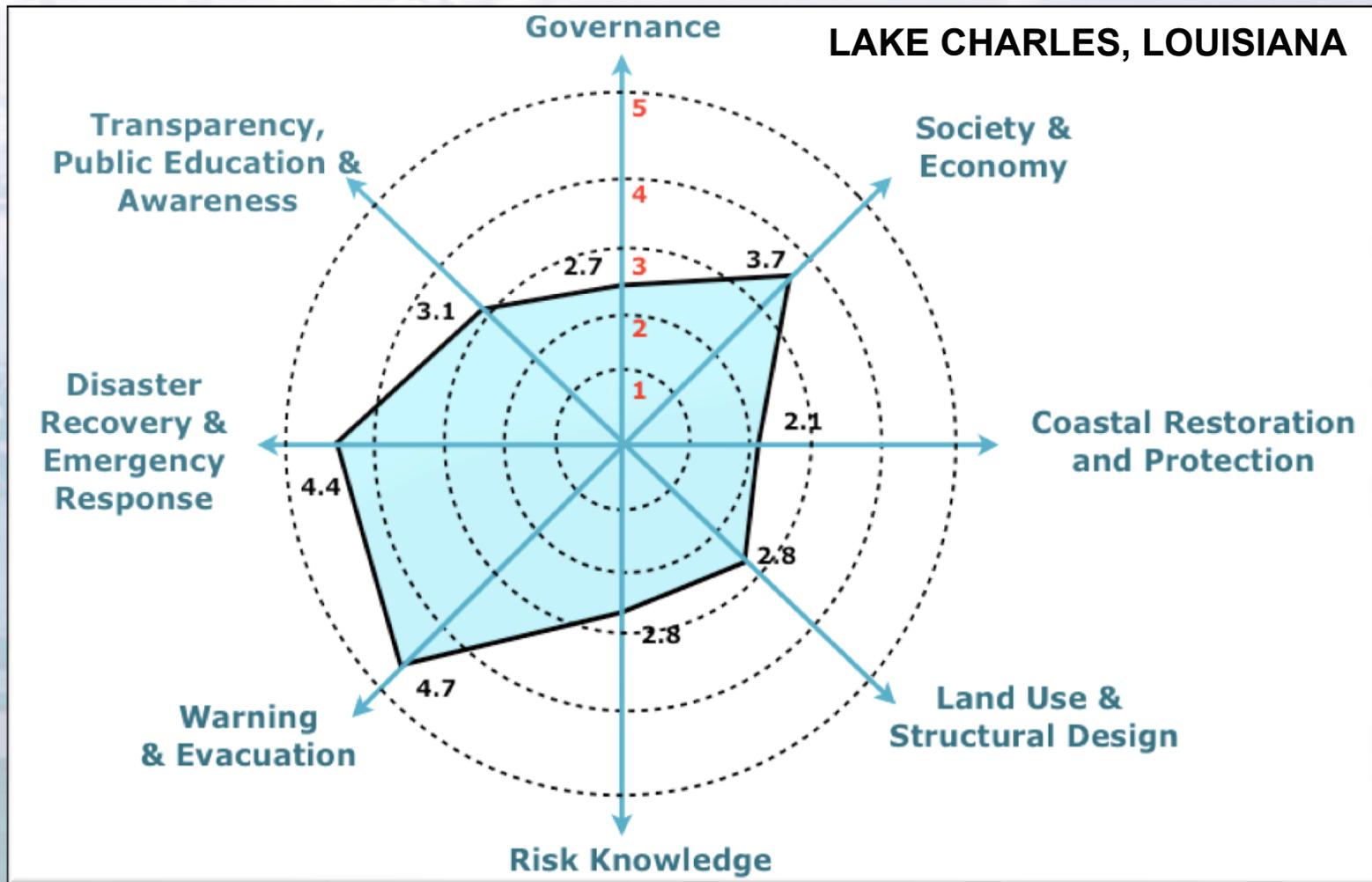
*Core values include what makes up the core of a community's identity. These could be cultural values that exemplify lifestyle or way of life or what determines the economic prosperity of the community.*

