

**EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED
ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND**

October 7, 2016

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This Notice is related to Federal assistance provided in response to the Presidentially-declared disaster, Superstorm Sandy. This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has determined that the following proposed action under the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) Program developed by the state to rehabilitate damaged or construct new affordable housing units that address unmet housing needs in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, is located in a wetland. DCA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the wetland and analyzing the potential impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Project Description

Application ID number: HMFA03279 – Cedar Meadows Supportive Housing

The proposed project is located at 1426-1468 Rahway Ave, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County.

The proposed project is construction of 100 affordable rental housing units within a single four-story building on an approximately 10-acre site. Existing structures on the property would be demolished and site improvements would include new dedicated parking areas and stormwater management facilities. An approximately 2.0 acre area of palustrine wooded and scrub/shrub wetlands is located on the eastern portion of the subject property and may be impacted by the proposed action.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by DCA on or before October 24, 2016, or fifteen (15) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later. DCA encourages electronic submittal of comments at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

Commissioner Charles A. Richman
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs