



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

Ms. Holly Leicht, Regional Administrator, Region 2
US Department of Housing & Urban Development
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3541
New York, NY 10278-0068

Re: Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of Hudson River Rebuild By Design Project in Hoboken, Jersey City and Weehawken

Dear Ms. Leicht:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Hudson River Resist Delay Store and Discharge Rebuild By Design Project (Hudson River RBD) on behalf of the State of New Jersey as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) and 79 Federal Register 62,182 (October 16, 2014). In accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, as Responsible Entity has designated NJDEP to assist with the environmental review and preparation of the EIS. With this letter, the NJDEP also requests that your agency's participation in the EIS review as a cooperating agency.

The Hudson River RBD project consists of four distinct elements that are Resist, Delay, Store and Discharge which will deal with both tidal surge and rain events in a variety of methods throughout Hoboken, Jersey City and Weehawken. While each aspect has independent utility, the project will be implemented in the same geographical region, identical schedules and share similar purpose and design elements. Therefore, the NJDEP and HUD have determined that all aspects of this project should be encompassed within a single EIS.

The Hudson River RBD project consists of a yet to be determined northern Resist alignment from Weehawken down into Hoboken and a separate southern Resist alignment from Hoboken down into Jersey City that will be an approximate maximum combined 15,300 linear feet. The Resist alignment would be designed to prevent a Sandy like storm from flooding the project area. The Delay, Store Discharge portions of the project will focus on green and gray infrastructure to address the historical flooding in the project area from frequent high volume rain events. All four aspects of the project will work towards maintaining the urban aesthetic, incorporating park space and enhancing public access while meeting the primary flood reduction goals.

If approved, construction of the Resist, Delay Store and Discharge elements is anticipated to begin in 2019

and will have been reviewed under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related laws in order to would satisfy the requirements of 24 CFR Part 58.

Your agency has been identified as a potential cooperating, participating, or interested agency for the review of the Hudson River RBD project. If your agency consents to the NJDEP's serving as the lead agency for review under NEPA as per HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 and will cooperate in the review, please indicate by signing this letter and returning it at your earliest convenience to Dave Rosenblatt, Director of the Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures at the address above or at dave.rosenblatt@dep.nj.gov. If the NJDEP has not received a response from you within 30 day from this letter, your consent will be assumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 609-292-9236 or at dave.rosenblatt@dep.nj.gov. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dave Rosenblatt, Director

cc:

Tennille Smith Parker, Acting Director, US Department of Housing & Urban Development, Office of Block Grant Assistance, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division
Therese Fretwell, Regional Environmental Officer, Region 2, HUD Office of Community Planning and Development
Irene Chang-Cimino, Senior Advisor, Strategic Regional Coordination, HUD Region 2

This undersigned cooperating agency hereby consents to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection serving as lead agency for the Hudson River RBD described above.

US Department of Housing & Urban Development

By: _____
Date: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____