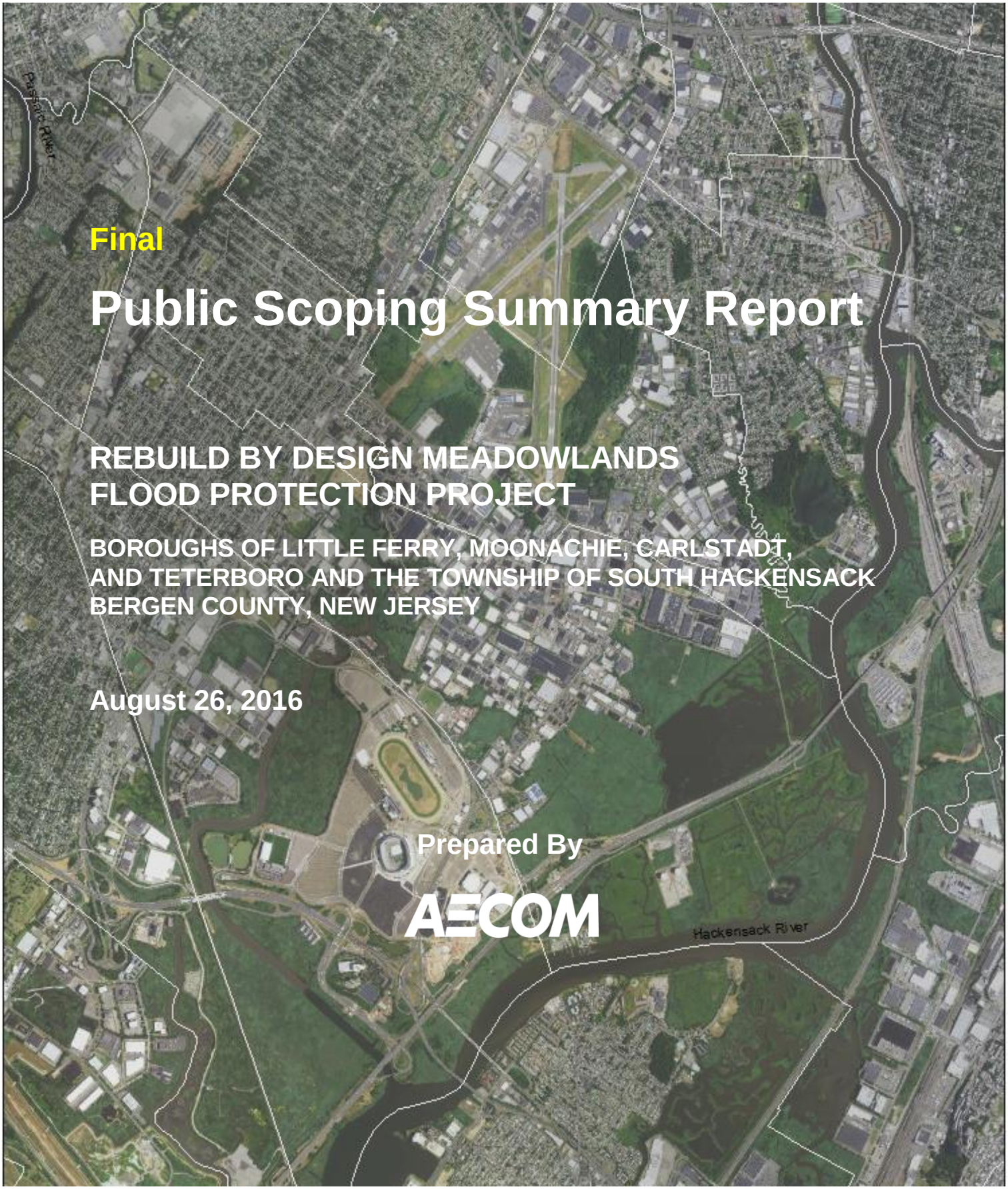
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Final

Public Scoping Summary Report

REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

BOROUGHS OF LITTLE FERRY, MOONACHIE, CARLSTADT, AND TETERBORO AND THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

August 26, 2016

Prepared By

AECOM

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog
Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski
www.renewjerseystronger.org

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction 1-1

2.0 Scoping Process for this Environmental Impact Statement 2-1

2.1 Scoping Period 2-1
2.2 Scoping Activities 2-1
2.2.1 Agency and Other Stakeholder Coordination and Outreach 2-1
2.2.2 Environmental Justice Considerations and Outreach 2-2
2.2.3 Notification and Distribution Methods 2-3
2.2.4 Public Scoping Meeting 2-4

3.0 Public Scoping Comments Received 3-1

4.0 Path Forward – Next Steps 4-1

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Public Scoping Document
Appendix B: Notice of Intent (NOI)
Appendix C: Agency and Other Stakeholders Mailing List
Appendix D: Newspaper Affidavits of Publication
Appendix E: Public Scoping Meeting Materials / Handouts
Appendix F: Court Stenographer Transcript from the Public Scoping Meeting
Appendix G: Agency Comment Letters
Appendix H: Public Scoping Period Comment Matrix

List of Figures

Figure 1-1: Overview of the NEPA Process 1-1

List of Tables

Table 3-1: Summary of Comments Received by Main Topic of Concern 3-2

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASL	American Sign Language
CAG	Citizen Advisory Group
CDBG-DR	Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COP	Citizen Outreach Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
GPI	Guidance for Public Involvement
HUD	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJHPO	New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
NOI	Notice of Intent
RBD	Rebuild by Design
USC	US Code
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 Introduction

This Public Scoping Summary Report has been prepared to document the public scoping process that was conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project). The 30-day public scoping period for this EIS was formally initiated with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 2016 (see **Figure 1-1**).

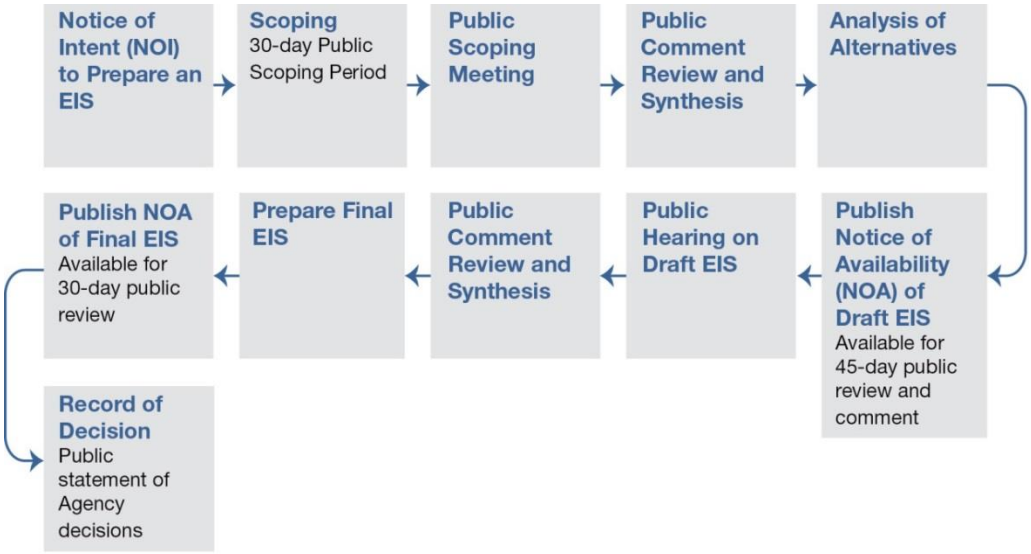


Figure 1-1: Overview of the NEPA Process

The scoping process, as defined at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1501.7, occurs early in the environmental review process and is meant to focus the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 US Code [USC] §§ 4321 *et seq.)* analysis on specific alternatives, issues, concerns, and methods of analysis. A Citizen Outreach Plan (COP) has been developed by NJDEP that describes the efforts being made to engage and collaborate with the general public, including vulnerable and underserved populations, to provide timely information and solicit relevant input. More information concerning both the public scoping process and the overall public involvement and outreach efforts associated with this EIS can be found within the COP and within the Proposed Project's Guidance for Public Involvement (GPI) document. A copy of the NJDEP COP and GPI documents is available on the Proposed Project's website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

As part of the public scoping process required under NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) NEPA Regulations (24 CFR Part 58), a Draft Public Scoping Document was prepared for the Proposed Project and made available for public review and comment during the public scoping period. This Draft Public Scoping Document outlines the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need, initial range of alternatives, resource areas to be addressed in the EIS, proposed analytical methodologies, and other elements associated with the Proposed Project and this NEPA process identified at this early stage. Please refer to the Draft Public Scoping Document located in **Appendix A** for more information.

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

2.0 Scoping Process for this Environmental Impact Statement

2.1 Scoping Period

The public scoping period for this EIS, as outlined in 40 CFR Part 1501.07, formally began with HUD's publication of the NOI to prepare the EIS on June, 20 2016 in the *Federal Register* in accordance with CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1508.22). A copy of the NOI is included in this document as **Appendix B**. The public scoping period concluded on July 21, 2016.

The NOI informed the public about the Proposed Project and NJDEP's intent to prepare an EIS, announced the availability of the Draft Public Scoping Document for public review, invited the public to attend a Public Scoping Meeting on July 6, 2016, and solicited public comments for consideration in establishing the scope and content of the EIS.

2.2 Scoping Activities

The following subsections provide an overview of the public scoping efforts conducted between June 20 and July 21, 2016. These efforts included early coordination with agencies and other stakeholders, environmental justice considerations, public notification and the distribution of project information through various forms of media, and a Public Scoping Meeting.

2.2.1 Agency and Other Stakeholder Coordination and Outreach

Several Federal and State agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise (42 USC §§ 4331(a) and 42 USC §§ 4332(2)) were invited by NJDEP to participate in the NEPA process as Cooperating Agencies. To date, the following agencies have responded to NJDEP that they will participate in the NEPA process as Cooperating Agencies:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Transit Administration, Region 2
- National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)
- New Jersey Transit
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 2

A copy of the letters sent to each agency invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency and those responding with their interest in serving in this capacity is maintained on the Proposed Project's website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, NJDEP must consider the potential effects of this Federal undertaking (Proposed Project) on any historic properties, which are defined as districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects included, or eligible for inclusion, in the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, NJDEP sent letters requesting participation from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, as well as Federally recognized Native American Tribes with potential ancestral ties to the Project Area, to serve as consulting parties in this process. A copy of

these consultation letters and received responses is also maintained on the Proposed Project's website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

In addition to the agencies and Native American Tribes identified above, several other Federal, State, and local agencies and other special interest groups have been invited to participate and provide input on the Proposed Project prior to and during the public scoping period. To date, NJDEP has conducted outreach with approximately 50 stakeholders; a list of these stakeholders is presented in **Appendix C**.

2.2.2 Environmental Justice Considerations and Outreach

Federal Register Notice, Docket No. FR-5696-N-11 (October 16, 2014) requires Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recover (CDBG-DR) funding grantees to "take steps to ensure vulnerable and underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons with limited English proficiency, are involved in the planning and decision-making process throughout the RBD project."

Throughout this NEPA process, NJDEP seeks to meaningfully engage the public, including minority, low-income, and traditionally under-represented and underserved populations, in the environmental review process. For further information regarding compliance with the 2005 Executive Order (EO) 12898 and the 2009 State of New Jersey EO 131 concerning Environmental Justice, please refer to the GPI posted on the NJDEP Proposed Project website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

During the public scoping period, NJDEP implemented the following efforts to support involvement of all populations, including vulnerable and other "Environmental Justice" populations, affected by the Proposed Project:

- The Public Scoping Meeting was advertised extensively within the Project Area, including through municipal websites, social media, and widespread distribution of flyers (including more than 2,500 flyers; see **Section 2.2.3**) in a variety of public locations, and in English, Spanish, and Korean versions.
- Various community leaders and groups were contacted to increase public participation of constituent communities.
- The Public Scoping Meeting was scheduled at a convenient, Americans with Disabilities Act accessible location at an attendee-friendly time to encourage maximum attendance.
- All documents, flyers, and information provided at the Public Scoping Meeting were concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public and made available in English, Spanish, and Korean.
- Interpreter and translation services were provided at the Public Scoping Meeting, including Spanish, Korean, and American Sign Language (ASL).
- The slide presentation, meeting handouts, breakout session presentation boards, and full video recording of the presentation/speakers from the Public Scoping Meeting were made available after the Public Scoping Meeting on the Proposed Project website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.
- Informational materials were developed in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 USC §§ 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

2.2.3 Notification and Distribution Methods

Prior to and during the 30-day Public Scoping Period, NJDEP employed the following notification and distribution methods set forth in the Proposed Project's COP and GPI to solicit comments from Federal, State, and local stakeholders and private citizens on the Draft Public Scoping Document, and to notify them of the Public Scoping Meeting held on July 6, 2016:

- **Newspaper Publications:** The NOI was published in English, Spanish, and Korean in its entirety in three local newspapers: *The Record, El Diario,* and *Korea Central Daily News*. The NOI announced the initiation of the NEPA process and the availability of the Draft Public Scoping Document for review and comment, and the time and location of the Public Scoping Meeting. Affidavits of Publication from these newspapers are included in **Appendix D**.
- **Project Website:** The NJDEP is committed to keeping the public informed of progress on the development and implementation of the Proposed Project. Accordingly, the NJDEP has established a website for the Proposed Project at www.rbdmeadowlands.nj.gov. The Proposed Project website contains all informational and outreach materials (including Spanish and Korean translations), as well as notifications regarding Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) meetings and public meetings/hearings.
- **E-mail:** The NJDEP has established an email address at rbdmeadowlands@dep.nj.gov for the public to ask questions and submit comments concerning the Proposed Project.
- **NJDEP Project Listserv:** The Listserv was developed to publicize public meeting opportunities, announce Proposed Project (website) updates, and keep interested parties apprised of developments throughout the NEPA process. NJDEP used the Listserv to notify area residents, businesses, civic associations, community groups, schools, health care facilities, and similar entities of the release of the NOI, initiation of the public scoping period, availability of the Draft Public Scoping Document for review and comment, and time/location of the Public Scoping Meeting.
- **Citizen Advisory Group:** The CAG, which consists of local residents and others familiar with the Project Area, was recruited to assist with publicizing the Public Scoping Meeting and encouraging public participation in the public scoping process. Among other tasks, CAG members assisted with flyer distribution and word-of-mouth communications.
- **Social Media and Websites:** In an effort to notify the public, NJDEP publicized the Public Scoping Meeting through a number of re-posts on Facebook pages, municipal websites, and other forms of social media (e.g., Twitter).
- **Public Scoping Meeting Flyers:** NJDEP used meeting flyers (see **Appendix E**) to publicize the Public Scoping Meeting. These flyers were emailed to the Listserv mailing list, distributed in bulk to a variety of public locations (e.g., libraries and community centers), distributed to students, and posted on the Proposed Project website. NJDEP made meeting flyers available in English, Spanish, and Korean. A brief summary of the locations and volume of distribution of the meeting flyers are provided below:
    - Vanguard Homes – 125 flyers distributed to resident mailboxes
    - Metropolitan Homes – flyer posted in main community laundry room
    - Borough of Moonachie offices – 50 flyers at the front desk of the municipal offices, and 25 flyers in the Port Authority Building conference room

- Moonachie Civic Center/Moonachie Senior Center – 75 flyers in the Community Room
- Family Success Center – 150 flyers
- Flyer re-distribution by CAG members – approximately 250 flyers
- Schools – flyers distributed in each student backpack
  - Memorial School (935 flyers)
  - Washington School (260 flyers)
  - Little Ferry Pre-K (40 flyers)
  - South Hackensack Memorial School (254 flyers)
  - Carlstadt Public School (625 flyers)

2.2.4 Public Scoping Meeting

The Public Scoping Meeting for the RBD Meadowlands Flood Protection EIS was held between 6:00 and 8:00 PM EDT on July 6, 2016 at the Robert L. Craig School in Moonachie, New Jersey. The purpose of this meeting was to share information and obtain public input on the Proposed Project early in the NEPA process. The meeting was attended by more than 80 people, including mayors and other government officials from the five affected municipalities, HUD and NJDEP representatives, special interest groups, and residents of the Project Area.

NJDEP provided each meeting participant with a meeting packet that included the following handouts and other materials:

- Public Scoping Meeting Flyer
- Draft Public Scoping Document
- What is NEPA? Handout
- Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project Handout
- NEPA Timeline Handout
- Outreach Process Handout
- Top 40 Frequently Asked Questions Handout
- How to Submit Comments Handout
- Comment Card

Meeting packet materials and presentation boards were made available in English, Spanish, and Korean at the Public Scoping Meeting. In addition, NJDEP provided translation and interpreter services at the Public Scoping Meeting, including Spanish, Korean, and ASL.

The Public Scoping Meeting agenda included a formal slide presentation from 6:00 to 6:30 PM, an open comment period from 6:30 to 7:00 PM, and a workshop session from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Key objectives accomplished at the Public Scoping Meeting are listed below:

- Provided the public with current Proposed Project information

- Familiarized the public with NEPA and the current NEPA process
- Identified key public involvement milestones in the NEPA process
- Fostered and stimulated meaningful public involvement
- Identified comment methods and timelines available
- Provided the public with a copy of the Draft Public Scoping Document and other relevant materials
- Provided the public with an opportunity to ask questions and gather information

The Public Scoping Meeting began with an introduction of the NJDEP Team and a slide presentation providing an overview of the Proposed Project, its Purpose and Need, a discussion of the NEPA process, a list of key public involvement milestones, an overview of the design and alternative development process, and a summary of the scope of the EIS.

At the conclusion of the presentation, NJDEP opened the floor to the public. The public was given an opportunity to provide oral comments and ask the NJDEP Team panel questions. Oral comments and questions from this 30-minute session were documented by the court stenographer and videographer in attendance at the meeting.

The court stenographer was in attendance for the full 2-hour meeting. The stenographer documented the formal slide presentation and oral comment period, and was also available to document public comments during the 60-minute workshop session portion of the meeting. A copy of the complete court stenographer transcript is included in **Appendix F**. Additionally, for those who were unable to attend the meeting in person, a full video recording of the formal slide presentation and oral comment period was posted on the Proposed Project website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Upon completion of the oral comment session, NJDEP conducted the workshop session portion of the meeting to provide an opportunity for meeting attendees and Team representatives to engage on a one-on-one basis. The workshop session included the following stations: NJDEP, NEPA Process, Hydrology and Flooding, Biological Resources, Environmental Justice, Hazardous Materials and Waste, a Translator Station, and a Stenographer Station (with Comment Card box). Presentation boards were displayed around the venue to solicit open discussion and additional input from the meeting attendees on the following topics:

- NEPA Timeline
- NEPA Purpose and Need
- NEPA Outreach Process
- Project Area
- Existing Water-Related Infrastructure within each Town
- Current Problem Flooding Areas within each Town
- Hazardous Materials in the Project Area
- Wetlands and Mitigation Banks in the Project Area

A copy of the meeting handouts, presentation slides, and poster presentation boards from the workshop session is included in **Appendix E**. Copies of the Spanish and Korean versions are available on the Proposed Project website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

3.0 Public Scoping Comments Received

During the 30-day Public Scoping Period, NJDEP sought and received comments from the public and relevant agencies both at the Public Scoping Meeting and via written submittal. NJDEP incorporated substantive comments received through this process in the Final Public Scoping Document, which will inform the development of the EIS.

Comments received were organized by an alpha-numeric code based on the agency or stakeholder providing the comment, and the order in which the comments were received. Alpha-numeric codes were defined as follows: Public Scoping Meeting: PSM-000, Federal Agency: FA-000, State Agency: SA-000, Local Agency: LA-000, Private/Public Entity: PE-000 (includes organizations, groups, and/or businesses), and Private Citizen: PC-000.

NJDEP received a total of 83 comments from 24 commenters. Sources of comments included the Public Scoping Meeting (PSM-000) and written comment letters and comment cards from Federal agencies (FA-000), private/public entities (PE-000), and private citizens (PC-000). Comments received during the Public Scoping Meeting held on July 6, 2016 documented in the court stenographer transcript (**Appendix F**) and provided in the Comment Box were given an alphanumeric code of PSM-000, and were not differentiated by stakeholder type. A total of 25 comments from 16 commenters was received at the Public Scoping Meeting. The remaining 58 comments were from 8 commenters, which included the USEPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), four private/public entities, and two private citizens. A copy of the USFWS and USEPA comment letters are included in **Appendix G**.

A complete summary of the 83 comments received and responses to substantive comments are compiled in the Public Scoping Period Comment Matrix, which is included in **Appendix H**. The Comment Matrix is organized by commenter and main topic, and includes each comment along with a response to substantive comments. Responses to comments are further organized and denoted in the matrix as follows.

- Green Cells – The comment was incorporated in the Final Public Scoping Document as suggested by the commenter.
- Blue Cells – No change was made in the Final Public Scoping Document in response to the comment.
- Purple Cells – The comment was incorporated in the Final Public Scoping Document in a different manner from that suggested by the commenter.

Of the 83 comments received on the Draft Public Scoping Document, 32 comments were related to a specific technical resource area. Technical resources areas with the greatest number of comments received, in descending order, are as follows: Biological Resources; Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Flooding; Cultural and Historic Resources; Recreation; and Visual Quality / Aesthetics. The remaining comments included 19 comments on the Proposed Action, 19 comments on the Build Alternatives, 7 comments on the Public Scoping/Outreach Process, 4 comments on the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project, and 2 comments on Cumulative Effects. **Table 3-1** provides a summary of these comments by main topic of concern.

Table 3-1: Summary of Comments Received by Main Topic of Concern

Main Topic of Concern	Total Number of Comments Received	Public Scoping Meeting Comments	Federal Agency Comments	Private Citizen Comments	Private/Public Entity Comments
Proposed Action	19	9	2	2	6
Build Alternatives	19	9	2	0	8
Biological Resources	16	2	4	0	10
Public Scoping / Outreach	7	1	0	1	5
Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	6	1	4	0	1
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	4	0	3	0	1
Purpose and Need	4	0	1	0	3
Hydrology and Flooding	3	1	1	0	1
Cumulative Effects	2	1	1	0	0
Cultural and Historic Resources	1	0	0	0	1
Recreation	1	1	0	0	0
Visual Quality / Aesthetics	1	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	**83**	**25**	**18**	**3**	**37**

4.0 Path Forward – Next Steps

Substantive comments received during the 30-day public scoping period and summarized in this document were used to prepare the Final Public Scoping Document and inform the development of the EIS. Completion of the Final Public Scoping Document marked the beginning of the detailed Alternatives Development and Screening phase of this NEPA process. This phase will invite input from local, State, and Federal entities, as well as the community and other public stakeholders, to help develop the criteria by which the alternatives will be screened, and to evaluate the alternatives developed.

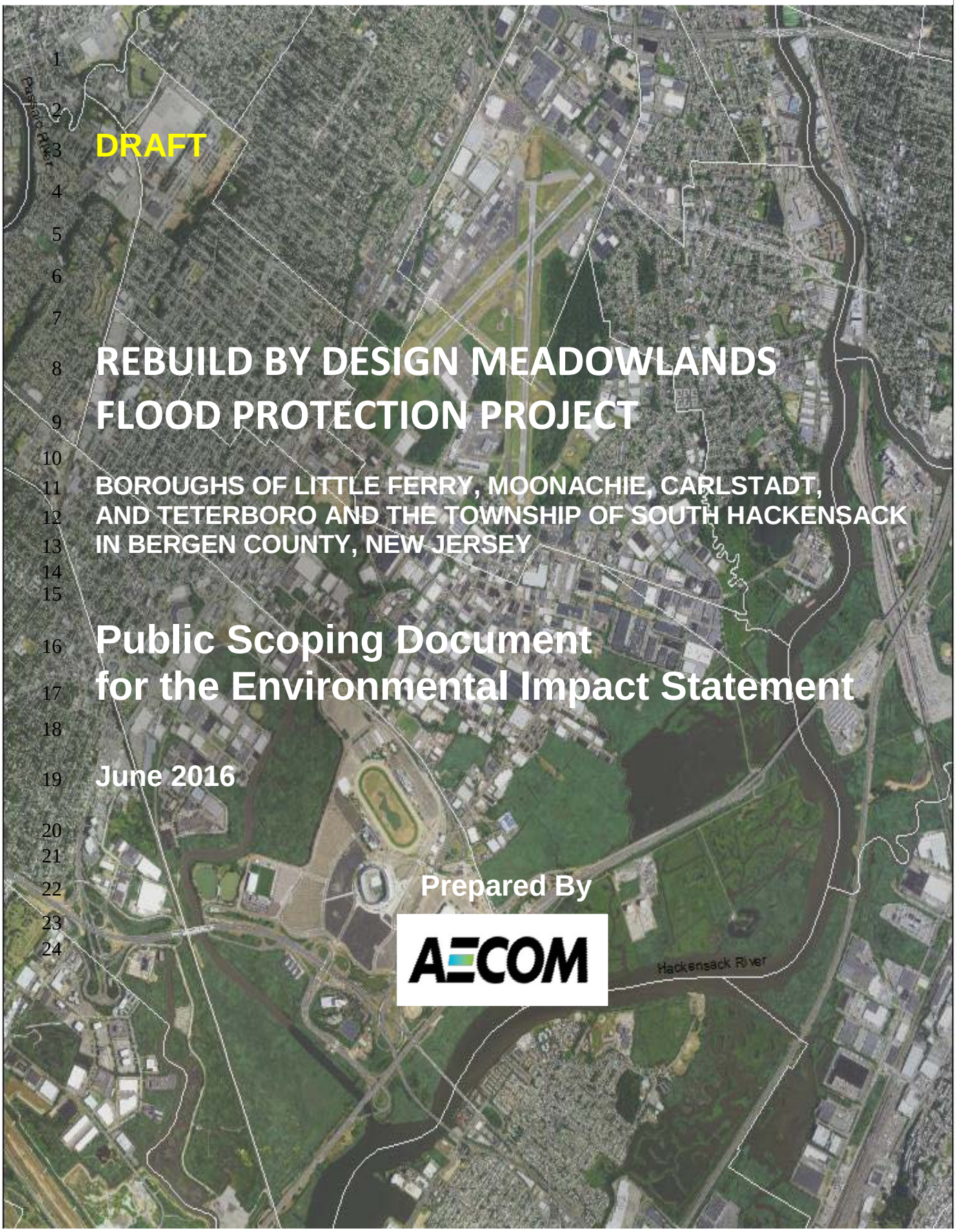
When the environmental analysis is nearing completion, the Draft EIS will be released for public and agency review. At that time, the public will have the opportunity to provide comments orally at a publicized hearing and via written comments during the Draft EIS 45-day review period.

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

Appendix A: Draft Public Scoping Document

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



DRAFT

REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

BOROUGHS OF LITTLE FERRY, MOONACHIE, CARLSTADT, AND TETERBORO AND THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK IN BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Public Scoping Document for the Environmental Impact Statement

June 2016

Prepared By

AECOM

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog
Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski
www.renewjerseystronger.org

Public DRAFT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS ..... **iii**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... **v**

1.0 INTRODUCTION **1**
1.1 Overview 1
1.2 History of Flooding in the Project Area 1
1.3 Rebuild By Design Competition 3
1.4 Federal Proposed Project 3
1.5 Overview of the Public Scoping Document 3
1.6 Overview of the NEPA Process 4

2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK **6**

3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT **6**
3.1 Meadowlands History 6
3.2 Proposed Project Background 7
3.3 Proposed Project Evolution 9

4.0 PURPOSE AND NEED **9**
4.1 Purpose 9
4.2 Need 9
4.3 Proposed Project Goals and Objectives 11

5.0 PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES **11**
5.1 Alternatives Development 12
5.2 Alternatives Screening 12
5.3 Proposed Project Alternatives 13

6.0 POTENTIAL REGULATORY APPROVALS **14**
6.1 Federal Regulatory Approvals 14
6.2 State of New Jersey Regulatory Approvals 14
6.3 Local and Municipal Approvals 15

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPE OF WORK **15**
7.1 Alternatives Development and Analysis 15
7.2 Public Involvement 16
7.3 Technical Resource Areas 16
7.3.1 Land Use and Land Use Planning 16
7.3.2 Visual Quality/Aesthetics 17
7.3.3 Socioeconomics and Community/Population and Housing 17
7.3.4 Environmental Justice 17
7.3.5 Cultural and Historic Resources 18
7.3.6 Transportation and Circulation 21
7.3.7 Noise 22
7.3.8 Air Quality 23
7.3.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) 24
7.3.10 Global Climate Change/Sea Level Rise 24
7.3.11 Recreation 24

Public DRAFT

7.3.12 Utilities and Service Systems 25
7.3.13 Public Services 25
7.3.14 Biological Resources 25
7.3.15 Geology and Soils 29
7.3.16 Hydrology and Flooding 29
7.3.17 Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the United States 30
7.3.18 Coastal Zone Management 31
7.3.19 Hazards and Hazardous Materials 32
7.3.20 Mineral and Energy Resources 33
7.3.21 Agricultural Resources and Prime Farmlands 33
7.4 Cumulative Impacts 33
8.0 REFERENCES REVIEWED 35

FIGURES

Figure 1. Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project Area 2
Figure 2. Overview of the NEPA Process 5
Figure 3. Meadowlands Program Area 8
Figure 4. FEMA's Digital Flood Insurance Rate Mapping within the Project Area 10
Figure 5. The Hackensack Meadowlands Ecosystem 26

Public DRAFT

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE	Area of Potential Effect
AUL	Activity and Use Limitation
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAG	Citizen Advisory Group
CDBG-DR	Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
COP	Citizen Outreach Plan
CREC	Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition
CRP	Comprehensive Restoration Plan
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted Decibel
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EDR	Environmental Data Resources
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
EPW	Evaluation of Planned Wetlands
EJ	Environmental Justice
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FR	Federal Register
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPI	Guidance for Public Involvement
HMD	Hackensack Meadowlands District
HREC	Historical Recognized Environmental Condition
HUD	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
I	Interstate
LSRP	Licensed Site Remediation Professionals
MERI	Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute

Public DRAFT

MIKE3	Time-variable Water Quality Model
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NJAC	New Jersey Administrative Code
NJDA	New Jersey Department of Agriculture
NJDCA	New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJ SHPO	New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office
NJPDES	New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NJSA	New Jersey Statutes Annotated
NJSEA	New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority
NJTPA	New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O_3	Ozone
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
RBD	Rebuild by Design
REC	Recognized Environmental Condition
ROD	Record of Decision
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SOI	Secretary of the Interior
TCT	Technical Coordination Team
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
US	United States
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USC	US Code
USCG	US Coast Guard
USGS	US Geological Survey
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
WET	Wetlands Evaluation Technique

Public DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), on behalf of the State of New Jersey through its Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), as the recipient of United States (US) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds and as the "Responsible Entity," as that term is defined by HUD regulations at 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 58.2(a)(7)(i), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project).

In accordance with criteria in 40 CFR Part 1501.5(c), NJDCA has designated NJDEP as the Lead Agency to prepare the EIS for the Proposed Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 US Code [USC] 4321 *et seq*.).

The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of alternatives for the construction of flood risk reduction measures within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, all in Bergen County, New Jersey (the Project Area).

Such measures will be designed to address the impacts of coastal and inland flooding on the quality of the physical, natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment in the Project Area due to both sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events.

The approximate Project Area boundaries are: the 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.

The State of New Jersey, through NJDCA, is the Grantee of HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) funds that have been appropriated under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113–2, approved January 29, 2013) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that was declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act) in calendar year 2012 for Hurricane Sandy.

The Proposed Project was developed and selected as a winning concept through HUD's and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's RBD competition. The RBD competition promoted the development of innovative resilience projects in the Sandy-affected region. HUD has allocated $150 million in CDBG-DR funds for the planning, design, and implementation of this Proposed Project. Receipt of CDBG-DR funding requires compliance with NEPA.

The 30-day public scoping period for this EIS will formally initiate with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS in the *Federal Register*. As part of the public scoping process required under NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and HUD's NEPA Regulations (24 CFR 58), this Draft Public Scoping Document for the Proposed Project has been prepared and made available for public review and comment. This Draft Public Scoping Document outlines the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need, initial range of alternatives, resource areas to be addressed in the EIS, proposed analytical methodologies, and other elements associated with the Proposed Project and this NEPA process as known at this early stage.

Public DRAFT

The EIS will examine three Build Alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative. Each of the three Build Alternatives will seek 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.

Each alternative is being evaluated through the ongoing engineering Feasibility Study and application of preliminary screening criteria. This analysis will determine what designs and strategies best address the impacts from the two types of flooding (coastal storm surge and systemic inland flooding). The next phase of the alternatives development will be the evaluation of those alternatives; the community will be engaged to help develop screening criteria that will determine how well each of the alternatives meets the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need. These alternatives will be further developed and modified as the EIS process proceeds.

Following the public scoping process, a Draft EIS (DEIS) will be prepared that analyzes the Proposed Project. Once the DEIS is certified as complete, a notice will be sent to appropriate government agencies, groups, and individuals known to have an involvement or interest in the DEIS, and particularly in the environmental impact issues identified therein. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the DEIS will be published in the *Federal Register* and local media outlets at that time in accordance with HUD and CEQ regulations.

The resources to be analyzed within the EIS, as well as the methods proposed to analyze these resources, are set forth in **Section 7.0** of this document. The methods for assessing cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Project are also described in **Section 7.0**.

This Draft Public Scoping Document will be finalized to reflect substantive comments received during the public scoping period, and used as input during the development of the EIS. *This project-specific NEPA process will extend for approximately 19 months, from early June 2016 through approximately December 31, 2017.*

Public DRAFT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), on behalf of the State of New Jersey through its Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), as the recipient of United States (US) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds and as the "Responsible Entity," as that term is defined by HUD regulations at 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 58.2(a)(7)(i), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project).

In accordance with criteria in 40 CFR Part 1501.5(c), NJDCA has designated NJDEP as the Lead Agency to prepare the EIS for the Proposed Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 US Code [USC] 4321 *et seq*.).

The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of the Proposed Project alternatives within 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 Project Area has the following approximate boundaries: the Hackensack River to the east; Paterson Plank Road 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. **Figure 1** displays an aerial view of the Project Area.

The 30-day public scoping period for this EIS will formally initiate with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS in the *Federal Register*. As part of the public scoping process required under NEPA the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and HUD's NEPA Regulations (24 CFR 58), this Draft Public Scoping Document for the Proposed Project has been prepared and made available for public review and comment. This Draft Public Scoping Document outlines, to the extent known at this early stage in the planning process, the Proposed Project Actions, potential alternatives, and a description of areas of potential impact to be analyzed in the EIS, as well as proposed methodologies to assess impacts.

This Draft Public Scoping Document will be finalized to reflect substantive comments received during the public scoping period, and used as input during the development of the EIS. This project-specific NEPA process will extend for approximately 19 months, from early June 2016 through approximately December 31, 2017.

1.2 History of Flooding in the Project Area

The Project Area is vulnerable to flooding from: (1) systemic inland[1] flooding from high-intensity rainfall/runoff events; and (2) coastal flooding from storm surges and abnormally high tides. Within the Project Area, rainfall-induced flooding is more common and happens more frequently than coastal storm surge flooding.

PUBLIC DRAFT

[1] **Inland flooding** occurs when moderate precipitation accumulates over several days, intense precipitation falls over a short period, or rivers or streams overflow (fluvial flooding) because of an ice or debris jam or dam or levee failure.

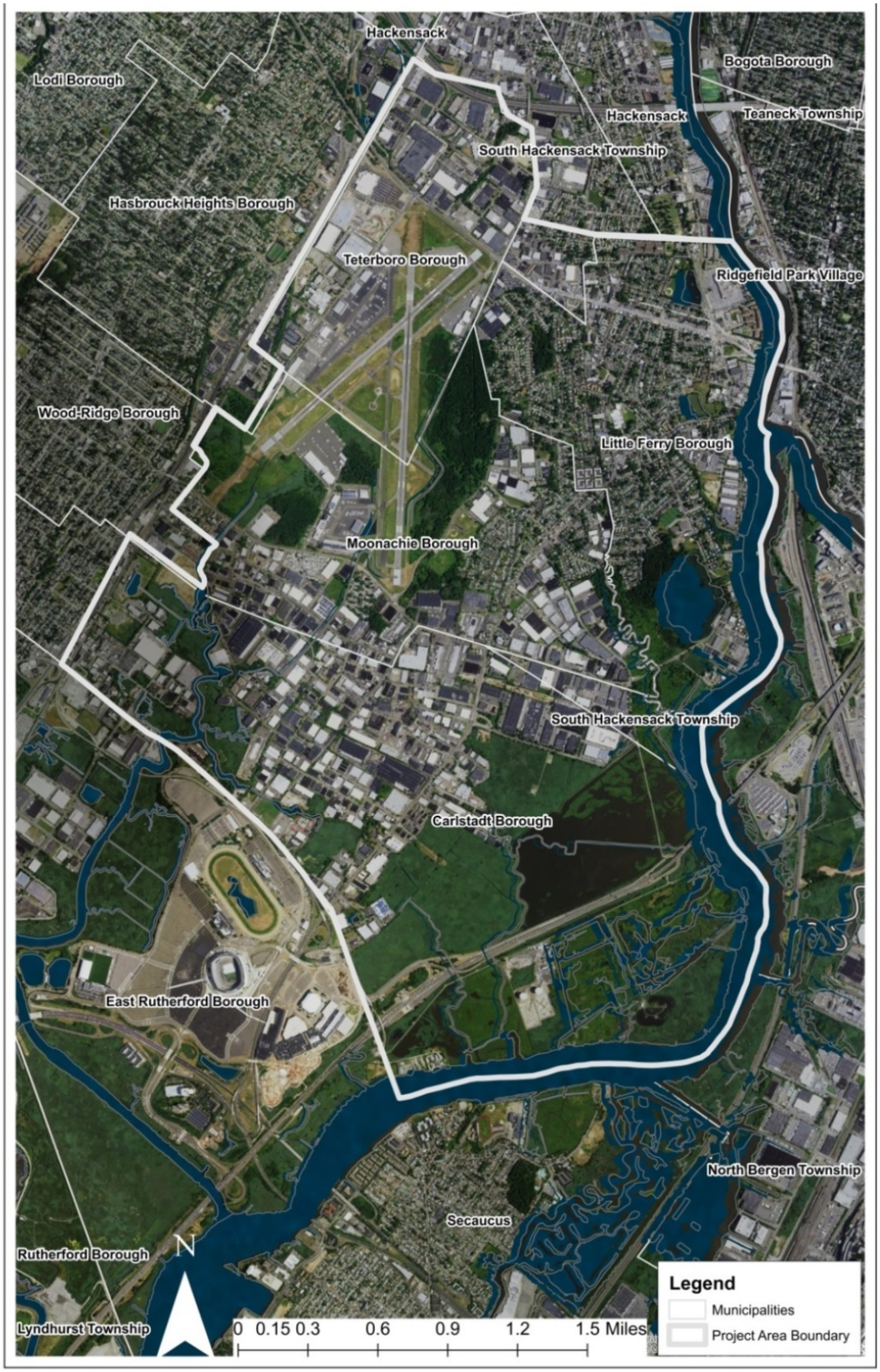


Figure 1. Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project Area

Hurricane Sandy exposed the vulnerabilities within the Project Area after low-lying areas were inundated by coastal storm surges in October 2012. Hurricane Sandy significantly impacted the Project Area, highlighting existing deficiencies in the Project Area's resiliency and ability to adequately protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure from flooding during major storm events. These impacts included extensive inland flooding due to major tidal surges, with significant damage to residential and commercial properties; impacts to critical health care facilities; and the failure of critical power, transportation, and water and sewer infrastructure.

During Hurricane Sandy, the impacts of rainfall flooding were considerably less than those from coastal storm surge flooding. If Hurricane Sandy had been a substantial rainfall event as well as a storm surge event, the Project Area's past history of flooding during heavy rainfall events indicates that Hurricane Sandy could have further increased flood levels and property damages. For more information on the history of the Project Area, please refer to **Section 3.1**.

1.3 Rebuild By Design Competition

HUD launched the RBD competition in the summer of 2013 (July 29, 2013, 78 Federal Register [FR] 45551) to develop ideas to improve physical, ecological, economic, and social resilience in regions affected by Hurricane Sandy. The competition sought to promote innovation by developing flexible solutions that would increase regional resilience.

The Proposed Project was one of the competition's winning concepts; it was developed with the goal of reducing frequent flooding due to storm surge, high tide, and heavy rainfall. The Proposed Project was selected as a comprehensive urban water strategy to reduce flood hazard and flood-related public health risks within the Project Area. 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 Project Area.

1.4 Federal Proposed Project

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 NEPA, and an EIS must be prepared. CDBG-DR funding requires compliance with NEPA as stated in HUD's regulations outlined in 24 CFR Part 58 (*Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities*). The Proposed Project is also subject to the CEQ's Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. HUD has further outlined the Proposed Project's environmental review requirements in a *Federal Register* notice published on October 16, 2014 (79 FR 62182).

In accordance with 42 USC 5304(g) and HUD's regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, HUD has provided for assumption of its NEPA authority by the State of New Jersey through the NJDCA, with NJDCA delegating NEPA Lead Agency responsibility to 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 found at 40 CFR Parts 1500 –1508, and HUD regulations found at 24 CFR Part 58.

1.5 Overview of the Public Scoping Document

On June 20, 2016, HUD published in the *Federal Register* a NOI to prepare an EIS in accordance with CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1508.22). This notification formally initiated the NEPA process, and represented the beginning of the public scoping process as outlined in 40 CFR Part 1501.07.

Public scoping is a critical and necessary component of the NEPA process, and serves to focus the initial stage of the process on the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need, potential

Public DRAFT

alternatives, and environmental issues, concerns, and methods of analysis. As part of the public scoping process, this Draft Public Scoping Document has been prepared and made available for public comment.

The Draft Public Scoping Document outlines and describes, to the extent known at this early stage in the planning process, the following:

- ✓ Proposed Project's Purpose and Need
- ✓ Proposed Project
- ✓ Potential Alternatives
- ✓ Areas of potential impact to be analyzed in the EIS.

The publication of the NOI and the concurrent release of this Draft Public Scoping Document initiate a 30-day public scoping period. During this 30-day period, comments will be sought from the public and relevant agencies both at a publicized scoping meeting and via written submittal. Substantive comments will be used to prepare the Final Public Scoping Document and inform the development of the EIS.

A Citizen Outreach Plan (COP) has also been developed and made available online that describes the efforts being made to engage and collaborate with the general public, including vulnerable and underserved populations, to provide timely information and solicit relevant input. More information concerning both the public scoping process and the overall public involvement and outreach efforts associated with this EIS can be found within the COP, which is more fully supported relative to this NEPA process within the Proposed Project's Guidance for Public Involvement (GPI).

The COP, as well as additional data concerning the Proposed Project, can be found on the Proposed Project's website at:
www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov
NJDEP has established an email address to receive input into this NEPA process:
rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

1.6 Overview of the NEPA Process

Completion of the Final Public Scoping Document will mark the beginning of the detailed Alternatives Development and Screening phase. This phase will invite input from local, State, and Federal entities, as well as the community and other public stakeholders, to help develop the criteria by which the alternatives will be screened, and to evaluate the alternatives developed.

This outreach will occur primarily through periodic Technical Coordination Team (TCT) meetings and Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) meetings. The TCT is composed of regulatory agencies having potential purview over the Proposed Project. The CAG is comprised of local key stakeholders, including local citizens within, and in the vicinity of, the Project Area, as well as representatives from local governance and other organizations. The CAG has been established as the primary point of coordination between the Proposed Project Team and the local communities.

AECOM, as the NJDEP's NEPA consultant on the Proposed Project Team, will present and discuss technical activities involving the Proposed Project to and with the CAG members at the request of the NJDEP. The CAG meetings will be conducted as outlined in the Proposed Project's COP. The Alternatives Development and Screening phase, once complete, will lead to the identification of three Build Alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative. These three Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative (pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1502.14(d)), will undergo further analysis within the EIS.

Public DRAFT

The DEIS is the first formal step in documenting the environmental analysis of the Proposed Project. The DEIS will describe the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need; discuss the alternatives analysis process and the public participation process; describe the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative; describe the affected natural and built environment; provide an analysis of potential impacts; and identify potential mitigation measures that could be used to avoid, reduce, or compensate for anticipated impacts.

The DEIS, once prepared, will be published via a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* and local media outlets in accordance with HUD and CEQ regulations. Following the publication of the NOA, there will be a 45-day public review and comment period, during which the DEIS will be made available to the general public for comment (including at a formal public hearing), and circulated to stakeholders, groups, and government agencies that have been identified as having particular interest in, or jurisdiction over, the Proposed Project.

At the conclusion of the 45-day comment period for the DEIS, NJDEP will incorporate substantive public comments into the document and compile the Final EIS (FEIS). The FEIS will be circulated in the same manner as the DEIS (including the publication of a NOA in the *Federal Register* and local media) and will have a review/comment period of 30 days. At that time, NJDEP will determine whether a public hearing on the FEIS is appropriate.

If no additional substantive comments are received during the FEIS comment period, NJDEP will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) and Statement of Findings. The ROD will summarize the Government's decision, identify the Environmentally Preferable Alternative, select the Alternative that will be implemented, and identify the potential environmental impacts of that Alternative, as well as the mitigation measures that the Government will implement. If additional substantive comments are received during the FEIS comment period, NJDEP will address these comments in the ROD.

An overview of the NEPA process is provided in **Figure 2**.

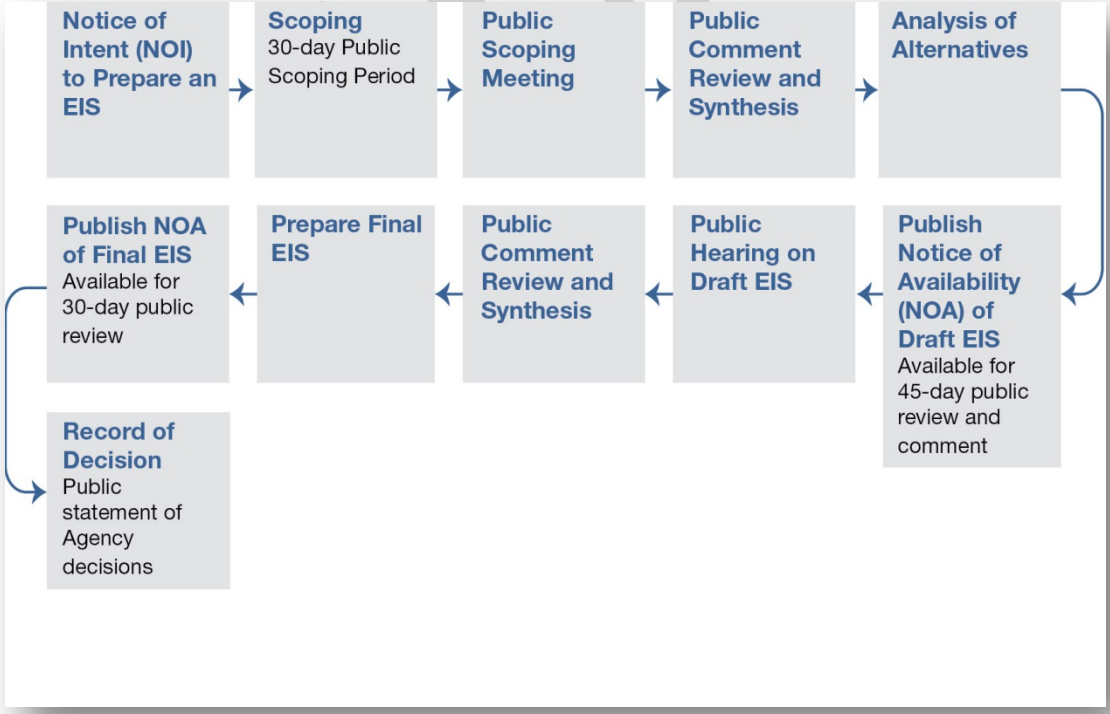


Figure 2. Overview of the NEPA Process

2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As described in **Sections 1.3** and **1.4**, HUD's award comes in the form of CDBG-DR funds that require compliance with HUD's Environmental Review Procedures as outlined in 24 CFR Part 58, as well as with NEPA and the CEQ's Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. In accordance with these regulations, the Proposed Project also must comply with other Federal regulations and Executive Orders (EOs), including but not limited to the following:

- ✓ Clean Air Act (CAA) and Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
- ✓ HUD Air Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 6, 51, & 93)
- ✓ Clean Water Act, Sections 401 and 404, as amended
- ✓ Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- ✓ Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966
- ✓ Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973
- ✓ Floodplain Management and Wetland Protection (EOs 11988 and 11990)
- ✓ Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
- ✓ Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973
- ✓ National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 USC 5154a)
- ✓ Environmental Justice (EJ) (EO 12898)
- ✓ HUD Contaminated and Toxic Substances Regulations (24 CFR Part 50.3[i] and 24 CFR Part 58.5[i][2])
- ✓ Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978
- ✓ HUD Noise Abatement and Control Standards (24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B)
- ✓ Siting of HUD Assisted Projects in Runway Clear Zones at Civil Airports and Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones at Military Airfields (24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D).

3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

3.1 Meadowlands History

The Proposed Project is located within the New Jersey Meadowlands. The Meadowlands are an essential component of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary and part of the largest wetland ecosystem in northern New Jersey (US Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 1997). The Meadowlands are located in a valley between the Palisades to the east and a parallel western ridge, both of which run in a southwest to northeast direction (New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority [NJSEA] 2004). Elevations of the Meadowlands range from 0 to 10 feet above sea level (USFWS 1997). The area is prone to chronic flooding due to the nature of the landscape, elevation above sea level, complexity of tidal influence, and inadequate storm water management systems (NJSEA 2004).

Historically, the Meadowlands contained approximately 17,000 acres of waters and pristine wetlands featuring wetland cover types such as tidal marsh, hardwood forest, and Atlantic white-cedar swamp (NJSEA 2004). An estimated 8,400 acres of wetlands and waterways remain in the Meadowlands as a result of decades of extensive destruction and disturbance from activities including development, dredging, draining, and landfilling (NJSEA 2004; USFWS 1997). In addition, historic construction of dikes and tide gates, in an attempt to control and reduce flooding events, has further affected the integrity and spatial configuration of the Meadowlands and altered its biodiversity (NJSEA 2004). Despite its

Public DRAFT

developed nature, the Meadowlands provide an oasis of diverse habitats for plants and wildlife in the urban New York-New Jersey metropolitan region (NJSEA 2004; USFWS 1997).

Approximately 8,600 acres of the former Meadowlands, as noted above, have been developed and altered by human activity, including extensive land use and land cover changes, and the creation of large areas of impervious surfaces. As a result of these man-made changes throughout the Meadowlands, development within the Project Area is vulnerable to both inland and coastal flooding.

3.2 Proposed Project Background

Hurricane Sandy significantly impacted the Project Area, highlighting existing deficiencies in the Project Area's resiliency and ability to adequately protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure from flooding during major storm events. These impacts included extensive inland flooding due to major tidal surges, with significant damage to residential and commercial properties; impacts to critical health care facilities; and the failure of critical power, transportation, and water and sewer infrastructure.

The Proposed Project was developed and selected as a winning concept through HUD's and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's RBD competition. The RBD competition promoted the development of innovative resilience projects in the Sandy-affected region. The Proposed Project is a component of a regional concept proposal for the New Jersey Meadowlands (the Meadowlands Program Area) that aims to reduce flooding risks and potentially provide ancillary benefits.

As originally proposed during the RBD competition, the concept envisioned creating a system of natural areas, berms, and additional wetlands to reduce flooding risks. The original concept also articulated an integrated vision for protecting, connecting, and growing the Meadowlands, as a critical asset, to both the rest of New Jersey and the metropolitan area of New York. By integrating transportation, ecology, and development, the awarded concept sought to transform the Meadowlands basin to address a wide spectrum of risks, while providing potential civic amenities and creating opportunities for new redevelopment.

The entire Meadowlands Program Area is shown in **Figure 3.** As described in **Section 1.3,** HUD awarded $150 million in CDBG-DR funds to the State of New Jersey for the Proposed Project, specifically for the "Phase 1 Pilot Area." The Phase 1 Pilot Area is now referred to as the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project Area, as shown in **Figure 1**.

The RBD award-winning concept took a multi-faceted approach intended to address flooding from both major storm surges and high tides, as well as from heavy rainfall events, with several potential ancillary benefits. The concept's comprehensive approach to resilience consisted of three integrated components: Protect, Connect, and Grow.

1. *Protect:* Provide flood protection through a combination of hard infrastructure (such as bulkheads or floodwalls) and soft landscaping features (such as berms and/or levees) that act as barriers during exceptionally high tide and/or storm surge events. Flood control structures would be complemented with freshwater basins and expanded Meadowlands wetlands to increase flood storage capacity. A proposed Meadowpark, envisioned as a natural reserve and expansion of the existing marsh, would offer additional flood protection and connection of surrounding developments to the Meadowlands through its views and recreational offerings.

2. *Connect:* Increase connectivity in and between Meadowlands towns with a "Meadowband" (multi-use levee) that would include a new local street, recreational facilities and access, and a Bus Rapid Transit line that would provide improved connectivity and access within the Project Area, much in the same way 5th Avenue and 8th Avenue frame Central Park in New York City.

3. *Grow:* Through improved flood control, an ancillary benefit of re-zoning and up-zoning newly protected areas could become real. Through re-zoning, the local development pattern could transform

Public DRAFT

from lower density, suburban-type development to a denser, better planned, multi-functional, and multi-level mixed use of offices, warehousing, retail, and residential development.

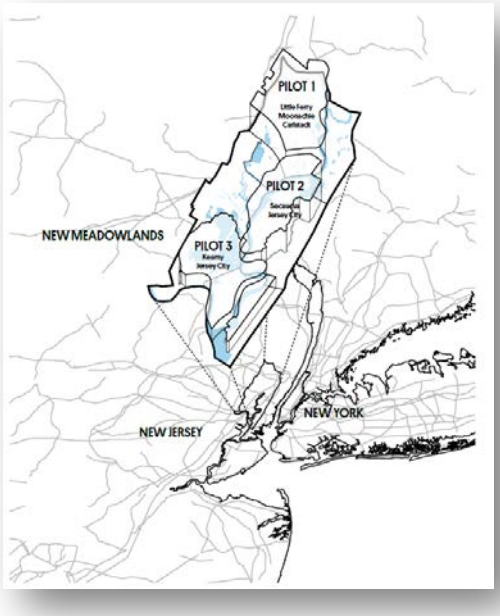


Figure 3.
Meadowlands Program Area

Source: RBD Design Competition, New Meadowlands (2015).

Note: This NEPA analysis focuses on the area labeled as "Pilot #1," which is the Project Area of the EIS. All three Pilot Areas are shown here to depict the complete scope of the overall Meadowlands Program Area.

Public

3.1 Proposed Project Evolution

Based on the amount of CDBG-DR funding (i.e., $150M) provided by HUD for the "Phase 1 Pilot Area," now referred to as the Project Area, NJDEP has determined that the Proposed Project, in application, will focus primarily on reducing flood risk within the Project Area (i.e., the "Protect" component of the "Protect, Connect, Grow" concept). Potential ancillary "Connect" and "Grow" components of the winning concept, while not funded specifically at this point, could be logical and reasonable future outcomes following implementation of the critical "Protect" function as additional funding is identified, secured, and made available. It is reasonable to conclude that once the Project Area enjoys increased flood protection, additional transportation, ecological, and redevelopment improvements could occur.

4.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

4.1 Purpose

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 Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future.

4.2 Need

The Meadowlands are situated in a valley or "bowl" with ridges on its sides that run parallel in a southwest to northeast direction. In some locations, these ridges are over 100 feet above sea level. Comprised of mostly flat terrain, elevations within the Meadowlands do not exceed 10 feet above sea level, with most areas less than 6 to 7 feet above sea level. Flow of water within the Project Area is greatly affected not only by local topography, but also by patterns of urbanization and development. In addition, historic construction of dikes and tide gates in an attempt to control and reduce flooding events has further affected the integrity and spatial configuration of the Project Area and altered its biodiversity.

As shown in **Figure 4**, the majority of the Project Area, including critical community infrastructure, is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated 100-year[2] floodplain. **Figure 4** also shows existing tide gates and pump stations within the Project Area. These data were obtained from the NJSEA, and reviewed and supplemented by the CAG and local towns.

The Project Area's exposure to flood hazard risks is evident by the number of properties included in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Mortgage lenders for properties within the Special Flood Hazard Area (i.e., Zone AE) require property owners to obtain flood insurance from the NFIP. In addition, property owners receiving awards following presidentially declared disasters (such as Hurricane Sandy) are also often required to obtain NFIP insurance.

The interrelationship between coastal flooding and rainfall events contributes to the recurring flooding conditions throughout the Project Area. Each component represents challenges and needs to be addressed within the context of an overall flood reduction strategy for the Project Area. As such, the Proposed Project is needed to address: (1) systemic inland flooding from high-intensity rainfall/runoff events, and (2) coastal flooding from storm surges and abnormally high tides.

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. The Proposed Project seeks to reduce flood insurance rates and claims from future events, and potentially restore property values to the extent possible.

[2] A 100-year flood is a flood event that has a 1% probability of occurring in any given year.

PUBLIC DRAFT

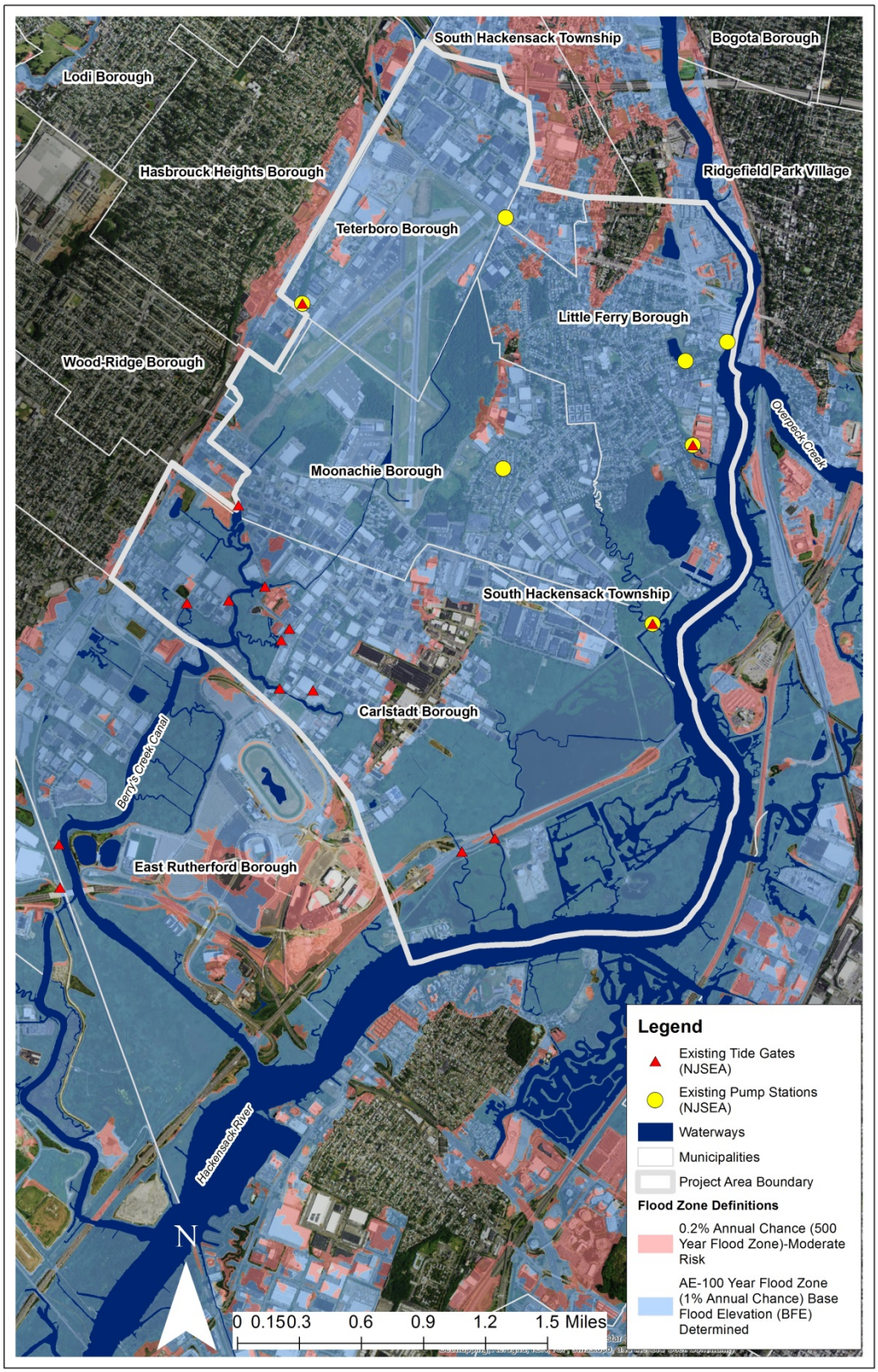


Figure 4. FEMA's Digital Flood Insurance Rate Mapping within the Project Area

The Proposed Project is further needed to increase community resiliency, including protecting accessibility to, and on-going operations of, critical health care services, emergency services, and transportation and utility infrastructure.

The Proposed Project could also deliver co-benefits through the protection of ecological resources and enhancement of water quality, which in turn could benefit regional biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency. In addition, the Proposed Project could potentially integrate the flood hazard risk reduction strategy with civic, cultural, and recreational values to incorporate active and passive recreational uses, multi-use facilities, public spaces, and other design elements that integrate the Proposed Project into the fabric of the community to the extent practicable with the available funding.

4.3 Proposed Project Goals and Objectives

The Proposed Project is an urban water strategy whose overall purpose is to reduce flood hazard risks and flood-related public health risks with available funding. The ability to meet this purpose will be measured in terms of the following project goals and objectives:

- *Goal: Contribute to Community Resiliency.* The Proposed Project would integrate a flood hazard risk reduction strategy with existing and proposed land uses and assets. The Proposed Project would reduce flood risks within the Project Area, leading to improved resiliency and the protection of accessibility and on-going operations of services (including protecting critical infrastructure such as hospitals, fire stations, and police department buildings; and roadways and transit resources). This would allow these key assets to support emergency preparedness and community resiliency during and after flood events.
- *Goal: Reduce Risks to Public Health.* In addition to providing protection to critical healthcare infrastructure (such as local hospitals and emergency services), the flood risk reduction strategy would reduce the adverse health impacts associated with these types of flood events.
- *Goal: Contribute to On-going Community Efforts to Reduce FEMA Flood Insurance Rates.* The NFIP's Community Rating System allows municipalities to reduce their flood insurance rates through implementation of comprehensive floodplain management. The Proposed Project would propose concepts and alternatives that are consistent with the local municipalities' overall effort to reduce FEMA Flood Insurance Rates.
- *Goal: Deliver Co-Benefits.* Where possible, the Proposed Project would integrate the flood hazard risk reduction strategy with civic, cultural, ecological, and recreational values. The Proposed Project would strive to incorporate active and passive recreational uses, multi-use facilities, and other design elements that integrate the Proposed Project into the fabric of the community. In this way, the Proposed Project would complement local strategies for future growth, to the extent possible.
- *Goal: Enhance and Improve Use of Public Space.* The Proposed Project would strive to include concepts that reduce risks to private and public property from flood impacts while also incorporating design elements that improve public and recreational spaces, thereby enhancing quality of life for the community.
- *Goal: Consider Impacts from Sea Level Rise.* The Proposed Project would consider the projected impacts from sea level rise and its impacts on the frequency and degree of flooding.
- *Goal: Protect Ecological Resources.* The Proposed Project would strive to protect and enhance ecological resources by protecting wetlands and other habitats that contribute to regional biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency.

Public DRAFT

- *Goal: Improve Water Quality*. The Proposed Project may incorporate green infrastructure solutions into the design and construction of proposed flood risk reduction measures to manage storm water runoff, reduce storm water pollution, and improve water quality.

5.0 PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The ongoing engineering Feasibility Study will develop and analyze initial flood risk reduction alternatives that address the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need (i.e., as part of the Alternatives Development and Screening process). This analysis will determine what designs and strategies best address the impacts from the two types of flooding (coastal storm surge and systemic inland flooding). The next step in the Alternatives Development and Screening process will be the evaluation of those alternatives; the community and government entities will be engaged to help develop appropriate screening criteria, which will be used to determine how well each of the alternatives meets the Purpose and Need. This will ultimately lead to the selection of the Proposed Project's three Build Alternatives. The Build Alternatives will then be advanced for further environmental review within the EIS.

5.1 Alternatives Development

The Alternatives Development process will involve the identification of flooding sources, locations of flooding, and the crafting of potential flood risk reduction alternatives. As stated previously, the Project Area is subject to two sources of flooding – coastal storm surge events and systemic inland flooding from moderate to severe rainfall events. As part of the engineering Feasibility Study, an integrated coastal and inland flooding model will be developed to identify the locations of flooding and evaluate the effectiveness of various flood risk reduction alternatives to reduce flood impacts.

The success of constructing a reliable, permanent, and comprehensive flood risk reduction system depends on designing project alternatives that take into consideration existing infrastructure and environmental constraints. The key to the successful implementation of this Proposed Project is to design the flood risk reduction system in accordance with applicable regulatory standards, such as FEMA flood elevation standards, the NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Control Act, and local floodplain ordinances, while verifying that it aesthetically blends with and enhances the existing environment to the extent possible.

The location of existing infrastructure, such as parks, roadways, transit systems, storm water systems, subsurface utilities, and foundation structures for various types of infrastructure, will dictate the available footprint for implementing the various project elements. The size and availability of the footprint area would then dictate the type of potential project elements that could be constructed, such as earthen berms, floodwalls, deployable flood systems, street-side green infrastructure, etc. In certain areas, it may be feasible to relocate some infrastructure facilities; however, due to cost considerations and a desire to reduce construction impacts, the Proposed Project seeks to minimize the relocation of such facilities.

5.2 Alternatives Screening

The culmination of the Alternatives Development and Screening process will be an evaluation of the alternatives through a screening matrix in a community workshop setting. The screening matrix will be developed with input from stakeholder groups (including the CAG) informed by NJDEP Proposed Project Team Subject Matter Experts, and will be used to evaluate each alternative on its potential impacts to the many resources within the Project Area. This process will allow for the elimination of alternatives that least satisfy the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need.

Criteria in the screening matrix will be utilized to reflect and address the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need, its potential impacts to the natural environment and the community, as well as the Proposed Project's overall feasibility. These will include criteria such as flood risk reduction, environmental constraints (including but not limited to cultural resources, hazardous waste, and environmental justice), and community interests. Criteria will also include feasibility factors, such as constructability and

Public DRAFT

construction cost. Metrics that are measurable, either qualitatively or quantitatively, will be developed for each criterion.

After the establishment of the metrics, a matrix will be developed to evaluate each alternative. The completed matrix will allow for a comparison of each alternative. The three alternatives that are considered to best meet the Purpose and Need will be advanced as the Proposed Project's Build Alternatives, and analyzed further in the EIS.

5.3 Proposed Project Alternatives

The EIS will examine three Build Alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative. Currently, these three Build Alternatives are broadly defined and presented for discussion purposes below; these alternatives, including various sub-alternatives, will be further developed through the Alternatives Development and Screening process described in **Sections 5.1** and **5.2**.

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.

Each alternative is being evaluated through the ongoing engineering Feasibility Study and application of preliminary screening criteria, as described in **Sections 5.1** and **5.2**. These alternatives will be further developed and modified 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. The three Build Alternatives, as currently proposed, are summarized below.

- ✓ **Alternative 1**, or the **Structural Flood Reduction Alternative**, will analyze various structural, infrastructure-based solutions that would be constructed to provide protection from both inland and tidal/storm surge flooding. This alternative, to the extent practical, would evaluate a FEMA Certifiable level of flood protection to a portion of the Project Area. This alternative may consist of a range of structures, including levees, berms, barriers, drainage structures, pump stations, floodgates, and/or other hard and soft infrastructure to achieve the required level of flood protection. Different routing alignments and different levels of flood protection are also being considered.
- ✓ **Alternative 2**, or the **Storm Water Drainage Improvement Alternative**, will analyze a series of storm water drainage projects aimed at reducing the occurrence of higher frequency, small- to medium-scale flooding events that impact the communities located in the Project Area. Together, these interventions would provide a system of improved storm water management, and may include both local drainage improvements and wetlands restoration to protect communities located in the Project Area and address day-to-day water management challenges. These interventions may include: drainage ditches, pipes, and pump stations at strategic locations; increased roadway elevations; new green infrastructure (e.g., wetland drainage basins, bioswales), water storage areas, and water control structures; cleaning and de-snagging of existing waterways; and increasing and enhancing public open space.
- ✓ **Alternative 3**, or the **Hybrid Alternative**, will analyze a strategic, synergistic blend of new infrastructure and local drainage improvements to reduce flood risk in the Project Area. Components of Alternatives 1 and 2 will be combined to provide an integrated, hybrid solution that employs a combination of appropriate levees, berms, drainage structures, pump stations, and/or floodgates, coupled with local drainage improvement projects, to achieve the maximum amount of flood protection within the boundaries of the Project Area.

Public DRAFT

The **No Action Alternative** will also be evaluated in accordance with CEQ regulations at 40 CFR Part 1502.14(d). The No Action Alternative represents the *status quo* or baseline conditions without implementation of any of the improvements associated with the Proposed Project.

The alternatives analysis will consist of a comparison of the four alternatives' impacts on the physical, natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58, as well as how well each alternative meets the Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project. This process, which will be described in detail in the DEIS, will lead to the designation of a Preferred Alternative.

6.0 POTENTIAL REGULATORY APPROVALS

In addition to the NEPA requirements described in **Section 1.4**, the Proposed Project also will be subject to other additional regulatory approvals. The following is a list of potential regulatory approvals that the Proposed Project may require; these will be discussed in greater depth within the EIS. This list may increase as the NEPA analysis proceeds.

6.1 Federal Regulatory Approvals

- ✓ **HUD**: The Proposed Project is subject to the funding disbursement and Action Plan Amendment requirements stated in 79 FR 62182, published October 16, 2014 [Docket No. FR–5696–N–11]. Practicable alternatives will be identified and evaluated, as required by EO 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55.20 Subpart C, *Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands*. The Proposed Project also will comply with EO 13690 (the *Federal Flood Risk Management Standard*).
- ✓ **US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** In-water activities will require Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permits.
- ✓ **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):** An Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review will be conducted. Depending on these findings and proposed in-water impacts, additional consultation may be required.
- ✓ **USFWS:** Depending on project impacts to threatened and endangered (T&E) species, consultation under Section 7 of the ESA may be required.
- ✓ **US Coast Guard (USCG):** Construction of structures within navigable waters requires approval from the USCG in accordance with Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.
- ✓ **FEMA**: Review of proposed flood protection components will require FEMA review for any potential changes to the FIRM.
- ✓ **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**: General Conformity relating to the CAA requirements for Federal actions will be required, as well as the identification of potential impacts to Superfund sites (e.g. Berry's Creek).

6.2 State of New Jersey Regulatory Approvals

- ✓ **NJDEP:** The Proposed Project will require several permits from NJDEP to demonstrate compliance with several acts/authorities, including Coastal Zone Management (Waterfront Development, New Jersey Statutes Annotated [NJSA] 12:5-3 *et seq.*), Flood Hazard Area Control Act (New Jersey Administrative Code [NJAC] 7:13-1.1 *et seq.*), Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (NJAC 7:7.A), Storm Water Management (NJAC 7:8), Water Supply Allocation (NJAC 7:19), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Coordination with the Bureau of Tidelands is also anticipated to be necessary to determine if a Tideland Instrument will be required for any in-water impacts. In addition, a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit is required for any discharges to surface waters.

Public DRAFT

- ✓ **New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (NJ SHPO):** Review of the Proposed Project for potential impacts to historic properties will be required in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966. In addition, the New Jersey Register of Historic Places (NJSA 13:1B-15.128 *et seq*.) will be reviewed.
- ✓ **New Jersey EO #96 on Environmental Justice**: Pursuant to the EO signed in 2004, all activities conducted throughout the EIS process will abide by the spirit of the EO and ensure the process is open and responsive to any EJ concerns.

6.3 Local and Municipal Approvals

The Proposed Project will require local and municipal approvals, including zoning compliance, roadway and sidewalk opening/closing approvals, and other construction approvals/permits from the various municipalities involved. In addition, the following approvals will be required:

- ✓ **NJSEA:** The Proposed Project is located within the Hackensack Meadowlands District (HMD), a regional planning area delineated at NJSA 5:10A. Pursuant to Public Law 2015, Chapter 19, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, which was established to oversee planning and zoning in the HMD, was made a part of the NJSEA effective February 5, 2015. The NJSEA implements Land Use Management within the HMD in accordance with the Meadowlands District Zoning Regulations (NJAC 19:4-1.1 *et seq*.). Zoning and site plan approvals from the NJSEA will be required for the Proposed Project.
- ✓ **Local Soil Conservation District**: Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Certification will be required for activities involving greater than 5,000 square feet of ground disturbance.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPE OF WORK

Below is a discussion of the anticipated sections of the EIS. The EIS will consist of a description of the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need (see **Section 4.0**), the Proposed Project (see **Section 3.0**), Alternatives Development and Analysis, Public Involvement Effort, Affected Environment, and Potential Environmental Impacts (including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts) and appropriate mitigation measures.

7.1 Alternatives Development and Analysis

This section of the EIS will describe the evaluation of all potential alternatives considered during the engineering Feasibility Study, and the development and application of the screening criteria used to identify the three Build Alternatives to be carried forward for more detailed analysis in the EIS.

Alternatives considered, but not carried forward for further analysis, will be identified along with the rationale for eliminating these alternatives. The screening process will be referenced to support this discussion. For example, alternatives may be eliminated because they are outside the scope of the Proposed Project or not affordable, among other reasons.

A detailed description will be provided for each of the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative (to be analyzed within the technical resource area sections of the EIS, pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58.5). These alternatives will be further defined and modified as the EIS process proceeds. A Preferred Alternative will be identified and the rationale for why that course of action is preferred will be provided. Finally, a comparison of the potential impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative, two remaining Build Alternatives, and No Action Alternative will be provided. In accordance with 40 CFR Part 1502.14, this comparative alternatives analysis will clearly define the issues and provide an understandable basis for choice among alternatives by the decision-maker and the public.

Public DRAFT

7.2 Public Involvement

Throughout the course of this NEPA process, the Proposed Project's COP will be implemented. The COP is available on the Proposed Project website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov. The Proposed Project website also contains the GPI that provides general information on the public involvement aspects of this NEPA process. The reader is referred to the website for more information on the proposed public involvement and outreach program for this Proposed Project. This section of the EIS will summarize relevant public involvement efforts associated with this NEPA process.

7.3 Technical Resource Areas

This section describes the technical resource areas that will be analyzed in the EIS. Each section on a technical resource area will consist of a characterization of the affected environment and a detailed impact assessment for the Proposed Project's three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative. The impact analysis will address anticipated direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each alternative from Proposed Project components throughout its life cycle.

The Proposed Project would primarily and directly affect the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack (the Project Area; see **Figure 1**).

When necessary, data gathering and analysis for a given technical resource area may extend beyond the Project Area boundary in order to adequately address potential indirect impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. Analysis areas will be extended outside the Project Area on an individual basis, when appropriate, and defined within the affected environment of the relevant technical resource.

7.3.1 Land Use and Land Use Planning

A brief development history and trends analysis of the Project Area will be presented, including a description of recent development trends, potential future growth induced by proposed new flood protections, and foreseeable development initiatives over the planning horizon. The planning horizon is typically defined as 30 years from the completion of the Proposed Project. Since the Proposed Project must be implemented by September 30, 2022, the planning horizon would extend through approximately 2052 for this analysis.

Land use and zoning in the Project Area will be mapped and described, and the impacts of the Build Alternatives on these land uses will be characterized. The analysis will also identify open space (local, county, State, and Federal parkland), along with an inventory of current land uses and zoning regulations for the potentially affected communities. This section of the EIS will examine each alternative's consistency with the existing and proposed land uses and zoning within the Project Area as described in county and municipal master plans. This analysis will identify current conditions and trends via review of secondary data and field reconnaissance surveys and interviews with local planning officials and affected parties. Planning efforts and initiatives in the Project Area under the Smart Growth Plan and the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, both implemented by the NJDCA, will be identified.

Potentially affected properties will be visually identified using preliminary design drawings developed during the engineering Feasibility Study of the Proposed Project, as the drawings would depict existing property lines and existing buildings, as well as proposed right-of-way lines and toe-of-slope lines. Once identified and compiled, each parcel will be digitized to obtain its total land area. For each identified parcel, its assessed value and tax liability will be obtained from the appropriate tax assessor's office in Bergen County. Any property acquisition needs will be quantified and evaluated, including the following:

- Full property takings: An acquisition that involves procuring the original parcel in its entirety
- Partial property takings: An acquisition in which the original property is severed to form two parcels, and only one is acquired

Public DRAFT

- Construction and/or utility easements: An interest by one individual in the land of another that entitles the first individual to a limited use of the land or a right to preclude specified uses in the easement area by others.

7.3.2 Visual Quality/Aesthetics

The existing visual character and quality of the Project Area will be inventoried, described, and analyzed to establish baseline visual resources. Any sensitive visual resources, such as significant views and view corridors, will be identified, as will any potentially sensitive viewers. A total of six existing views will be analyzed as a baseline for comparison with each of the three Build Alternatives. These views would represent the existing visual environment by illustrating publicly accessible views from throughout the Project Area, as well as from points potentially affected by the alternatives, and which will be used as the basis for photo-simulations.

The potential change in the visual environment will be analyzed, projected, and described for each of the Build Alternatives, including a discussion of proposed bulk, height, design, and scale of the new construction. The discussion will be supported with up to 18 photo-simulations, including six views for each Build Alternative. Potential mitigation scenarios, such as design options to reduce potential impacts on aesthetic resources in the Proposed Project's view shed, will be assessed and incorporated into the final photo-simulations. Given the nature of visual resource assessment, no analysis or simulation will be performed under the No Action Alternative, as no visual change would result.

7.3.3 Socioeconomics and Community/Population and Housing

The socioeconomic analysis will include a baseline assessment of the current community and a characterization of specific neighborhoods. This assessment will identify and describe data on residential populations, ages, incomes, housing types, vacancy rates, and characteristics of the local economy. The principal issue of concern to socioeconomic resources is whether the Proposed Project would result in significant adverse social, economic, or demographic impacts in the Project Area and adversely affect the community character of the Project Area. An example of adverse impacts resulting from the Build Alternatives may be the direct displacement of residents or businesses. Impacts to businesses would include the loss or relocation of businesses and associated employees. Economic impacts for the No Action Alternative will be assessed. These impacts may include operating losses for businesses, lost wages, loss of tax revenue from flooded uninhabitable buildings, and the cost to restore damaged buildings.

Property tax data obtained from County databases including the Mod IV data for property assessments and characteristics (available from the New Jersey Department of the Treasury) will be presented. In addition, indirect impacts on the Project Area and regional economy will be assessed. Indirect impacts may result from changes in land use patterns, growth rate or population densities, or changes on the built environment from environmental resource areas.

7.3.4 Environmental Justice

The EJ analysis will generally follow the CEQ's EJ Guidance under NEPA and the HUD Guidance on EJ, as well as EO 12898. The major steps in the assessment process are as follows:

- Identify the study area
- Compile population characteristics and identify locations with populations of concern for EJ (i.e., low-income and minorities)
- Conduct public outreach
- Identify adverse effects on populations of concern

Public DRAFT

- Evaluate each considered alternative's effects.

In New Jersey, EO #96 on EJ issued in February 2004 underscores the importance of protecting human health and the environment for all citizens of the State. EO #96 directs State agencies to ensure that communities of color and low-income are afforded fair treatment and meaningful involvement in decision-making for projects that affect the environment. NJDEP administers the State's EJ program. Public outreach activities conducted throughout the EIS process will abide by the spirit of EO #96 and ensure programs are open and responsive to any EJ concerns.

The principal focus will be the existing minority and low-income populations in the study area. If any of the Build Alternatives have geographically broader potential impacts (e.g., traffic, air quality, noise), the study area for EJ analysis will be expanded. The EJ analysis will be conducted using the results from the land use/zoning/community facility, socioeconomic/demographic, residential/business displacement, air/noise, traffic, water/natural resource, construction, and visual/aesthetic analyses to determine the degree of any direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on EJ populations.

The EJ analysis will evaluate the presence of EJ populations based on the US Census Bureau's 2010 Census of Population and Housing, as well as data from the American Community Survey 2010–2014 estimates. Demographic data will be aggregated by the census block, census block group, and census tracts for the Project Area and compared to Bergen County and New Jersey as a whole. The regional thresholds identified in the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development that was prepared by Together North Jersey, a planning consortium established in part by the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization for North Jersey, will be used to further identify EJ communities. The Regional Plan for Sustainable Development provides thresholds based on a variety of socioeconomic characteristics such as income and poverty, race, age, and physical mobility.

The Proposed Project's public participation program will also be summarized in this section, with a focus on the public participation of low-income and minority populations. An analysis of disproportionately high and adverse effects for each alternative will be prepared, and measures for reducing or mitigating the severity of these impacts, if any, will be presented. If necessary, final mitigation, minimization, or avoidance strategies to address any identified EJ concerns will be developed using input from the community, as appropriate. A project with disproportionately high and adverse effects to EJ populations may only be carried out if further avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures are deemed not practicable. In determining whether a measure is "practicable," the social, economic, and environmental effects of avoiding, minimizing or mitigating the adverse effects will be taken into account, and the rationale for findings will be documented in the EIS.

7.3.5 Cultural and Historic Resources

Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 requires Federal agencies to consider the impacts of their actions on historic properties. This includes impacts on properties identified as National Historic Landmarks, properties or resources that are listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Because the Proposed Project is being funded by HUD, compliance with Section 106 must be demonstrated. The cultural resources analysis will be prepared in consultation with the NJ SHPO.

Consultation

The Section 106 process includes consultation between the lead Federal agency (HUD), other involved Federal agencies, representatives of local governments, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes (36 CFR Part 800.2(a)(4)); the public is also included in the consulting process. Consulting parties that will participate in this Proposed Project's Section 106 process will include, at a minimum, the NJ SHPO, other Federal agencies with regulatory or permitting authority over the Project Area, and Federally recognized Indian tribes with an ancestral or traditional relationship with the Project Area. AECOM will assist in the preparation of consultation documents and engage in a reasonable and good faith effort to identify Indian

Public DRAFT

tribes that may attach religious and cultural significance to the Project Area. Consultation documents will be distributed to identified consulting parties early in the process to engage them in the Section 106 process.

Data Collection

As part of the data gathering task for cultural resources, several repositories will be visited to collect and review prior cultural resource studies from the Project Area. Published secondary sources, prior architectural surveys, cultural resource reports, and available maps (including NOAA maps) will be reviewed to characterize the architectural, archaeological, and maritime history of the Project Area.

The following data-gathering steps are anticipated to be conducted: research of documents and archaeological site files at the New Jersey State Museum and the NJ SHPO in Trenton; review of historical maps and local histories available from the New Jersey State Library in Trenton; review of files and information collected and maintained by other local libraries and repositories including Rutgers University, Alexander Library-Special Collections, Rutgers University Community Repository, Secaucus Public Library, Bergen Community College Library, New Jersey Institute of Technology State Data Centers and Library Database; and review of online resources to summarize the Project Area's land use history.

As part of this task, data will be collected on previously identified historic properties in the Project Area. Initial data collection has indicated that there are no known archaeological sites present within 1 mile of the Project Area. There is one known historic district within the Project Area (the Erie Railroad Main Line Historic District – Bergen County Line). In addition, there is one known NRHP eligible site (the US Route 46 Bascule Bridge) and one NRHP listed resource (the Gethsemane Cemetery). These are in addition to individual historic properties either listed on, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP. The analysis will focus on both the prehistoric and historic use of the Project Area and may include the following topics: Pre-contact, Developed Uses, Cemeteries and Churches, Docks, Wharves and Landfills, and Transportation.

After reviewing the Build Alternatives, an Area of Potential Effects (APE) will be established for both archaeological and historical resources. This APE will be further refined through consultation with the NJ SHPO upon formalization of the three Build Alternatives, depending on the ultimate location of proposed activities. The APE will include the geographic area within which the Proposed Project may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties. The APE for archaeological resources will be limited to the footprint of project-related ground disturbance. The APE for historic architectural resources will include properties within the Project Area and its view shed. The specific studies to be conducted for archaeological and historic architectural resources are summarized below.

Archaeological Resources

As part of the evaluation of archaeological resources, a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment will be conducted. The APE will be divided into areas of archaeological sensitivity based on previously identified cultural resources, the cultural history of the surrounding area, and a site-specific land-use history. These sensitivity areas will then be used to provide recommendations for future testing and/or monitoring. The results of the Phase IA survey will be summarized in a final report that will be submitted to NJ SHPO. The findings of this report will be forwarded to the consulting parties and summarized in the EIS.

This study will be performed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior (SOI) *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716) and the NJ SHPO *Guidelines for Phase I Archaeological Investigations: Identification of Archaeological Resources* and *Guidelines for Preparing Cultural Resources Management Archaeological Reports Submitted to the Historic Preservation Office* (1996, 2000). Archaeological work will be conducted by, or under the supervision of, individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (48 FR 44738-9).

Public DRAFT

As part of this effort, the following will be conducted:

- Summarize the background research conducted as part of the data gathering.
- Conduct background research on the environmental context of properties to inform the archaeological sensitivity assessment.
- Summarize contextual studies focused on both the prehistoric and historic use of the Project Area. These may include the following topics: Pre-contact, Commercial, Residential, Institutional, Industrial, Cemeteries and Churches, and Transportation.
- Conduct a pedestrian reconnaissance to photo-document and visually inspect the APE for evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources and to document current site conditions. The pedestrian reconnaissance will also identify areas of obvious disturbance that can be demonstrated as having little to no archaeological potential.
- Summarize areas of archaeological sensitivity and provide recommendations for future archaeological testing and/or monitoring.

Historic Architectural Resources

The architectural resources analysis will consider whether construction of the Proposed Project would be likely to affect any historic architectural resources, either directly through construction activities, or indirectly through alteration of the context or visual environment of these resources. The following tasks will be undertaken as part of the architectural resources analysis.

A study of historic architectural resources will be prepared that will assess the Proposed Project's potential to affect historic resources in the APE. The APE will be defined as the area subject to Proposed Project elements, which may directly or indirectly change the character or use of historic properties, including from noise or viewshed effects.

As part of this task, an intensive-level architectural survey will be conducted for previously unidentified properties in the APE. For purposes of this task, it is assumed that the architectural survey will be for up to 25 properties over 50 years of age that would be subjected to an intensive-level architectural survey to assess their potential eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Following the NJ SHPO's *Guidelines for Architectural Survey*, each property will be recorded on a Base Survey Form and a Building/Element Attachment Form. In addition, an Eligibility Worksheet Form will be prepared for each surveyed property. The results of the intensive-level architectural survey will be summarized in a final report that will be submitted to the NJ SHPO. The findings of this report will be summarized in the EIS.

Upon completion of the intensive-level architectural survey, the Criteria of Adverse Effect will be applied to identified properties. Avoidance and minimization of impacts on the historic districts in the Project Area will be a key consideration. Team cultural resources professionals will work with the design team to develop designs that are consistent with the SOI's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and that minimize the potential for adverse effects to the extent possible.

If adverse effects are identified, potential mitigation measures will be recommended in the EIS. Implementation of mitigation measures, if included in the ROD, would occur during the final design, construction, and/or implementation phase of the Proposed Project elements, as appropriate. Public outreach as required under Section 106 will be undertaken, wherein reports will be distributed to the NJ SHPO and interested and consulting parties.

Public DRAFT

7.3.6 Transportation and Circulation

The Project Area is connected to the regional road network by three major interstates and several State routes. Some of the prominent roadways in the area include Interstates (I-) 95, 495, and 280; US 1-9 and US 46; State Routes 3, 17, and 120; and Liberty Street from Little Ferry to Carlstadt. This resource area will include a schematic plan for the local road and transportation network expected to be affected by, or involved in, the Build Alternatives. The potential of the Build Alternatives to affect circulation patterns through the major intersections will be documented. Mitigation to prevent any adverse long-term impacts will be documented as part of the EIS. Although the Build Alternatives differ in size and location, the study area will be the same for each of the alternatives and will be sized to capture relevant transportation impacts. Each alternative will be evaluated with the same set of locations to serve as an appropriate comparison.

Intersection traffic volume data for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles will be manually collected for the typical a.m., p.m., and Saturday peak periods (3 hours each) at each of the Proposed Project intersections. Automatic Traffic Recorders will collect vehicular volumes on freeways and ramps within the study area. Parking analyses and data collection will be performed within the study area streets and off-street facilities. The EIS will also document traffic data (modal volumes by direction, transit ridership) compiled for each of the travel modes from city agencies, New Jersey Transit, and other transit/shuttle service providers. Transit data will include public transportation services and facilities in the Project Area, including bus service and New Jersey Transit passenger rail. Input will be solicited from school bus service providers, emergency service providers, maintenance operators, and utility companies regarding how they use the affected street segments.

A Synchro/SimTraffic traffic analysis model will be prepared for the Project Area intersections to evaluate the traffic impacts that can be expected for each of the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative. An Existing Conditions analysis will also be performed to serve as a basis for future traffic analyses. For freeway locations, Highway Capacity Software will be used to analyze any basic, merge, diverge, or weave segments that may be affected by the alternatives.

A similar detailed traffic analysis will assess the traffic operations of up to two construction staging schemes for each of the Build Alternatives; appropriate mitigation measures will be identified. The Synchro model will be constructed based on the collected traffic data, as well as roadway, intersection, and traffic control data received from city staff. The model will be used to generate the appropriate traffic performance metrics and inform the development of the engineering Feasibility Study and project design. Relevant data will be included in the EIS.

As part of the ancillary Proposed Project benefits, new pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle facilities may be constructed, which would generate additional volumes for each of these travel modes. Additionally, any change in zoning would have an effect on the future population and potentially employment growth. To account for these infrastructure and policy changes, the NJTPA regional demand model will be used to forecast the peak period volumes (weekday AM, PM, and midday Saturday). The introduction of a new roadway as part of the Proposed Project would also require traffic signal warrant analysis to determine the need for intersection control at the new intersections.

Certain stages of construction activities would likely require closure of a travel lane, travel direction, or street segment. Before beginning construction activities, maintenance of traffic plans during construction will be developed to inform the public and other emergency responders of street closures and detours. The EIS will document mitigation strategies for permanent and temporary impacts from the Proposed Project. In addition, a crash analysis will be performed at the same roadway locations that would be affected by the Build Alternatives.

Public DRAFT

7.3.7 Noise

Data requirements for noise are directly related to the presence of sensitive receptors and noise generation sources. Within the Project Area, the primary source of environmental noise is from traffic. Existing noise levels will be determined throughout the Project Area by conducting field measurements using procedures specified in NJAC 7:29 and in accordance with HUD's noise standards set forth in 24 CFR Part 51, Subpart B.

Up to 40 representative noise-sensitive locations (such as residences, schools, health care facilities, and worship facilities) will be measured based on preliminary traffic study findings, land use activity, and noise sensitivity of specific locations. Up to 10 of these locations will be monitored for a continuous 24-hour period to document diurnal variations in background sound levels for each general noise-sensitive region, and up to 30 locations will be monitored to document short-term (15 to 20 minutes each) background sound level variations during the day and night in each neighborhood. Readings will take place outdoors under favorable weather conditions (no precipitation or winds higher than 12 miles per hour) to conform to the NJAC and standard monitoring practices.

Mobile Source

The Proposed Project will generate vehicular trips, but given the background concentrations and anticipated project-generated traffic, significant noise impacts from mobile sources are not expected. This will be confirmed through standard screening analyses.

Stationary Source

The potential noise impacts for each Build Alternative and the No Action Alternative will be determined. The determination of impact will include both the type (e.g., residential, non-residential, and others) and number or extent of receptors impacted by each Build Alternative and the No Action Alternative. The Proposed Project may involve construction of berms, pump stations, and other structures, such as flood gates and tide gates to prevent flooding. Proposed pump stations and other relevant stationary sources are subject to the maximum permissible sound levels published in NJAC 7:29 during weekly testing of emergency generators. The noise analysis will identify sensitive noise receivers adjacent to proposed emergency generators, and noise levels will be measured continuously for a 24-hour period at up to 2 representative noise-sensitive locations closest to each group of proposed generators. Stationary source noise related to the pump stations will be qualitatively addressed, and NJAC 7:29 compliance requirements will be included in the EIS.

Construction Source

Proposed improvements may include construction of structural measures, such as flood walls, flood gates, and other forms of coastal flood protection, all of which involve heavy, long-term construction activities involving both mobile and stationary sources. In addition, storm water drainage conveyances may be installed throughout the Project Area. The New Jersey Statewide Noise Control Code (NJAC 7:29) does not regulate noise from construction activities; however, the Statewide Noise Code includes a provision allowing municipalities to adopt a noise control ordinance, provided that the ordinance is more stringent than, or otherwise consistent with, NJAC 7:29.

The Project Area is in Bergen County, and therefore subject to compliance with the local noise ordinance. According to the Bergen County noise ordinance, construction noise is exempt during weekday daytime hours. However, construction activities on private or public rights-of-way are not permitted on weekdays between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. (overnight), or at any time on weekends and legal holidays, unless resultant levels are at or below 50 A-weighted decibels (dBA) and 65 dBA during overnight and daytime hours, respectively, at the closest noise-sensitive locations. Since non-emergency overnight and weekend construction activities related to this Proposed Project may be necessary, the analysis will develop a

Public DRAFT

project-specific construction noise level limit based on identification of noise-sensitive sites adjacent to construction areas.

The project-specific construction noise limit will be based on actual background (baseline) noise levels, which will then determine an acceptable noise level limitation above baseline. Background noise monitoring findings and recommended construction noise level limits will be submitted to the relevant regulatory agency for approval, such as NJDEP. The background noise level study will be performed at up to 40 locations, and reasonable project-specific construction noise level limits will be developed and detailed in the EIS.

In addition, noise levels related to two construction phases at each monitoring location will be predicted based on the Federal Highway Administration Roadway Construction Noise Model to determine whether certain construction tasks can meet the criteria. In the event that specific construction activities cannot meet established noise criteria, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and proposed, which may include a combination of path and source controls. However, there may be some major construction activities that cannot meet the project-specific construction noise level limit and, therefore, would need to be restricted during nights and weekends. Construction noise analyses and mitigation will be detailed in the EIS.

Aquatic Noise

The Proposed Project may result in construction activities along the shoreline. The NMFS is currently revising the underwater noise exposure guidelines, which have not been released yet. Therefore, analyses will be based on current Fisheries Hydroacoustic Working Group criteria to assess the potential physiological effects on fish exposure to impulsive noise of 206 decibels (dB) peak and 183 dB cumulative sound exposure level (for onset of physical injury) and 150 dB RMS (for behavioral modification). Based on general construction scenarios potentially planned along the shoreline of the Hackensack River, the most reasonable reference level for the construction method chosen to estimate underwater acoustic levels for comparison with all aforementioned thresholds at one applicable location will be documented. In the event underwater noise levels are predicted to exceed established acoustic thresholds, mitigation measures, such as bubble curtains, will be evaluated. Underwater acoustics analyses and mitigation measures will be detailed in the EIS.

7.3.8 Air Quality

The Project Area is in portions of Bergen County which are designated by the EPA as a Marginal nonattainment area for ozone (O_3) and a maintenance area for carbon monoxide (CO). All other criteria pollutants are in attainment in the county. Existing air quality levels documented by NJDEP O_3 and CO monitoring stations will be discussed in the EIS. EPA regulations relating to the CAA require that Federal actions conform to the appropriate State, Tribal, or Federal implementation plan for attaining clean air (Transportation Conformity or General Conformity). Mobile sources of air emissions would not be affected by the Proposed Project; therefore, there may not be a need for transportation conformity. However, since the Proposed Project will likely require Federal and State permits, it may be subject to the General Conformity requirements. The General Conformity Analysis will require that emissions of non-attainment pollutants and their precursors conform to the State implementation plan during construction and operation. Based on the level of information available to quantify construction-related activities in areas requiring Federal permits during preparation of the EIS, a General Conformity Analysis will be performed. Both mobile and stationery sources of emissions will be analyzed, as applicable.

Public DRAFT

7.3.9 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

The CEQ issued memoranda in 2010 and 2015 directing Federal agencies to consider the effect of GHG emissions and climate change in their evaluation of proposals for Federal actions under NEPA. The analysis conducted in this section will be an extension of the air quality analysis performed as part of the EIS. In particular, this section will document the emission levels of the six main GHGs associated with the Proposed Project: carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. This section will estimate the indirect and direct CO_2 emissions from the Proposed Project. A discussion of alternatives and their ability to reduce GHG emissions will be presented. The EIS will include a review and assessment of mitigation measures applicable to the Proposed Project, including calculations of the projected reduction in GHG emissions that would result from each mitigation measure.

7.3.10 Global Climate Change/Sea Level Rise

Global climate change is an important environmental challenge facing the world today, and human activity is one of the drivers affecting it. Research on this topic has been well-documented in reports by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (www.ipcc.ch), US Climate Change Science Program's Science Synthesis and Assessment Products, and the US Global Change Research Program.

In addition, CEQ issued updated Draft Guidance (2014) on Considering Climate Change in NEPA Reviews, which provides Federal agencies with direction on when and how to consider the effects of GHG emissions and climate change in their evaluation of proposed Federal actions. Per CEQ guidance, this section will discuss the potential for the Proposed Project, through GHG emissions, to affect climate change, as well as the potential implications of climate change for the environmental effects of the Proposed Project.

This section of the EIS will review the results of **Sections 7.3.8** and **7.3.9** and discuss whether the Proposed Project has the potential to increase vulnerability of the area and ecosystem to specific effects of climate change, such as increasing sea level or causing ecological changes in the future. Specifically, analysis will utilize the NOAA Sea Level Rise Tool at the year 2075 interval using two predictive scenarios (intermediate-low and intermediate-high) to develop and evaluate the existing inland and tidal flood conditions. As the extreme precipitation, heat, and water levels likely to impact the ecosystem change, it could be critical to set up the baseline for the multi-frequency events for comparing resiliency benefits and enhanced public open space. An adaptive approach will be followed that has a design flexible enough to be adjusted in the future for any unforeseen event or change in future sea level rise predictions.

7.3.11 Recreation

This section of this EIS will include data from available city and State resources for the Project Area. Detailed data on open space and parkland uses, such as active play areas, passive uses, natural features, and visual buffers in the Project Area will be gathered. Weekday and weekend park utilization will be observed at selected locations. Relevant State and local agencies, including the NJDEP, New Jersey State Park Service, and the Bergen County Department of Parks and Recreation, will be consulted.

Proposed or planned park improvements will be described, including vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access, as appropriate; this information will provide the basis for a profile of future conditions in the Project Area with the No Action Alternative. The direct and indirect effects of each of the three Build Alternatives on inventoried parks will be assessed in terms of potential changes to use, access, noise, and aesthetics. Reasonable and practicable mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate significant impacts to parks and open space will be identified and discussed.

7.3.12 Utilities and Service Systems

The existence, availability, and capacity of the infrastructure in the Project Area will be documented. Infrastructure and utilities to be inventoried will include water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, combined sewers, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and fiber optic/cable. The Project Area includes an existing utility network consisting of underground and overhead utility facilities comprising municipal-owned and -operated sanitary and storm sewers, NJPDES-permitted outfalls, and infrastructure associated with the Public Service Enterprise Group, United Water, Bergen County Utilities Authority, Verizon, and Cablevision. As the Proposed Project's engineering progresses, additional information will be incorporated into the infrastructure evaluation. This information will be supplemented by field verification. Potential impacts to local infrastructure resulting from construction and operation of each of the three Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative, will be identified and discussed, including service disruption, displacement, or relocation. The discussion will also include any planned improvements or expansion of infrastructure services, as well as the adequacy and capacity of the infrastructure to support any secondary and cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. Reasonable and practicable mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate significant project-induced impacts to infrastructure will be identified and discussed.

7.3.13 Public Services

Community facilities and public services in the Project Area will be identified and described. Field reconnaissance surveys and interviews will be conducted to supplement or corroborate the findings of public documents and maps. Community facilities include schools, churches, libraries, institutional residences, hospitals, municipal buildings, senior/civic centers, and health care facilities, as well as public services such as police, ambulance, and fire stations.

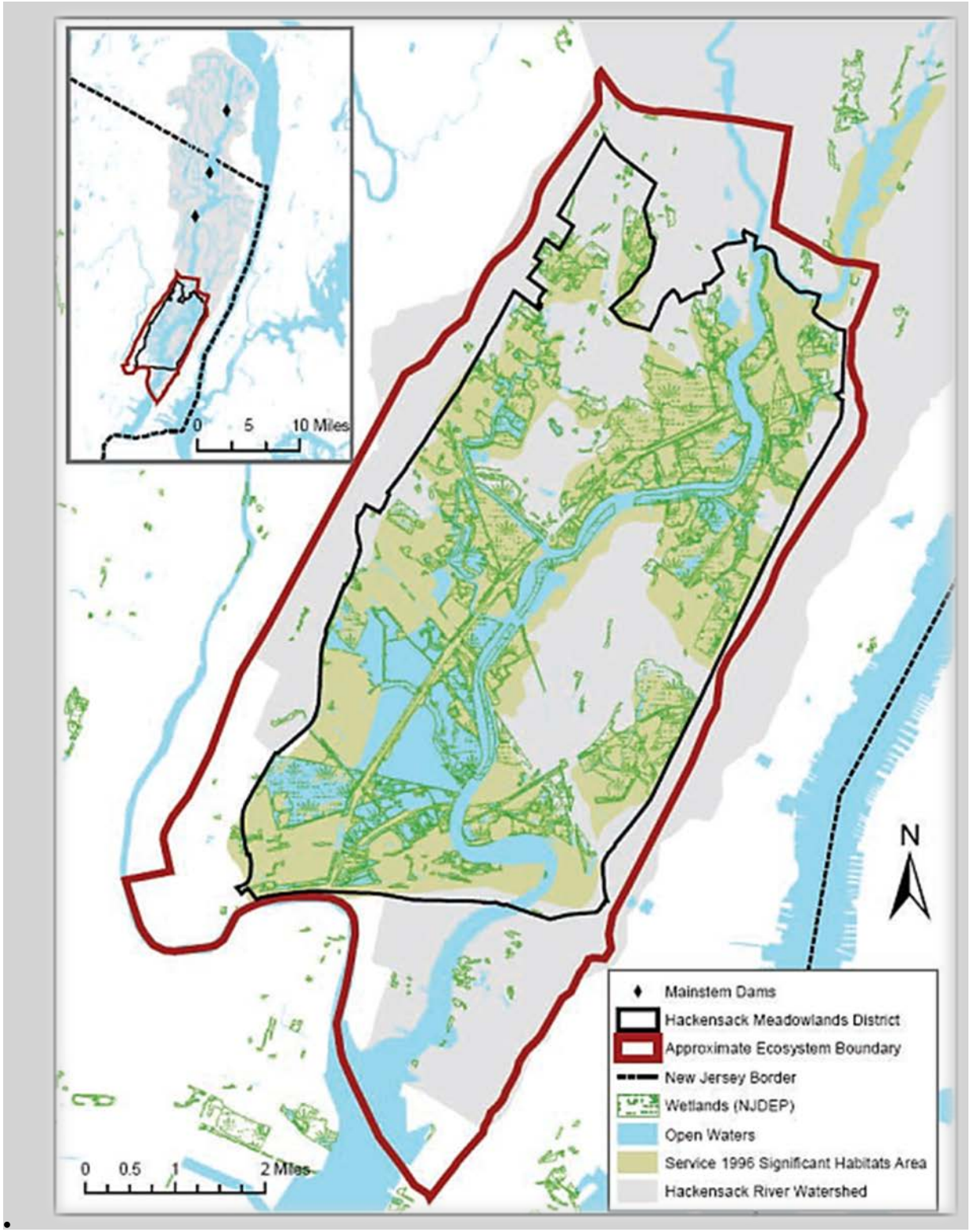
Any future or planned community facilities will also be identified to evaluate their potential interactions with the three Build Alternatives. The potential impacts on community facilities and public services in the Project Area as a result of the Build Alternatives will be identified and analyzed. Effects of the No Action Alternative will also be addressed. Reasonable and practicable mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate significant project-induced impacts related to community facilities and public services will be identified and discussed.

7.3.14 Biological Resources

The Meadowlands are the largest remaining brackish estuary complex in the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. Located seven miles from Manhattan and completely surrounded by the urban sprawl of the New York City metropolis, the Meadowlands are an important resource for scores of flora and fauna. The Meadowlands are home to some 50 species of fish and shellfish, 25 species of reptiles and amphibians, 24 species of mammals, and over 330 species of birds. In addition, approximately 1,000 plant species have been documented recently or historically in the Meadowlands. The Meadowlands are a key habitat resource within the North Atlantic flyway, which is the major avian migratory route along the east coast. There are 80 T&E species of flora and fauna within the Meadowlands.

As shown in **Figure 5**, the Project Area borders a section of the Hackensack River and other waterbodies, such as Berry's Creek and smaller creeks. Large tidally inundated emergent wetlands are hydrologically connected to these waterbodies. Also within and adjacent to the marshes, pockets of vegetated uplands dominated with old fields and early successional forests combine to form a habitat complex suitable to support numerous species. However, as an urban estuary, the Meadowlands are influenced by development and storm water/combined sewer discharges into the waters, which degrade water and habitat quality. Thus, potential changes to the hydrologic regime of the Meadowlands have the potential to further negatively impact aquatic and wetland habitats and their flora and fauna.

Public DRAFT



Source: http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/PCP_2007/Chapter_01_I.pdf

Figure 5. The Hackensack Meadowlands Ecosystem

Ecological resources in the Project Area will be identified through review of existing data and reports, formal written requests to regulatory agencies, and field studies. Both short-term construction impacts and long-term operational impacts will be assessed. The Project Team will identify noise propagation and other potential impacts during construction, loss of acreage of habitats, potential disruption to migration, possible changes to water quality, reduction of ecological functions and values of neighboring or regional habitats, and other stressors. The Project Team will also use appropriate models to identify and justify proposed mitigation measures. The affected environment will be documented through the following actions:

Desktop Studies

- The USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation System will be used to identify Federally listed T&E species, migratory birds, and their critical habitats in the Project Area. Also, NMFS will be contacted for information on T&E species, fisheries resources, and EFH in the Project Area.
- A request will be sent to NJDEP Natural Heritage Program for a database search and review for records of State-listed rare and T&E/special concern species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and their habitats in the Project Area. In addition, the New Jersey Herptile Atlas and Breeding Bird Atlas will be reviewed.
- Other data sources that will be reviewed to identify the biological resources of the Project Area include available geographic information system (GIS) data, published literature, and web-based resources. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - New Jersey Herptile Atlas and Breeding Bird Atlas;
    - Records of New Jersey Birds (New Jersey Audubon);
    - Avian Abundance and Distribution in the New Jersey Meadowlands District: The Importance of Habitat, Landscape, and Disturbance, 2007 (prepared for NJSEA);
    - Monitoring Biological Diversity in the Hackensack Meadowlands (Kiviat 2007).

Field Studies

- The proposed disturbance footprint (both permanent and temporary) for each of the three Build Alternatives will be mapped through a GIS desktop exercise and supplemented/confirmed with field visits. The habitats within each proposed footprint will be classified by cover type (e.g., deciduous successional forest, emergent high marsh, intertidal mudflat, etc.) and the dominant species in each habitat identified. Also, land areas within and/or immediately adjacent to the proposed disturbance footprints that are known to and/or are capable of supporting T&E species will be identified and evaluated.
- Habitats within adjacent land areas will be identified through available mapping, aerial photographs, etc. Open waters will be observed at both high and low tide conditions. Benthic habitats will be visually assessed, to the extent possible, and supplemented by sediment grabs. Fish attractors (e.g., oyster beds, etc.) will be identified. For wetlands that could be affected by the Proposed Project, the Project Team will collect data suitable for either the Evaluation of Planned Wetlands (EPW) or Wetlands Evaluation Technique (WET), subject to approval by pertinent regulatory agencies. Both EPW and WET are rapid wetland assessment techniques often used as a tool in the wetlands impacts analytical and mitigation processes.
- Within select mapped habitats that may be affected by the Build Alternatives, biological field studies will be performed in 2016 and early 2017 to document the faunal usage of avifauna, benthic invertebrates, herptofauna, mammals, and T&E species. Studies will include both

Public DRAFT

daytime and nocturnal observations, using a variety of census techniques. During the studies, appropriate ambient data conditions (e.g., temperature, precipitation, water clarity, pH, etc.) or site-specific data will be documented and collected as appropriate; for long-term regional conditions, water quality will based upon available, long-term data sets. Due to the size of the Project Area (i.e., approximately 5,500 acres), biological studies (e.g., avifauna, fish, etc.) will occur within the proposed disturbance footprints. Up to 7 representative locations will be censused seasonally, with targeted studies occurring in the proposed disturbance footprints.

- It is not feasible or necessary to census every habitat polygon within the proposed disturbance footprint of every considered Build Alternative. However, the analysis will employ a similar, scientifically accurate and sufficient technique used in other NEPA analyses, whereby a representative location will be selected for censusing to represent other similar habitats. The census areas will be selected so that the greatest amount of the proposed disturbance footprints can be adequately assessed; all habitats with the proposed disturbance footprints will be mapped and dominant vegetation identified. Therefore, if there is a small or unique habitat within the proposed disturbance footprint, it will be noted and targeted studies will occur as necessary and appropriate.

In order to calculate the direct temporary and permanent habitat loss potential of each Build Alternative, the disturbance footprint will be overlain on the mapped GIS habitats. Ecologists will calculate the potential acreage of habitat loss by type; view the potential disturbances in a regional context to identify potential impacts resulting from habitat fragmentation, disruptions to migration, and loss of ecological functions and values; and identify areas that may have seasonal construction constraints due to species presence (e.g., overwintering of T&E species, etc.).

The aquatic ecology evaluation will involve a characterization of water quality conditions in the Project Area using available existing regional and site-specific water quality information from NJDEP, USACE, EPA, NOAA, Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), and the Harbor Estuary Program. The general characteristics of this portion of the Lower Hackensack River will be described in terms of currents, tidal range, water quality classification, sediments, pollutants, and biological conditions. Potential effects to the aquatic ecology from implementation of the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative will be considered and addressed in the EIS. Please see **Section 7.3.17** for more information concerning *Water Resources.*

The Project Team will prepare a "desktop" model of Project Area conditions using available information, including geology, bathymetry, latitude, and biogenic habitat. The model will predict the suitability of an area for potential EFH based on existing environmental conditions and data on fish distributions and habitat use. The EFH review will be conducted in close coordination with NMFS to discuss review protocols and prepare the "desktop" model and NMFS EFH Worksheet.

The Proposed Project, including each of the three Build Alternatives, will be reviewed for compliance with the ESA. Associated tasks will include consultation and coordination with USACE, USFWS, and NMFS, as required; the EIS analysis will address the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC §§ 661 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265, as amended).

A Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP) has been developed through the combined efforts of many agencies and organizations, including the Harbor Estuary Program, USACE, EPA, USFWS, NOAA, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, NY/NJ Baykeeper, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, NJDEP, other State and city agencies, and non-government organizations, to restore and protect habitat in the Lower Hackensack River. Mitigation measures that are proposed in the EIS will complement the goals of the CRP to the greatest extent practicable.

Public DRAFT

Mitigation measures will be designed to act in concert with the CRP and will be evaluated to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic resources, including relocation of in-water features to avoid spawning areas, designing in-water features to minimize habitat modifications, allowing for adequate tidal flushing and fish movement, and potentially performing pre- and post-construction monitoring to ensure structures are functioning as expected. Adaptive management measures will be considered if the structures are not performing as anticipated. Invasive species and other pests (i.e., mosquitoes) will also be taken into consideration, and appropriate best management practices and/or mitigation measures will be recommended to minimize potential impacts during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project.

Potential aquatic and terrestrial ecological impacts associated with the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative will be described, and the required Federal, State, and local agency environmental permit requirements will be identified. Solutions resulting in a cost-effective, constructible design minimizing impacts to natural resources to the extent practicable will be pursued.

If a Build Alternative would result in excavation or placement of fill within tidal waters of the Lower Hackensack River, the Project Team will attempt to minimize any unavoidable impacts, typically mitigated at a 1:1 ratio under NJDEP regulation. NJDEP also regulates the impacts on vegetation along riparian zones and wetlands, typically requiring mitigation at a ratio of greater than 1 (e.g., 2:1). Impacts on State-owned tidelands will require authorization via a tidelands lease or grant. Solutions will be evaluated to determine the most efficient and effective type of mitigation given existing site conditions and constraints. Proposed mitigation will be scored through either the EPW process or WET model.

7.3.15 Geology and Soils

The topography, geology, and soils in the Project Area will be described from existing data. Sediment quality and transport impacts from proposed flood mitigation structures on the Hackensack River and other waterbodies will be characterized and evaluated within the context of the *Water Resources* analysis (see **Sections 7.3.16** and **7.3.17**).

Potential impacts from construction activities will be discussed. The use of containment devices, such as silt curtains and sheet piles, will be discussed in conjunction with the discussion of potential water quality impacts (see **Section 7.3.17**). Potential construction mitigation methods will be evaluated and specified in the EIS.

Site-specific geotechnical information will be required and obtained for areas along each Build Alternative alignment for design and construction purposes; these data will be used to support this analysis within the EIS. Areas requiring additional information include locations of any proposed levees, berms, flood gates, pump stations, and other hard and soft infrastructure.

7.3.16 Hydrology and Flooding

Existing hydrologic and hydraulic conditions in the Hackensack River, tributaries, and other waterbodies draining within or along the Project Area, as well as existing storm water systems, will be reviewed. Information from prior hydrologic and hydraulic modeling efforts, analyses, field studies performed in the waterways, and information from previous reports, including appropriate FEMA Flood Insurance Studies and State/local flood surveys, will be used to document existing conditions.

Improved conditions analyses will be used to determine potential impacts to existing storm water drainage systems as a result of river changes, changes in flood storage, and induced flooding from each of the three Build Alternatives. Potential impacts to storm water management and induced flooding due to loss of storage and hydraulic changes will be assessed and documented. In these cases, mitigation measures to eliminate or limit induced flooding will be identified. This effort will be coordinated with the wetland

Public DRAFT

mitigation program to incorporate flood storage capacity and net fill replacement as part of the creation/enhancement design.

Potential coastal flooding impacts as a result of hydrodynamic changes in storm surge propagation will be assessed and documented. Potential impacts include re-direction of storm surge to other coastal areas and increased storm surge elevations.

Potential impacts to existing wetlands hydrology due to bifurcation by proposed Build Alternatives will be assessed and documented. Impacts will be evaluated using hydrologic and hydraulic models noted above or by analyzing existing and proposed hydrologic budgets[3] for the potentially impacted wetlands.

7.3.17 Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the United States

Existing conditions in the Hackensack River, creeks, and other waterbodies in the Project Area will be reviewed, including existing water and sediment quality data, as well as sediment transport data. Information from prior mathematical modeling and field studies performed in the waterways, and information from previous reports, will be used to document existing conditions.

Sources of data that will be referenced include, but are not limited to the following:

- New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards, NJAC 7:9B, which establish the designated uses and anti-degradation categories of the State's surface waters, classify surface waters based on those uses (i.e., stream classifications), and specify the water quality criteria and other policies and provisions necessary to attain those designated uses.
- New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (includes 305(b) Report and 303(d) List); this biennial report describes the status of principal waters in terms of overall water quality and support of designated uses, as well as strategies to maintain and improve water quality.
- Available bathymetric survey data stored by NOAA and the USACE will be obtained to describe existing conditions within the waterbodies in the Project Area with regard to water depth and channel width.
- Water quality and sediment monitoring data maintained by MERI (http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/projects/continuous-water-monitoring-stations/), and as available from other local, regional, State, and/or Federal agencies.

Water quality standards and criteria applicable to the Project Area will be identified, including those related to storm water quality during the construction phase, as well as the operation and maintenance phase, of the Proposed Project.

Construction impacts of each of the three Build Alternatives will be analyzed, including those resulting from erosion and runoff and those resulting from re-suspension of sediments and changes in sediment quality and transport. The impacts of temporary and localized increases in turbidity and suspended sediment concentrations caused by in-water construction activities (e.g., pile driving), as well as land-based construction site and staging area disturbance, will be addressed. This will include application of the criteria set forth in the *Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey* (New Jersey Department of Agriculture [NJDA] and New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts, 7th Edition, January 2014), *New Jersey Storm Water Best Management Practices Manual* (NJDEP 2004, last revised 2016), Section 404(b)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 1251 I), applicable water quality standards, and storm water discharge permits.

[3] A **hydrologic budget** is an accounting of the inflow to, outflow from, and storage in, a specified hydrologic unit, such as a drainage basin, aquifer, soil zone, lake, reservoir, or wetland.

Public DRAFT

Potential impacts on water quality during construction will be analyzed using methods such as the Revised Universal Soils Loss Equation, Soil Conservation District permit requirements, and the time-variable water quality model (MIKE3).

Post-construction storm water runoff water quality will be analyzed under existing and future conditions along with data on the water quality (total suspended solids, nutrients, oil and grease, metals, total organic carbon, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs], and MIKE3 model data). Construction impacts will be mitigated in accordance with a storm water management plan, which includes an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, developed in compliance with both storm water discharge permit requirements and NJ Storm Water Management Rules (NJAC 7:8). The major components of this plan will be summarized in the EIS.

The potential for the alternatives to alter the hydraulics in the waterbodies will be assessed by comparing the size of the within-water structure of each of the three Build Alternatives and the potential for each alternative to alter sediment scour and deposition in the waterbodies.

Potential effects on water quality will be estimated, and will be considered in the context of required compliance with Storm Water Management Rules and associated adherence with runoff quality requirements, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards, and storm water permitting. If mitigation is required, types of systems will be recommended for collecting storm water and removing suspended sediment and non-point source pollutants, such as oil and grease, prior to discharge. Mitigation defined in *Hydraulics and Flooding* sections will also be considered for hydraulics and bathymetry.

In order to identify and evaluate potential impacts to jurisdictional "waters of the US," including wetlands, a formal delineation of these surface water features will be conducted by a qualified wetland specialist within and immediately adjacent to the proposed disturbance area of each Build Alternative. The wetland delineation will identify tidal and/or freshwater wetlands per USACE and NJDEP regulations. Tidal wetlands will be identified by elevation. Freshwater wetlands will be those wetlands above the high tide line. The upland wetland boundary of the freshwater wetlands will be delineated using the 1989 Federal Manual. The delineated wetland line, wetland flags, and observation points would be surveyed by a licensed surveyor.

7.3.18 Coastal Zone Management

This section of the EIS will include an assessment of the coastal zones in the Project Area and identify key resources. States with Federally approved coastal programs delineate a coastal zone consistent with common standards determined by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. This act is administered by NOAA to promote management of the nation's coastal resources. It encourages the management of coastal zone areas and grants funding for maintaining coastal zone areas. Potential impacts on coastal zones resulting from the three Build Alternatives will be assessed and documented, and appropriate mitigation measures will be identified.

Each of the three Build Alternatives will be assessed with respect to compliance with applicable policies detailed in the New Jersey Coastal Zone Management Rules (NJAC 7:7), which constitute the enforceable policies of the New Jersey Coastal Management Program as approved under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (16 USC §§ 1451 *et seq*.).

The Proposed Project is located within the HMD; in this area, tidal waterways and lands lying thereunder, up to and including the mean high water line, are within the Coastal Zone and are subject to the State's coastal policies. Relevant Coastal Policies related to Special Areas, General Water Areas, Location Rules, Use Rules, and Resource Rules will be considered in the EIS' analysis. Mitigation requirements for unavoidable impacts to tidal wetlands and intertidal and subtidal shallows will also be addressed as part of Coastal Zone Management compliance.

Public DRAFT

The HMD has been identified by New Jersey's Coastal Management Program as a Geographic Area of Particular Concern pursuant to 16 USC 1455. Accordingly, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Master Plan has been adopted as part of New Jersey's Coastal Management Program. Therefore, in addition to compliance with State coastal policies, each of the three Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative, will be reviewed for consistency with the NJ Meadowlands Commission Master Plan as part of the Coastal Consistency Determination process.

7.3.19 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The Project Area is in a densely developed urban area with land uses ranging from residential and heavy industrial to open lands, wetlands, and large recreational areas. Based on a review of NJDEP's GIS data layers and local land use plans, there are multiple Known Contaminated Sites in the Project Area, including parcels with soil and groundwater contamination. Along the Hackensack River waterfront alone within the Project Area, there are nearly 20 sites with confirmed contamination and eight sites pending confirmation. According to the EPA, Bergen County has seven Superfund sites on the National Priorities List. Two sites with the highest levels of contamination in the area include: (1) the former Scientific Chemical Processing Site in Carlstadt; and (2) Berry's Creek Marsh located in Rutherford, just south of the Project Area. The 110-acre Keegan Landfill, located west of exit 15W on the New Jersey Turnpike, is one of the active sites in the area. In addition, most of the Project Area is underlain by historic fill material, and it can be assumed that this material contains contaminants typical of historic fill, such as elevated concentrations of PAHs and metals. Contaminated soil is anticipated to be of concern during construction.

This section of the EIS will document the results of an Environmental Data Resources (EDR) database search for the entire, approximately 5,500-acre Project Area. Concurrent with review of the EDR data, Site Remediation Program layers from NJ-GeoWeb, Classification Exception Areas, and Deed Notices for the Project Area will be evaluated. A reconnaissance of relevant portions of the Project Area and vicinities will be conducted to obtain a better understanding of the potential soil and groundwater contamination concerns. Additionally, historical aerial photographs for the Project Area and historical US Geological Survey (USGS) maps, as well as Sanborn fire insurance maps for the locations of the three Build Alternatives, will be reviewed to understand the history of potential contamination concerns in the Project Area. The properties identified as representing an environmental concern during the review process will be classified according to the ASTM International's *Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process* Designation E 1527-13 terminology as follows:

- Recognized Environmental Condition (REC): "The presence or likely presence of any hazardous substance or petroleum products in, on, or at a property: (1) due to any release to the environment; (2) under conditions indicative of a release to the environment; or (3) under conditions that pose a material threat of a future release to the environment."
- Historical Recognized Environmental Condition (HREC): "A past release of any hazardous substance or petroleum products that has occurred in connection with the property and has been addressed to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory authority or meeting unrestricted residential use criteria established by a regulatory authority, without subjecting the property to any required controls (e.g., property use restrictions, Activity and Use Limitations (AULs), institutional controls, or engineering controls)."
- Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition (CREC): "A REC resulting from a release of hazardous substances or petroleum products that has been addressed to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory authority (e.g., as evidenced by the issuance of a No Further Action letter or equivalent, or meeting risk-based criteria established by regulatory authority), with hazardous substances or petroleum products allowed to remain in place subject to the implementation of

Public DRAFT

required controls (e.g., property use restrictions, AULs, institutional controls, or engineering controls)."

In cases where the analyzed information indicates that contaminated sites may affect the Proposed Project through the migration of contaminated groundwater, additional information and/or NJDEP and municipal files of the contaminated sites will be reviewed to identify specific impacts associated with each Build Alternative.

In 2009, the Site Remediation Reform Act (NJSA 58:10C-1 *et seq*.) established that Licensed Site Remediation Professionals (LSRPs) could act on behalf of NJDEP to oversee the remediation of contaminated sites. In cases where remediation of a site is overseen by an LSRP, the LSRP of Record will be contacted for site-specific information, if warranted. If a site is overseen by NJDEP, the internal case manager will be contacted. Based on this data gathering process, a summary of RECs, HRECs, and CRECs that could pose constraints on each of the three Build Alternatives will be compiled. The need for additional, site-specific hazardous materials assessment, investigation, and analysis will be determined and specified in the EIS. Each Build Alternative will be evaluated relative to the identified RECs, HRECs, and CRECs. The Build Alternative locations will be mapped along with the areas of soil and groundwater contamination.

Based on the evaluation of the Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative, recommendations will be presented, potentially including additional site investigation, remediation/mitigation, alternative locations for the Build Alternatives, and the reasoning for the recommendations.

7.3.20 Mineral and Energy Resources

This section of the EIS will include a qualitative discussion of energy demands and use during planned construction of each of the three Build Alternatives. The analysis will identify potential impacts, if any, on existing energy sources and supplies due to the Build Alternatives. Bergen County is not identified as a principal mineral producing area by the USGS; therefore, potential impacts of the three Build Alternatives on mineral resources in the Project Area are not anticipated to be a concern (USGS 2015). However, the EIS will include a qualitative discussion of the mineral resources, including crushed stone, soils, sand, gravel, steel, and other mineral materials, that would be utilized during construction of each of the three Build Alternatives. Regional suppliers of stone, sand, and gravel will be identified and secondary impacts to the originating locales of these mineral resources will also be qualitatively considered, to the extent that the locations are determinable. The EIS will include a discussion on the differences in mineral resources commitments among the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative.

7.3.21 Agricultural Resources and Prime Farmlands

This section of the EIS will include an assessment of the farmlands located in the Project Area and identify key agricultural resources. State and county agricultural profiles will be used to represent existing conditions. Due to the current emphasis on community and urban gardening in the Project Area, residential vegetable gardens will be discussed and considered in this analysis. Other key sources of information will include information contained in county and municipal planning department documents, parcel databases, and inventories obtained from the US Census of Agriculture (US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service) and from the NJDA. Any impacts to farmlands and agricultural resources from the three Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative will be described along with mitigation strategies.

7.4 Cumulative Impacts

As required by NEPA and CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1508.7), the EIS analysis will include an examination of cumulative impacts associated with each of the three Build Alternatives and the No

Public DRAFT

Action Alternative. Cumulative impacts are incremental actions that, individually, may not represent a significant environmental impact; however, when taking into consideration other past, current, proposed, or reasonably foreseeable actions with similar impacts at the same time and in the same space, the overall result may be significant. Often, individual actions do not result in adverse impacts; instead, adverse impacts arise from the aggregated incremental impacts of many separate actions over the course of time.

The cumulative impacts analysis will identify other nearby past, current, proposed, and in-development independent projects. To determine which projects will be included in this analysis, CEQ's guidance on cumulative impacts, which identifies the following steps, will be followed:

- *Step 1: Determine the significant cumulative impacts (direct and indirect) from the Proposed Project.* For each discipline of study, determine which resources (natural as well as the built environment) would be affected.
- *Step 2: Establish the geographic scope.* Determine the spatial extent of the impacts identified in Step 1.
- *Step 3: Establish the time frame for analysis.* Determine how long the impacts identified in Step 1 would last (e.g., temporary during construction or permanent impacts).
- *Step 4: Identify other actions affecting the resources, ecosystems, and human communities of concern.* Identify other projects within the geographic extent identified in Step 2 that have impacts on the resources identified in Step 1, whose own impacts would occur within the same timeframe as those resources established in Step 3.

An identification of nearby past, current, proposed, and in-development independent projects will be conducted based on a desktop review of information from various online sources such as news articles, local master plans, and planning documents. For example, the potential impacts of the original RBD regional concept proposal for the Meadowlands Program Area in the Phase 2 and Phase 3 Pilot Areas (see **Section 3.2**) would be addressed in this analysis, if future development of these proposals is reasonably foreseeable. Additionally, the NJDEP Action Plan Amendment 12 (published April 22, 2015) contains a summary of projects whose separate, individual impacts will be considered in this analysis. In general, projects and activities within a 5-mile study area around the Project Area would be used for the cumulative impacts analysis, as past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects within this area are most likely, in concert with the Proposed Project, to contribute to cumulative effects. The list of projects will be monitored and updated throughout the course of this NEPA process to include relevant projects that may contribute cumulative effects.

The cumulative effects analysis will consider the probable environmental impacts from other projects and evaluate them in conjunction with the anticipated direct and indirect impacts from the considered Build Alternatives and the No Action Alternative. Focus will be on potential impacts to vulnerable communities, notably including EJ areas and locations that have historically received significant amounts of flooding. The Proposed Project's impacts on flooding will be examined in conjunction with other independent projects' impacts on flooding patterns (identified through the steps above). Particular attention will be paid to whether adjoining areas not protected by the Proposed Project will be adversely impacted by the Proposed Project and other independent projects. The analysis will consider other independent projects to help identify and address possible impacts.

Ultimately, the analysis will compare the potential cumulative effects of each Build Alternative and the No Action Alternative on each technical resource area, informing the identification of a Preferred Alternative. If adverse cumulative impacts are identified, this analysis will identify potential mitigation measures that can be employed or incorporated into the design of the specific alternative to mitigate these effects.

PUBLIC DRAFT

8.0 REFERENCES REVIEWED

Clark Caton Hintz, 2013. *Reexamination Report of the Master Plan, The Borough of Little Ferry*, October 2013. Available at: http://www.littleferrynj.org/filestorage/159/195/Little_Ferry_DRAFT_Reexamination_Report.pdf. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2013. Hurricane Sandy Advisory Base Flood Elevations – New York and New Jersey, March 7, 2013. Available at: https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4086/updates/hurricane-sandy-advisory-base-flood-elevations-abfes-new-jersey. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, n.d. *National Flood Insurance Program BureauNet Homepage*. Available at: http://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/. Last Accessed: August 26, 2015.

Municipal Storm Water Management Plan Borough of Little Ferry Bergen County, New Jersey. 2005

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Geographic Information System geospatial data. Available at: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA). 2004. *Master Plan*. Available online at http://www.njsea.com/njmc/land/master-plan.html. Last Accessed April 29, 2016.

NJSEA. 2015. *Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (NJSEA) Homepage*. Available at: http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/gis/downloads/. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

NY·NJ·CT Regional Plan Association and Maser Consulting, 2011. *Vision Bergen: The Visioning Component of the Bergen County Master Plan*, May 2011. Available at: http://togethernorthjersey.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Bergen-County-Master-Plan-Visioning-Component.pdf. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

Oneill, James M., 2015. "Feds make it official: Hackensack River being considered for Superfund status," *NorthJersey.com*, March 11, 2015. Available at: http://www.northjersey.com/news/environment/feds-to-assess-river-pollution-1.1286365. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

Schwartz, Art, 2015. "EPA Takes First Steps Toward Hackensack River Cleanup," HudsonReporter.com, December 6, 2015. Available at: http://hudsonreporter.com/bookmark/26989047-EPA-takes-first-steps-toward-Hackensack-River-cleanup-br-font-size-2-i-Will-begin-testing-for-possible-superfund-status-font-i-br-. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

US Army Corps of Engineers, 2004. Meadowlands Environmental Site Investigation Compilation (MESIC), Hudson-Raritan Estuary, Hackensak Meadowlands. May 2004. Available at: http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/mesic/sites/waterbodies-and-other-wetlands/hackensack-river-2/. Last Accessed February 18, 2016.

US Environmental Protection Agency, 2015. *Lower Hackensack River Bergen and Hudson Counties, New Jersey Preliminary Assessment*, September 2015. Prepared by Ecology And Environment, Inc., Lancaster, New York. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/r_hackensack_river_pa_09292015.pdf. Last Accessed May 5, 2016.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1997. *Significant Habitats and Habitat Complexes of the New York Bight Watershed: Hackensack Meadowlands, Complex #19*. Available online at http://nctc.fws.gov/resources/knowledge-resources/pubs5/web_link/text/hm_form.htm. Last Accessed April 29, 2016.

US Geological Survey, 2015. 2010-2011 Minerals Yearbook: New Jersey [Advance Release]. October 2015. Available at: http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/state/2010_11/myb2-2010_11-nj.pdf. Last Accessed February 26, 2016.

PUBLIC DRAFT

This Page is Intentionally Left Blank.

Public DRAFT

Appendix B: Notice of Intent (NOI)

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

ACTION: Notice of teleconference meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee will meet on July 5, 2016, via teleconference to discuss various issues relating to national maritime security. This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The Committee will meet by teleconference on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. This meeting may close early if all business is finished. To join the teleconference, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to obtain the needed information no later than 3 p.m. on July 1, 2016. The number of teleconference lines is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Written comments for distribution to Committee members before the meeting must be submitted no later than June 27, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to the docket for this notice, USCG–2016–0499, using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *http://www.regulations.gov.* To facilitate public participation, we are inviting public comment on the issues to be considered by the Committee as listed in the ''Agenda'' section below. If you encounter technical difficulties, contact the individual in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.

Instructions: All submissions must include the words ''Department of Homeland Security'' and the docket number for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at *http://regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided. You may review a Privacy Act notice regarding the Federal Docket Management system in the March 24, 2005, issue of the **Federal Register** (70 FR 15086).

Docket Search: For access to the docket to read documents or comments related to this notice, go to *http://www.regulations.gov,* type USCG–2016–0499 in the Search box, press Enter, and then click on the item you wish to view.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ryan Owens, Alternate Designated Federal Official of the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20593, Stop 7581, Washington, DC 20593–7581; telephone 202–372–1108 or email *ryan.f.owens@uscg.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting via teleconference is in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Title 5, United States Code, Appendix).

The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee operates under the authority of 46 U.S.C. 70112. The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee provides advice, consults with, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security, via the Commandant of the Coast Guard, on matters relating to national maritime security.

Agenda of Meeting

The agenda for the July 5, 2016 teleconference is as follows:

(1) Coast Guard Cyber Security Tasking. At their last public meeting, the Committee was asked to provide recommendations concerning a Cyber Security Information Sharing and Analysis Center. A copy of the tasking can be found at *http://homeport.uscg.mil/nmsac.* The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee will meet via teleconference to receive the report of the working group and provide recommendations. The public will be provided an opportunity to comment prior to any voting on this issue.

(2) Transportation Worker Identification Credential; Next Generation Specifications. At the last public meeting The Committee was tasked with providing recommendations on what the next generation of Transportation Worker Credentials and readers should incorporate. A copy of the tasking can be found at *http://homeport.uscg.mil/nmsac.* The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee will meet via teleconference to receive the report of the working group and provide recommendations. The public will be provided an opportunity to comment prior to any voting on this issue.

(3) Extremely Hazardous Cargo Strategy. The Committee will receive a tasking to work with the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee in developing an implementation strategy for the Strategy.

During the July 5, 2016 meeting via teleconference, a public comment will be held from approximately 4:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to three minutes. Please note that this public comment period may start before 4:45 p.m. if all other agenda items have been covered and may end before 5 p.m. if all those wishing to comment have done so.

Dated: June 15, 2016.

K.P. McAvoy,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Director of Inspections and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2016–14512 Filed 6–17–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5953–N–01]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project in Bergen County, New Jersey

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an EIS.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gives notice that the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), on behalf of the State of New Jersey through its Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), as the recipient of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds, and as the ''Responsible Entity,'' as that term is defined by HUD regulations at 24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)(i), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project). The State of New Jersey, through NJDCA, has designated the NJDEP as the Lead Agency to prepare the EIS for the Proposed Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of alternatives for the construction of flood risk reduction measures within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, all in Bergen County, New Jersey (the Project Area). Such measures will be designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human environment in the Project Area due to both sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events. 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.

The State of New Jersey through NJDCA is the Grantee of HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) funds that have been appropriated under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113–2, approved January 29, 2013) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that was declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act) in calendar year 2012 for Hurricane Sandy. The Proposed Project was developed and selected as a winning concept through HUD's and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's RBD competition. The RBD competition promotes the development of innovative resilience projects in the Sandy-affected region. HUD has allocated $150 million in CDBG–DR funds for the planning, design, and implementation of this Project. Receipt of CDBG–DR funding requires compliance with NEPA.

This Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is, therefore, being published in accordance with NEPA, the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations found at *40 CFR parts 1500–1508,* HUD implementing regulations at *24 CFR part 58,* and HUD's additional environmental review requirements for the Project published in a **Federal Register** notice on October 16, 2014 (*79 FR 62182*). This Notice of Intent to prepare a EIS (as defined at *40 CFR 1508.22*) is in accordance with CEQ Regulations, and represents the beginning of the public scoping process as outlined in *40 CFR 1501.7.*

A Draft Public Scoping Document, or Draft Scope of Work to prepare an EIS (Draft Scope of Work), for the Proposed Project is available at *www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.* The Draft Scope of Work outlines the Proposed Project's purpose and need, initial range of alternatives, resource areas to be addressed in the EIS, proposed analytical methodologies, and other elements associated with the Project and this NEPA process as known at this early stage.

Following the public scoping process, a Draft EIS will be prepared that analyzes the Proposed Project. Once the Draft EIS is certified as complete, a notice will then be sent to appropriate government agencies, groups, and individuals known to have an involvement or interest in the Draft EIS and particularly in the environmental impact issues identified therein. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the **Federal Register** and local media outlets at that time in accordance with HUD and CEQ Regulations. Any person or agency interested in receiving notice and commenting on the Draft Scope of Work or Draft EIS should contact the individual named in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** no later than July 20, 2016.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted until July 20, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted by the individuals named in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Comments may also be submitted: (1) Online to the NJDCA Web site at *http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/;* or (2) U.S. Mail to: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625–0800.

Comments will also be accepted at the NEPA scoping meeting to be held on July 6, 2016. All comments received by July 20, 2016 will be considered prior to the acceptance, certification, and distribution of the Final Scope of Work, which will reflect substantive comments received during the public scoping period and used as input into the development of the Draft EIS. Commenters are also requested to submit: (a) Any information related to reports or other environmental studies planned or completed in the Project Area; (b) major issues that the Draft EIS should consider; and (c) any recommended mitigation measures and alternatives associated with the Proposed Project.

Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law, special expertise, or other special interest should report their interest and indicate their readiness to aid in the EIS effort as a ''Cooperating Agency.'' Written requests of individuals and organizations to participate as Section 106 Consulting Parties under the National Historic Preservation Act may also be made to the individual named in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The public and agencies will also be offered an opportunity to comment on the purpose and need, range of alternatives, level of detail, methodologies, and other elements of the Draft Scope of Work through public and agency outreach that will consist of: A public scoping meeting (described herein); scheduled community advisory group meetings associated with the preparation of the EIS; meetings with the applicable cooperating, involved, and interested agencies, as necessary; and meetings with Section 106 consulting parties, including federally recognized Indian tribes. Once completed and released, the Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment.

With NJDEP serving as the Lead Agency, the EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA, CEQ regulations found at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508, and HUD regulations found at 24 CFR part 58. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) and HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 58 (entitled, ''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 NJDCA, with NJDCA delegating NEPA Lead Agency responsibility to the NJDEP for the administration of the Proposed Project.

The EIS will also comply, as necessary, with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 12898 ''Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,'' Executive Order 11990 ''Protection of Wetlands,'' Executive Order 11988 ''Floodplain Management,'' Executive Order 13690 ''Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input,'' and other applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, to request a copy of the Draft Scope of Work, to comment on the Draft Scope of Work, and/or to address questions concerning the Proposed Project, please contact NJDEP via (1) email at *rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov;* or (2) U.S. Mail to Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501–01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625–0420.

Persons may also view the Draft Scope of Work by visiting the Rebuild by Design-Meadowlands Web site at *www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Project Background

HUD launched the RBD competition in the summer of 2013 (July 29, 2013, *78 FR 45551*) to develop ideas to

improve physical, ecological, economic, and social resilience in regions affected by Hurricane Sandy. The competition sought to promote innovation by developing flexible solutions that would increase regional resilience. The Proposed Project was one of the competition's winning concepts; it was developed with the primary goal of reducing flood risk in the Project Area. HUD awarded $150 million to the State of New Jersey for the Proposed Project. The EIS will analyze potential impacts of certain alternatives involving construction of flood risk reduction measures designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding in the Project Area, stemming from the award-winning RBD design.

The Project Area is vulnerable to both inland and coastal flooding. Hurricane Sandy exposed the vulnerabilities within the Project Area after low-lying areas were inundated by coastal storm surges. Within the Project Area, rainfall-induced flooding is more common and happens more frequently than coastal storm surge flooding. However, during Hurricane Sandy the impacts of rainfall flooding were considerably less than those from coastal storm surge flooding. If Hurricane Sandy had been a substantial rainfall event as well as a storm surge event, the Project Area's past history of flooding during heavy rainfall events indicates that the storm could have further increased flood levels and property damages.

Hurricane Sandy significantly impacted the Project Area, highlighting existing deficiencies in the Project Area's resiliency and ability to adequately protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure from flooding during major storm events. These impacts included extensive inland flooding due to major tidal surges, with significant damage to residential and commercial properties, impacts to critical health care facilities, and the failure of critical power, transportation, and water and sewer infrastructure. Approximately 1,600 homes, 600 rental properties, and 1,900 businesses within the Project Area were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Loss of income, loss of property taxes, and other Sandy-related property damage were estimated to be in excess of $40 million within the Project Area, including over $20 million in property damages alone. The average amount of property damage to each structure in the Project Area ranged from approximately $1,000 to $12,000. Nearly 30 percent of the structures damaged within the Project Area were renter-occupied; finding affordable replacement housing for renters within the Project Area was one of the immediate challenges following the hurricane. The goal of the Proposed Project is to reduce such damages, impacts, and losses during future events by decreasing the flooding risk in the Project Area.

B. Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project

The Proposed Project includes the construction of flood risk reduction measures designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human 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 in the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, 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 (2) coastal flooding from storm surges and abnormally high tides. 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 rates and claims from future events, and potentially restore property values to the extent possible with the available funding. The Proposed Project is needed to increase community resiliency, including protecting accessibility to, and on-going operations of, critical health care services, emergency services, and transportation and utility infrastructure. The Proposed Project will also deliver co-benefits, potentially integrating the flood hazard risk reduction strategy with civic, cultural, and recreational values to incorporate active and passive recreational uses, multi-use facilities, public spaces, and other design elements that integrate the Proposed Project into the fabric of the community to the extent practical with the available funding.

To address these needs, the Proposed Project would combine hard infrastructure (such as bulkheads or floodwalls), soft landscaping features (such as berms and/or levees), and/or a series of drainage improvements that would reduce flooding in the Project Area, with freshwater basins and the Meadowlands wetlands themselves increasing flood storage capacity and flood protection. The Proposed Project would connect to and potentially expand existing and future marshland restoration efforts by the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority. Urban design features integrated into the proposed flood protection system would also provide ancillary benefits by enhancing natural areas and allowing public access to open spaces and increased recreational opportunities along the Hackensack River. The EIS will examine alternatives that best meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Project.

C. Project Alternatives

The EIS will examine three build alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative. Each of the three build alternatives will seek 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, 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.

Each alternative is being evaluated through the ongoing engineering feasibility analysis and application of preliminary screening criteria. These alternatives will be further developed and modified 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. The three build alternatives, as currently proposed, are summarized below.

Alternative 1 or the Structural Flood Reduction Alternative. Alternative 1 will analyze various structural, infrastructure-based solutions that would be constructed to provide protection from both fluvial and tidal/storm surge flooding. This alternative, to the extent practical, would provide a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Certifiable level of flood protection to a portion of the Project Area. This alternative may consist of a range of structures, including levees, berms, barriers, drainage structures, pump stations, floodgates, and/or other hard and soft infrastructure to achieve the required level of flood protection. Different routing alignments and different levels of flood protection are also being considered.

Alternative 2 or the Fluvial/Rain Event Drainage Improvement Alternative. Alternative 2 will analyze a series of storm water drainage projects aimed at reducing the occurrence of higher frequency, small- to medium-scale flooding events that impact the

communities located in the Project Area. Together, these interventions would provide a system of improved storm water management, and may include both local drainage improvements and wetlands restoration to protect communities located in the Project Area and address day-to-day water management challenges. These interventions may include: Drainage ditches, pipes, and pump stations at strategic locations; increased roadway elevations; new green infrastructure (*e.g.,* wetland drainage basins, bioswales), water storage areas, and water control structures; cleaning and de-snagging of existing waterways; and increasing and enhancing public open space.

Alternative 3 or the Hybrid Alternative. Alternative 3 will analyze a strategic, synergistic blend of new infrastructure and local drainage improvements to reduce flood risk in the Project Area. Components of Alternatives 1 and 2 will be combined to provide an integrated, hybrid solution that employs a combination of appropriate levees, berms, drainage structures, pump stations, and/or floodgates, coupled with local drainage improvement projects, to achieve the maximum amount of flood protection within the boundaries of the Project Area.

No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative will also be evaluated in accordance with CEQ Regulations at *40 CFR 1502.14(d).* The No Action Alternative represents the status quo or baseline conditions without implementation of any of the improvements associated with the Proposed Project.

The alternatives analysis will consist of a comparison of the four alternatives' impacts on the human environment pursuant to *24 CFR part 58,* as well as how well each alternative meets the Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project. This process, which will be described in detail in the Draft EIS, will lead to the designation of a Preferred Alternative.

D. Need for the EIS

The Proposed Project described above has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EIS will therefore be prepared in accordance with NEPA requirements. Responses to this notice will be used to: (1) Determine significant environmental issues; (2) assist in developing a range of alternatives to be considered; (3) identify issues that the EIS should address; and (4) identify agencies and other parties that will participate in the EIS process and the basis for their involvement.

E. Scoping

A public scoping meeting on the Draft Scope of Work will be held on July 6, 2016, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Robert J. Craig School, located at 20 West Park Street, Moonachie, NJ 07074. The public meeting facility will be handicapped-accessible to the mobility-impaired. Interpreter services will be made available for persons who are hearing or visually impaired, upon advance request. Interpreter services will also be made available for persons with Limited English Proficiency through a language access service, upon advance request. The EIS scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Project and provide input on the EIS and the NEPA process.

During the meeting, an overview of the Proposed Project will be provided, as well as details on the early development of alternatives. The public scoping meeting will also provide an opportunity for the public to provide comment on the Draft Scope of Work. The Draft Scope of Work will be made available to the public for review and comment at the scoping meeting. An electronic version of the Draft Scope of Work is available at *www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.*

Comments on the Draft Scope of Work may be provided during the scoping meeting, or via the methods specified in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted and considered until July 20, 2016.

F. Probable Environmental Effects

The following areas have been identified for analysis in the EIS: Land use and land use planning; visual quality and aesthetics; socioeconomics and community/population and housing; environmental justice; cultural and historic resources; transportation, traffic, and circulation, including airport operations; noise and vibration; air quality; greenhouse gas emissions; global climate change; recreation; utilities and service systems; public services; biological resources, including threatened and endangered species; geology and soils; hydrology and flooding, including floodplain management; water resources, water quality, and waters of the United States, including wetlands; coastal zone management; hazards and hazardous materials; and cumulative impacts.

Dated: June 10, 2016.

Harriet Tregoning,

Principal Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 2016–14524 Filed 6–17–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5910–N–09]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: OneCPD Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

AGENCY: Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comment from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* August 19, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 4186, Washington, DC 20410–5000; telephone (202) 402–3400 (this is not a toll-free number) or email at *Colette.Pollard@hud.gov* for a copy of the proposed forms or other available information. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Rogers, Senior CPD Specialist, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 7218, Washington, DC 20410–5000; email me at *Kenneth.W.Rogers@hud.gov* or telephone (202) 402–4396. This is not a toll-free number. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339. Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Pollard.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the

Appendix C: Agency and Other Stakeholders Mailing List

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

AGENCIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Federal

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

POC: Megan Hesse, FEMA Unified Federal Review
POC: Charlene Dwinn Vaughn, Assistant Director

AMTRAK

30th Street Station
2955 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

POC: Stephen Gardner, Executive Vice President
POC: Petra Messick, Senior Officer of Outreach & Communications

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

POC: Renee Orr, Strategic Resources Chief Leasing Division, Marine Minerals Program

Leasing Division
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170

POC: Jeffrey Waldner, Physical Scientist/ Oceanographer

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Office of Management and Budget
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

POC: Michael Drummond, Deputy Associate Director

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Eastern Region
1 Aviation Plaza
Jamaica, NY 11434-4809

POC: James Robinson

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Headquarters
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

POC: Diana Matteson, Program Support Specialist

Region 2
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

POC: Patrick Tuohy, Federal Disaster Recovery Officer
POC: Nicholas Kahn, Community Planner
POC: John Dawson, Region II REO Representative
POC: Irene Chang-Cimino

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Region 2 - Lower Manhattan Recovery Office
1 Bowling Green, Room 436
New York, NY 10004

POC: Stephen Goodman, Director, Sandy Recovery Offices
POC: Donald Burns, Acting Director of Planning and Program Development
POC: Dan Moser, Region 2 Community Planner
POC: Helen Serassio, Special Counsel Attorney Advisor

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Headquarters
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

POC: Sandy Eslinger

National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

POC: Karen Greene, Mid-Atlantic Field Offices Supervisor

National Parks Service

Headquarters
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

POC: Joy Beasley, Chief, Cultural Resources, Preservation Resources
POC: Daniel Odess, Chief, Science and Research

Northeast Region
US Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

POC: Shaun Eyring, Chief of Cultural Resources
POC: Sarah Killinger, Resources Planning and Compliance

Olmsted Center for Landscape and Preservation
15 State Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

POC: Bob Page, FASLA Director

National Parks of New York Harbor
26 Wall Street
New York, NY 10007

POC: Barbara Repeta, Chief Of Staff

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Northeast Region
15 State Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02109

POC: Diane Lazinksy, Regional Environmental Protection Specialist
POC: Andrew Raddant, Regional Environmental Officer

Philadelphia Region
Custom House, Room 244
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

POC: Lindy Nelson, Regional Environmental Officer

US Army Corps of Engineers

New York District Public Affairs
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2113
New York, NY 10278

POC: Stephan Ryba, Chief, Regulatory Branch
POC: Chis Mallery, Deputy Chief, Regulatory Branch
POC: Jim Cannon

North Atlantic Division
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252

POC: James Haggerty, Regulatory Program Manager

Philadelphia District
Regulatory Branch
100 Penn Square East
Wanamaker Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

POC: Jim Boyer, Regulatory Project Manager

US Department of Housing & Urban Development

Headquarters
451 7th Street, SW, Room 7212
Washington, DC 20410

POC: Barbara Britton, Director of Environmental Review Division
POC: Danielle Schopp, Director of Office of Environment and Energy
POC: Jerimiah Sanders, Deputy Director of Office of Environment and Energy
POC: Ashley Bechtold, Environmental Specialist
POC: Nancy Boone, Federal Preservation Officer

Region I – Boston Regional Office
10 Causeway Street, Room 535
Boston, MA 02222

POC: Martha Curran, Regional Environmental Officer

Region II - New York City Regional Office
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

POC: Therese J. Fretwell, Regional Environmental Officer
POC: Alyson Beha, Sandy Senior Regional Planner
POC: Gabriella Amabile, Sandy Senior Regional Planner
POC: Sara Margolis, Sandy Regional Planner
POC: Mirza Orriols, Deputy Regional Administrator

US Environmental Protection Agency

Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Mail Code: 2732A
Washington, DC 20460

POC: Hamilton Humes, Senior Advisor, Office of Budget/OCFO

Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

POC: Timothy Timmerman, Associate Director, Office of Environmental Review
POC: Michael Marsh

Region 2
290 Broadway
Mail Code: 25th FL
New York, NY 10007-1866

POC: Grace Musumeci, Chief of NEPA Section 309/NEPA Compliance Coordinator
POC: Lingard Knutson, Senior Transport and Energy Environmental Analyst
POC: Daniel Montella
POC: Stephanie Lamster
POC: Doug Tomchuk

US Fish & Wildlife Service

New Jersey Field Office
Atlantic Professional Park, Unit 4
4 East Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, New Jersey 08205

POC: Eric Shrading, Field Office Supervisor
POC: Rick Bennet, Regional Scientist
POC: Steve Mars

US House of Representatives

New Jersey
2370 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

POC: Bill Pascrell, Congressman

State

Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

P.O. Box 157
Mendham, NJ 07945

POC: Jennifer M. Coffey, Executive Director
POC: David Peifer, Project Director

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability Rutgers University

93 Lipman Drive, Blake Hall
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

POC: Beth Ravit, Co-Director

Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding

P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

POC: Christine Baker

New Jersey Future

16 W Lafayette Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

POC: Chris Sturm, Managing Director, Policy and Water

New Jersey Legislature

496 Columbia Boulevard, 1st Floor
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

POC: Paul Sarlo, Senator

1 Howe Avenue, Suite 401
Passaic, NJ 07055

POC: Gary S. Schaer, Assemblyman

613 Bergen Boulevard
Ridgefield, NJ 07657

POC: Marlene Caride, Assemblywoman

NEW JERSEY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Mail Code 501-04B
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

POC: Katherine Marcopul, Acting Deputy State Preservation Officer

NEW JERSEY TRANSIT

Headquarters
1 Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105

POC: Jared Pilosio, Manager, Superstorm Sandy Recovery and Resilience Program
POC: Steve Santoro, Assistant Executive Director, Capital Planning & Programs

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY

One Newark Center, 17th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

POC: Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director

NY/NJ HARBOR & ESTUARY PROGRAM

17 Battery Place, Suite 915
New York, NY 10004

POC: Kate Boicourt, Restoration Program Manager
POC: Rob Pirani, Program Director contacted

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Corporate Offices
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

POC: Joe Simenic, Program Director. Storm Mitigation & Resilience

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY

NEW JERSEY RESILIENCY NETWORK

Sustainability Institute at the College of New Jersey
Forcina Hall 3rd Floor
PO Box 7718
Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

POC: Linda Weber, Program Director
POC: Nathaly Agosto Filion, Resiliency Manager

Local

BERGEN COUNTY PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

1 Bergen County Plaza, 4th Floor
Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076

POC: Elizabeth Stagg, Flood Management Coordinator

Christos Kavvadas, Principal Engineer

BERGEN COUNTY VOLUNTEER CENTER BC/VOAD LONG TERM RECOVERY CENTER

64 Passaic Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

POC: Lynne Algrant, CEO

BOROUGH OF CARLSTADT

500 Madison Street
Carlstadt, NJ 07072

POC: Craig Lahullier, Mayor

BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY

215-217 Liberty Street
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

POC: Mauro Raguseo, Mayor

BOROUGH OF MOONACHIE

90 Moonachie Avenue
Moonachie, NJ 07074

POC: Dennis Vaccaro, Mayor

BOROUGH OF TETERBORO

510 Route 46 West
Teterboro, NJ 07608

POC: John Peter Watt, Mayor

FORSGATE INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

400 Hollister Road
Teterboro, NJ 07608

POC: Alex Klatskin, General Partner

HACKENSACK RIVERKEEPER, INC.

