



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Engineering and Construction

Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures

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July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

Katherine Marcopul  
Acting Deputy State Preservation Officer  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Historic Preservation Office  
PO Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

RE: Section 106 Consultation Initiation for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project in the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt and Teterboro and the Township of South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey

Dear Ms. Marcopul:

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched the Rebuild by Design (RBD) competition in the summer of 2013 (July 29, 2013, 78 Federal Register 45551) to develop ideas to improve physical, ecological, economic, and social resilience in regions affected by Hurricane Sandy. The Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project) was one of the competition's winning concepts. HUD awarded \$150 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to the State of New Jersey for the Proposed Project, specifically for the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, all in Bergen County, New Jersey (the Project Area). The approximate Project Area boundaries are: Hackensack River to the east; Paterson Plank Road and the southern boundary of Carlstadt to the south; State Route 17 to the west; and Interstate 80 and the northern boundary of the Borough of Little Ferry to the north (see attached **Figure 1**).

Because HUD, a Federal agency, is funding the Proposed Project, and because the Proposed Project is considered a "major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment," the Proposed Project must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 US Code [USC] 4321 *et seq.*), and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared.

In accordance with 42 USC 5304(g) and HUD's regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 (*Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities*), HUD has provided for assumption of its NEPA authority by the State of New Jersey through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), with NJDCA delegating NEPA Lead Agency responsibility to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the administration of the Proposed Project, including its environmental review and preparation of the EIS. With NJDEP serving as the Lead Agency, the EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA, CEQ Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), and HUD regulations found at 24 CFR Part 58. The Proposed Project includes the construction of flood risk reduction measures designed to address the impacts of coastal and inland flooding on the quality of the physical, natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment due to both storm hazards and sea level rise within the Project Area. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce flood risk and increase the resiliency of the communities and ecosystems within the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future.

The Proposed Project includes the construction of flood risk reduction measures designed to address the impacts of coastal and inland flooding on the quality of the physical, natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment due to both storm hazards and sea level rise within the Project Area. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce flood risk and increase the resiliency of the communities and ecosystems within the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future.

The EIS will examine three Build Alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative. Each of the three Build Alternatives seeks to reduce the flood risk within the Project Area. These alternatives vary by the type of infrastructure that is proposed. Alternative 1 will analyze the use of levees, berms, barriers, or floodwalls to reduce flood risk; Alternative 2 will analyze the impacts of substantial drainage improvements achieved through a series of local projects within the Project Area to reduce flood risk; and Alternative 3, a hybrid of Alternatives 1 and 2, will analyze the impacts of blending new infrastructure and drainage improvements to reduce flood risk in the Project Area. Currently, the three Build Alternatives are broadly defined. Each alternative is being evaluated through the ongoing engineering Feasibility Study, and will be further developed and defined as the EIS process proceeds. Each alternative must be implementable within the limits of the CDBG-DR funding available at the latest by September 30, 2022. For additional information, please refer to the Proposed Project's website at [www.rbd-meadowlands.dep.nj.gov](http://www.rbd-meadowlands.dep.nj.gov).

The project's federal funding requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended [36 CFR 800.4(a) (1) and 36 CFR 800.4(b) (1)] and guidelines outline in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716). This legislation requires consideration of the effect(s) of any federally assisted undertaking on historic properties, defined as a prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places, during the project planning process.

The undertaking establishes the Proposed Project's APE, defined as "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking [36 CFR 800.16(d)]. Currently, design plans are still in progress and insufficient to delineate the APE. As project engineering advances, the APE will be delineated and provided for your reference.

We respectfully request your participation regarding the Proposed Project and seek your input. If you or your staff has any questions, comments, or concerns about the Proposed Project, please contact Linda Fisher, Project Team Leader, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures at the address above or at [linda.fisher@dep.nj.gov](mailto:linda.fisher@dep.nj.gov).

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Reinknecht", written over a horizontal line.

Dennis Reinknecht  
Program Manager

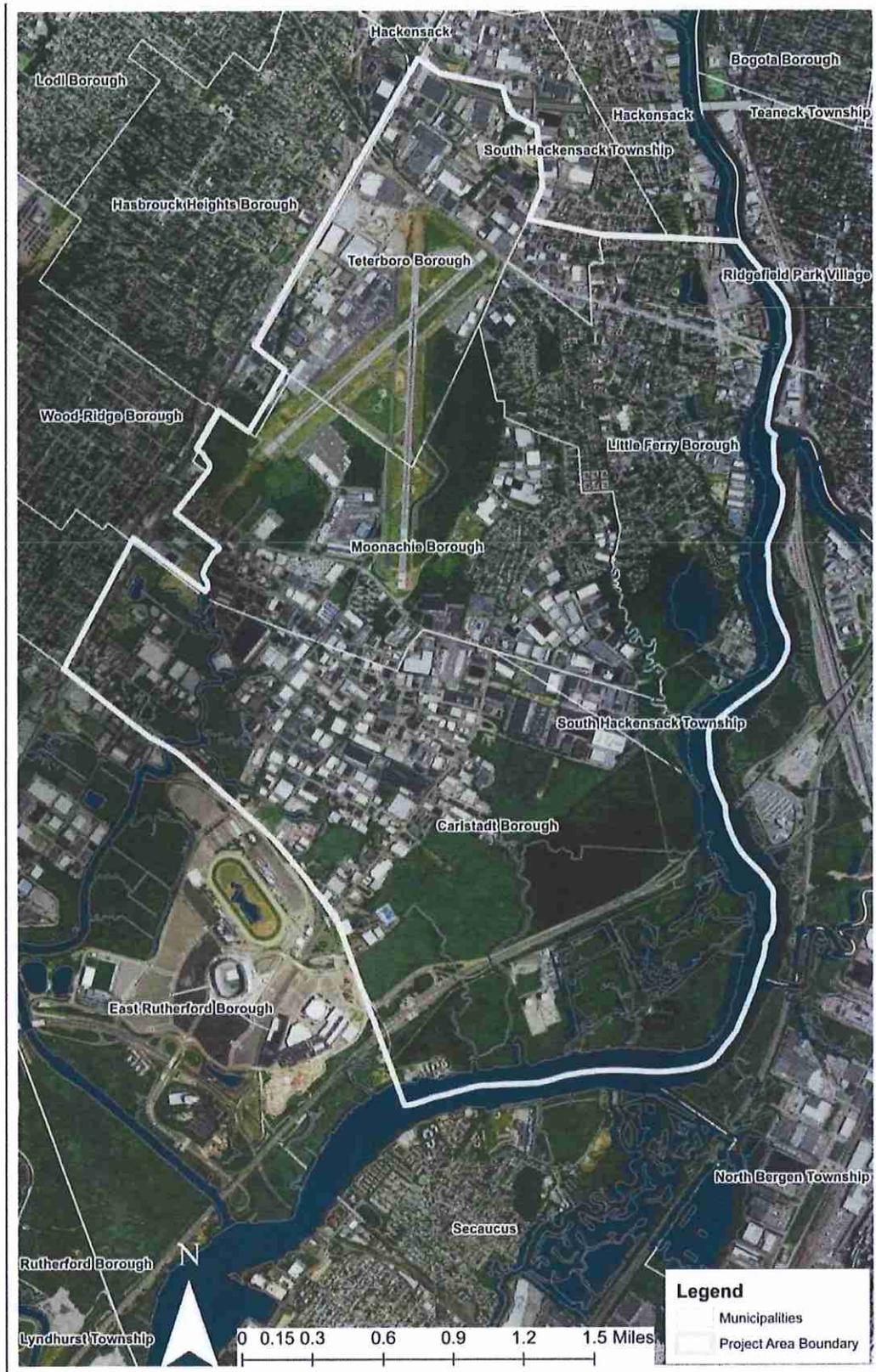


Figure 1. Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project Area