FLOODING 101
THE ESSENTIAL GLOSSARY

**TIDAL FLOODING**
When the height of a tide reaches an elevation that floods parts of property or roadways that are not normally inundated during a normal high tide.

**STORM SURGE**
The additional height of a tide above the normal tide height due to offshore tropical storm or hurricane.

**MLLW**
Mean Lower Low Water is the 20-year average of the lowest tide each day.

**MHHW**
Mean Higher High Water is the 20-year average of the highest tide each day.

**STORMWATER OUTFALL**
The point (usually the end of a pipe or ditch) where stormwater that is collected during a rain event is discharged.

**KING TIDE**
Non-scientific term for astronomic tide that people often use to describe exceptionally high tides. King tides can be predicted and generally coincide with the lunar cycle and occur when the moon is closest to the earth.

**SEA LEVEL RISE**
The rate of change in the average annual tide height.

**10-YEAR RAIN EVENT**
Storm that is capable of producing rainfall equal to or exceeding the average of once in a 10-year period. The 10-year rain event in Charleston County is a rain event that produces 6.5" or more of rain in a 24 hour period.

**TIDAL CHECK VALVE**
Valve that is used in a stormwater system to allow the discharge of stormwater from a rain event, but prevents tidal water from flowing back into the stormwater system causing tidal flooding.