

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This publication is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), as the Responsible Entity under Part 58, has determined that project activities associated with the Homeowner Assistance and Recovery Program (HARP), Small Rental Repair Program (SRRP), and Smart Move: New Housing Development Program part of the *Tropical Storm Ida Action Plan For the State of New Jersey* (Action Plan), may be located in, or affect, the 100-year floodplain and wetlands, and DCA will be determining the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from HARP, SRRP and Smart Move activities, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The State of New Jersey will receive Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to support long-term recovery and mitigation efforts following Hurricane Ida. Hurricane Ida passed through New Jersey from September 1st through September 3rd, 2021, bringing lashing winds and torrential rains leading to catastrophic flash flooding over portions of central and northern New Jersey. In response, the State of New Jersey's Action Plan has allocated \$68,928,700 to HARP, \$20,000,000 to SRRP and \$30,000,000 to Smart Move in the 12 affected counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, Union, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, and Warren. The HARP and SRRP will provide grants for activities necessary to restore storm-damaged homes, including rehabilitation, reconstruction, elevation, and/or other mitigation activities such as structural and utility retrofits, grading and slope stabilization, and drainage improvements. The Smart Move program will subsidize the new development of quality, energy-efficient, resilient, and affordable housing in lower risk areas within or near disaster-impacted communities. All three programs will assist eligible applicants within the 12 affected counties.

The application process for HARP, SRRP and Smart Move is projected to begin in early-2023, and therefore exact project locations are not known at this time. However, given the existence of 100-year floodplains and/or wetlands within each of the 12 affected counties, it is assumed that some project locations may occur within, or proximate to, floodplains and/or wetlands. When required, homes will be elevated above the base flood elevation as identified on the best available floodplain maps in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

The mapped acreage for the 100-year floodplain Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) Zones A, AE, AO, VE; and wetlands for each county is listed below. Project activities located partially or wholly within the 100-year floodplain will be required to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP requirement is not applicable to project sites located in Zone X or those outside of all SFHA floodplains.

Bergen—SFHA: 22,295 acres; Wetlands: 9,070 acres.

Essex—SFHA: 12,579 acres; Wetlands: 5,847 acres.

Hudson—SFHA: 11,666 acres; Wetlands: 1,663 acres.

Middlesex—SFHA: 27,971 acres; Wetlands: 32,800 acres.

Passaic—SFHA: 15,701 acres; Wetlands: 7,250 acres.

Somerset—SFHA: 19,779 acres; Wetlands: 17,617 acres.
Union—SFHA: 7,910 acres; Wetlands: 2,419 acres.
Gloucester—SFHA: 25,544 acres; Wetlands: 32,031 acres.
Hunterdon—SFHA: 14,995 acres; Wetlands: 14,256 acres.
Mercer—SFHA: 15,802 acres; Wetlands: 16,531 acres.
Morris—SFHA: 40,543 acres; Wetlands: 38,996 acres.
Warren—SFHA: 14,853 acres; Wetlands: 15,508 acres.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and 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 educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts 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 and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by **DCA** at the following address on or before **January 9, 2023**:
Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 823, Trenton, NJ 08625 and 609-292-3750, Attention: Samuel Viavattine, Deputy Commissioner. Additional project information, including floodplains and wetlands maps for each affected county, can be viewed from 9 AM to 5 PM at the above address and <https://www.nj.gov/dca/ddrm/resources/environmental.shtml>. Comments may also be submitted via email at DDRM.EHPComments@dca.nj.gov.

Date: December 23, 2022