

**EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED
ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN
OCEAN COUNTY**

November 14, 2014

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on behalf of the Responsible Entity, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDEP), has determined that the following proposed actions under the Neighborhood and Community Revitalization Program (NCR) that provides funds for projects that contribute to economic revitalization throughout New Jersey, are located in the 100-year floodplain. NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the actions in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

NCR40023: The Emergency Operations Center/Coast Guard Building located at 420 Pelham Avenue in the Borough of Beach Haven, is located on Long Beach Island and situated on a lagoon-front parcel. Due to extensive damage to other critical infrastructure in town, all Borough Services have been moved to this building until funding is obtained for the restoration of other structures. Planned improvements include new siding, windows, flood proof entry doors, re-grading of the parking lot, demolition of the existing wooden staircases, and construction of new entry stairs and platform on the north and west sides of the building as well as the installation of an elevator so ensure the building is ADA-compliant.

The 1.38-acre proposed project is situated on a lagoon located on Long Beach Island and is entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area "AE" Zone floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 592 of 660, Map Number 34029C0592G, revised March 28, 2014. The proposed project is located at 420 Pelham Avenue, Borough of Beach Haven in Ocean County. Preliminary base flood elevation determined for the property is 8 feet.

NCR39997: The Township of Lacey proposes the repair and reconstruction of municipally owned Forked River Beach Bayfront Park located at 1515 Beach Boulevard in Lacey Township. Superstorm Sandy caused significant damage to the Park, including totally removing the gazebo, damaging the playground and benches, displacing riprap, and spreading debris across the lawns. The proposed project would involve redesigning the park layout and installing a new playground, gazebo, parking lot, and pedestrian paths. The project would also involve introducing gabion baskets and other measures to reduce the impact of future coastal weather events. Lacey also proposes an open lawn area for picnics or other active recreational activities, and an asphalt walkway with fitness nodes that span the length of the shoreline and connect to a boardwalk and viewing platform to the south.

The 10.33-acre proposed project is located along the Forked River and is entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area "AE" Zone floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 408 of 660, Map Number 34029C0408G, revised March 28, 2014. The proposed project is located at 1515 Beach Boulevard, Lacey Township in Ocean County. Preliminary base flood elevation determined for the property range from 7 - 8 feet.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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 floodplains 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 floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by NJDCA on or before **November 29, 2014**. NJDCA encourages electronic submittal of comments at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 by **November 29, 2014**. The Notice can be viewed at NJDCA during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Further information can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP