

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project

LEAD AGENCY: In accordance with criteria in 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 1501.5(c), the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has designated the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as the Lead Agency to prepare the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (Proposed Project) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 US Code §§ 4321 et seq.).

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Transit Administration Region 2, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, United States (US) Army Corps of Engineers New York District, and US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2.

ABSTRACT: The Proposed Project is a comprehensive urban water management project designed to reduce the risk of floods from coastal storm surges and/or systemic inland flooding from high-intensity rainfall events. The Proposed Project would be located in 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 purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce flood risk in the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure and facilities, residences, and businesses from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future. The Proposed Project is needed to address: (1) systemic inland flooding from high-intensity rainfall/runoff events; and/or (2) coastal flooding from storm surges. In addition to reducing flooding in the Project Area, the Proposed Project is needed to directly protect life, public health, and property in the Project Area, reduce flood insurance claims from future events, and potentially restore property values to the extent possible with the available funding.

The FEIS includes a detailed project description and describes environmental impacts, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts, associated with three Build Alternatives as well as a No Action Alternative. A range of reasonable alternatives (Alternatives 1, 2, and 3) was evaluated in the FEIS. NJDEP selected Alternative 3 as the Preferred Alternative. However, due to funding and construction constraints, the Alternative 3 features would be separated into two stages: a *Build Plan*, which includes all features to be constructed as part of the Proposed Project, and a *Future Plan*, which includes the remaining features that could be constructed over time by others as funding and construction feasibility permit.

The FEIS reflects revisions made to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) following the Public Comment Period. The DEIS Public Comment Period occurred between June 1, 2018, and July 15, 2018, and included a Public Hearing on June 26, 2018, at the Robert L. Craig Elementary School in the Borough of Moonachie. All comments received on the DEIS, as well as responses to substantive comments, have been included in Appendix P of the FEIS.

Electronic copies of the FEIS are available for public review on the following websites: <http://www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov> and <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review>. CDs and paper copies of the FEIS will also be available for review at the following locations during regular business hours:

- Little Ferry Free Public Library, 239 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ, 07643
- Moonachie Municipal Office at Port Authority, 90 Moonachie Ave, Teterboro, NJ 07608
- Carlstadt Public Library, 420 Hackensack St, Carlstadt, NJ 07072
- Teterboro Municipal Building, 510 US Route 46, Teterboro, NJ 07608
- South Hackensack Municipal Clerk, 227 Phillips Ave, South Hackensack, NJ 07606
- NJDEP Bureau of Flood Resilience, 501 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Comments and related material must be submitted or postmarked on or before November 26, 2018. Comments can be submitted in any of the following ways: (1) emailed to the NJDEP at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; (2) emailed to the NJDCA Sandy Recovery Division (with subject line RBD Meadowlands EIS) at Sandy.Recovery@dca.nj.gov; or (3) mailed or hand delivered to NJDEP or NJDCA directly at:

- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection c/o Dennis Reinknecht, Program Manager, Bureau of Flood Resilience, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0420
- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs c/o Lisa Ryan, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

For further information, please write to or email Dennis Reinknecht, Program Manager, NJDEP Bureau of Flood Resilience, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0420, rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov.