

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

June 5, 2015

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 Stronger New Jersey Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program, developed by the state to fund commercial or mixed use projects that contribute to economic revitalization throughout New Jersey by Superstorm Sandy, is located in the 100-year floodplain. DCA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and analyzing 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.

Project Description

Application ID number: NCR40120

The 4.69 acre property site incorporates the entire five-block length of Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ and is entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area Zone "AE" Zone floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 206 of 611, Map Number 34029C0206F, effective September 29, 2006. Additionally, both FEMA DFIRM Flood Zone and Preliminary FIRM layers show the entire parcel within an SFHA Zone A. These flood maps incorporate all "A" categories, including in this case category "AE". The proposed project includes significant streetscape improvements which are designed to redevelop and rebrand the working waterfront district. Asphalt and concrete work along the entire length of Channel Drive will include the milling and repaving of the roadway, replacing the existing curb with a six inch concrete curb, and lane striping. New crossing signage and concrete pavers will be installed at crosswalks and concrete pavers will be installed at intersections of Channel Drive at Broadway (two intersections), St. Louis Avenue, Chicago Avenue, Baltimore Avenue, and Boston Avenue. On the north side of Channel Drive, streetscape improvements will include the demolition and reconstruction of 13,095 square feet of sidewalk, the installation of concrete paver driveway aprons, two feet of concrete paver verge between sidewalks and curbs, fifty-four decorative light fixtures, five bus shelters, ten benches, the resetting of existing storm water drainage inlets, and the planting of sixty-four shade trees. On the south side of Channel Drive, streetscape improvements will include the demolition of existing sidewalk, the reconstruction of sidewalk only at the six road intersections, the resetting of existing storm water drainage inlets, and the planting of forty-four shade trees. Subgrade preparation in the areas of sidewalk installation will require shallow excavation. Additional deeper excavation will be required for the installation of streetscape fixture foundations for light poles, benches, bus shelters, and other structures, as well as for any proposed electrical conduit for the proposed lighting. Minimal existing trees are proposed to be removed from the proposed project area. The project will result in less than 0.25 acres of additional impervious cover.

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 DCA on or before June 22, 2015, 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: Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

Acting Commissioner Charles A. Richman
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs