

An Interdisciplinary Framework for Flood Forecasting, Ground Motion Detection, and Community Resilience in Palmer Township, Pennsylvania



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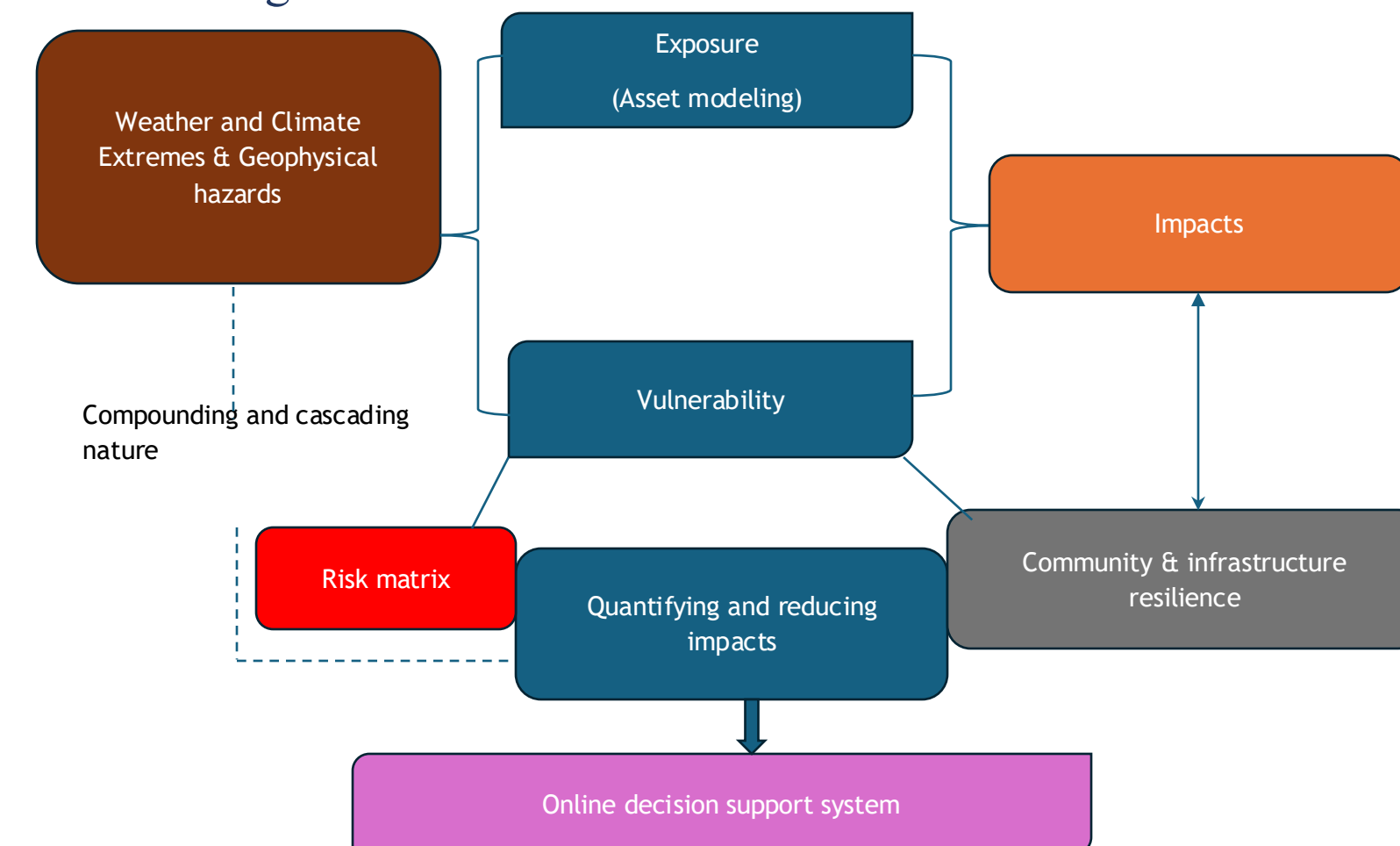
1. Introduction and Objectives

- 13.8% of properties projected to be vulnerable to Persistent flooding and surface runoff in the Major Flood factor zone (Like Palmer), within 30 years (First Street, 2022)
- Comprehensive framework to assess environmental risk, infrastructure vulnerability, and community resilience
- Integrated Climatologic-EO-hydrologic-vulnerability-AI framework to map current and future flood and land-movement risks in Palmer Township

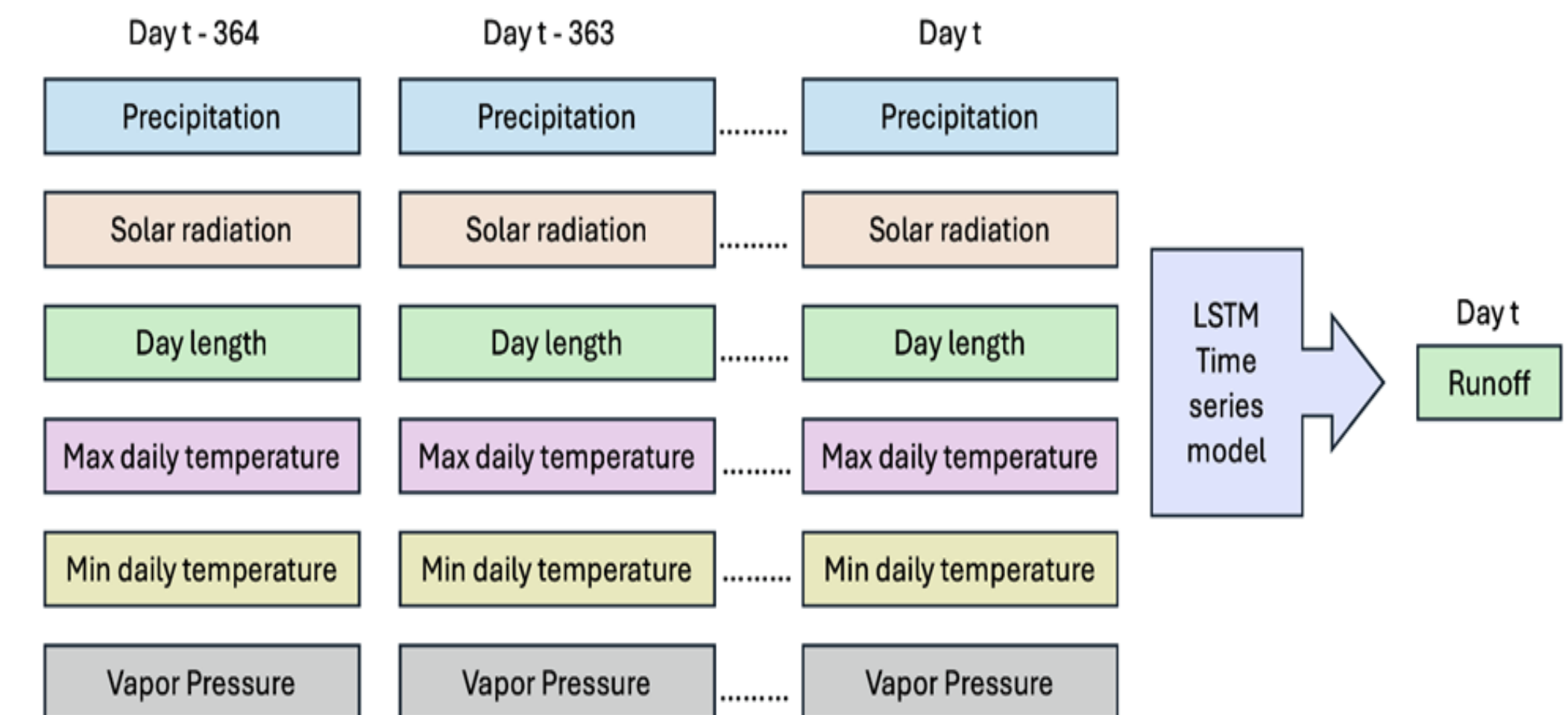
2. Objectives

To develop a community-driven framework backed by scientific studies in which flood is considered a weather-and climate-induced extreme event, land displacement is treated as a geophysical hazard

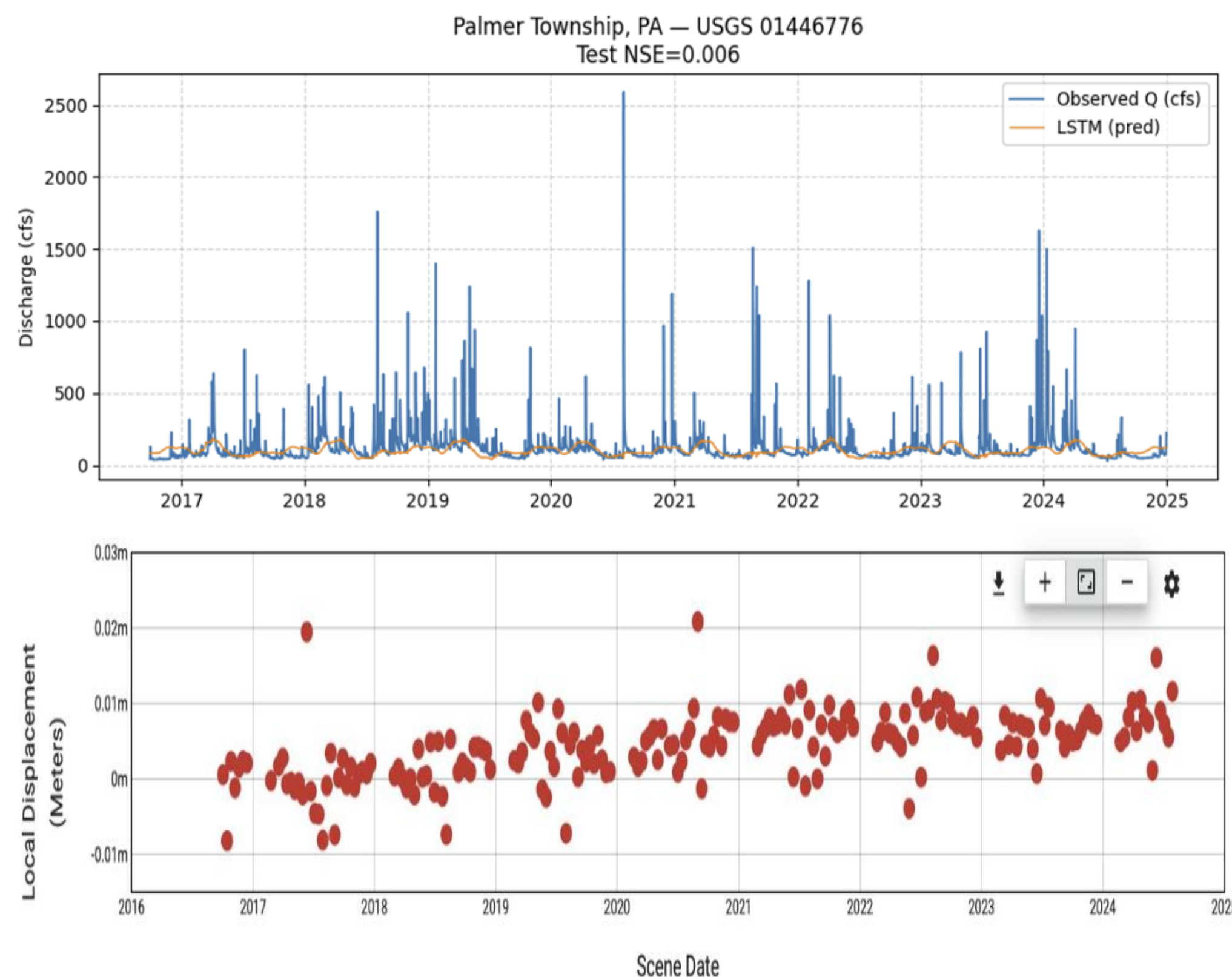
- Rainfall-runoff modelling framework - employs an LSTM neural network in a many-to-one configuration (J. Liu et al., 2024)
- OPERA Surface Displacement from Sentinel-1 validated product (Version 1) using a hybrid PS and DS approach, quantifies surface displacement in the radar line-of-sight



3. Materials & Methods

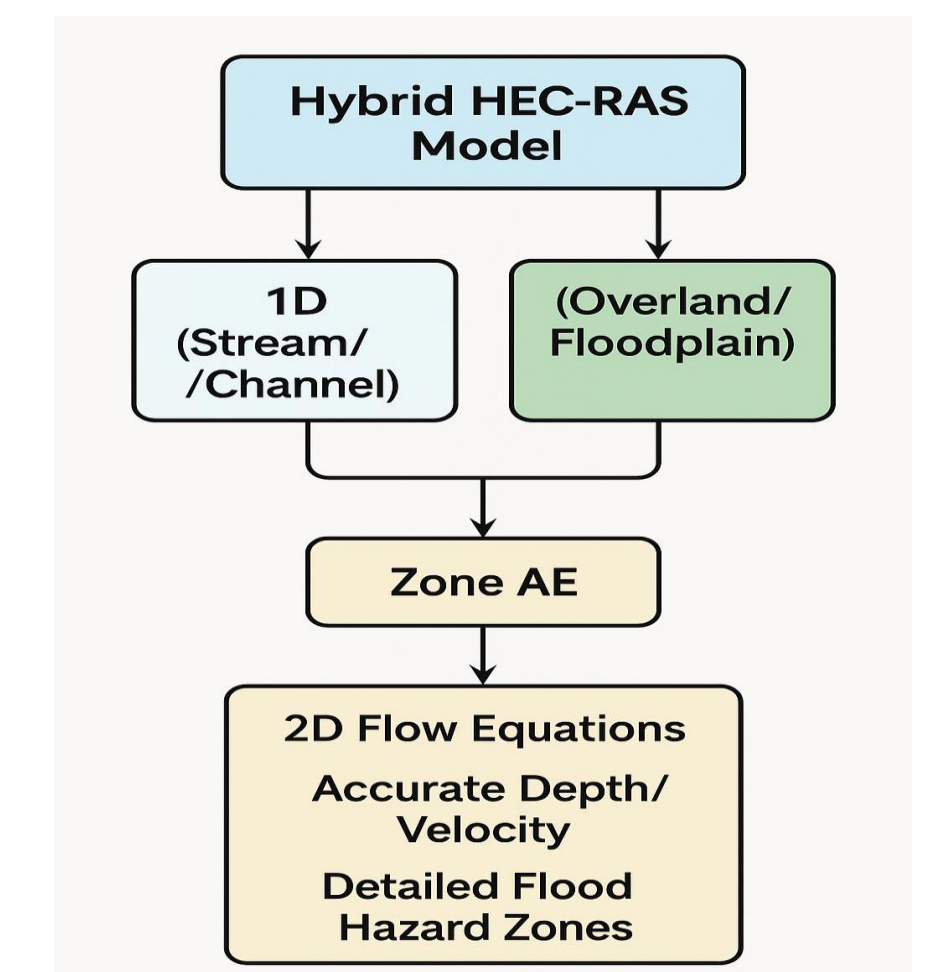
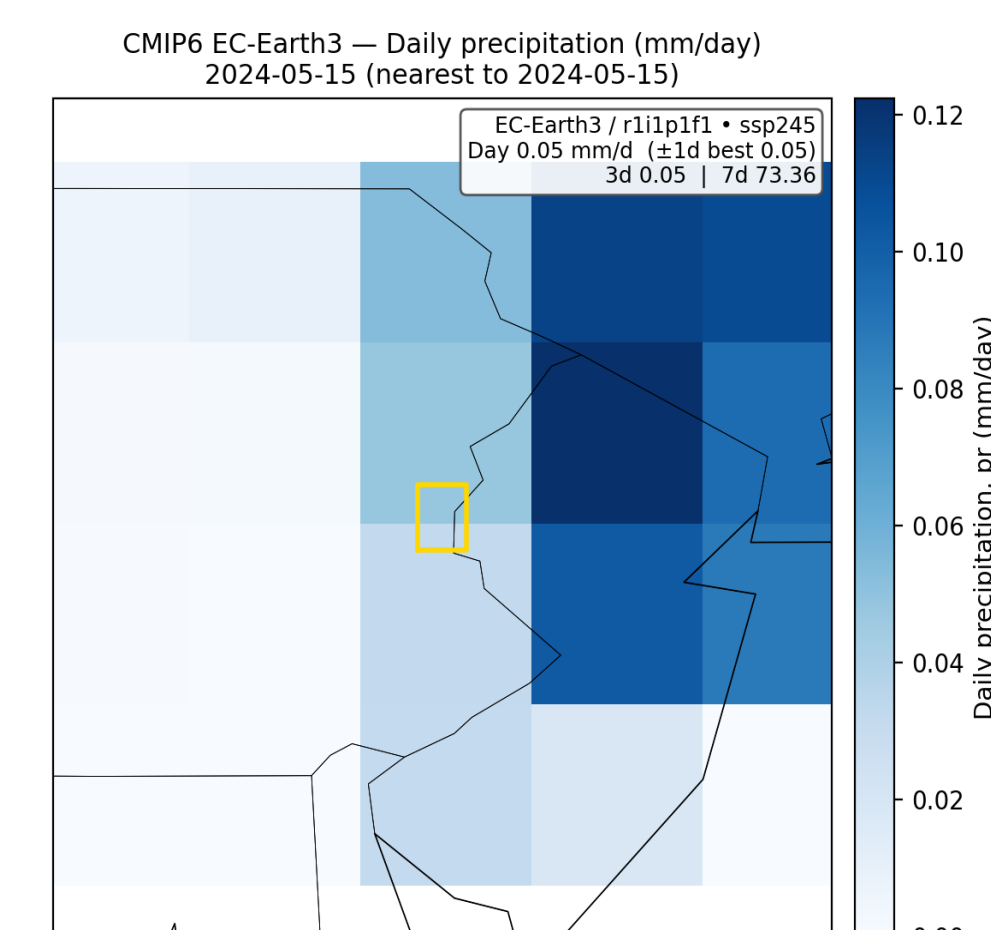


4. Results



- Modelled hydrograph** reproduces the overall timing and magnitude of discharge events - LSTM's capability to internalise nonlinear runoff responses
- Proof-of-concept** successfully demonstrates the feasibility of using data-driven rainfall-runoff models to complement process-based hydrologic simulations and support flood-forecasting applications within Palmer Township
- Rainfall-triggered deformation:** OPERA Sentinel-1 time series shows a sharp LOS jump from ~ 0.0006 mm (9 Jul 2023) to ~ 0.0095 mm (21 Jul 2023) immediately after the **10 & 16 July** flood events—well above the usual $\pm 1-3$ mm background scatter
- Likely mechanism:** Intense rainfall/inundation likely altered pore-pressure and soil saturation, producing a **~ 0.009 mm positive LOS** signal (subtle uplift or motion toward the sensor) that stands out as an anomalous, flood-induced ground response

5. Ongoing Works



- CMIP6 EC-Earth3** daily precipitation (mm day^{-1}) for the nearest model day to 2024-05-15 (member r11i1p1f1, SSP2-4.5). Legend summary: same-day 0.05 mm day^{-1} , ± 1 -day best 0.05, 3-day 0.05, 7-day 73.36. this panel shows typical day-scale underestimation with stronger multi-day accumulation—illustrating why regime-based calibration is emphasised over same-day totals (Eyring et al., 2016; Döschner et al., 2022). – Underperformed by: *Bamikole Akinsehinde*
- Aim to implement, coupled 1D–2D HEC-RAS model to simulate river–floodplain hydraulics and explicitly represent critical structures such as bridges and culverts inside 2D flow areas - Underperformed by: Chengye Li

Acknowledgement

- First Street Foundation. (2022b). *First Street Foundation property level flood risk statistics (Version 2.0)*. Zenodo. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6459076
- Fattahi, H., Brancato, V., & Jeong, S. (2024). OPERA Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document for Coregistered Single Look Complex from Sentinel-1 data. *Signature*.
- Dong, X., Kou, P., Yuan, Z., Tao, Y., Yu, H., Liang, W., Chen, R., Avtar, R., & Alonso-Rodriguez, A. (2025). Extreme flood significantly altered urban ground deformation patterns: multi-source remote sensing evidence from the 2020 Chongqing flood. *Hydrological Sciences Journal*, 1–19.
- Spor P, Paşa Y, Doğan E. Evaluation of Simulation Results of HEC-RAS Coupled 1D/2D and 2D Modeling Approaches Through Scenario-Based Analysis. *Water*. 2025; 17(8):1163. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w17081163>

- Kathryn Semmens, The Nurture Nature Centre
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