

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

May 13, 2025

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under the CDBG-DR Resilient Communities Program (RCP) is located in a floodplain and wetland, and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain/wetland and the potential impacts on the identified resources from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is near 55 Van Keuren Ave. (40°45'08.2"N 74°04'32.5"W) in Jersey City, NJ, Hudson County.

Project Description: The proposed Penhorn Creek Pump Station project consists of the demolition and disposal of an existing stormwater pump station facility and the construction of a new pump station as an elevated platform, complete with stairs for access and an emergency standby generator. Work shall also be performed to repair the existing bulkhead and 30-inch diameter culvert drains with tide valves. The existing pump station building contains two (2) 12-inch diameter [solids] handling pumps. These units are to be replaced each with a 16-inch diameter axial pump mounted on an elevated platform. This platform is to be raised to meet compliance with FEMA regulations for flood elevation. These pumps will be responsible for pumping at the same rate as the existing pumps. The bulkhead shall be repaired in place, each of the two (2) 30-inch diameter culvert drains are removed and replaced, complete with new tide valves. The project will also involve a temporary easement to allow the County of Hudson access to conduct construction activities. The temporary easement will become a permanent easement upon completion of the proposed improvements, granting the County of Hudson unrestricted site access to their facilities for regular maintenance and operation, as required.

All of the proposed activities (Approximately 0.118 acres) would occur within the "AE" Special Flood Hazard Area zone floodplain (i.e. the 100-year floodplain), as depicted on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel Number 34003C0264J (Preliminary Date: 08/29/2014). Tidal marsh wetlands (delineated: June 17, 2023) were identified within a portion of the project area. The project as proposed is anticipated to impact approximately 0.005 acres of wetlands.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain or wetland 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the regulated areas, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain or wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the identified resources 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 or /wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) at the following address on or before May 29, 2025, or 15 days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, PO Box 823, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 and (609) 633-7308, Attention: Samuel Viavattine, Deputy Commissioner or electronically at DRM.EHPComments@dca.nj.gov.

Commissioner Jacquelyn A. Suarez
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs