



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning

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KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

December 5, 2013

Joelle Gore
Acting Chief, Coastal Programs Division
NOAA/SSMC4, RM 11110
1305 East-West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Gore:

Attached for your review and approval is a proposed new Section 309 Strategy – Coastal Hazards – for the New Jersey Coastal Management Program (NJCMP). This would amend the New Jersey 2011 – 2015 Section 309 Strategy.

In order to accommodate this new responsibility within existing NJCMP resources, the following 309 Strategy will be put on hold for the foreseeable future: *Special Area Management Plan Strategy: SAMP for the Barnegat Bay and Watershed*. While restoration of Barnegat Bay is still a Christie Administration priority, a SAMP, as described in the New Jersey 2011- 2015 Section 309 Strategy, is no longer a preferred action.

The need for this new strategy was prompted by 2012's Superstorm Sandy, its effects on New Jersey's coastal resources and developed areas, and the recognition that a more focused planning and regulatory response to the likelihood of similar future events is needed. Establishment of this new strategy will enable the New Jersey Coastal Management Program to identify, develop, implement and evaluate actions that define coastal vulnerabilities and help reduce the risks to coastal storms faced by vulnerable areas, resources and communities. This implementation and evaluation process will provide the empirical understanding to inform revision of New Jersey's coastal regulations, enforceable policies, programs, technical assistance and funding programs so that better practices and risk-reducing outcomes occur on a widespread basis. A major focus of this new Coastal Hazards strategy is state support to and empowerment of local jurisdictions.

Governor Chris Christie, as well as many of New Jersey's community planning, business and environmental organizations, is placing a high priority on the recovery and improved resilience of the state's coast. Approval of this strategy will better enable the New Jersey

Coastal Management Program to apply its strengths and capacities to this important challenge.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marty Rosen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Marty Rosen, Manager
New Jersey Coastal Management Program

Attachment

- c: R. Randall Schneider, Regional Manager, Atlantic CZM Programs
- Liz Semple, Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning, NJDEP
- Nick Angarone, Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning, NJDEP

Coastal Hazards

I. Issue Area(s)

The proposed strategy or implementation activities will support the following priority (high or medium) enhancement area(s) (*check all that apply*):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture | ★ Cumulative and Secondary Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Government Facility Siting | ★ Wetlands |
| ★ Coastal Hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Debris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean/Great Lakes Resources | ★ Public Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Area Management Planning | |

II. Program Change Description

A. The proposed strategy will result in, or implement, the following type(s) of program changes (*check all that apply*):

- A change to coastal zone boundaries;
- ★ **New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;**
- ★ **New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances;**
- ★ **New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs;**
- New or revised Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) or plans for Areas of Particular Concern (APC) including enforceable policies and other necessary implementation mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APCs; and,
- ★ **New or revised guidelines, procedures and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM program policies to applicants, local government and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.**

B. Describe the proposed program change(s) or activities to implement a previously achieved program change. If the strategy will only involve implementation activities, briefly describe the program change that has already been adopted, and how the proposed activities will further that program change. (Note that implementation strategies are not to exceed two years.)

With the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy quickly approaching, the State of New Jersey and impacted communities are beginning the transition from recovery to planning and redevelopment. This program change will seek to make New Jersey communities more resilient to coastal hazards by providing them the appropriate tools, information, guidance, and technical assistance needed to make informed decisions on mitigation and adaptation measures. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, most New Jersey communities are struggling to effectively manage immediate recovery and rebuilding efforts. These coastal communities lack the internal capacity to begin the monumental effort of becoming more resilient in the face of increasing coastal hazards. This program change will develop a New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative in the New Jersey Coastal Management Program (CMP) to provide technical assistance to communities impacted by Sandy and those vulnerable to future coastal hazards.

Specifically, the N JCMP will develop and facilitate the implementation of effective best management practices and policies that reduce risk and vulnerability to coastal hazards; provide coastal communities with the

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necessary tools, guidance and technical assistance to appropriately plan for resilience to coastal hazards; and, advance state and community level policy and practice that support community-based recovery and resiliency efforts through identification of necessary incentives, policy and regulatory actions that foster resilient communities.

The New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative will include tools and guidance on strategies and actions, sensitive to the New Jersey regulatory context, that improve community resilience to coastal hazards.

III. Need(s) and Gap(s) Addressed

Identify what priority need the strategy addresses, and explain why the proposed program change or implementation activities are the most appropriate means to address the priority need. This discussion should reference the key findings of the Assessment and explain how the strategy addresses those findings.

As noted in the Assessment, many parts of New Jersey's densely populated coast are highly vulnerable to the effects of coastal hazards. This risk became all too real on October 29, 2012, when Hurricane Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey and caused unprecedented damage to New Jersey's coastal communities. As those communities begin to redevelop, municipal decision-makers need access to technical assistance, tools and science-based information in order to understand the risks and make informed decisions to make their communities more resilient to coastal hazards.

IV. Benefit(s) to Coastal Management

Discuss the anticipated effect of the program change or implementation activities including a clear articulation of the scope and value in improved coastal management and resource protection.

The benefits of a New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative in the NJ CMP will include:

1. NJ coastal communities will be provided with guidance and technical assistance on effective tools that lead to informed decisions that reduce community risks to coastal hazards.
2. Application and use of consistent and comprehensive coastal hazard risk vulnerability and risk communication approaches by a diverse network of public, private, academic and non-governmental partners working with coastal communities throughout New Jersey.

V. Likelihood of Success

Discuss the likelihood of attaining the proposed program change and implementation activities. The state or territory should address: 1) the nature and degree of support for pursuing the strategy and the proposed change; and, 2) the specific actions the state or territory will undertake to maintain or build future support for achieving and implementing the program change, including education and outreach activities.