## ***“COMMUNITY”***

*. Community is defined as where you might live or associate.*



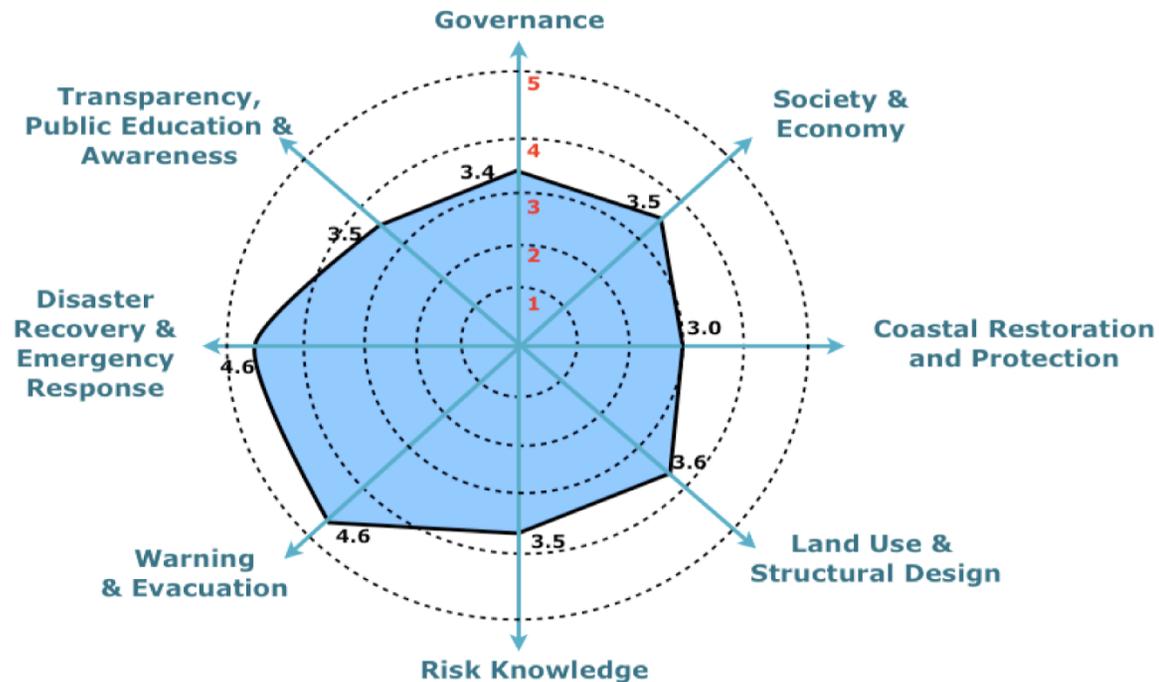
# FINDINGS: *Resilience Index*





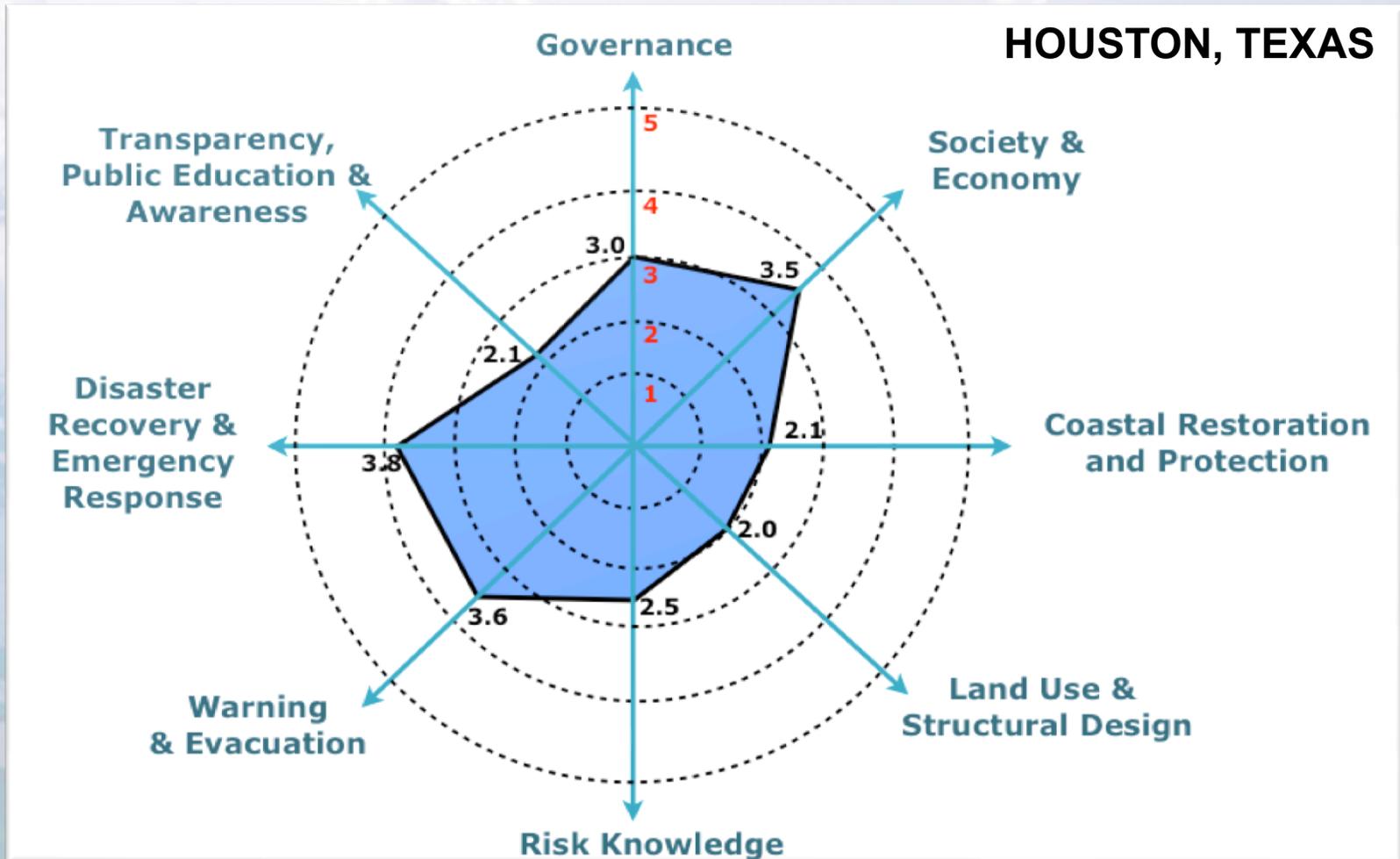
# FINDINGS: *Resilience Index*

## PLAQUEMINES, LOUISIANA





# FINDINGS: *Resilience Index*





# Key Questions

## Discussion Questions:

- ✓ How do we protect what we value based on how vulnerable we are and the risks we face?
- ✓ Aligning with what we value, how do we prioritize solutions based on our values?
- ✓ Where do we start?



# FINDINGS

- ✓ **Community awareness of vulnerabilities is closely tied to recent storm events – adaptation information critical**
- ✓ Values vary greatly based on community history – Louisiana more culturally and conservation focused, where Houston more focused on growth & commerce
- ✓ **Strengths are seen as pride and resiliency of people; anxiety showing over ability of communities to survive**
- ✓ High marks given for emergency preparedness & notification
- ✓ **Growing belief in relationship of sea level rise to greater vulnerability**
- ✓ Retreat being seen as option forced by uninsurability and FEMA flood map designations



# FINDINGS

- ✓ **Greater transparency about risks and solutions sought**
- ✓ Increased coordination of regional management about coastal hazards will increase resiliency
- ✓ **Uncertainty that long range building with nature strategies will survive coastal protection building projects; concern about matching good science with new coastal engineering techniques**
- ✓ Skepticism about federal funding resulting in need for new financing mechanism, including greater local and/or state participation
- ✓ **Education and awareness building key to resiliency**



## TRENDS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Pursue multiple lines of “offense” which include employing dredge material , barriers islands restoration, river diversions and distributaries; utilize best science and engineering in deployment of projects
- ✓ Emergency Rule for Permits to speed restoration
- ✓ Incentives for private land owners to restore; reduce red tape and disincentives for action
- ✓ Beneficial use of carbon – establish protocols for coastal wetlands for use in sequestration, tied to emission benefits



## TRENDS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ **Limit mitigation for environmentally beneficial programs**
- ✓ Design buyout and code options; preserve low-lying land as buffer to storm surge
- ✓ **Advocate for intended use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for dredging along with beneficial use of dredge spoils.**
- ✓ Broaden participation of Mississippi River, delta and tributaries stakeholders and public
- ✓ **Engage citizens and youth in education and advocacy initiatives**

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