

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

March 27, 2015:

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 (NJDCA), has determined that the following proposed action under the Stronger New Jersey Business Loans (SBL) program, developed by the state to rehabilitate or reconstruct properties damaged by Superstorm Sandy, is located in the 100-year floodplain, and 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 action: SBL39568 "Ohana Shell" The proposal includes the demolition and reconstruction of the gas station at 3006 Route 37 West, Toms River, New Jersey. The existing gas station and convenience store/car wash will be replaced with a new gas station, convenience store and car wash with three repair bays. The new building will be constructed such that the finished slab, HVAC and electrical equipment are all elevated above the base flood elevation (BFE). A basement will be incorporated beneath the repair bays for oil change service. The basement will be fully enclosed for containment purposes in the event of a spill. The approximately 1.16 acre property is located entirely within the AE (Base Flood Elevations determined) Flood Zone, as indicated on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels 328 of 611 no. 34029C0328F and 309 of 611 no. 34029C0309F, revised September 29, 2006.

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 April 13, 2015. 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 April 13, 2015. 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 DCA web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP