

Rise in sea level not caused by global warming

<http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/letters/2017/07/01/letters-insurance-companies-blame/445152001/>

In USA Today's article in the Sun-News, "Rising Seas spurred Record High-tide Flooding," writer Doyle Rice attributes this phenomenon, "largely...due to man-made climate change," an incorrect statement which leads those of us who actually look up the data to cry, "fake news!"

Because, Rice's claim is indeed, untrue.

The blue-sky flooding is real, the causes are complex, but we know for sure that man-made climate change is clearly not one of them.

Sea levels have been rising steadily since the U.S. started installing tide gages near seaports, around the time of the Civil War. However, there is no case where the rate of sea level rise is related to CO2 emissions.

So, what are these causes of flooding Mr Rice describes? His previous articles on the subject reveal he has reported on one important factor, land subsidence.

But, groundwater pumping in coastal plain regions of unconsolidated sediments, in the U.S. from New Jersey to Texas' Gulf Coast, is also important. The Economist reports: "In America, groundwater extraction without commensurate recharge (of water in the subsurface formations) is responsible for 80% of subsidence."

Examining NOAA's tide gage Internet data, you see several-year oscillations around the steady sea level rise; these are related to El Nino Southern Oscillation and similar multi-year fluctuations. I checked each station in Rice's article; each station's data shows a temporary increase over the previous year or several years, part of this multi-year characteristic. David Burton calls this feature "slosh" of the oceans, and if it sloshes up for three or so years, it will slosh back.

Several years ago there was a similar story of a "sea level rise hot spot in the Mid-Atlantic States," but now, oops, false alarm.

It's the same with Doyle Rice's article; more fake news.

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