The NJ CMP has been proactively working with its coastal partners to provide tools and support in their ongoing efforts assisting coastal communities to redevelop and plan for future hazards. Specifically, the NJ CMP is providing support to the existing NJ Recovery and Resiliency Network being implemented by Sustainable Jersey and New Jersey Future through funding from the New Jersey Recovery Fund. Further, the NJ CMP is reinforcing its coordination network with the Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy (Rutgers), Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR), New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC), and Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute (UCI) to develop, distribute and provide technical assistance on many of the tools, resources and coastal management expertise on community-based risk awareness, resilience planning and mitigation implementation.

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VI. Strategy Work Plan

Using the template below, provide a general work plan that includes the major steps necessary for achieving the program change and/or implementing a previously achieved program change. The plan should identify significant projected milestones/outcomes, a schedule for completing the strategy, and budget estimates. If an activity will span two or more years, it can be combined into one entry (i.e., Years 2-3 rather than Year 2 and then Year 3). While the annual outcomes are a useful guide to ensure the strategy remains on track, OCRM recognizes that these benchmarks may change some over the course of the five-year strategy due to unforeseen circumstances. The same holds true for the annual budget estimates. If the state intends to fund implementation activities for the proposed program change, describe those in the plan as well. Further detailing of annual tasks, budgets, benchmarks, and work products will be determined through the annual award negotiation process.

Total Years: 2 (only 2 years remain in the original 5-year period)

Total Budget: \$340,648

Final Outcome(s) and Products:

- Revisions to enforceable policies including a New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative in the NJ CMP;
- A strengthened network of coastal partners;
- Tools and guidance for municipalities to redevelop and plan for future coastal hazards.

Year(s): 4-5 (only 2 years remain in the original 5-year period)

Description of activities:

The NJ CMP will develop a Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) for each municipality located within New Jersey's coastal zone. CVI is a geospatial index map that identifies land areas that are most vulnerable to coastal hazards by compiling publicly available hazard, elevation, and landscape geospatial data into an environmental constraint model and is based on an existing tool developed in cooperation with NOAA. Further, the NJ CMP will offer to work with interested coastal municipalities to develop coastal community vulnerability assessments that incorporate critical community facilities and infrastructure, such as police stations, schools, vulnerable communities, evacuation routes, etc. into the CVI and serve as the basis for future community planning for coastal hazards.

Related, the NJ CMP is providing grants to coastal municipalities to develop Municipal Public Access Management Plans consistent with the existing Section 306 program requirement. These grants allow for the consideration of coastal hazards in planning for public access facilities. Again, the NJ CMP is providing a CVI to these municipalities and providing technical support in the development of response actions.

The NJ CMP is working with its coastal partners to provide existing and improved tools, guidance, and technical assistance to coastal communities planning for future coastal hazards. This cooperative effort will serve as the basis for a proposed New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative in the NJ CMP as a new enforceable action.

Outcome(s):

- Revisions to enforceable policies including a New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative in the NJ CMP;
- A strengthened network of coastal partners;
- Tools and guidance for municipalities to redevelop and plan for future coastal hazards.

Budget: \$340,648

VII. Fiscal and Technical Needs

A. Fiscal Needs: If 309 funding is not sufficient to carry out the proposed strategy, identify additional funding needs. Provide a brief description of what efforts the applying agency has made, if any, to secure additional state funds from the legislature and/or other sources to support this strategy.

Although it is anticipated that the 309 funding (if funded at current levels) will be sufficient for staffing to carry-out this proposed strategy, those funds significantly limit the scope of potential actions (i.e., the extent to which tools can be improved, the number of communities for which the NJ CMP can provide assistance and technical support, the number of grants, etc.). The NJ CMP intends to pursue additional federal and other funding opportunities that can further a New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative as they become available. Recently, the NJ CMP has submitted a proposal, in cooperation with several coastal partners, in response to the FY 2013 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act for Coastal Resilience Networks federal funding opportunity.

B. Technical Needs: If the state does not possess the technical knowledge, skills, or equipment to carry out the proposed strategy, identify these needs. Provide a brief description of what efforts the applying agency has made, if any, to obtain the trained personnel or equipment needed (for example, through agreements with other state agencies).

The NJ CMP intends to develop the New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative in cooperation with its coastal partners including public involvement of stakeholders. It is anticipated that the NJ CMP already possess the technical knowledge, skills and equipment to carry out the proposed strategy, working with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other state and federal partners to supplement the technical skill set required to complete this strategy.

VIII. Projects of Special Merit (Optional)

If desired, briefly indicate what PSMs the CMP may wish to pursue to augment this strategy. Any activities that are necessary to achieve the program change or that the state intends to support with baseline funding should be included in the strategy above. The information in this section will not be used to evaluate or rank PSMs and is simply meant to provide the CMPs the option to provide additional information if they choose. PSM descriptions should be kept very brief (e.g., undertake benthic mapping to provide additional data for ocean management planning). Do not do provide detailed project descriptions that would be needed for the PSM competition.

Development of a New Jersey-specific “Municipal Coastal Hazards Response Guide” that identifies planning responses, engineering best management practices, and their appropriate use recognizing New Jersey policies and regulations. The Guide would be constructed primarily as a web-based resource to provide accessibility to a wide range of stakeholders.

Integrate existing and proposed NJ CMP-developed tools – CVI, Getting to Resilience (an existing online questionnaire to assist local decision-makers review and characterize their existing planning, response and recovery efforts), and the Municipal Coastal Hazards Response Guide – into a comprehensive, networked tool to provide municipalities with the framework for analysis of their vulnerability to coastal hazards, and an inventory of suitable responses.