231 Main Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

POC: Captain Bill Sheehan
POC: Andrea Leshak

HUDSONIA LTD.

P.O. Box 5000
Annandale, NY 12504

POC: Erik Kiviat, Executive Director

MEADOWLANDS REGIONAL CHAMBER

201 Route 17 N
Rutherford, NJ 07070

POC: James Kirkos, President

MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST

1 Dekorte Park Plaza
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

POC: Greg Remaud, Vice-Chair

MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

One Dekorte Park Plaza
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

POC: Francisco Artigas, Director

METROPOLITAN MOBILE HOME PARK

103 Moonachie Avenue
Moonachie, NJ 07074

POC: Jeffrey Leeds
POC: Paula Diaz

NEW MEADOWLANDS COALITION

POC: Sally Gellert

NEW JERSEY SPORTS AND EXPOSITION AUTHORITY

One Dekorte Park Plaza
P.O. Box 640
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

POC: Cheryl Rezendes

TETERBORO AIRPORT

Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
90 Moonachie Avenue
Teterboro, NJ 07608

POC: Renee Spann, Airport Operations Manager

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK

227 Phillips Avenue
South Hackensack, NJ 07606

POC: Gary Brugger, Mayor

VANGUARD MOBILE HOME PARK

113 Moonachie Avenue
Moonachie, NJ 07074

POC: Janet, Park Manager

Native American Tribes

ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

POC: Edwina Butler-Wolf, Governor

DELAWARE NATION, OKLAHOMA

P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

POC: Kerry Holton, President

DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

5100 Tuxedo Boulevard
Bartlesville, OK 74006

POC: Chester Books, Chief

EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

POC: Glenna Wallace, Chief

SHAWNEE TRIBE

P.O. Box 189
Miami, OK 74354

POC: Ron Sparkman, Chief

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

Appendix D: Newspaper Affidavits of Publication

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

4046526

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150
Germantown MD 20876-0876

4046526

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150
Germantown MD 20876-0876

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Early Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetlands for the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project in Bergen County, New Jersey

ACTION

Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gives notice that the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), on behalf of the State of New Jersey through its Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), as the recipient of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds, and as the "Responsible Entity," as that term is defined by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.2(a)(7)(i), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project). The State of New Jersey, through NJDCA, has designated the NJDEP as the Lead Agency to prepare the EIS for the Proposed Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of alternatives for the construction of flood risk reduction measures within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, all in Bergen County, New Jersey (the Project Area). Such measures will be designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human environment in the Project Area due to both sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events. 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.

The State of New Jersey through NJDCA is the Grantee of HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds that have been appropriated under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that was declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act) in calendar year 2012 for Hurricane Sandy.

The Proposed Project was developed and selected as a winning concept through HUD's and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's RBD competition. The RBD competition promotes the development of innovative resilience projects in the Sandy-affected region. HUD has allocated $150 million in CDBG-DR funds for the planning, design, and implementation of this Project. Receipt of CDBG-DR funding requires compliance with NEPA.

This Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is, therefore, being published in accordance with NEPA, the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations found at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, HUD implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, and HUD's additional environmental review requirements for the Project published in a Federal Register notice on October 16, 2014 (79 FR 62182). This Notice of Intent to prepare a EIS (as defined at 40 CFR Part 1508.22) is in accordance with CEQ Regulations, and represents the beginning of the public scoping process as outlined in 40 CFR Part 1501.7.

A Draft Public Scoping Document, or Draft Scope of Work to prepare an EIS (Draft Scope of Work), for the Proposed Project is available at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov. The Draft Scope of Work outlines the Proposed Project's purpose and need, initial range of alternatives, resource areas to be addressed in the EIS, proposed analytical methodologies, and other elements associated with the Project and this NEPA process as known at this early stage.

Following the public scoping process, a Draft EIS will be prepared that analyzes the Proposed Project. Once the Draft EIS is certified as complete, a notice will then be sent to appropriate government agencies, groups, and individuals known to have an involvement or interest in the Draft EIS and particularly in the environmental impact issues identified therein. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register and local media outlets at that time in accordance with HUD and CEQ Regulations. Any person or agency interested in receiving notice and commenting on the Draft Scope of Work or Draft EIS should contact the individual named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION no later than July 21, 2016.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK

DATES: Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted until July 21, 2016, or 30 days from the actual date of publication of this Notice of Intent, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted by the individuals named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Comments may also be submitted: (1) online to the NJDCA website at http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/; or (2) U.S. Mail to: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

Comments will also be accepted at the NEPA scoping meeting to be held on July 6, 2016. All comments received by July 21, 2016 will be considered prior to the acceptance, certification, and distribution of the Final Scope of Work, which will reflect substantive comments received during the public scoping period and used as input into the development of the Draft EIS. Commenters are also requested to submit: (a) any information related to reports or other environmental studies planned or completed in the Project Area; (b) major issues that the Draft EIS should consider; and (c) any recommended mitigation measures and alternatives associated with the Proposed Project.

Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law, special expertise, or other special interest should report their interest and indicate their readiness to aid in the EIS effort as a "Cooperating Agency." Written requests of individuals and organizations to participate as Section 106 Consulting Parties under the National Historic Preservation Act may also be made to the individual named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

The public and agencies will also be offered an opportunity to comment on the purpose and

The Record

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF PASSAIC SS:

S. Dunn

Of full age, being duly sworn according to law, on his/her oath says that he/she is employed at North Jersey Media Group Inc., publisher of The Record. Annexed hereto is a true copy of the notice that was published on the following date(s):

June 21, 2016

in The Record, a newspaper of general circulation and published in Hackensack, in the county of Bergen and circulated in Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Morris and Essex Counties. Said newspaper is published seven days a week.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 23 day of June, 2016 at Woodland Park, NJ

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Early Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetlands for the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project in Bergen County, New Jersey

ACTION

Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gives notice that the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), on behalf of the State of New Jersey through its Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), as the recipient of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds, and as the "Responsible Entity," as that term is defined by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.2(a)(7)(i), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rebuild by Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project). The State of New Jersey, through NJDCA, has designated the NJDEP as the Lead Agency to prepare the EIS for the Proposed Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of alternatives for the construction of flood risk reduction measures within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, all in Bergen County, New Jersey (the Project Area). Such measures will be designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human environment in the Project Area due to both sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events. 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.

The State of New Jersey through NJDCA is the Grantee of HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds that have been appropriated under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that was declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act) in calendar year 2012 for Hurricane Sandy.

The Proposed Project was developed and selected as a winning concept through HUD's and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's RBD competition. The RBD competition promotes the development of innovative resilience projects in the Sandy-affected region. HUD has allocated $150 million in CDBG-DR funds for the planning, design, and implementation of this Project. Receipt of CDBG-DR funding requires compliance with NEPA.

This Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is, therefore, being published in accordance with NEPA, the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations found at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, HUD implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, and HUD's additional environmental review requirements for the Project published in a Federal Register notice on October 16, 2014 (79 FR 62182). This Notice of Intent to prepare a EIS (as defined at 40 CFR Part 1508.22) is in accordance with CEQ Regulations, and represents the beginning of the public scoping process as outlined in 40 CFR Part 1501.7.

A Draft Public Scoping Document, or Draft Scope of Work to prepare an EIS (Draft Scope of Work), for the Proposed Project is available at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov. The Draft Scope of Work outlines the Proposed Project's purpose and need, initial range of alternatives, resource areas to be addressed in the EIS, proposed analytical methodologies, and other elements associated with the Project and this NEPA process as known at this early stage.

Following the public scoping process, a Draft EIS will be prepared that analyzes the Proposed Project. Once the Draft EIS is certified as complete, a notice will then be sent to appropriate government agencies, groups, and individuals known to have an involvement or interest in the Draft EIS and particularly in the environmental impact issues identified therein. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register and local media outlets at that time in accordance with HUD and CEQ Regulations. Any person or agency interested in receiving notice and commenting on the Draft Scope of Work or Draft EIS should contact the individual named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION no later than July 21, 2016.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK

DATES: Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted until July 21, 2016, or 30 days from the actual date of publication of this Notice of Intent, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted by the individuals named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Comments may also be submitted: (1) online to the NJDCA website at http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/; or (2) U.S. Mail to: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

Comments will also be accepted at the NEPA scoping meeting to be held on July 6, 2016. All comments received by July 21, 2016 will be considered prior to the acceptance, certification, and distribution of the Final Scope of Work, which will reflect substantive comments received during the public scoping period and used as input into the development of the Draft EIS. Commenters are also requested to submit: (a) any information related to reports or other environmental studies planned or completed in the Project Area; (b) major issues that the Draft EIS should consider; and (c) any recommended mitigation measures and alternatives associated with the Proposed Project.

Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law, special expertise, or other special interest should report their interest and indicate their readiness to aid in the EIS effort as a "Cooperating Agency." Written requests of individuals and organizations to participate as Section 106 Consulting Parties under the National Historic Preservation Act may also be made to the individual named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

The public and agencies will also be offered an opportunity to comment on the purpose and need, range of alternatives, level of detail, methodologies, and other elements of the Draft Scope of Work through public and agency outreach that will consist of: a public scoping meeting (described herein); scheduled community advisory group meetings associated with the preparation of the EIS; meetings with the applicable cooperating, involved, and interested agencies, as necessary; and meetings with Section 106 consulting parties, including federally recognized Indian tribes. Once completed and released, the Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment.

With NJDEP serving as the Lead Agency, the EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA, CEQ regulations found at 40 CFR Parts 1500 -1508, and HUD regulations found at 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) and HUD's regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 (entitled, "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 NJDCA, with NJDCA delegating NEPA Lead Agency responsibility to the NJDEP for the administration of the Proposed Project.

The EIS will also comply, as necessary, with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands," Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management," Executive Order 13690 "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input," and other applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, to request a copy of the Draft Scope of Work, to comment on the Draft Scope of Work, and/or to address questions concerning the Proposed Project, please contact NJDEP via (1) email at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; or (2) U.S. Mail to Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Persons may also view the Draft Scope of Work by visiting the Rebuild by Design-Meadowlands website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

tified, "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 NJDCA, with NJDCA delegating NEPA Lead Agency responsibility to the NJDEP for the administration of the Proposed Project.

The EIS will also comply, as necessary, with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands," Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management," Executive Order 13690 "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input," and other applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, to request a copy of the Draft Scope of Work, to comment on the Draft Scope of Work, and/or to address questions concerning the Proposed Project, please contact NJDEP via (1) email at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; or (2) U.S. Mail to Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Persons may also view the Draft Scope of Work by visiting the Rebuild by Design-Meadowlands website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

A. Project Background

HUD launched the RBD competition in the summer of 2013 (July 29, 2013, 78 FR 45551) to develop ideas to improve physical, ecological, economic, and social resilience in regions affected by Hurricane Sandy. The competition sought to promote innovation by developing flexible solutions that would increase regional resilience. The Proposed Project was one of the competition's winning concepts; it was developed with the primary goal of reducing flood risk in the Project Area. HUD awarded $150 million to the State of New Jersey for the Proposed Project. The EIS will analyze potential impacts of certain alternatives involving construction of flood risk reduction measures designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding in the Project Area, stemming from the award-winning RBD design.

The Project Area is vulnerable to both inland and coastal flooding. Hurricane Sandy exposed the vulnerabilities within the Project Area after low-lying areas were inundated by coastal storm surges. Within the Project Area, rainfall-induced flooding is more common and happens more frequently than coastal storm surge flooding. However, during Hurricane Sandy the impacts of rainfall flooding were considerably less than those from coastal storm surge flooding. If Hurricane Sandy had been a substantial rainfall event as well as a storm surge event, the Project Area's past history of flooding during heavy rainfall events indicates that the storm could have further increased flood levels and property damages.

Hurricane Sandy significantly impacted the Project Area, highlighting existing deficiencies in the Project Area's resiliency and ability to adequately protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure from flooding during major storm events. These impacts included extensive inland flooding due to major tidal surges, with significant damage to residential and commercial properties, impacts to critical health care facilities, and the failure of critical power, transportation, and water and sewer infrastructure. Approximately 1,600 homes, 600 rental properties, and 1,900 businesses within the Project Area were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Loss of income, loss of property taxes, and other Sandy-related property damage were estimated to be in excess of $40 million within the Project Area, including over $20 million in property damages alone. The average amount of property damage to each structure in the Project Area ranged from approximately $1,000 to $12,000. Nearly 30 percent of the structures damaged within the Project Area were renter-occupied; finding affordable replacement housing for renters within the Project Area was one of the immediate challenges following the hurricane.

The goal of the Proposed Project is to reduce such damages, impacts, and losses during future events by decreasing the flooding risk in the Project Area.

B. Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project

The Proposed Project includes the construction of flood risk reduction measures designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human 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 in the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, 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 (2) coastal flooding from storm surges and abnormally high tides. 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 rates and claims from future events, and potentially restore property values to the extent possible with the available funding. The Proposed Project is needed to increase community resiliency, including protecting accessibility to, and on-going operations of, critical health care services, emergency services, and transportation and utility infrastructure. The Proposed Project will also deliver co-benefits, potentially integrating the flood hazard risk reduction strategy with civic, cultural, and recreational values to incorporate active and passive recreational uses, multi-use facilities, public spaces, and other design elements that integrate the Proposed Project into the fabric of the community to the extent practical with the available funding.

To address these needs, the Proposed Project would combine hard infrastructure (such as bulkheads or floodwalls), soft landscaping features (such as berms and/or levees), and/or a series of drainage improvements that would reduce flooding in the Project Area, with freshwater basins and the Meadowlands wetlands themselves increasing flood storage capacity and flood protection. The Proposed Project would connect to and potentially expand existing and future marshland restoration efforts by the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority. Urban design features integrated into the proposed flood protection system would also provide ancillary benefits by enhancing natural areas and allowing public access to open spaces and increased recreational opportunities along the Hackensack River. The EIS will examine alternatives that best meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Project.

C. Project Alternatives

The EIS will examine three build alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative. Each of the three build alternatives will seek to reduce the flood risk within the Project Area. Those 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. 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.

Each alternative is being evaluated through the ongoing engineering feasibility analysis and application of preliminary screening criteria. These alternatives will be further developed and modified 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.

The three build alternatives, as currently proposed, are summarized below.

Alternative 1 or the Structural Flood Reduction Alternative. Alternative 1 will analyze various structural, infrastructure-based solutions that would be constructed to provide protection from both fluvial and tidal/storm surge flooding. This alternative, to the extent practical, would provide a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Certifiable level of flood protection to a portion of the Project Area. This alternative may consist of a range of structures, including levees, berms, barriers, drainage structures, pump stations, floodgates, and/or other hard and soft infrastructure to achieve the required level of flood protection. Different routing alignments and different levels of flood protection are also being considered.

Alternative 2 or the Fluvial/Rain Event Drainage Improvement Alternative. Alternative 2 will analyze a series of storm water drainage projects aimed at reducing the occurrence of higher frequency, small- to medium-scale flooding events that impact the communities located in the Project Area. Together, these interventions would provide a system of improved storm water management, and may include both local drainage improvements and wetlands restoration to protect communities located in the Project Area and address day-to-day water management challenges. These interventions may include: drainage ditches, pipes, and pump stations at strategic locations; increased roadway elevations; new green infrastructure (e.g., wetland drainage basins, bioswales), water storage areas, and water control structures; cleaning and de-snagging of existing waterways; and increasing and enhancing public open space.

Alternative 3 or the Hybrid Alternative. Alternative 3 will analyze a strategic, synergistic blend of new infrastructure and local drainage improvements to reduce flood risk in the Project Area. Components of Alternatives 1 and 2 will be combined to provide an integrated, hybrid solution that employs a combination of appropriate levees, berms, drainage structures, pump stations, and/or floodgates, coupled with local drainage improvement projects, to achieve the maximum amount of flood protection within the boundaries of the Project Area.

No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative will also be evaluated in accordance with CEQ Regulations at 40 CFR Part 1502.14(d). The No Action Alternative represents the status quo or baseline conditions without implementation of any of the improvements associated with the Proposed Project.

The alternatives analysis will consist of a comparison of the four alternatives' impacts on the human environment pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58, as well as how well each alternative meets the Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project. This process, which will be described in detail in the Draft EIS, will lead to the designation of a Preferred Alternative.

D. Need for the EIS

The Proposed Project described above has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EIS will therefore be prepared in accordance with NEPA requirements. Responses to this notice will be used to: (1) determine significant environmental issues; (2) assist in developing a range of alternatives to be considered; (3) identify issues that the EIS should address; and (4) identify agencies and other parties that will participate in the EIS process and the basis for their involvement.

E. Scoping

A public scoping meeting on the Draft Scope of Work will be held on July 6, 2016, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Robert J. Craig School, located at 20 West Park Street, Moonachie, NJ 07074. The public meeting facility is handicapped-accessible to the mobility-impaired. Interpreter services will be made available for persons who are hearing or visually impaired, upon advance request. Interpreter services will also be made available for persons with Limited English Proficiency through a language access service, upon advance request. The EIS scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Project and provide input on the EIS and the NEPA process.

During the meeting, an overview of the Proposed Project will be provided, as well as de-

vide an opportunity for the public to provide comment on the Draft Scope of Work. The Draft Scope of Work will be made available to the public for review and comment at the scoping meeting. An electronic version of the Draft Scope of Work is available at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Comments on the Draft Scope of Work may be provided during the scoping meeting, or via the methods specified in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Comments on the Draft Scope of Work are requested by this notice and will be accepted and considered until July 21, 2016, or 30 days from the actual date of publication of this Notice of Intent, whichever is later.

F. Probable Environmental Effects

The following areas have been identified for analysis in the EIS: land use and land use planning; visual quality and aesthetics; socioeconomics and community/population and housing; environmental justice; cultural and historic resources; transportation, traffic, and circulation, including airport operations; noise and vibration; air quality; greenhouse gas emissions; global climate change; recreation; utilities and service systems; public services; biological resources, including threatened and endangered species; geology and soils; hydrology and flooding, including floodplain management; water resources, water quality, and waters of the United States, including wetlands; coastal zone management; hazards and hazardous materials; and cumulative impacts.

G. Notice of Early Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetlands

This section provides notice pursuant to 24 CFR Part 55 that this proposed federally funded project is located within the 100-year floodplain (i.e., the one-percent-annual-chance floodplain) and in wetlands. The NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the Proposed Project in the floodplain and wetlands, and the potential impacts from the Proposed Project, as required by Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce flood risk in the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, residences, and businesses from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future. The Project Area focuses on the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey. The Project Area has the following approximate boundaries: the 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.

This Project Area encompasses approximately 6,000 acres. The majority of the Project Area is mapped within the "A" Zone floodplain shown on portions of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels 34003C0262G, 34003C0266G, 34003C0258G, 34003C0259G, 34003C0257G, 34003C0256G, 34003C0252G, 34003C0254G, 34003C0253G, and 34003C0261G. In addition, the Project Area contains large tracts of tidal emergent wetlands associated with estuarine conditions present in the lower Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. In addition, wet depressions or small rivulets that contain freshwater facultative herbaceous and woody species are present in areas above the high tide line. Wetlands may be disturbed during construction of proposed drainage improvements and various hard and soft infrastructure features that may be proposed under the considered alternatives.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities within the floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment are given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program is an important public education tool. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands facilitates and enhances Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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.

H. Lead Agency

In accordance with HUD Regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, DCA has designated NJDEP to assist with the environmental review and preparation of the EIS. Questions may be addressed

ed to the individual named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Written comments to this notice should be submitted to the NJDEP via: (1) email to

This section provides notice pursuant to 24 CFR Part 55 that this proposed federally funded project is located within the 100-year floodplain (i.e., the one-percent-annual-chance floodplain) and in wetlands. The NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the Proposed Project in the floodplain and wetlands, and the potential impacts from the Proposed Project, as required by Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce flood risk in the Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, residences, and businesses from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future. The Project Area focuses on the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey. The Project Area has the following approximate boundaries: the 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.

This Project Area encompasses approximately 6,000 acres. The majority of the Project Area is mapped within the "A" Zone floodplain shown on portions of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels 34003C0262G, 34003C0266G, 34003C0258G, 34003C0259G, 34003C0257G, 34003C0256G, 34003C0252G, 34003C0254G, 34003C0253G, and 34003C0261G. In addition, the Project Area contains large tracts of tidal emergent wetlands associated with estuarine conditions present in the lower Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. In addition, wet depressions or small rivulets that contain freshwater facultative herbaceous and woody species are present in areas above the high tide line. Wetlands may be disturbed during construction of proposed drainage improvements and various hard and soft infrastructure features that may be proposed under the considered alternatives.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities within the floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment are given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program is an important public education tool. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands facilitates and enhances Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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.

H. Lead Agency

In accordance with HUD Regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, DCA has designated NJDEP to assist with the environmental review and preparation of the EIS. Questions may be addressed

ed to the individual named in this notice under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Written comments to this notice should be submitted to the NJDEP via: (1) email to

rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; (2) mail to Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420; or (3) the DCA website at http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/.

In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

For the Notice of Early Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetlands and the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, all comments must be received on or before July 21, 2016, or 30 days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later. All Comments will be considered by NJDEP and should specify which portion of this Notice they are addressing.

June 21, 2016-Fee: $618.03 (654) 4046526

EL CAMPEON DE LOS HISPANOS

EL DIARIO

LA PRENSA WWW.ELDIARIONY.COM

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of New York)

:

County of New York)

Ana Vera, Being duly sworn declares that she is

Senior Account Executive for the daily newspaper El Diario / La Prensa,

Published in the City, County and State of New York by CPK NYC, LLC.,

with main offices located at One Metrotech Center, 18th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

And that Legal Notice

(Advertisement), a true copy of which is annexed, was published in the said

Newspaper for NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS on Tuesday

June 21, Of the year 2016.

Ana Vera

Sworn to before me this

21st Day of June 2016

ABRAHAM PATELSKY
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Kings County
No. 01PA6146583
My Commission Expires May 22, 2018

Notary Public

One Metrotech Center, 18th Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel: 212-807-4632 Fax 212-807-4617

Aviso de Intención para Preparar Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) Preliminar y Aviso de Consulta Pública Inicial sobre Actividad Propuesta en Llanura de Inundación de 100 Años y Humedales para el Proyecto Rebuild by Design de Protección contra Inundaciones del Meadowlands, en el Condado de Bergen, Nueva Jersey

ACCIÓN

Aviso de Intención para Preparación de EIS

RESUMEN

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés) comunica que el Departamento de Protección Ambiental del Estado de Nueva Jersey (NJDEP, por sus siglas en inglés), a nombre del Estado de Nueva Jersey, a través de su Departamento de Asuntos Comunitarios (NJDCA, por sus siglas en inglés), como receptor de fondos de subsidio del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD) y en calidad de "Entidad Responsable", como lo define el término en las regulaciones del HUD en el 24 CFR, Parte 58.2(a)(7)(i), tiene la intención de preparar una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) para el Proyecto Rebuild by Design (RBD, por sus siglas en inglés) de Protección contra Inundaciones del Meadowlands (el Proyecto Propuesto). El Estado de Nueva Jersey, a través del NJDCA, ha designado al NJDEP como el Organismo Principal para preparar la EIS para el Proyecto Propuesto de acuerdo con la Ley de Nacional de Políticas Medioambientales (NEPA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Con la EIS se analizarán los efectos ambientales de las alternativas para construcción de medidas de reducción del riesgo de inundación dentro de los boroughs de Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, Teterboro y el municipio de South Hackensack; todos situados en el condado de Bergen, Nueva Jersey (el Área del Proyecto). Dichas medidas se diseñarán con el fin de abordar los efectos de la inundación costera y ribereña (fluvial) sobre la calidad del ambiente humano en el Área del Proyecto, debido al aumento del nivel del mar y a los riesgos de tormentas, incluyendo eventos de precipitaciones fuertes y tormentas costeras intensas. Los límites aproximados del Área del Proyecto son: río Hackensack al este; Paterson Plank Road y el límite sur de Carlstadt al sur; la Ruta Estatal 17 al oeste; y la Interestatal 80 y el límite norte del municipio de Little Ferry al norte.

El Estado de Nueva Jersey a través del NJDCA es el Cesionario de los fondos del Bloque de Subsidios para el Desarrollo de la Comunidad y Recuperación por Desastres (CDBG–DR, por sus siglas en inglés) del HUD que han sido asignados bajo la Ley de Asignaciones de Asistencia por Desastres de 2013 (Pub. L. 113–2, aprobada el 29 de enero de 2013), relacionada con la asistencia por desastres, la recuperación de largo plazo, la restauración de infraestructura y vivienda, y la revitalización económica en las áreas más afectadas y desvalorizadas como resultado de la declaración de un desastre mayor en cumplimiento de la Ley Robert T. Stafford de Manejo de Desastres y Asistencia de Emergencia de 1974 (Ley Stafford) en el año calendario 2012, debido al huracán Sandy.

El Proyecto Propuesto fue desarrollado y seleccionado como concepto ganador a través del concurso RBD del HUD y del Grupo de Trabajo de Reconstrucción posterior al Huracán Sandy. El concurso RBD promueve el desarrollo de proyectos innovadores de resiliencia en la región afectada por Sandy. El HUD ha asignado $150 millones en fondos del CDBG-DR para la planificación, diseño e implementación de este Proyecto. La recepción del financiamiento del CDBG-DR requiere el cumplimiento de la NEPA.

Por lo tanto, se ha publicado este Aviso de Intención para preparar una EIS en conformidad con la NEPA, las regulaciones del Consejo de Calidad Medioambiental (CEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) de la NEPA que se encuentran en el 40 CFR, Partes 1500-1508, las regulaciones de implementación del HUD en el 24 CFR, Parte 58, y los requisitos de evaluación ambiental adicional del HUD para el Proyecto, publicados en el aviso del Registro Federal del 16 de octubre de 2014 (79 FR 62182). Este Aviso de Intención para preparar una EIS (como se define en el 40 CFR, Parte 1508.22) cumple con las regulaciones del CEQ, y representa el inicio del proceso de consulta pública según se delinea en el 40 CFR, Parte 1501.7.

Un Documento Preliminar de Consulta Pública, o Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo para preparar una EIS (Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo), para el Proyecto Propuesto está disponible en www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov. El Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo describe el propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto Propuesto, el rango inicial de alternativas, las áreas de recursos que se abordarán en la EIS, las metodologías analíticas propuestas, y otros elementos asociados con el Proyecto Propuesto y con este proceso de la NEPA, como se lo conoce en esta etapa inicial.

Tras el proceso de consulta pública, se preparará una EIS Preliminar que analice el Proyecto Propuesto. Una vez que se certifique que la EIS Preliminar está completa, se enviará un aviso a las agencias apropiadas del Gobierno, grupos e individuos conocidos que están involucrados o que tienen interés en la EIS Preliminar y, particularmente, en las cuestiones de impacto ambiental identificadas en el mismo. Se publicará en ese momento un Aviso de Disponibilidad de la EIS Preliminar en el Registro Federal y en los medios de comunicación locales en concordancia con las regulaciones del HUD y del CEQ. Cualquier persona o entidad interesada en recibir aviso y hacer comentarios sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo o de la EIS Preliminar debe contactar al individuo indicado en este aviso bajo el titular PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN, a más tardar el 21 de julio de 2016.

COMENTARIOS SOBRE EL BORRADOR DEL ALCANCE DEL TRABAJO

FECHAS: Mediante este aviso se solicitan comentarios sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo, los que se aceptarán hasta el 21 de julio de 2016, o durante los 30 días desde la fecha efectiva de publicación de este Aviso de Intención, lo que ocurra más tarde.

DIRECCIONES: Mediante este aviso se solicitan comentarios sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo, los que serán aceptados por los individuos nombrados en este aviso bajo el titular PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN.

También se pueden presentar los comentarios: (1) en línea, en el sitio web del NJDCA en el enlace http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/ , o (2) por correo de los Estados Unidos, a: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner,

Área del Proyecto; (b) cuestiones importantes que se deberían considerar en la EIS Preliminar; y (c) cualesquiera medidas y alternativas de mitigación recomendadas asociadas con el Proyecto Propuesto.

Las agencias federales que tengan jurisdicción legal, conocimiento especializado, u otros intereses particulares deberían comunicar su interés e indicar su disponibilidad para ayudar en el esfuerzo de la EIS como una "Agencia Cooperante". Las solicitudes por escrito de individuos y organizaciones para participar como Partes Consultoras de la Sección 106 bajo la Ley de Preservación Histórica Nacional, también, pueden presentarse ante el individuo mencionado en este aviso bajo el titular PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN.

El público y las agencias también tendrán oportunidad de comentar acerca del propósito y la necesidad, el rango de alternativas, el nivel de detalle, las metodologías, y otros elementos del Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo a través de las actividades de divulgación al público y a las agencias, que consistirán de lo siguiente: reunión de consulta pública (descrita aquí); reuniones programadas del grupo asesor comunitario, vinculadas a la preparación de la EIS; reuniones con las pertinentes agencias cooperantes involucradas e interesadas, según sea necesario; y reuniones con las partes consultoras bajo la Sección 106, incluyendo las tribus indias reconocidas a nivel federal. Una vez completo y publicado, la EIS Preliminar estará disponible para evaluación y comentarios por parte del público y las agencias.

Con el NJDEP como Organismo Principal, se preparará la EIS de conformidad con la NEPA y las regulaciones del CEQ, señaladas en el 40 CFR, Partes 1500 –1508, y con las regulaciones del HUD, en el 24 CFR Parte 58. De conformidad con el 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) y con las regulaciones del HUD en el 24 CFR, Parte 58 (titulado Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities), el HUD contempla la arrogación de su autoridad bajo la NEPA por parte del Estado de Nueva Jersey, a través del NJDCA, mientras que el NJDCA delega la responsabilidad como Organismo Principal de la NEPA al NJDEP para la administración del Proyecto Propuesto.

La EIS también cumplirá, según sea necesario, con la Sección 106 de la Ley Nacional de Preservación Histórica, la Ley de Aguas Limpias, la Orden Ejecutiva 12898 "Medidas Federales para Abordar la Justicia Ambiental en las Poblaciones Minoritarias y Poblaciones de Ingresos Bajos", el Decreto Ejecutivo 11990 "Protección de Humedales", el Decreto Ejecutivo 11988 "Administración de Terrenos de Inundación", el Decreto Ejecutivo 13690 "Establecimiento de una norma federal para el manejo del riesgo de inundación y un proceso para solicitar y considerar más contribuciones de las partes interesadas", así como otras leyes y regulaciones aplicables federales, estatales y locales.

PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN

Para mayor información para solicitar una copia del Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo, para hacer comentarios acerca del Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo, y/o para hacer preguntas relacionadas con el Proyecto Propuesto, por favor contacte al NJDEP vía (1) correo electrónico a rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; o (2) correo postal de los Estados Unidos a Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Las personas también pueden tener acceso al Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo visitando el sitio web de Rebuild by Design-Meadowlands en www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

INFORMACIÓN COMPLEMENTARIA

A. Antecedentes del Proyecto

En el verano de 2013 (29 de julio de 2013, 78 FR 45551), el HUD puso en marcha el concurso RBD para el desarrollo de conceptos que mejoren la resiliencia física, ecológica, económica y social en las regiones afectadas por el huracán Sandy. El concurso buscó promover la innovación mediante el desarrollo de soluciones flexibles que aumentarían la resiliencia regional. El Proyecto Propuesto fue uno de los conceptos ganadores del concurso; fue desarrollado con el objetivo principal de reducir el riesgo de inundación en el Área del Proyecto. El HUD otorgó $150 millones al Estado de Nueva Jersey para el Proyecto Propuesto. Con la EIS se analizarán los posibles efectos de determinadas alternativas que implican la construcción de medidas de reducción del riesgo de inundación, diseñadas para abordar los efectos de las inundaciones costeras y ribereñas (fluviales) en el Área del proyecto, derivados del diseño premiado por el RBD.

El Área del Proyecto es vulnerable tanto a las inundaciones tierra adentro como a las costeras. El huracán Sandy puso en evidencia las vulnerabilidades dentro del Área del Proyecto después de que las zonas bajas fueron inundadas por las mareas de tempestad costeras. Dentro del Área del Proyecto, la inundación inducida por la precipitación pluvial es más común y ocurre con más frecuencia que las inundaciones por mareas de tempestad costeras. Sin embargo, durante el huracán Sandy los efectos de las inundaciones por precipitación pluvial fueron considerablemente menores que aquellas causadas por las mareas de tempestad costeras. Si el huracán Sandy hubiese sido un evento de precipitación pluvial sustancial así como un evento de mareas de tempestad, el historial de las inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto durante eventos fuertes de precipitación pluvial indicaría que la tormenta podría haber aumentado más los niveles de inundación y daños a la propiedad.

El huracán Sandy tuvo impacto significativo en el Área del Proyecto, resaltando las deficiencias existentes de resiliencia en el Área del Proyecto y la capacidad de proteger adecuadamente a las poblaciones vulnerables y la infraestructura crítica contra las inundaciones durante eventos de tormentas importantes. Estos efectos incluyen grandes inundaciones tierra adentro debido a grandes marejadas, con daños importantes a propiedades residenciales y comerciales; impactos a las instalaciones de salud críticas; y averías en la energía eléctrica, el transporte, y la infraestructura de agua y alcantarillado. Aproximadamente 1,600 viviendas, 600 propiedades de alquiler y 1,900 negocios dentro del Área del Proyecto fueron

El objetivo del Proyecto Propuesto es reducir tales daños, impactos y pérdidas durante acontecimientos futuros, reduciendo el riesgo de inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto.

B. Propósito y Necesidad del Proyecto Propuesto

El Proyecto Propuesto incluye la construcción de medidas de reducción del riesgo de inundación cuyo diseño aborde los efectos de las inundaciones costeras y ribereñas (fluviales) sobre la calidad del medio ambiente humano debido a riesgos de tormentas y elevación del nivel del mar en el Área del Proyecto. El propósito del Proyecto Propuesto es reducir el riesgo de inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto, y de ese modo proteger la infraestructura crítica, residencias y negocios de las más frecuentes e intensas inundaciones previstas en el futuro.

El Proyecto Propuesto es necesario para abordar: (1) inundaciones sistémicas tierra adentro por eventos de precipitación pluvial de alta intensidad/escurrimiento pluviométrico, e (2) inundaciones costeras por marejadas ciclónicas y mareas anormalmente altas. Además de reducir las inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto, el Proyecto Propuesto es necesario para proteger directamente la vida, salud pública y propiedad en el Área del Proyecto; reducir las tasas de seguros de inundación y reclamos de eventos futuros; y, potencialmente, recuperar valores de la propiedad, en la medida de lo posible, con el financiamiento disponible. El Proyecto Propuesto es necesario para aumentar la resiliencia de la comunidad, incluyendo la protección del acceso y las operaciones permanentes de los servicios críticos de atención médica, servicios de emergencia y la infraestructura para transporte y servicios públicos. El Proyecto Propuesto también entregará beneficios asociados, potencialmente integrando la estrategia de reducción del riesgo del peligro de inundación con los valores cívicos, culturales y recreativos para incorporar usos recreativos activos y pasivos, instalaciones de usos múltiples, espacios públicos, y otros elementos de diseño que integren el Proyecto Propuesto al tejido de la comunidad hasta donde sea práctico con los fondos disponibles.

Para atender estas necesidades, el Proyecto Propuesto combina infraestructura dura (tal como mamparos o muros de contención), características de paisajismo suave (tales como bermas y/o diques), o una serie de mejoras de drenaje que reducirían las inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto, con cuencas de agua dulce y los humedales de Meadowlands que por sí mismos aumentan la capacidad de almacenamiento del agua de las inundaciones y la protección contra inundaciones. El Proyecto Propuesto conectaría y potencialmente ampliaría los esfuerzos de restauración de los humedales existentes y futuros que lleva a cabo la New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority. Los elementos de diseño urbano integrados al sistema propuesto de protección de inundación también proporcionarían beneficios subsidiarios mediante el mejoramiento de las áreas naturales y al permitir el acceso público a espacios abiertos, y al aumentar las oportunidades recreativas a orillas del río Hackensack. La EIS analizará alternativas que mejor cumplan el propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto Propuesto.

C. Alternativas del Proyecto

Mediante la EIS se examinarán tres alternativas por construir, así como una Alternativa de No Acción. Cada una de las tres alternativas por construir tratará de reducir el riesgo de inundación en el Área del Proyecto. Estas alternativas varían según el tipo de infraestructura propuesta. Con la Alternativa 1 se analizará el uso de diques, bermas, barreras o muros de contención para reducir el riesgo de inundaciones. Con la Alternativa 2 se analizarán los impactos de las mejoras de drenaje sustancial logrados a través de una serie de proyectos locales en el Área del Proyecto para reducir el riesgo de inundaciones. Con la Alternativa 3, un híbrido de las alternativas 1 y 2, se analizarán los impactos de la fusión de nueva infraestructura y mejoras de drenaje para reducir el riesgo de inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto.

Cada alternativa está siendo evaluada a través del análisis constante de factibilidad técnica y aplicación de criterios preliminares de selección. Estas alternativas serán desarrolladas y modificadas durante la evolución de la EIS. Cada alternativa debe ser aplicable dentro de los límites de los fondos del CDBG-DR, disponibles a más tardar el 30 de septiembre de 2022. Las tres alternativas por construir, actualmente propuestas, se resumen a continuación.

Alternativa 1 o Alternativa de Reducción Estructural de Inundaciones. Con la Alternativa 1, se examinarán diferentes soluciones estructurales con base en la infraestructura que sería construida para proporcionar protección tanto contra las inundaciones fluviales como contra las marejadas ciclónicas y oleadas. Esta alternativa, en la medida de lo posible, proporcionaría un nivel certificable de protección de la Inundación de la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA, por sus siglas en inglés) a una parte del Área del Proyecto. Esta alternativa puede consistir en una gama de estructuras, incluyendo diques, bermas, barreras, estructuras de drenaje, estaciones de bombeo, compuertas y otro tipo de infraestructura dura y blanda hasta alcanzar el nivel requerido de protección contra las inundaciones. También se están estudiando diferentes alineamientos de ruta y diferentes niveles de protección contra las inundaciones.

Alternativa 2 o Alternativa de Mejoramiento del Drenaje por Evento Fluvial o Precipitación. Con la Alternativa 2, se analizará una serie de proyectos de drenaje de aguas pluviales encaminados a reducir la ocurrencia de eventos de inundación de más alta frecuencia y de escala menor a mediana que afectan a las comunidades ubicadas en el Área del Proyecto. A la vez, estas intervenciones proporcionarían un mejor sistema de gestión del agua pluvial y pueden incluir mejoras al drenaje local y restauración de los humedales para proteger a las comunidades ubicadas en el Área del Proyecto; así como atender diariamente los retos de la gestión del agua. Estas intervenciones pueden incluir: zanjas para drenaje, tuberías y estaciones de bomba en lugares estratégicos; aumento de elevación de aceras; nueva infraestructura verde (por ejemplo, cuencas de drenaje de humedales, bioswales); áreas de almacenamiento de agua, y estructuras de control de agua; limpieza y desbarbado de las vías navegables existentes; aumento y mejora de espacios públicos.

Alternativa 3 o Alternativa Híbrida. Con la Alternativa 3, se analizará la combinación estratégica y sinérgica de nuevas infraestructuras y mejoras al drenaje local para reducir el riesgo de inundación en el Área del Proyecto. Los componentes de las alternativas 1 y 2 se combinan para proporcionar una solución híbrida integrada, que emplea una combinación apropiada de diques, bermas, estructuras de drenaje, estaciones de bombeo y compuertas, acoplada a proyectos de mejoramiento del drenaje local, para alcanzar el punto máximo de protección contra las inundaciones dentro de los límites del Área del Proyecto.

Alternativa de No Acción. También, se evaluará la Alternativa de No Acción según las regulaciones del CEQ en el 40 CFR, Parte 1502.14(d). La Alternativa de No Acción representa el statu quo o las condiciones iniciales sin la implementación de ninguna de las mejoras asociadas al Proyecto Propuesto.

El análisis de las alternativas consistirá en una comparación de los impactos de las cuatro alternativas sobre el medio ambiente humano en virtud del 24 CFR, Parte 58, así como también sobre cómo cada alternativa cumple con el Propósito y la Necesidad del Proyecto Propuesto. Este proceso, que será descrito en detalle en la EIA del proyecto, dará lugar a la designación de una Alternativa Preferida.

D. Necesidad de la EIS

El Proyecto Propuesto -descrito anteriormente- tiene el potencial de afectar significativamente la calidad del medio ambiente humano. Se elaborará una EIS, por lo tanto, que se ajuste a los requisitos de la NEPA. Las respuestas a este aviso se utilizarán para: (1) determinar importantes cuestiones ambientales; (2) asistir en el desarrollo de una gama de alternativas por considerar; (3) identificar problemas que la EIS debe abordar; e (4) identificar agencias y otras partes que participan en el proceso de la EIA, así como la base de su participación.

E. Alcance

Se celebrará una reunión de consulta pública sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo el 6 de julio de 2016, entre las 6:00 p.m. y las 8:00 p.m. en el local de la escuela Robert J. Craig, ubicada en 20 West Park Street, Moonachie, NJ 07074. El local de la reunión pública tiene acceso para personas discapacitadas con movilidad reducida. Se contará con servicios de interpretación para personas sordas o invidentes, previa solicitud. Los servicios de interpretación también estarán disponibles para personas con dominio limitado del Inglés a través de un servicio de acceso al idioma, previa solicitud. La reunión de evaluación del alcance de la EIS proporcionará una oportunidad al público de conocer más sobre el proyecto y de proporcionar ideas sobre la EIS y el proceso de la NEPA.

Durante la reunión, se dará un resumen del Proyecto Propuesto, así como detalles sobre el desarrollo inicial de alternativas. La reunión de consulta pública también brindará la oportunidad al público de proporcionar comentarios sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo. Este documento estará disponible al público para su revisión y comentarios en la reunión de evaluación. Una versión electrónica del Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo está disponible en el www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Los comentarios sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo pueden ser proporcionados durante la reunión de consulta, o a través de las maneras especificadas en este aviso bajo el título de PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN.

Se solicitan comentarios sobre el Borrador del Alcance del Trabajo mediante este aviso, y serán aceptados y considerados hasta el 21 de julio de 2016, o en 30 días a partir de la fecha de publicación de este Aviso de Intención, lo que sea posterior.

F. Probables Efectos Ambientales

Se han identificado las siguientes áreas de análisis en la EIS: uso de la tierra y ordenamiento territorial; calidad visual y estética; socioeconómico y comunal, población y vivienda; justicia ambiental; recursos culturales e históricos; transporte, tráfico y circulación, incluidas las operaciones del aeropuerto; ruido y vibraciones; calidad del aire; emisiones de gases por efecto invernadero; cambio climático global; recreación; servicios públicos y sistemas; servicios públicos; recursos biológicos, incluyendo especies amenazadas y en peligro de extinción; geología y suelos; hidrología e inundaciones, incluyendo manejo de planicies aluviales; recursos hídricos, calidad del agua y aguas de los Estados Unidos, incluyendo humedales; gestión de zonas costeras; riesgos y materiales peligrosos; e impactos acumulativos.

G. Aviso de Consulta Pública Inicial sobre Actividad Propuesta en Llanura de Inundación de 100 Años y Humedales

En cumplimiento con el 24 CFR, Parte 55, en esta sección se proporciona el aviso correspondiente a este proyecto propuesto -con fondos federales- que se sitúa en una llanura de inundación de 100 años (es decir, llanura aluvial con probabilidad anual del uno por ciento) y sobre humedales. El NJDEP identificará y evaluará posibles opciones de ubicación del proyecto propuesto en la llanura de inundación y los humedales, así como sus efectos potenciales, como es requerido por los decretos ejecutivos 11988 (Floodplain Management) y 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), conforme a las regulaciones del HUD en el 24 CFR, Parte 55.20, Subparte C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. El propósito del proyecto propuesto es reducir el riesgo de inundaciones en el Área del Proyecto y, en consecuencia, proteger la infraestructura crítica, las viviendas y los negocios de las más frecuentes e intensas inundaciones previstas en el futuro. El Área del Proyecto se centra en los distritos de Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt y Teterboro, y en el municipio de South Hackensack, en el condado de Bergen, Nueva Jersey. El Área del Proyecto tiene los siguientes límites aproximados: río Hackensack, al este; Paterson Plank Road y el límite sur de Carlstadt, al sur; la ruta estatal 17, al oeste; y la interestatal 80 y el límite norte del municipio de Little Ferry, al norte.

El Área del Proyecto abarca aproximadamente 6,000 acres. La mayor parte del Área del Proyecto se encuentra asignada dentro de la planicie aluvial de Zona "A", que se muestra en partes de los paneles 34003C0262G, 34003C0266G, 34003C0258G, 34003C0259G, 34003C0257G, 34003C0256G, 34003C0252G, 34003C0254G, 34003C0253G y 34003C0261G del Mapa de Tasas de Seguros contra Inundaciones (FIRM, por sus siglas en inglés) de la FEMA. Además, el Área del Proyecto tiene grandes extensiones de humedales por mareas emergentes asociadas a condiciones de estuario, presentes en el curso inferior de los ríos Passaic y Hackensack. Además, se encuentran depresiones húmedas o pequeños arroyos que contienen especies herbáceas facultativas de agua dulce y de naturaleza leñosa, que están presentes en zonas por encima de la línea de marea alta. Los humedales pueden ser alterados durante la construcción de mejoras al drenaje propuesto, y se podrían proponer diversos elementos de infraestructura dura y blanda en las alternativas consideradas. Este aviso tiene tres objetivos primordiales. En primer lugar, dar oportunidad a las personas que puedan ser afectadas por las actividades dentro de las planicies de inundación y los humedales, y a quienes tengan interés en la protección del medio ambiente, a expresar sus preocupaciones e informar sobre estas áreas. En segundo lugar, en vista de la importancia de un programa de notificación pública adecuada como herramienta de educación pública, instar a quienes quieran hacer comentarios a que ofrezcan métodos alternativos para el mismo propósito del proyecto, y métodos para minimizar y mitigar sus efectos. La difusión de información y la solicitud de comentarios públicos sobre las llanuras de inundación y humedales facilitan y mejoran los esfuerzos federales de reducir los riesgos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas zonas especiales. En tercer lugar, como cuestión de justicia, informar a quienes puedan estar en gran riesgo o permanente cuando el Gobierno federal determine que participará en acciones que tengan lugar en las llanuras de inundación y humedales.

H. Organismo Principal

Según las regulaciones del HUD en el 24 CFR, Parte 58, el DCA ha designado al NJDEP para que colabore con el estudio de los efectos ambientales y la preparación de la EIS. Se pueden dirigir las preguntas a la persona nombrada en este aviso bajo el subtítulo PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN.

Los comentarios escritos sobre este aviso deben ser enviados al NJDEP vía (1) correo electrónico a rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; o (2) por correo postal a Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420; o mediante el web del DCA en el enlace http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/.
Otra opción es enviar comentarios por escrito a: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

También se pueden enviar comentarios: (1) en línea al sitio web del NJDCA en http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/; o (2) por correo postal a: Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

Todos los comentarios sobre el Aviso de Consulta Inicial sobre Actividad Propuesta en Llanura de Inundación de 100 Años y Humedales, y sobre el Aviso de Intención para Preparar una EIS, deben recibirse el 21 de julio de 2016 o antes, o 30 días a partir de la fecha real de publicación, la que sea posterior. Todos los comentarios serán considerados por el NJDEP, y se debe especificar a qué parte de este aviso corresponden los mismos.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPER

NOTICE of INTENT(NOI) to PREPARE a DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT and NOTICE of EARLY PUBLIC REVIEW of a PROPOSED ACTIVITY...

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared on (Bae, Jong Yook) , publisher of The Korea Centeral Daily News who, being by me duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says:
That the attached NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)... was published in The Korea Central Daily News a newspaper published in the Korean language and of general Circulating in the City of Bergen County of New Jersey and in the territory proposed to be annexed, which said territory is described in said NOTICE OF INTENTION, in the following issue: June 21,2016 and that the attached newspaper clipping is a true and correct copy of said published notice.

Korea Central Daily News
Publisher and CEO. Bae,Jong Yook

Sign: .....

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,
July 20, 2016

Notary Public

LEONELA MARIANELA CALLE
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01CA6288229
Qualified in Queens County
Commission Expires September 3, 2017

(*AFFIX NEWSPAPER CLIPPING HERE*)

환경영향 평가 보고서 (EIS) 초안 준비 기안 및 100년 홍수 및 저지대 재개발을 위해 뉴저지주 버건카운티내 홍수방지 프로젝트인 디자인 메도랜즈가 제안한 활동 보고서에 대한 사전심의에 대한 공고

조치

환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 작성을 위한 공지

요약

미 주택국(HUD)은 뉴저지주 공공사업국(NJDCA)을 통해 뉴저지주를 대신하여 뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)이 미 주택국 기금의 수여자이며 주택국 규정 24 CFR Part 58.2(a)(7)(i)에서 "당국"라는 용어를 정의하듯이 책임의 "의무를 지는 독립체"로서 RBD Meadowlands에 의해 기(既) 제안된 홍수방지 프로젝트 관련 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 준비의 의무가 있음을 통지한다. 뉴저지주 공공사업국(NJDCA)을 통해 뉴저지주는 국가환경정책법(NEPA)에 의거하여 기 제안된 프로젝트에 대한 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 준비를 하는 주요담당기관으로 뉴저지주 환경보호국을 지명한다.

뉴저지주에 위치한 버건카운티 내 리틀페리, 무나키, 칼스탯, 티터보로, 그리고 해켄색 남부 지역(통틀어 프로젝트 지역)에 침수위험감소 정책수립의 대안들에 대한 환경적 효과를 환경영향평가보고서(EIS)를 통해 분석할 것이다. 이러한 정책들은 해안 및 강(하천)의 영향을 다루도록 계획될 것이다. 이러한 정책들은 폭우 및 강력한 폭풍을 포함하며 해수면상승과 폭풍에 의해 프로젝트 지역 내 인간 환경의 질에 영향을 끼치는 해안 및 강(하천)의 홍수범람에 의한 파장을 다루도록 계획될 것이다. 프로젝트 지역의 대략적인 경계선은 해켄색 리버가 최동부지역, Paterson Plank Road및 Carlstadt 남쪽 분계지점이 최남단, Route 17이 최서쪽, 그리고 Little Ferry 의 북쪽지역 및 Interstate 80 이 최북단 지역으로 구분된다.

이 기금은 2013년 1월29일 제정된 재난구호예산법(Pub. L.113-2)에 의해 책정된 기금이다
1974년 수립된 Robert R. Stafford 재난구조 및 비상사태 지원법(Stafford Act)에 의거하여 2012년 허리케인 샌디가 국가적 비상사태라고 선포되었었다. 허리케인 샌디와 같은 주요 재난재해에 의해 피해충격이 크고 고통을 받은 지역들에 대해 재난구조, 장기적 회복, 기반시설 복구 및 주택 복구, 그리고 경제활성화 등을 촉진시키기 위해 2013년 재난구호예산법(Pub. L. 113–2, approved January 29, 2013)이 제정되었으며 기금이 책정되었다. 이 책정된 기금은 주택국 향토개발 및 재해복구 정액보조금 기금(CDBG-DR)으로서 뉴저지주가 뉴저지주 공공사업국(NJDCA)을 통해 본 기금의 양수인이다.

제안된 프로젝트는 주택국과 허리케인 샌디 재건 태스크포스가 공동주최한 RBD(Rebuild by Design) 대회에서 우승한 프로젝트로서 개발 및 선정되었다. RBD대회는 허리케인 샌디에 의해 피해를 받은 지역에 혁신적인 복원력 증강 프로젝트의 발전을 촉진시키는데 기여했다. 주택국은 본 프로젝트의 기획, 설계 및 수행을 위한 향토개발 및 재해복구 정액보조금 기금(CDBG-DR)을 1억 5000만 달러로 산정 및 할당했다. 향토개발 및 재해복구 정액보조금 기금(CDBG-DR)의 수령액은 국가환경정책법(NEPA)에 따라야 한다.

따라서 본 환경영향평가보고서(EIS) 준비를 위한 공고 기안서는 국가환경정책법(NEPA)에 의거, 환경특성심의회(CEQ) 국가환경정책법(NEPA)내 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 규정에 의거, 주택국의 24 CFR Part 58 규정에 의거, 그리고 2014년 10월 16일 연방정부의 공보문서(79 FR 62182)에서 발표된 주택국의 추가적인 환경검토 요건에 의거하여 발행된다. 본 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 준비를 위한 공고 기안서는(40 CFR Part 1508.22에서 정의하듯이) 환경특성심의회(CEQ) 규정에 의거하여 40 CFR Part 1501.7에 요약된 것과 같이 공공직무권한범위절차를 개시함을 보고한다.

공공직무권한범위문서(Draft Public Scoping Document)의 초안은 환경영향평가보고서 준비를 위한 직무권한범위작업의 초안이라고도 불리며 www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov 에서 확인이 가능하다. 직무권한범위작업의 초안은 제안된 프로젝트의 목적 및 필요성, 대안책의 초기범위, 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS)에서 다뤄져야 할 자원영역, 제안된 분석적 방법론, 그리고 본 프로젝트와 연관된 기타 요소 등을 서술하며, 지금과 같은 초기단계에는 국가환경정책법(NEPA) 절차라고도 알려져 있다.
공공직무권한범위 지정절차 이후 제안된 프로젝트를 분석하는 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 초안이 준비가 된다. 일단 환경영향평가 보고서 초안이 완성됐다고 확인이 되면, 공고문이 해당 정부기관, 그룹, 그리고 개인에게 전달이 된다. 공고문 전달이 되는 대상은 초안에 명시된 환경영향이슈를 포함한 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 초안에 연관 또는 관심을 보인 것으로 판단되는 정부기관, 그룹, 그리고 개인이다. 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 초안 공고문은 주택국(HUD)과 환경특성심의회(CEQ)의 규정에 의거하여 연방정부의 공보문서 및 지역 지방언론을 통해 발행될 것이다.
만약 개인 또는 정부기관에서 직무권한범위 지정작업의 초안 또는 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS) 초안을 수령하기 원하고 주석달기를 원한다면 2016년 7월 21일까지 본 기안서 내 "그 외 정보"(FOR FURTHER INFORMATION) 란에 가서 해당담당자 이름을 확인 후 연락을 취해야 한다.

직무권한범위 지정작업의 초안에 주석 추가하기

기한일자: 본 기안서에 의해 직무권한범위 지정작업의 초안에 주석을 다는 것은 2016년 7월 21일까지 또는 본 기안서가 실질적으로 발행되는 날짜로부터 30일 이내에 수령하는 것으로 제한한다.

주소: 본 기안서 내 "그 외 정보"(FOR FURTHER INFORMATION) 란에 지명된 명단이 있는데 이 명단에 명시된 이름만 직무권한범위 지정작업의 초안에 주석 추가한 것을 제출할수 있도록 제한한다.

주석은 아래의 경로를 통해 제출 요망:
(1) 공공사업국(NJDCA) 온라인 http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/
(2) 국내우편 : Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

또한 2016년 7월 6일로 예정된 국가환경정책법(NEPA) 직무권한범위 회의시 주석들이 수용될 것이다. 직무권한범위작업 최종본의 수락, 증명, 배분에 앞서 기한일자인 2016년 7월 21일까지 접수된 주석들만 고려대상이 된다. 고려대상으로 간주되는 주석들은 공공직무권한범위 지정 기간동안 받은 실질적인 주석들을 반영 할 것이며 EIS 초안을 발전시키는 실질적인 요소로서 사용될 것이다. 주석들은 또한 (a) 본 보고서와 관련된 정보 또는 계획된 기타 환경연구 정보 또는 프로젝트 지역에서 이미 완성된 정보 (b) EIS 초안이 심사숙고해야 하는 주요 이슈들 (c) 제안된 프로젝트와 관련된 완화적인 정책 권장사항 등 이상 (a)(b)(c) 3가지 사항을 함께 제출하도록 권고한다.

법적으로, 특별한 전문성으로, 또는 특별한 관심에 의해 연방기관에서 관할권(사법권)이 발생하는 경우 관심과 준비되었음을 나타내는 보고서를 발표함으로써 EIS를 지원하는 "Cooperating Agency"(협조기관)임을 알리도록 한다. 또한 "그 외 정보"(FOR FURTHER INFORMATION) 란에 언급된
국가역사 보존시행령(NHPA) 에 의거 Section 106 자문으로서 참여하기를 원하는 개인 또는 조직은 수기 작성한 신청서를 제출할 수 있다.

또한 일반인들과 정부기관은 목적 및 필요성, 대안책의 범위, 세부사항 정확도, 방법론, 그리고 그 외 직무권한범위작업의 초안 관련 기타요소들에 대해 주석을 붙일 수 있는 기회가 제공된다. 이러한 기회는 일반인들과 정부기관의 지원활동에 의해 가능해지는데 공공직무권한범위 미팅(본 문에서 이미 설명), EIS 준비관련 지역사회자문그룹 미팅진행, 필요에 의한 연관되고 관심을 보이는 정부기관과의 협조, 그리고 연방정부에서 인정하는 미국내 인디언부족들을 포함한 Section 106 자문과의 미팅 등이 지원활동의 범위에 해당한다. 완성 후 공개과정을 거치면 EIS초안은 일반인과 정부기관의 검토결과 및 주석들을 전부 볼 수 있도록 열람기능이 제공된다.

뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)이 주요기간으로서 국가환경정책법(NEPA), 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508상에 명시된 환경특성심의회(CEQ) 규정, 그리고 24 CFR Part 58에 명시된 주택국(HUD) 규정에 의거하여 환경영향평가 보고서(EIS)는 작성될 것이다. 미연방법전 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) 와 주택국 규정 24 CFR Part 58 ("주택국의 환경에 대한 책임을 지킨다는 가정하 업체들의 환경적 검토절차"라는 제목)에 의거하여 제안된 프로젝트의 관리를 위해 뉴저지주 공공사업국(NJDCA)은 국가환경정책법(NEPA) 주요기간의 책임을 뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)으로 위임하는 것을 포함하며, 주택국은 뉴저지주 공공사업국을 통해 뉴저지주의 국가환경정책법(NEPA)의 권한에 대한 전제조건을 준비한다.

EIS는 또한 필요시 국가역사보존시행령(NHPA)의 Section 106, 수질오염방지법(Clean Water Act), 행정명령 11988 "소수집단 및 저소득층 주민들이 거주하는 지역에 환경적 공정성을 다루기 위한 연방정부의 조치", 행정명령 11990 "습지보호", 행정명령 11988 "범람지역 관리", 행정명령 13690 "홍수피해 위험부담 관리기준 설립 및 이해관계자의 요청 및 고려 절차.설립" 그리고 기타 적용 가능한 연방, 주, 지역 법률 및 규정에 준수한다.

그 외 정보(FOR FURTHER INFORMATION)
그 외, 직무권한범위작업의 초안 복사본을 원한다거나, 직무권한범위작업 초안문서에 주석을 추가하고 싶거나, 그리고/또는 제안된 프로젝트 관련 질문이 있을시 NJDEP에 연락요망. (1) 이메일 : rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov 또는 (2) 국내우편 : Mr. Dennis Reinknecht,RBD Program Manager,Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
일반인들도 만약 직무권한범위 초안을 보기를 원한다면 Rebuild by Design-Meadowlands 의 웹사이트를 방문하시오 www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

추가정보

3

A. 프로젝트 배경

주택국은 RBD 경쟁대회를 2013년 여름(7월 29일, 2013년, 78 FR 45551)에 허리케인 샌디에 의해 영향을 받은 지역에 대해 직접적, 생태학적, 경제적, 사회적 복원력을 향상시키기 위해 개시하였다. 경쟁대회는 피해지역 복원력을 증강시키는 유동적인 해결방안들을 모색함으로써 획기적인 아이디어를 촉진시키는데 총력을 기울였다. 제안된 프로젝트는 경쟁대회에서 최우수작품 중 하나로써 프로젝트 지역의 침수위험을 감소시키는 것이 주된 목적으로 발전시켜왔다. 주택국에서는 제안된 프로젝트를 위해 뉴저지주에 1억 5천만 달러의 자금을 투입했다. 상을 수여한 RBD design으로부터 기인하여 EIS는 프로젝트지역 내 해수면 및 강을 통해 범람하게 되는 홍수의 영향에 대적하도록 설계된 홍수피해 위험요소 감소정책계획을 진행시 파생되는 특정 대안에 대한 잠재적인 효과를 분석할 것이다.

프로젝트지역은 내륙지역이던 해안지역이던 홍수피해에 취약하다. 프로젝트 지역 내 저지대 지역에서 해안지역의 폭풍 해일을 감당 못하는 취약점들이 허리케인 샌디를 통해 밝혀졌다. 프로젝트 지역 내에서는 강우로 인한 홍수피해가 해안지역의 폭풍 해일에 의한 홍수피해보다 훨씬 더 잦았다. 그러나, 허리케인 샌디의 경우 강우로 인한 홍수피해는 폭풍 해일에 의한 홍수피해보다 현저히 낮았다. 만약 허리케인 샌디가 엄청난 강우와 해안가의 폭풍 해일을 동반했더라면 프로젝트 지역에 강한 강우에 의해 여태까지 발생됐던 홍수피해 기록들보다 훨씬 더 홍수피해 수준과 재산피해수준이 높았을 것으로 보여진다.

허리케인 샌디는 프로젝트 지역에 극명한 피해를 입혔고, 특히 프로젝트 지역의 복원력 부족을 강조했으며 샌디와 같은 메이저 급 태풍이 오면 취약지점에 거주하는 거주자들과 주요 기반시설을 보호할 수 있는 충분한 수행능력이 부족하다는 점을 부각시켰다. 이러한 피해들은 조수가 밀려듬에 따라 거주지역 및 상업지역의 엄청난 피해, 병원과 같은 주요 건강관리 시설의 피해, 주요 전기, 교통, 상하수도와 같은 기반시설의 재기능 구실 불가 등 대규모 내륙지역의 홍수피해를 포함한다. 프로젝트 지역 내에서는 대략 1,600 가구와 600 렌트자산, 1,900개의 상업지구가 허리케인 샌디의 피해를 입었다. 프로젝트 지역 내에서 발생한 소득손실, 재산세 손실, 기타 샌디관련 재산피해는 대략적으로 4천만 달러 이상으로 추정되며 이중 재산피해 단독으로 피해금액만 2천만 달러에 이른다. 프로젝트 지역내 각각의 건축구조물들에 대한 재산피해금액의 평균은 대략적으로 $1,000에서 $12,000 사이다. 프로젝트 지역내 피해를 입은 건축구조물들 중 30%에 육박하는 건축구조물들은 렌트를 하는 세입자들이 살고 있었으며, 허리케인이 휩쓸고 간 직후 세입자들은 피해입은 거주지역을 대체할 새로운 거주지역을 프로젝트 지역 내에서 급히 찾는 것에 어려움을 겪었다.

제안된 프로젝트의 목표는 프로젝트 지역 내 홍수피해 위험도를 감소시킴으로써 향후 폭풍과 같은 재해가 닥치면 피해, 충격, 손실을 최소화 하는데 있다.

B. 제안된 프로젝트의 목적 및 필요성

제안된 프로젝트는 프로젝트 지역 내에서 폭풍과 해수면 상승으로 인한 해안 및 강의 범람으로 거주지역환경의 질에 악영향을 끼치는 것에 대해 홍수피해 위험감소 정책을 수립하여 피해를 다루도록 고안되었다. 제안된 프로젝트의 목적은 프로젝트 지역 내 홍수피해위험을 감소시킴으로써 추후 발생하게 될 메이저급 홍수피해로부터 주요

4

기반시설, 거주지역, 그리고 상업지역을 보호하는데 있다.

본 프로젝트는 아래의 사안들을 다루어야 한다: (1) 집중호우/빗물에 의해 발생하는 내륙지역 홍수의 체계. (2) 폭풍 해일과 비정상적인 만조에 의한 해안지역범람.
본 프로젝트는 추가적으로 프로젝트 지역 내 홍수피해 감소뿐 아니라 사람의 생명, 공중 위생, 그리고 재산을 직접적으로 보호할 필요성이 있으며 홍수보험료 및 홍수피해 클레임 지수를 줄여야 할 필요성이 있다. 또한, 동원할수 있는 기금을 동원하여 잠재적으로 가능선 까지는 재산/자산의 가치를 회복할 수 있도록 도움을 줄 필요성이 있다. 본 프로젝트는 주요 의료서비스, 응급치료 및 긴급 서비스, 교통 및 전기 등의 공공 기반시설에 대해 주민들이 언제든지 이용할 수 있도록 보호 및 지속적인 서비스 제공 등과 같은 지역발전의 회복력을 증강시킬 필요가 있다. 또한, 본 프로젝트는 공통혜택이 주어지는데 홍수피해위험요소 감소전략을 도시적, 문화적, 복지적인 차원에서 잠정적으로 통합하는 것을 포함한다. 그리하여 능동적 및 수동적 복지적 차원, 다목적/다용성 시설물, 공공장소, 그리고 기타 설계요소들을 전부 포함하여 본 프로젝트에 가용가능한 기금을 현실적으로 가능한 선까지 사용하여 지역사회의 일부로 통합되도록 한다.

이러한 필요성을 다루기 위해 본 프로젝트는 가공건물들과 같은 기반시설(예를들어 칸막이 벽 또는 제방시설물 건축)과 조경과 같은 기반시설 (예를 들면 둔턱을 세운다거나 강가에 제방을 위해 흙을 쌓는 일)과 배수시설 개선 등을 전부 결합 및 갖추었다. 이는 담수지역과 목초지 내 습지대가 자생적으로 범람으로부터 보호하고 어느 정도의 강수량에 대한 수용능력을 증강시킴으로써 가능하게 했다. 본 프로젝트는 뉴저지주 스포츠 전시청에 의해 진행되고 있는 습지대 복구노력에 연계됨으로써 잠정적으로 현 복구노력 및 가까운 미래까지도 협력관계가 유지 될 것이다. 도시개발의 특성 및 기능도 홍수피해로부터 보호하는 체계와 통합된다. 그렇게 함으로써 해켄색 강을 따라 자연지역을 향상시키고 공공용지를 일반인에게 접근할 수 있는 권한을 부여하고 복지시설의 기회를 향상시키는 등 보조적인 혜택이 발생한다. 본 프로젝트의 목적과 필요성에 가장 적절한 대안을 EIS를 통해 조사 할 예정이다.

C. 프로젝트 대안

아무런 액션을 취하지 않는 옵션도 있고 그 외에 총 3가지의 옵션(대안)들을 EIS는 조사할 예정이다. 프로젝트 지역 내에서 홍수피해의 위험요소를 최소화 하는 것이 세가지 옵션들이 지향하는 방향이다. 이러한 옵션들은 제안서에 프로포즈된 공공시설의 종류에 따라 각기 다르다. 옵션1은 제방, 모래턱, 벽, 또는 홍수방벽의 사용을 통한 홍수피해감소 여부를 분석할 것이다. 옵션2의 경우 프로젝트 지역 내 홍수피해를 감소시키기 위해 진행하는 지역별 배수시설 개선 프로젝트의 효과를 분석할 것이다. 옵션3은 옵션1과 2를 합쳐놓은 것으로 공공기반시설 및 배수시설의 개선을 통해 발생하는 효과를 분석할 것이다.

각각의 옵션들은 현재에도 지속적으로 진행중인 건축적인 가능성 여부 분석과 예비선결기준의 적용을 통해 평가되고 있는 중이다. 이 옵션들은 EIS과정이 진행됨에 따라 지속적으로 개발 및 수정될 것이다. 각각의 옵션들은 2022년 9월 30일까지 가용가능한 CDBG-DR 기금의 한도 내 까지 가용하여 시행 되어야 한다. 현재까지 제안된 세가지 옵션들은 아래와 같이 요약된다.

5

옵션1 또는 구조적 홍수피해감소 옵션.

옵션1은 다양한 구조적이고 공공기반시설을 기반으로 하는 해결방안 등을 분석할것이다. 이러한 해결방안들은 강(하천), 조수간만의 차 / 폭풍 해일 등에 의해 발생하는 홍수로부터 보호하는 대책이다. 옵션1은 프로젝트 지역에 부분적으로 실질적인 가능선까지 FEMA(미연방재난 관리청)에서 선정한 홍수보호 보증수준을 제공한다. 옵션1은 구조물의 다양한 범위로 구성 될 수 있는데 홍수피해로부터 보호해야 하는 필수수치를 달성하기 위해 제방, 둔덕, 배수시설 구조물, 펌프실, 방조문, 그리고/또는 그 외 기타 공공기반시설 등을 포함한다. 그 외에 상이한 경로 및 상이한 홍수피해 보호수치들 또 한 고려대상이다.

옵션2 또는 강(하천) / 강우에 대한 배수시설 개선 옵션.

프로젝트 지역에 발생하는 홍수의 빈번의 횟수가 높고 작거나 중간사이즈의 홍수를 감소시키는 목적으로 진행중인 배수시설 개선 프로젝트에 대해 옵션2는 분석 하게 된다. 이러한 개입은 개선된 강우량 관리체계를 제공하게 됨으로써 지역별 배수시설 개선과 습지대 복구를 통해 프로젝트 지역을 보호하며 매일매일 강수량 관리의 필요성에 대해 언급한다. 이러한 개입에는 전략적 지역에 배수로, 상하수도 관, 펌프실 등을 포함하며, 도로지면의 상승, 신 녹색 기반시설(예를들어 습지대 배수지역, 식물을 위한 배수시설), 저수지, 강우량 통제 구조물, 현존하는 수로 청소 및 뚫는 작업, 공공용지의 증가 및 향상 등이 포함된다.

옵션3 또는 하이브리드 옵션.

옵션3은 프로젝트 지역 내 홍수피해감소를 위해 전략적, 협력적인 신공공기반시설과 지역배수시설의 개선의 혼용을 분석할 것이다. 옵션1과 옵션2의 구성요소들이 합쳐져 적절한 제방, 둔덕, 배수시설, 펌프실 그리고/또는 방조문을 골고루 운용하고 지역배수시설 개선 프로젝트와 짝을 이루어 프로젝트 지역 내 홍수피해를 최소화 하기 위한 통합된 하이브리드 해결방안이다.

아무런 액션을 취하지 않는 옵션.

아무런 액션을 취하지 않는 옵션은 40 CFR Part 1502.14(d) 에 따라 환경특성심의회(CEQ) 규정에 의거하여 평가될 예정이다. 아무런 액션을 취하지 않는 옵션은 본 프로젝트와 관련하여 아무런 개선책을 수행하지 않은 상황 또는 현재의 상황을 의미한다.

위에 나열한 각각의 옵션들은 24 CFR Part 58에 의하여 인간의 환경에 끼치는 영향들을 전부 시뮬레이션 돌려 비교할 것이며 본 프로젝트의 목적과 필요성에 얼마나 적합한지를 각각 결정하게 된다. 이 과정은 EIS초안에 상세설명 될 것이며 옵션 중 가장 적절하고 적합한 옵션선정으로 유도 될 것이다.

D. EIS의 필요성

본 문서에서 설명되었듯이 본 프로젝트는 인간의 환경의 질에 잠재적 또는 상당하게 큰 영향을 끼친다. 고로 EIS는 국가환경정책법(NEPA)의 필요조건에 부합하여 준비 된다.
본 기안서에 대한 회신은 아래와 같이 사용 될 것이다. (1) 악영향을 끼치는 환경적 이슈들 결정. (2) 고려해야 할 방안에 대한 범위 결정. (3) EIS에서 다뤄야 할 이슈들 선별. (4) EIS 과정과 본 프로젝트에 연관이 될 정부기관과 기타 당사자들 식별

E. 직무권한 범위

공공직무권한범위 지정 미팅은 2016년 7월 6일 오후 6시부터 8시까지 진행될 예정이다. 장소는 Robert J. Craig School이고 주소는 20 West Park Street, Moonachie, NJ 07074 이다. 본 미팅장소는 장애인 및 거동이 불편한 사람들도 이용할 수 있는 부대시설을 갖추었다. 사전에 의뢰시 청각 또는 시각 장애우를 위한 통역서비스가 제공된다. 언어장벽이 있는 경우에도 마찬가지로 사전 의뢰시 통역서비스가 제공된다. EIS 직무권한범위 미팅은 본 프로젝트에 대하여 시민들이 더 깊은 이해를 할 수 있도록 기회를 제공하는 것이다. 뿐만 아니라 본 미팅은 EIS와 국가환경정책법(NEPA)에 대해 조언을 할 수 있는 기회를 시민들에게 제공하는 것이다.

미팅이 진행되면 본 프로젝트의 전체적인 개요가 제공되며 대안책들의 초기발달과정에 대한 상세항목들도 제공된다. 뿐만 아니라, 본 미팅에서 직무권한범위 지정작업 초안에 일반인들도 참여하여 주석을 달 수 있는 기회가 제공된다. 미팅진행시 직무권한범위 지정작업 초안에 대한 검토 및 주석을 위해 일반인들에게도 열람권한이 주어진다. 인터넷 상으로도 열람이 가능하며, 아래의 사이트를 이용해야 한다.
www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

본 기안서 내 "그 외 정보"(FOR FURTHER INFORMATION) 란에 직무권한범위 지정작업 초안에 추가된 주석들이 제공될 수도 있으며 또는 미팅도중에 제공될 수도 있다.

본 기안서에 의해 직무권한범위 지정작업의 초안에 주석을 다는 것은 2016년 7월 21일까지, 또는 본 기안서가 실질적으로 발행되는 날짜로부터 30일 이내 주석을 추가 후 제출할 수 있는데, 둘 중 더 늦는 날짜를 기한이라고 간주하면 된다.

F. 기대되는 환경적 효과

EIS상에서 식별된 분석들은 아래의 분야를 포함한다: 내륙지역 및 내륙지역 계획 / 시각적 및 미학적 질 / 사회경제적 및 지역사회, 인구 및 주택 / 환경적 정의 / 문화적 및 역사적 자원 / 대중교통, 교통량, 공항통제를 포함한 교통 순환 / 공음 및 진동 / 공해 / 온실가스 배출 / 국제적 기후변화 / 오락 / 전기 및 서비스 체계 / 공익사업 / 위협을 받거나 위험에 처한 동식물을 포함한 생물자원 / 지질학 및 토양 / 범람원 관리를 포함한 수문학 및 홍수 / 습지를 포함한 미국내 수자원, 수질 및 상수 / 해안지역관리 / 위험 및 위험한 소재 / 누적되는 영향 및 효과

G. 100년된 범람원과 습지대 지역 관련 제안된 활동 보고서에 대한 조기 공적감리 공고문 기안서

본 공고문 기안서는 24 CFR Part 55에 의거하여 100년된 범람원과 습지대 내에 본 프로젝트의 기금이 연방정부에 제안되었음을 알린다. 뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)은 본 프로젝트의 위치설정을 위해 실행가능성 있는 대안책을 식별 및 평가할 것이다. 이는 행정명령 11988(범람원 관리) 및 행정명령11990(습지 보호)에 의해 법적으로 요구된 사항이며 24 CFR Part 55.20 Subpart C, 습지보호 및 범람원 관리에 대한 결정 절차,에 의한 주택국 규정에 의거한다. 본 프로젝트의 목적은 프로젝트 지역에 홍수발생 위험을 감소시키기 위함이며 그렇게 함으로써 가까운 미래에 발생할 수 있는 홍수들에 대항하여 주요 공공기반시설, 거주지역 그리고 상업지역을 보호함에 있다. 프로젝트 지역은 리틀페리, 무나키, 칼스탯, 티터보로, 그리고 해켄색 남부 등 뉴저지주 내 버건카운티에 위치한 도시들에 초점을 맞추고 있다. 프로젝트 지역의 대략적인 경계선은 해켄색 리버가 최동부지역, Paterson Plank Road및 Carlstadt 남쪽 분계지점이 최남단, Route 17이 최서쪽, 그리고 Little Ferry 의 북쪽지역 및 Interstate 80 이 최북단 지역으로 구분된다.

프로젝트 지역은 대략 6,000 에이커에 이른다. 프로젝트 지역의 대부분은 FEMA에서 선정한 홍수보험료 지도(FIRM) 상에서 "A" 지역 범람원에 위치한다 34003C0262G, 34003C0266G, 34003C0258G, 34003C0259G, 34003C0257G, 34003C0256G, 34003C0252G, 34003C0254G, 34003C0253G, and 34003C0261G. 추가적으로 프로젝트 지역은 해켄색 강 아래쪽과 파싸익 강(Passaic River)에 하구조건과 관련된 조수로 인해 형성된 넓은 새로운 습지를 포함한다.
그리고 wet depression(늪지와 비슷)과 작은 개울가중 민물기생초본과 목질종류는 고조위선(만조선) 이상에서 발견된다. 대안책에서 제안된 대로 배수시설 개선 공사 및 기타 다양한 공공기반시설 공사시 습지는 방해를 받아 습지로서의 기능이 왜곡될 수 있다.

본 기안서에는 세가지 주목적이 있다.
첫째, 본 프로젝트에 의해 어떠한 활동이 착수 될 경우, 범람원 및 습지에 대해 자연환경적 보호의 필요성을 느끼는 분들은 심려와 걱정을 표현할 수 있는 기회가 제공된다.
둘째, 공공에게 충분히 알리는 프로그램은 공공에게 교육하는 도구로서 중요하다.
주석을 다는 분들은 본 프로젝트의 목적과 동일하며 충격을 완화 및 최소화 시킬 수 있는 방안을 모색하는 것을 권장한다. 범람원 및 습지에 대하여 정보보급 및 일반인이 다는 주석을 요청하는 것은 이런 특정지역에 대한 사용 및 변경과 관련하여 위험부담을 감소시키려는 연방정부의 노력을 용이하게 하며 향상시킨다.
셋째, 공정성을 위해 연방정부가 범람원 및 습지에 실질적인 액션을 취하기로 결정하면 그 결정으로 인해 더 큰 위험 또는 지속적인 위험을 받게되는 당사자에게 꼭 통지해야 한다.

H. 담당 기관

24 CFR Part 58에 따라서 주택국(HUD) 규정에 의거 공공사업국(DCA)은 환경검토를 돕고 EIS를 준비하도록 뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)지정하였다. 질문은 본 기안서 "그 외 정보"에 지정된 이름으로 하면 된다.

본 기안서에 대해 수기작성한 주석은 뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)으로 제출하면 된다.: (1) 이메일 rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov; (2) 국내우편 Mr. Dennis Reinknecht, RBD Program Manager, Engineering and Construction, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420; (3) DCA 인터넷 웹사이트 http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/.
또 다른 대안으로 수기작성 한 주석은 일반우편으로 아래의 주소에 보내면 된다.
Ms. Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

100년된 범람원과 습지대 지역 관련 제안된 활동 보고서에 대한 조기 공적감리 공고문 기안서 및 환경영향평가보고서(EIS) 초안 준비 의향 기안서에 대하여 주석을 다는 것은 2016년 7월 21일까지, 또는 본 기안서가 실질적으로 발행되는 날짜로부터 30일 이내 주석을 추가 후 제출할 수 있는데, 둘 중 더 늦는 날짜를 기한이라고 간주하면 된다.
모든 주석들은 뉴저지주 환경보호국(NJDEP)에 의해 고려대상이 될 것이며 본 기안서의 어느부분에 대한 주석인지 정확하게 명시해야 한다.

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

Appendix E: Public Scoping Meeting Materials / Handouts

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

CONTENTS

Public Scoping Meeting Handouts

Public Scoping Meeting Flyer....Page 1

What is NEPA Handout....Page 3

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project Handout....Page 4

NEPA Timeline Handout....Page 5

Outreach Process Handout....Page 6

Top 40 Frequently Asked Questions Handout....Page 7

How to Submit Comments Handout....Page 13

Comment Card....Page 14

Slide Presentation

Presentation Slides....Page 15

Presentation Boards

NEPA Timeline....Page 44

NEPA Purpose and Need....Page 45

NEPA Outreach Process....Page 46

Project Area....Page 47

Existing Water-Related Infrastructure for each Town....Page 48

Current Problem Flooding Areas for each Town....Page 53

Hazardous Materials in the Project Area....Page 58

Wetlands and Mitigation Banks in the Project Area....Page 59

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

To discuss proposed flood risk reduction measures in the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro and the Township of South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey.

July 6, 2016

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Robert L. Craig School Gymnasium

20 West Park Street
Moonachie, New Jersey

Please attend!

REBUILD BY DESIGN

MEADOWLANDS FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

NJDEP welcomes the public's input. Comments will be accepted until July 21, 2016.

How to submit comments:

- **Attend this meeting**
- **Email:** rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov
- **Mail:** **NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction**
  Attn: Mr. Dennis Reinknecht,
  RBD Program Manager
  501 East State Street,
  Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420
  Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

For more information or to obtain a copy of the Draft Public Scoping Document, please visit www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov

Send request for translation services to RBD-Meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog
Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski
www.renewjerseystronger.org

TURN OVER

TURN OVER

CONSULTA PÚBLICA

Discusión sobre medidas propuestas para reducir el riesgo de inundación en Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, Teterboro y el municipio de South Hackensack, en el condado de Bergen, Nueva Jersey.

06 de julio, 2016
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Escuela Robert L. Craig (gimnasio)
20 West Park Street
Moonachie, Nueva Jersey

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS PROYECTO DE PROTECCIÓN CONTRA INUNDACIONES

El NJDEP invita al público a brindar su opinión sobre el proyecto. Se recibirán comentarios hasta el 21 de julio, 2016.

Cómo puede participar:

- **Con su asistencia a esta reunión**
- **Por correo electrónico:** rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov
- **Por correo postal:** **NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction**
  Attn: Mr. Dennis Reinknecht,
  RBD Program Manager
  501 East State Street,
  Mail Code 501-01A,
  PO Box 420
  Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

¡Por favor asista!

Para mayor información o copia del Documento Preliminar de la Consulta Pública, por favor, visite www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov

Solicite servicios de traducción a RBD-Meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

공공 스코핑 회의

뉴저지 주 리틀페리, 무나치, 칼슈타트, 테터보로 보로우, 사우스해컨색 타운십, 버겐 카운티의 제안된 홍수 위험 감소 방안에 대한 토의.

2016년 7월 6일
오후 6시 – 오후 8시
로버트 L. 크레이그 학교 체육관
20 West Park Street
Moonachie, New Jersey

설계에 의한 재건 메도우랜드 홍수 방지 프로젝트

NJDEP는 대중의 의견을 환영합니다. 의견은 **2016**년 **7**월 **21**일까지 접수합니다.

의견을 제출하는 방법:

- 이 회의에 참석
- 이메일: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov
- 우 편 : **NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction**
  Attn: Mr. Dennis Reinknecht,
  RBD Program Manager
  501 East State Street,
  Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420
  Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

참석해 주십시오!

더 자세한 정보를 원하거나 공공 스코핑 문서 초안의 사본을 입수하시려면, www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov를 방문하십시오

통역 서비스 요청서는 RBD-Meadowlands@dep.nj.govSend로 보내십시오

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA), 1969

WHAT IS NEPA?

- NEPA requires Federal agencies to analyze, document, and consider the potential environmental effects of their Proposed Projects, prior to making decisions to implement a Proposed Project.
- For this Proposed Project, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, is the Federal decision-making agency; HUD is funding this Proposed Project. HUD has delegated the responsibility for NEPA compliance to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).
- NEPA requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, for those "major Federal actions having potential to significantly impact the quality of the human environment."
- NEPA requires a statement of purpose and need for the Proposed Project, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, public and agency involvement, and documentation of the results.
- The process of preparing an EIS is prescribed by law and regulation, and includes requirements for specific public involvement and review events, including opportunities for the public to provide input and comments. This Public Scoping Meeting is the first such event.
- The Meadowlands Flood Protection Project is a "major Federal action," and is therefore subject to NEPA. An EIS is being prepared.

THE NEPA PROCESS IS INTENDED TO:

- Inform decision-makers and the public of possible environmental consequences of a Proposed Project.
- Allow for public input into the decision-making process.
- Help decision-makers take actions to protect, restore, and enhance the environment.
- Document the environmental review and analysis process.

(PUBLIC INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT IS A KEY ELEMENT OF THE NEPA PROCESS)

PURPOSE + NEED

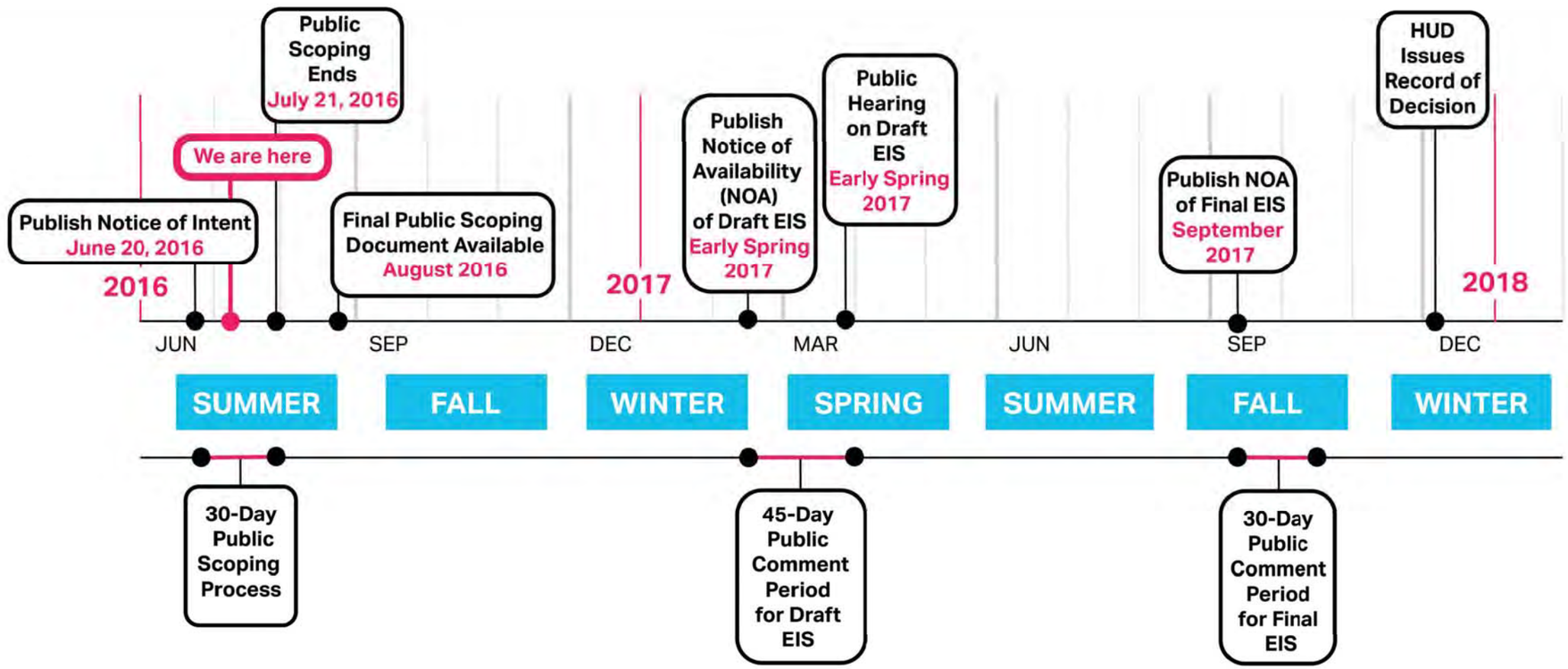
PURPOSE

The purpose of the Proposed Project, within this Project Area, is to:

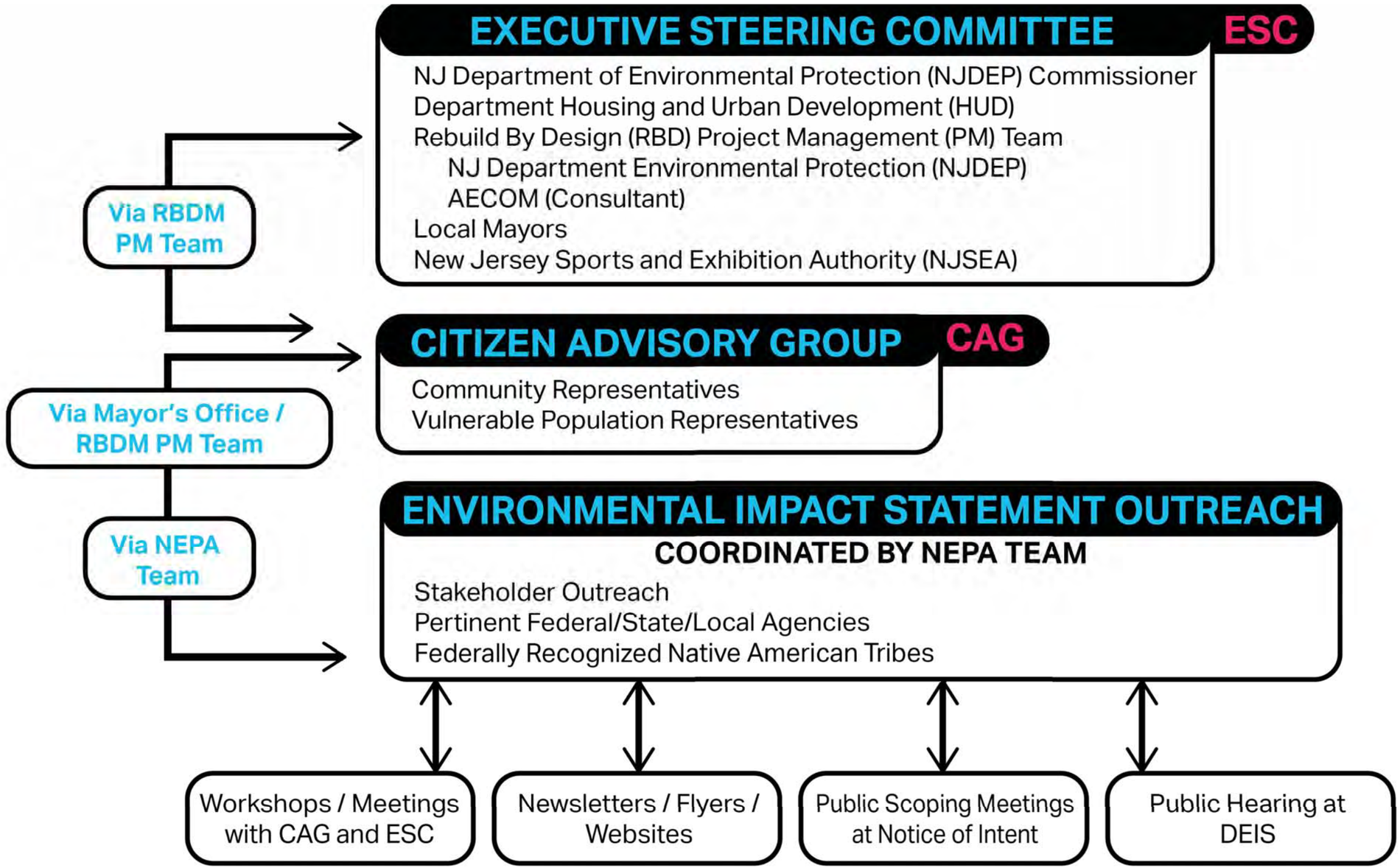
NEED

The Proposed Project, within this Project Area, is needed to:

NEPA TIMELINE



OUTREACH PROCESS



PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TOP 40 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 1-7

1) Why must this project comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

The Proposed Project is funded by a Federal Agency – the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); this triggers the NEPA requirement.

2) Why is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared?

An EIS must be prepared because the Proposed Project is considered a "major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment," in accordance with NEPA. HUD has determined this is a major Federal action.

3) Who was the recipient of the HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) grant funds?

The State of New Jersey through its Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA).

4) Why is New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) leading the EIS and not HUD?

NJDCA as the Grantee is the "Responsible Entity" with respect to the environmental review of the Proposed Project in accordance with HUD Regulations (24 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 58). NJDCA has delegated NEPA Lead Agency responsibility to NJDEP.

5) What is the Rebuild By Design (RBD) Competition?

HUD launched the RBD competition in the summer of 2013 to develop ideas to improve physical, ecological, economic, and social resilience in regions affected by Hurricane Sandy. The Proposed Project was one of the RBD award-winning concepts.

6) How much CDBG-DR funding is available for the Proposed Project?

$150 Million was granted to the State of New Jersey by HUD.

7) How much funding will actually be available to build the Proposed Project, and when will it be built?

The NJDEP anticipates that approximately $110M of the $150 Million will be used to construct the Proposed Project. Approximately $40M will be spent on pre-construction and planning activities, such as the feasibility analyses, project design, and permitting. The Proposed Project must be constructed in its entirety by September 30, 2022 as mandated by Federal requirements.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TOP 40 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 8-14

8) What happened to original New Meadowlands "Protect, Connect, and Grow" RBD award-winning concept?

The estimated cost of the original concept "Protect, Connect and Grow" was $850M. However, the amount of CDBG-DR funding awarded for the Proposed Project was $150M. NJDEP has determined that the Proposed Project will focus primarily on reducing flood risk within the Project Area (i.e., the "Protect" component of original concept).

9) What happened to the new bus terminal and other transportation improvements I heard about in the past few years?

These were additional components associated with the RBD concept that are not included in the Proposed Project; these components were not funded by the CDBG-DR grant.

10) What Towns in Bergen County, New Jersey are affected by the Proposed Project?

Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro; and the Township of South Hackensack.

11) What is the Project Area Boundary?

The 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.

12) Why is the Project Area not the entire Hackensack Meadowlands District?

The CDBG–DR funding was awarded specifically to address the original 'Phase 1 Pilot Area' from the RBD award-winning concept, which is limited to the five municipalities listed above.

13) What is the Purpose of the Proposed Project?

To reduce flood risk, increase the resiliency of the involved communities and ecosystems, and protect critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future.

14) What is the Need for the Proposed Project?

- To address systemic inland flooding from high-intensity rainfall/runoff events and coastal flooding from storm surges and nor'easters.
- To help protect public life, health, and property.
- To increase community resiliency.
- To potentially reduce flood insurance rates, protect ecological resources, improve water quality, and incorporate active and passive recreational uses.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TOP 40 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 15-20

15) How many Build Alternatives to reduce flood risk will be analyzed in the EIS?

Three.

16) What are the three (3) Build Alternatives?

- **Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction** may include a range of new structures such as levees, berms, barriers, drainage structures, pump stations, and flood gates.
- **Alternative 2: Storm Water Drainage Improvement** may include development of drainage ditches, pipes, or pump stations at strategic locations; increased roadway elevations, new green infrastructure; and increasing and enhancing public space.
- **Alternative 3: Hybrid Alternative** could blend of new infrastructure and local drainage improvements.

17) How are the Build Alternatives being developed?

Through an Engineering Feasibility Study that is currently underway. This Study will determine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of a range of initially considered options.

18) Were there other Alternatives considered? How are Alternatives Eliminated?

Yes, other alternatives are being considered, including various sub-alternatives to the three primary Build Alternatives. Alternatives eliminated from detailed study will be presented in the EIS along with a brief discussion of the reasons for eliminating them. These other alternatives are being developed and analyzed as part of the Engineering Feasibility Study. As part of the screening process, criteria and metrics are identified and used to evaluate how well initial alternatives meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Project. Those alternatives best meeting the purpose and need will be carried forward for analysis in the EIS.

19) How are Screening Criteria Determined?

The local community and government entities will be actively involved in providing input toward the development of screening criteria that will be used to determine how well each of the alternatives meets the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need.

20) Why is a Storm Surge Barrier, or Tide Gate, across the entire Hackensack River downstream not being considered?

The results of the early Engineering Feasibility Study determined that this option could induce flooding elsewhere in the region and would likely exceed available funding.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TOP 40 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 21-26

21) What is the No Action Alternative and why is it considered?

The No Action Alternative represents the status quo or baseline conditions without implementation of any of the improvements associated with the Proposed Project. Analysis of this alternative is required under in accordance with 40 CFR Part 1502.14.

22) What is the Preferred Alternative?

The alternative that the agency believes would best meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Project, while considering economic, environmental, technical, and other factors developed during the screening process described in FAQ #19.

23) What Technical Resource Areas will be considered in the EIS?

Land use and land use planning, visual quality/aesthetics, socioeconomics, environmental justice, cultural resources, transportation, noise, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, utilities and service systems, public services, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and flooding, water resources, coastal zone management, hazards and hazardous materials, mineral and energy resources, and agricultural resources and prime farmland.

24) Will other projects within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Project be considered?

The EIS will consider the combined effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the Cumulative Impact analysis.

25) When does the public have the opportunity to provide input on the Proposed Project?

During the 30-day Public Scoping Period, the 45-day Public Comment Period for the Draft EIS, and the 30-day Public Comment Period for the Final EIS.

26) What is the 30-Day Public Scoping Period?

Scoping occurs early in the environmental review process and is meant to focus the NEPA analysis on specific alternatives, issues, concerns, and methods of analysis. The Draft Public Scoping Document now available provides draft information for public review and comment.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TOP 40 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 27-35

27) Why is a Draft Public Scoping Document prepared and what is discussed in this document?

To facilitate public review and focus early public input in a meaningful way. The Draft Public Scoping Document provides a description of the Proposed Project, potential alternatives, and a description of areas of potential impact to be analyzed in the EIS, as well as proposed methodologies to assess impacts to the extent known at this early stage in the planning process.

28) When did the 30-Day Public Scoping Period start and when will it end?

The publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) on June 20, 2016 initiated the 30-day public scoping period. This scoping period will formally conclude on **July 21, 2016**.

29) How can the public access Project-related documents during the NEPA process?

All public documents will be available online at **www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov**. Additionally, hard copies of the Draft EIS and Final EIS will be made available local libraries in the Project Area. The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS and Final EIS will be published in local newspapers and the Federal Register.

30) When will the Draft EIS be available to the public?

Spring 2017.

31) Will all public comments on the Draft EIS be addressed?

A response to all comments will be provided. Substantive comments received on the Draft EIS will be addressed and/or incorporated within the Final EIS, as appropriate.

32) Where can the public receive more information?

Interested persons are encouraged to visit **www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov**. Additionally, they may contact NJDEP via email at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov, or join the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG).

33) What is the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)?

The CAG is a group of local key stakeholders, including local citizens within, and in the vicinity of, the Project Area, as well as representatives from local governance and other organizations. Currently, the CAG has approximately 40 members.

34) What is the purpose of the CAG?

The CAG serves as the primary point of coordination between the Project Team and the local communities.

35) What is the Technical Coordination Team?

This group is composed of regulatory agencies having potential purview over the Proposed Project.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TOP 40 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 36-40

36) How can I find out more about the overall Public Involvement and Outreach Process?

The Citizen Outreach Plan (COP) provides more details on the overall process and efforts that will be conducted throughout the NEPA process; the COP can be found online at **www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov**.

37) What is the Record of Decision (ROD)?

This document summarizes the Government's decision, identifies the Environmentally Preferable Alternative, selects the Alternative that will be implemented, and identifies the potential environmental impacts of that Alternative, as well as the mitigation measures that the Government will implement.

38) What if the public has comments on the Final EIS?

If additional substantive comments are received during the Final EIS comment period, NJDEP will address these comments in the ROD.

39) How long will the NEPA process be for the Proposed Project?

Approximately 19 months; through approximately December 31, 2017.

40) Do my comments really matter?

Absolutely! Comments received during the Public Scoping Process, for example, will be used to modify the Draft Public Scoping Document into a Final Public Scoping Document that will, in turn, shape the content, focus, and analyses conducted for the EIS. The goal of the Proposed Project is to provide a long-term benefit to the involved municipalities and their citizens. NJDEP welcomes input from those who will be affected by this Proposed Project!

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS AT THIS MEETING

- Visit the Stenographer and dictate your comments.
- Fill out a Comment Card and place in the Comment Box, located at the Stenographer Station.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS AFTER THIS MEETING

Submit comments and questions about the Proposed Project directly to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Projection (NJDEP) via:

Email: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

Mail: NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures

ATTN: Mr. Dennis Reinknecht
RBD Program Manager
501 East State Street
Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ08625-0420

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information, please visit the Project Website:

www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction
Attn: Mr. Dennis Reinknecht
RBD Program Manager
501 East State Street,
Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

RBD Meadowlands Flood Protection Project
Public Scoping Meeting

Comments _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name	Affiliation
Street	Phone
City, State, Zip	E-mail

For more information, please visit: www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov

REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

July 6, 2016

WELCOME

2

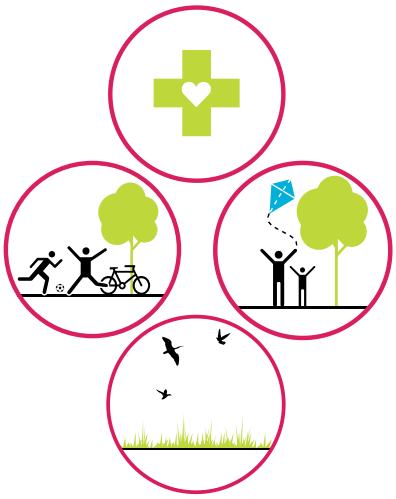
AGENDA: Why Are We Here?

- Meeting Organization & Materials
- Tonight's Objectives
- Team Introductions
- Project Overview & History
- Design Development Process
- Initial Studies
- Alternatives Carried Forward
- NEPA Process Overview
- Where Are We Now?
- Open Comment Period

WELCOME

3

DAVE ROSENBLATT: Assistant Commissioner, NJDEP



A $150M Proposed Project to Benefit the Community

- Winner of Rebuild By Design (RBD) Competition
- Funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Project Area includes Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, Teterboro, and South Hackensack
- Overall goal is to reduce flood risk in the Project Area
- Partnership between HUD, NJDEP, and stakeholders to craft the best possible solution

Public Scoping Meeting

- Share Proposed Project Information
- Obtain public input on the Meadowlands Flood Protection Project

We very much seek and welcome your input!

MEETING ORGANIZATION + MATERIALS

MEETING ORGANIZATION + MATERIALS

5

TONIGHT'S MEETING: Organization

We are here

Part I: 60 minutes

- **30 minutes: Overview of Proposed Project**
- 30 minutes: Open Comment Period

Part II: 60 minutes – Workshop and Stenographer

Overview Information Booths and Posters

- NJDEP
- NEPA Process
- Hydrology and Flooding
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Stenographer Station (with Comment Card box)
- Translators' Station

MEETING ORGANIZATION + MATERIALS

6

TONIGHT'S MEETING: Inside Your Meeting Packet

- Meeting Announcement
- What is NEPA?
- NEPA Timeline and Critical Public Input Periods
- 40 Most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Draft Public Scoping Document
- Comment Card
- Who to Contact for More Information
- Interpretation and Translated Materials Available

MEETING OBJECTIVES

MEETING OBJECTIVES

8

OUR OBJECTIVES TONIGHT:

- Introduce you to the **NJDEP Project Team**
- Provide you with **current Proposed Project information**
- Help familiarize you with NEPA and **this NEPA Process**
- Identify **Key Public Involvement Milestones** in the NEPA Process
- Continue to foster and stimulate **meaningful Public Involvement**
- Identify comment **Methods** and **Timelines** available to you
- Provide you with copy of the **Draft Public Scoping Document** and other relevant materials
- Provide you with an **opportunity to provide comments** and gather information

INTRODUCTIONS

INTRODUCTIONS

10

THE NJDEP TEAM

- **Dave Rosenblatt**, Assistant Commissioner, Engineering and Construction
- **Dennis Reinknecht**, RBD Program Manager
- **Linda Fisher**, RBD Meadowlands Project Team Manager
- **Alexis Taylor**, RBD Program Outreach Team Leader
- **Robert Marcolina**, RBD Meadowlands Project Manager

INTRODUCTIONS

THE AECOM TEAM

- **Chris Benosky, PE, CFM**, Vice President, RBD Program Manager
- **Garrett Avery, ASLA**, Ecosystems Practice Director, RBD Project Team Manager
- **Brian Boose, CEP**, Regional NEPA Practice Director
- **Jen Warf,** RBD Meadowlands NEPA Team Leader
- **Brian Beckenbaugh, AICP**, RBD Meadowlands Outreach Team Leader

PROJECT OVERVIEW + HISTORY

PROJECT OVERVIEW + HISTORY

13

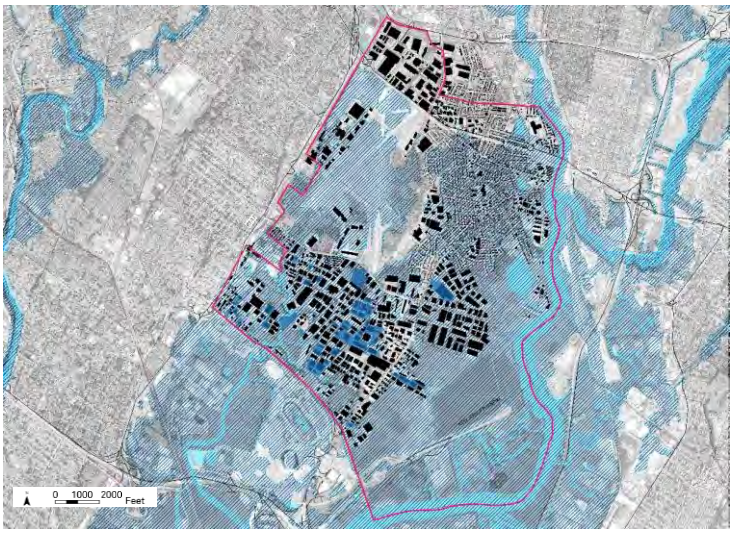
THE CHALLENGE: Managing Extreme + Repetitive Flooding

- As highlighted by Hurricane Sandy and other storm events, the Meadowlands are vulnerable to repetitive flooding
- Flood waters in the Project Area come from:
  1) Rainfall or "fluvial" flooding from the Hackensack River and tributaries
  2) Tidal surge flooding during strong storm events
- Most of the Project Area is less than 6 feet above sea level

PROJECT OVERVIEW + HISTORY

14

PROJECT AREA: Floodplain



KEY MAP

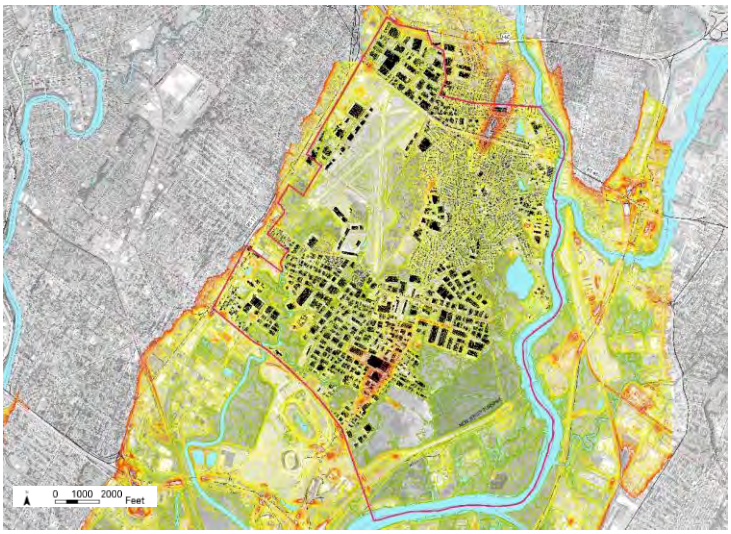
LEGEND

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- OPEN WATER
- FLOOD-PRONE AREAS
- 100-YR FLOODPLAIN
- EXISTING STRUCTURES

PROJECT OVERVIEW + HISTORY

15

PROJECT AREA: Topography



KEY MAP

LEGEND

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- 24 FT
- ELEVATION (NAVD88)
- -6 FT
- OPEN WATER

PROJECT OVERVIEW + HISTORY

16

WINNING CONCEPT: New Meadowlands: Protect, Connect, Grow

- **Protect**
  - 9 miles of Flood Protection Features
- **Connect**
  - Multi-Modal Connectivity Improvements
- **Grow**
  - Redevelopment Areas

Cost Estimate: **$850M**

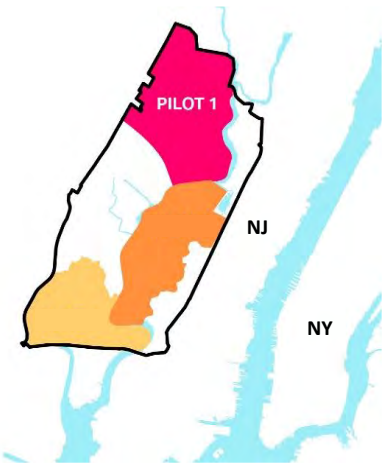
HUD Funding: **$150M**

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

18

PROJECT OVERVIEW: Concept To Completion



HUD Awarded the State of New Jersey <u>$150M for Pilot Area 1</u> of the RBD Concept

- **Pilot Area 1 = Project Area** of this EIS
- Project must be completed and functional by **September 2022**
- Planning, feasibility studies, designs cost (approx.): **$30M**
- Construction funding (approx.): **$110M-$120M**

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

19

GETTING STARTED: Thinking in Whole Systems

ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

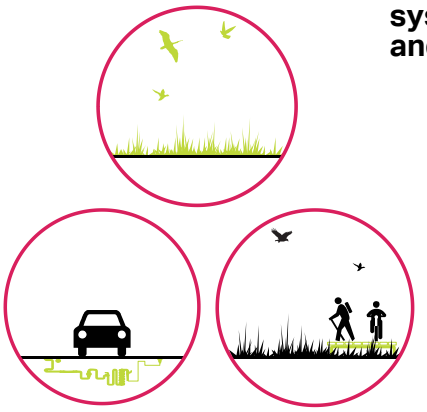
SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

20

GETTING STARTED: Where We Are Headed



Existing data, studies, and condition of existing systems are being evaluated for ecological, social, and resource infrastructure value

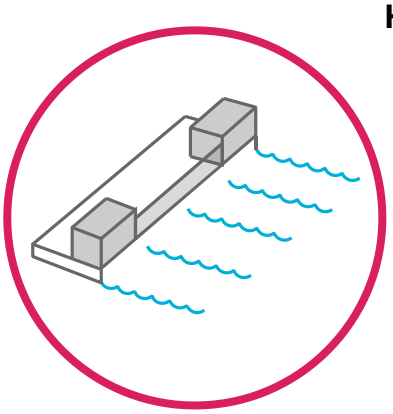
- Initial design studies benchmarked technical needs, construction costs, and began the concept evaluation process
- FEMA-certifiable levees were estimated at **$35M** per mile. Current funds allow for up to **3 miles** of the 6 to 9 miles initially proposed
- Alternatives are being developed now to align project goals, regional priorities, and community feedback with available funds
- Proposed Alternatives will attempt to **avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands** and sensitive ecological resources

INITIAL STUDIES

INITIAL STUDIES

22

TIDAL STORM SURGE BARRIER ON THE HACKENSACK RIVER



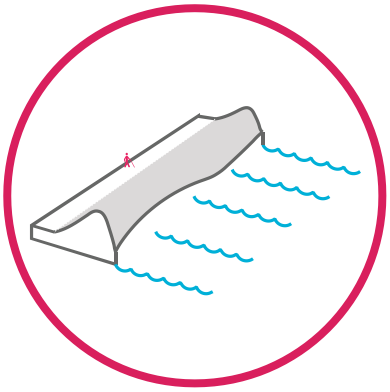
Concept 1: Storm Surge Barrier on the Hackensack River

- Could potentially protect upstream communities and the Project Area
- Would require a phased approach for land protection elements
- Would require a longer project timeline (beyond 2022) and a larger study area
- Coastal flood modeling results suggested solution could cause new flooding elsewhere

INITIAL STUDIES

23

FULL-LENGTH LINE OF PROTECTION ALIGNMENTS



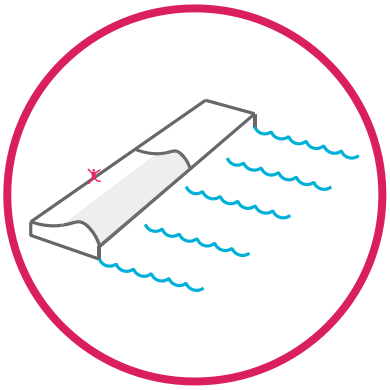
Concept 2: Full-length "Line of Protection"

- Could include various berm or levee alignments ranging from 6 miles to 9 miles in length
- All alignments would require a tide gate on Berry's Creek to achieve full protection
- Up to 16 additional tide or closure gates would be required throughout Project Area
- New pump stations and conveyance improvements would be required behind any Line of Protection

INITIAL STUDIES

24

REDUCED-LENGTH LINE OF PROTECTION ALIGNMENTS



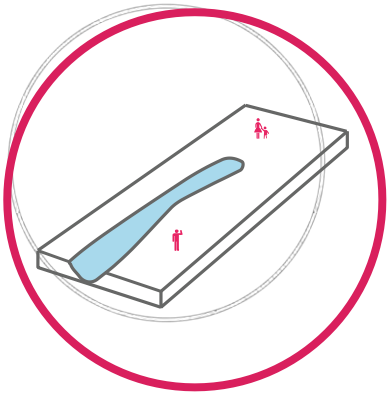
Concept 3: Reduced-length "Line of Protection"

- Could include various berm or levee alignments up to **3 miles** in length at full elevation
- Could provide longer lengths of protection at lower elevations (e.g. 8 feet or 10 feet above sea-level)
- Locations would be focused within Project Area
- New pump stations and conveyance improvements would be required behind any Line of Protection

INITIAL STUDIES

25

INTERIOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



Concept 4: Interior Drainage Improvements

- Would address repetitive flooding as a sub-watershed (across municipal boundaries)
- Would incorporate Green Infrastructure improvements throughout Project Area
- Would reduce nuisance flooding through increased storage and conveyance capacity
- Could include wetland creation and/or new public open space
- Could include streetscape enhancements

INITIAL STUDIES + DATA GATHERING

26

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

CAG Meeting #2A
Little Ferry, NJ
April 26, 2016

INITIAL STUDIES + DATA GATHERING

27

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

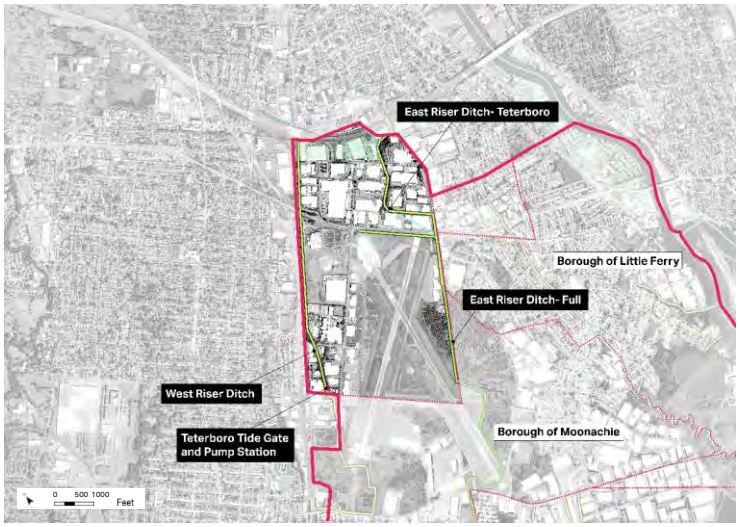
TETERBORO, NJ

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- DITCH
- TIDE GATE
- PUMP STATION
- COASTAL FLOODING AREA
- INTERIOR FLOOD-PRONE
- OPEN WATER

PUBLIC INPUT

- REGULAR RAINFALL FLOODING
- HEAVY RAINFALL FLOODING
- MAJOR STORM FLOODING

KEY MAP



INITIAL STUDIES + DATA GATHERING

28

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

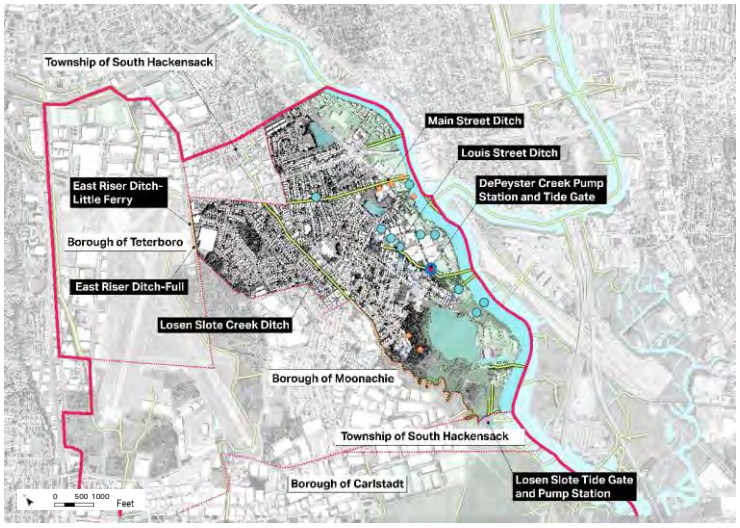
LITTLE FERRY, NJ

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- DITCH
- TIDE GATE
- PUMP STATION
- COASTAL FLOODING AREA
- INTERIOR FLOOD-PRONE
- OPEN WATER

PUBLIC INPUT

- REGULAR RAINFALL FLOODING
- HEAVY RAINFALL FLOODING
- MAJOR STORM FLOODING

KEY MAP



INITIAL STUDIES + DATA GATHERING

29

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

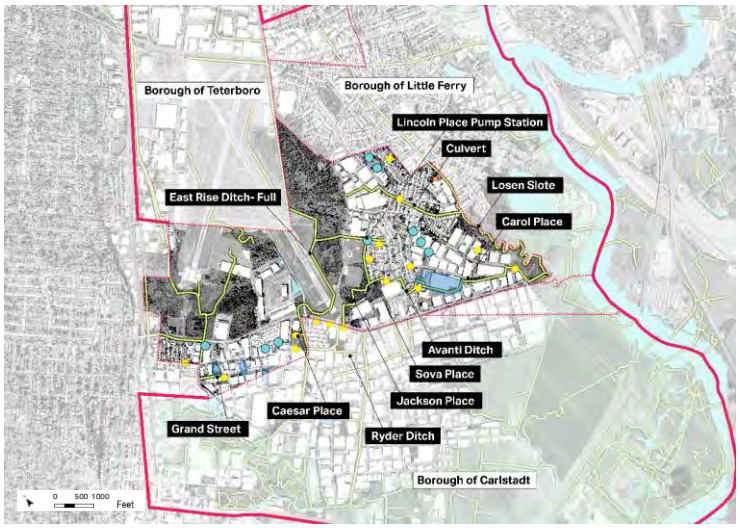
MOONACHIE, NJ

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- DITCH
- TIDE GATE
- PUMP STATION
- COASTAL FLOODING AREA
- INTERIOR FLOOD-PRONE
- OPEN WATER

PUBLIC INPUT

- REGULAR RAINFALL FLOODING
- HEAVY RAINFALL FLOODING
- MAJOR STORM FLOODING

KEY MAP



REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS

July 6, 2016

AECOM

INITIAL STUDIES + DATA GATHERING

30

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

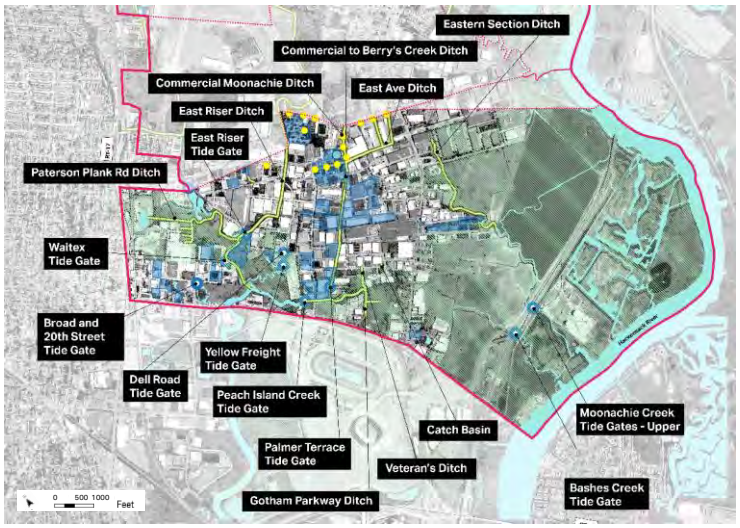
CARLSTADT, NJ

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- DITCH
- TIDE GATE
- PUMP STATION
- COASTAL FLOODING AREA
- INTERIOR FLOOD-PRONE
- OPEN WATER

PUBLIC INPUT

- REGULAR RAINFALL FLOODING
- HEAVY RAINFALL FLOODING
- MAJOR STORM FLOODING

KEY MAP



REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS

July 6, 2016

AECOM

INITIAL STUDIES + DATA GATHERING

31

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

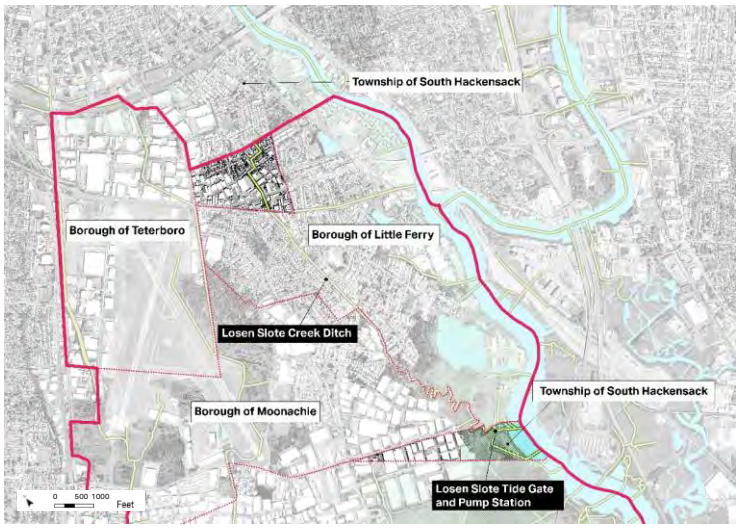
SOUTH HACKENSACK, NJ

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- DITCH
- TIDE GATE
- PUMP STATION
- COASTAL FLOODING AREA
- INTERIOR FLOOD-PRONE
- OPEN WATER

PUBLIC INPUT

- REGULAR RAINFALL FLOODING
- HEAVY RAINFALL FLOODING
- MAJOR STORM FLOODING

KEY MAP



REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS

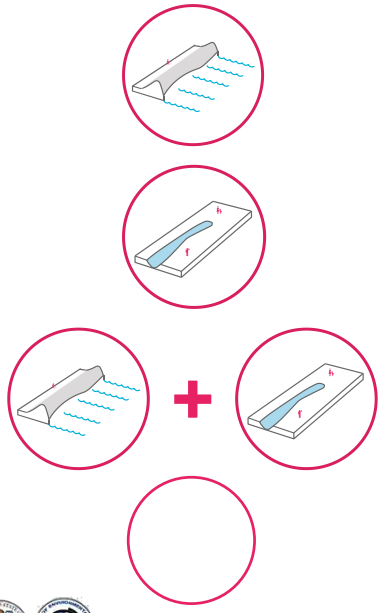
July 6, 2016

AECOM

ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS

ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS

33



Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction

- Alternative would include a FEMA-certifiable level of flood protection, as possible, with several structural measures

Alternative 2: Fluvial Drainage Improvement

- Alternative would include a system of improved storm water management, and may include local drainage improvements and wetlands restoration to protect communities

Alternative 3: Hybrid Alternative

- Alternatives 1 and 2 would be combined to provide an integrated, hybrid solution that combines appropriate levees, berms, drainage structures, pump stations, and/or floodgates, coupled with local drainage improvement projects

No Action Alternative

NEPA PROCESS OVERVIEW

NEPA PROCESS OVERVIEW

35

BRIAN W. BOOSE, NEPA REGIONAL PRACTICE DIRECTOR

- NEPA Process Overview
- EIS Overview and Timeline
- Integrated Public Outreach Process
- Scoping Process Overview
- Purpose and Need
- Proposed Project
- Initial Alternatives
- Keys to Providing Meaningful Public Input

NEPA PROCESS OVERVIEW

36

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) OF 1969

What is the Purpose of NEPA?

- Ensures the Federal government considers the **environmental effects** of all projects, prior to implementation

When Does it Apply?

- Applies to all projects with a **Federal** connection (e.g., funding)

What Does it Require?

- Requires an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment"
- EIS process has several **procedural steps** to ensure public input is obtained and considered

NEPA PROCESS OVERVIEW

37

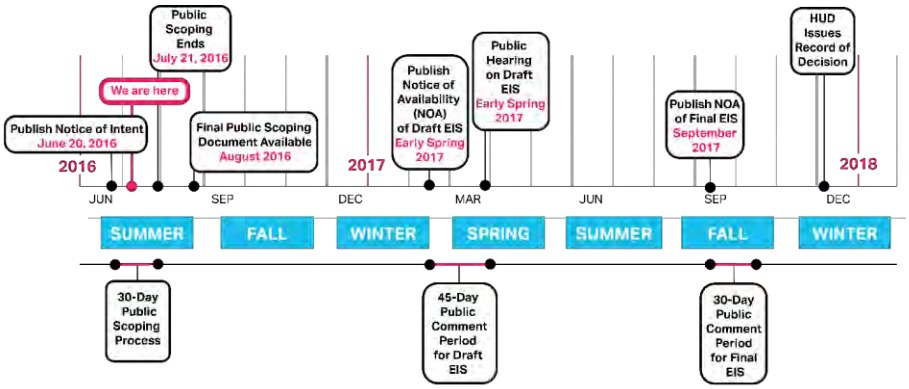
MAJOR COMPONENTS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

- Statement of **Purpose and Need**
- Consideration of **Alternatives** – analyzes potential options for increasing flood protection
- Detailed social, economic, and environmental impact analyses for **three Build Alternatives**, and a No Action Alternative
- A program of **public participation** and inter-agency coordination throughout development of the EIS
- Coordinated with Federal, State, and local agencies; stakeholder groups; and interested members of the public
- Process-focused, starting with this **Public Scoping Process**

NEPA PROCESS OVERVIEW

38

ANTICIPATED EIS TIMELINE



INTEGRATED PUBLIC OUTREACH

INTEGRATED PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

OUR GOAL: Continuous Engagement With Stakeholders

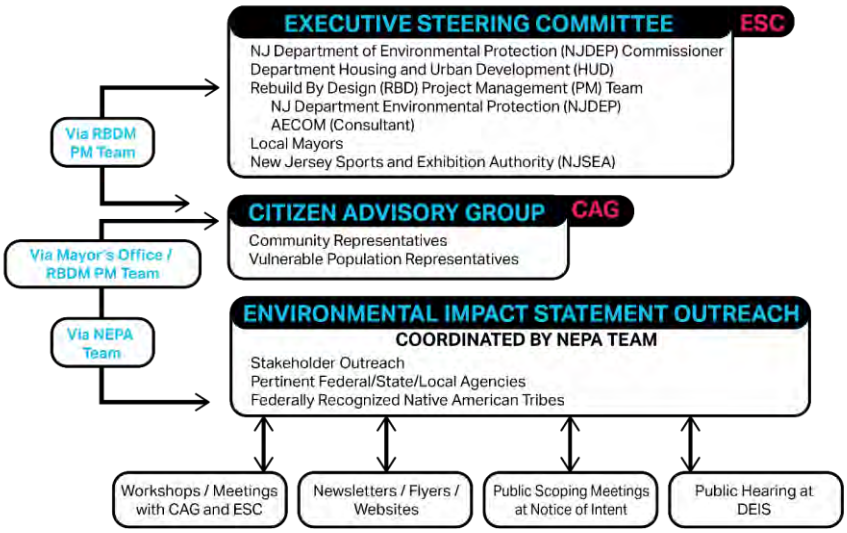
Established trust and two-way communication between Project Team and Stakeholders early in and throughout the process

- Sustained outreach to inform the public about the Proposed Project and NEPA process, **and** to obtain necessary input
- Efforts are guided by the **Executive Steering Committee (ESC)**
- Outreach is coordinated through the **Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)**
- Guided by the **Community Outreach Plan (COP)** and **Guidance for Public Involvement (GPI)** – available on Project website (www.rbd.meadowlands.nj.gov)

INTEGRATED PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

41

OUTREACH PROCESS OVERVIEW



INTEGRATED PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

42

RESULTS SO FAR: Stakeholders Are Helping Shape The Project

Since April 2016, CAG Members have provided valuable historical knowledge, helped validate assumptions, and helped prioritize interventions

- CAG Members have self-organized and meet regularly to discuss Proposed Project updates
- Members have described existing issues, photographed existing infrastructure, and described a range of flooding events
- CAG feedback is being used to focus design attention throughout communities across a broad spectrum of flood-related concerns, providing input on:
  - **Purpose and Need**
  - **Alternatives**
  - **Issues, Concerns, and Methods of Analysis**

INTEGRATED PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

43

CAG MEETING SCHEDULE

- **CAG Meeting #1:** Purpose and Need
  March 23, 2016
- **CAG Meeting #2A** Scoping and Data Gathering
  April 26, 2016
- **CAG Meeting #2B:** Meeting #2A Report Out
  May 17, 2016
- **CAG Meeting #3:** Initial Screening Criteria/Metrics
  August 2016
- **CAG Meeting #4:** Conceptual Alternatives Screening
  September 2016
- **Subsequent CAG Meetings:**
  October 2016 – September 2017
  (as appropriate and needed)

INTEGRATED PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

44

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Draft EIS Stage

- Notice of Availability of Draft EIS published
- **45-day public comment period**
- Public Meeting/Hearing
- *Approximately February – March 2017*

Final EIS Stage

- Notice of Availability of Draft EIS published
- **30-day public comment period**
- *Potential* Public Meeting/Hearing
- *Approximately September 2017*

Record of Decision (ROD)

- Identifies Federal decision made

SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

46

WHAT IS IT AND WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

Scoping

- Process by which meaningful public input is sought to focus the NEPA analysis
- **30-day Public Scoping Period (June 20 – July 21, 2016)**
- Formally began with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* and local newspapers (*The Record*, *El Diario*, and the *Korea Central Daily News*)

Occurs early in the NEPA (environmental review) process

- Intent is to focus the NEPA analysis on specific alternatives, issues, concerns, and methods of analysis

The Public Scoping Meeting occurs at least 15 days after publication of the NOI, per regulation

SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

47

DRAFT PUBLIC SCOPING DOCUMENT

Public Scoping Document Purpose:

- Describes the purpose and need of the Proposed Project
- Identifies an initial range of alternatives
- Identifies resource areas that will be analyzed in the EIS
- Outlines methods to assess resources and effects

We are seeking your input and comments

- Concerning the Draft Public Scoping Document, as well as the overall Proposed Project, to "scope" the analysis

SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

48

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

- You are invited to share comments during this 30-day scoping process, including here at the Public Scoping Meeting
- Comments will be received until **July 21, 2016**
- Comments will be carefully considered and used to shape the **Final Public Scoping Document**
- Comments received will be summarized in a **Public Scoping Comment Summary** document

SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

49

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO YOU

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog
Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski
www.renewjerseystronger.org

Currently available for your review:

- Draft Public Scoping Document
- Citizen Outreach Plan
- Guidance for Public Involvement
- Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting Materials
- Federal and State Cooperating Agency Letters
- Located on the internet at: **www.rbd.meadowlands.nj.gov**

SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

50

HOW AND WHEN TO PROVIDE COMMENT

PLEASE PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS BY JULY 21, 2016

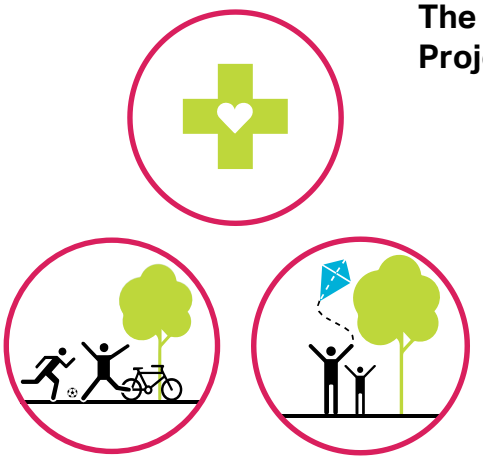
- **Stenographer:** Tonight
- **Comment Card:** Tonight or Regular mail
- **E-mail:** rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov
- **Mail:** NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures
  ATTN: Mr. Dennis Reinknecht
  RBD Program Manager
  501 East State Street
  Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420
  Trenton, NJ 08625-04204
- More data can be found on the Project Website at: **www.rbd.meadowlands.nj.gov**

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

52

PURPOSE



The purpose of the Proposed Project, within this Project Area, is to:

- **Reduce flood risk**
- **Increase the resiliency** of the communities and ecosystems
- **Protect** critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

53

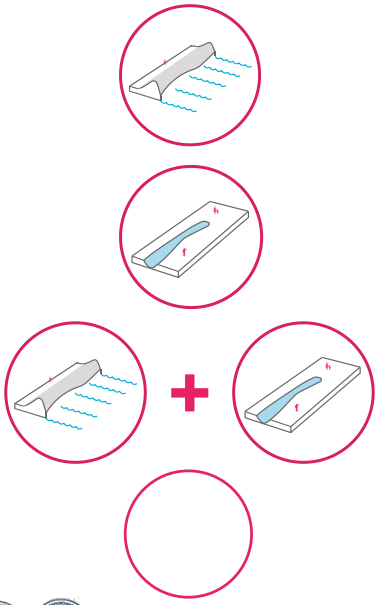
NEED

The Proposed Project, within this Project Area, is needed to:

- **Address systemic inland flooding** from high-intensity rainfall/runoff events and coastal flooding from storm surges and nor'easters
- Directly **protect life, public health, and property**
- **Increase community resiliency**, including protecting accessibility to, and on-going operations of, critical health care services, emergency services, and transportation and utility infrastructure
- Potentially **reduce flood insurance rates** and claims from future events, and potentially restore property values
- Potentially **protect ecological resources** and enhance water quality, which in turn could benefit regional biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency with **civic, cultural, and recreational values** to incorporate active and passive recreational uses

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

54



Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction

- Alternative would include a FEMA-certifiable level of flood protection, as possible, with several structural measures

Alternative 2: Fluvial Drainage Improvement

- Alternative would include a system of improved storm water management, and may include local drainage improvements and wetlands restoration to protect communities

Alternative 3: Hybrid Alternative

- Alternatives 1 and 2 would be combined to provide an integrated, hybrid solution that combines appropriate levees, berms, drainage structures, pump stations, and/or floodgates, coupled with local drainage improvement projects

No Action Alternative

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

55

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

We are here

Part I: 60 minutes

- 30 minutes: Overview of Proposed Project
- **30 minutes: Open Comments**

Part II: 60 minutes – Workshop and Stenographer

Overview Information Booths and Posters

- NJDEP
- NEPA Process
- Hydrology and Flooding
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Stenographer Station (with Comment Card box)
- Translators' Station

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

56

KEYS TO PROVIDING MEANINGFUL PUBLIC INPUT

Your comments and ideas are both sought and appreciated by HUD and NJDEP!

- We ask that your comments be presented in a way that allows us to *consider, incorporate, and/or address* them fully and accurately – the following provides some guidance:
  - Be Clear and Concise
  - Be Solution Oriented
  - Be Project and Process focused
  - Be Constructive and Professional
  - Be Timely

Focus on Proposed Project, Purpose and Need, Alternatives, Issues/Concerns/Methods of Analysis

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

57

WORKSHOP AND STENOGRAPHER

Part I: 60 minutes

- 30 minutes: Overview of Proposed Project
- 30 minutes: Open Comment Period

We are here

Part II: 60 minutes – Workshop and Stenographer

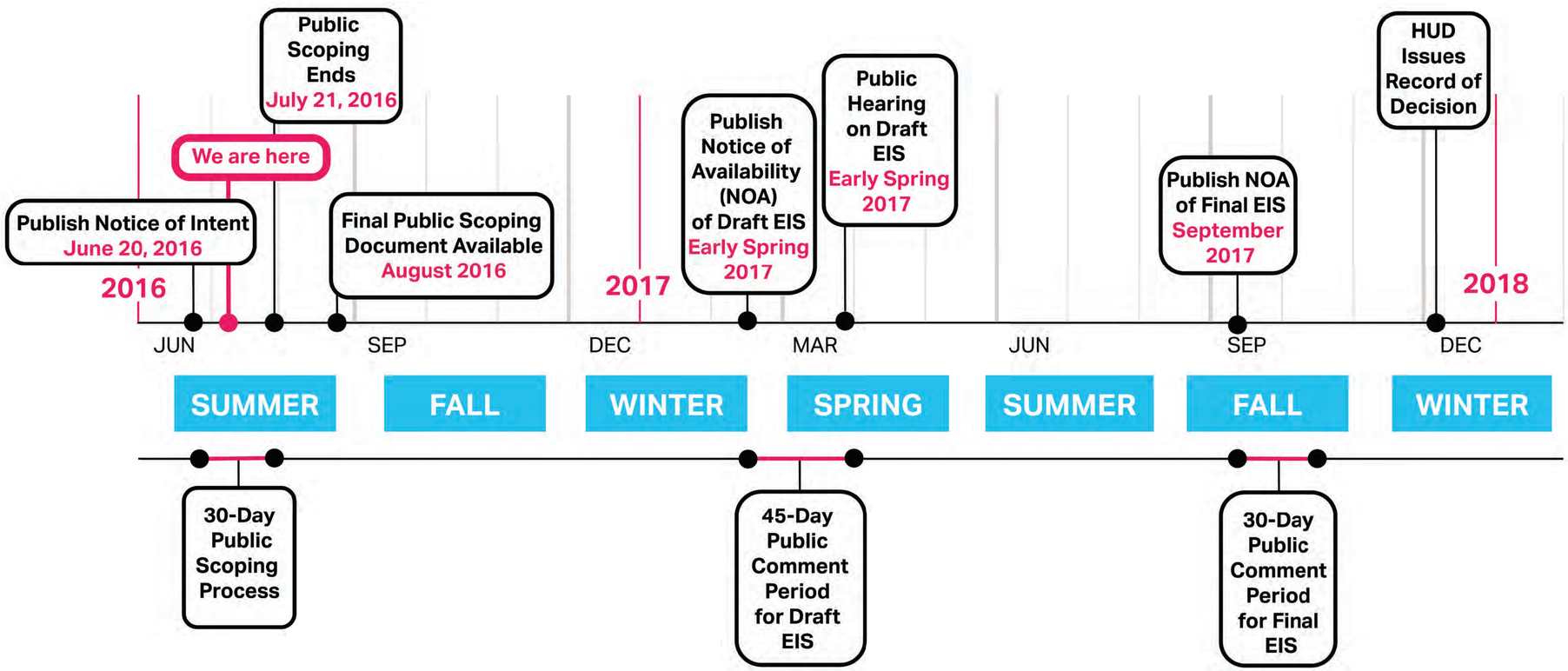
Overview Information Booths and Posters

- NJDEP
- NEPA Process
- Hydrology and Flooding
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Stenographer Station (with Comment Card box)
- Translators' Station

THANK YOU

NEPA TIMELINE

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS



PURPOSE + NEED

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Proposed Project, within this Project Area, is to:

Reduce flood risk.

Increase the resiliency of the communities and ecosystems.

Protect critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future.

NEED

The Proposed Project, within this Project Area, is needed to:

Address systemic **inland flooding** from high-intensity rainfall/ runoff events and **coastal flooding** from storm surges and nor' easters.

Directly **protect** life, public health, and property.

Increase community resiliency, including protecting accessibility to, and on-going operations of, critical health care services, emergency services, and transportation and utility infrastructure.

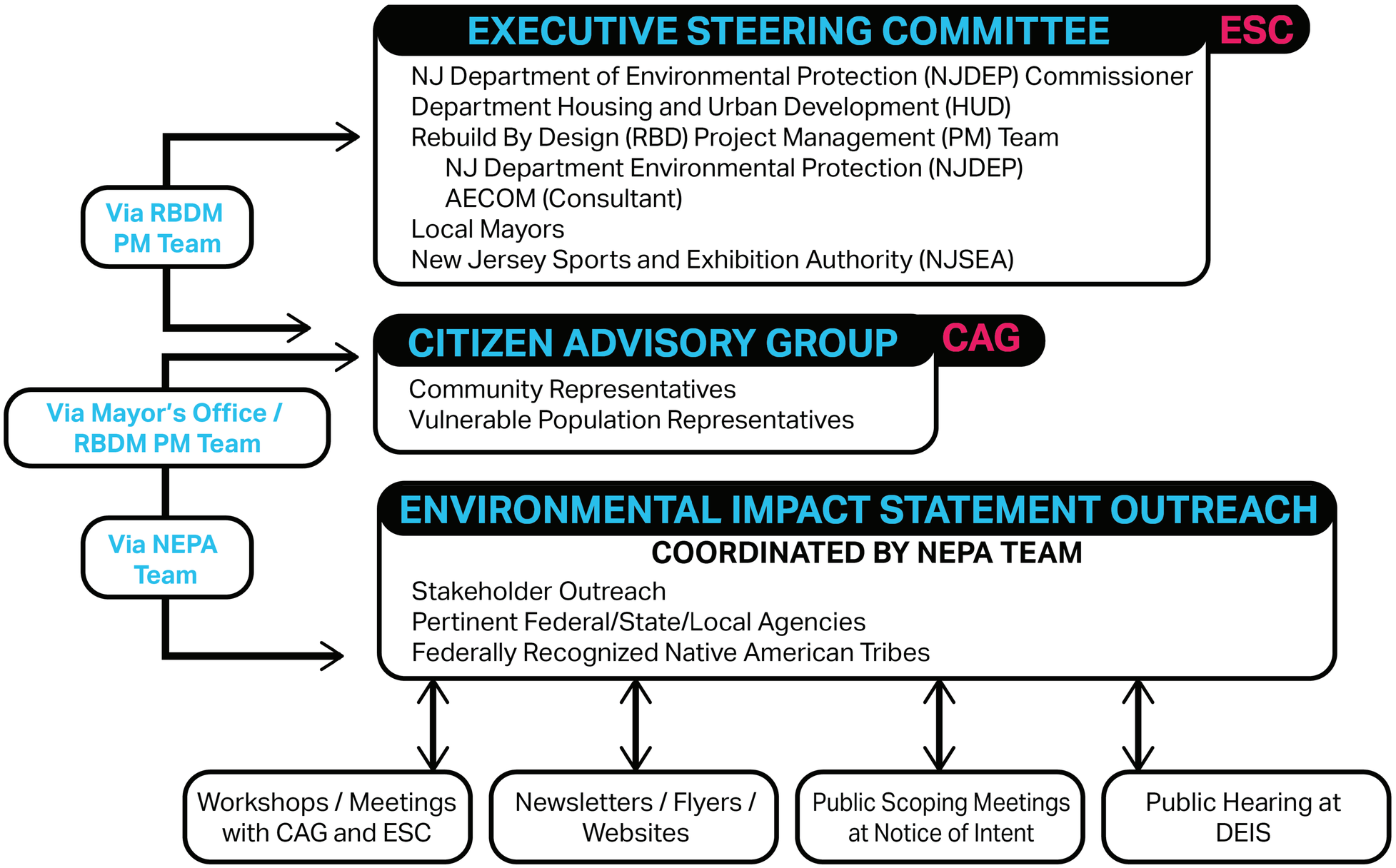
Potentially **reduce flood insurance rates** and claims from future events, and potentially restore property values.

Potentially **protect ecological resources** and **enhance water quality**, which in turn could benefit regional biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency.

Potentially integrate the flood hazard risk reduction strategy with civic, cultural, and recreational values to **incorporate active** and **passive recreational** uses.

OUTREACH PROCESS

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS

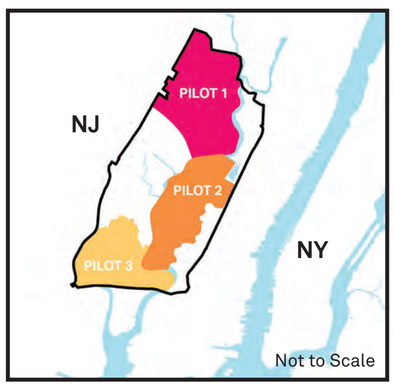


PROJECT AREA

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS

Township of South Hackensack
Borough of Teterboro
Borough of Little Ferry
Borough of Moonachie
Borough of Carlstadt
Township of South Hackensack
I-80
RT-17
I-95
PATERSON PLANK ROAD
RT-3
HACKENSACK RIVER
0 1000' 2000' 4000'
N

LOCATION KEY



LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Water
- Municipal Boundary

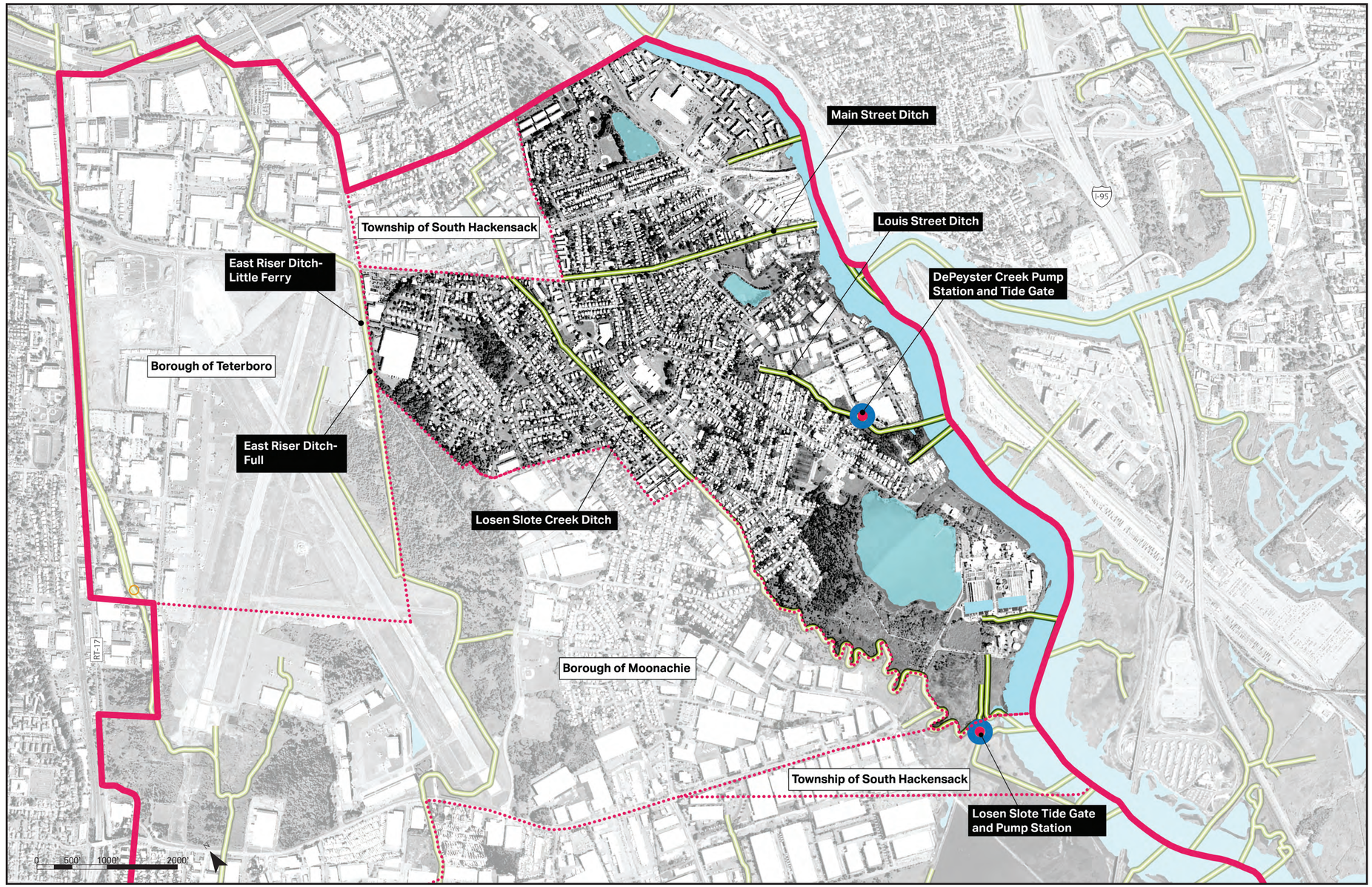
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
July 6, 2016

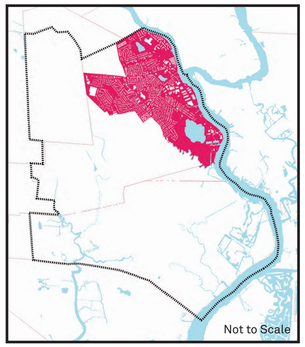
AECOM

EXISTING WATER-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Ditch
- Tide Gate
- Pump Station

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

Bergen Country Backflow Preventer Project, Neglia Engineering Associates (2015)

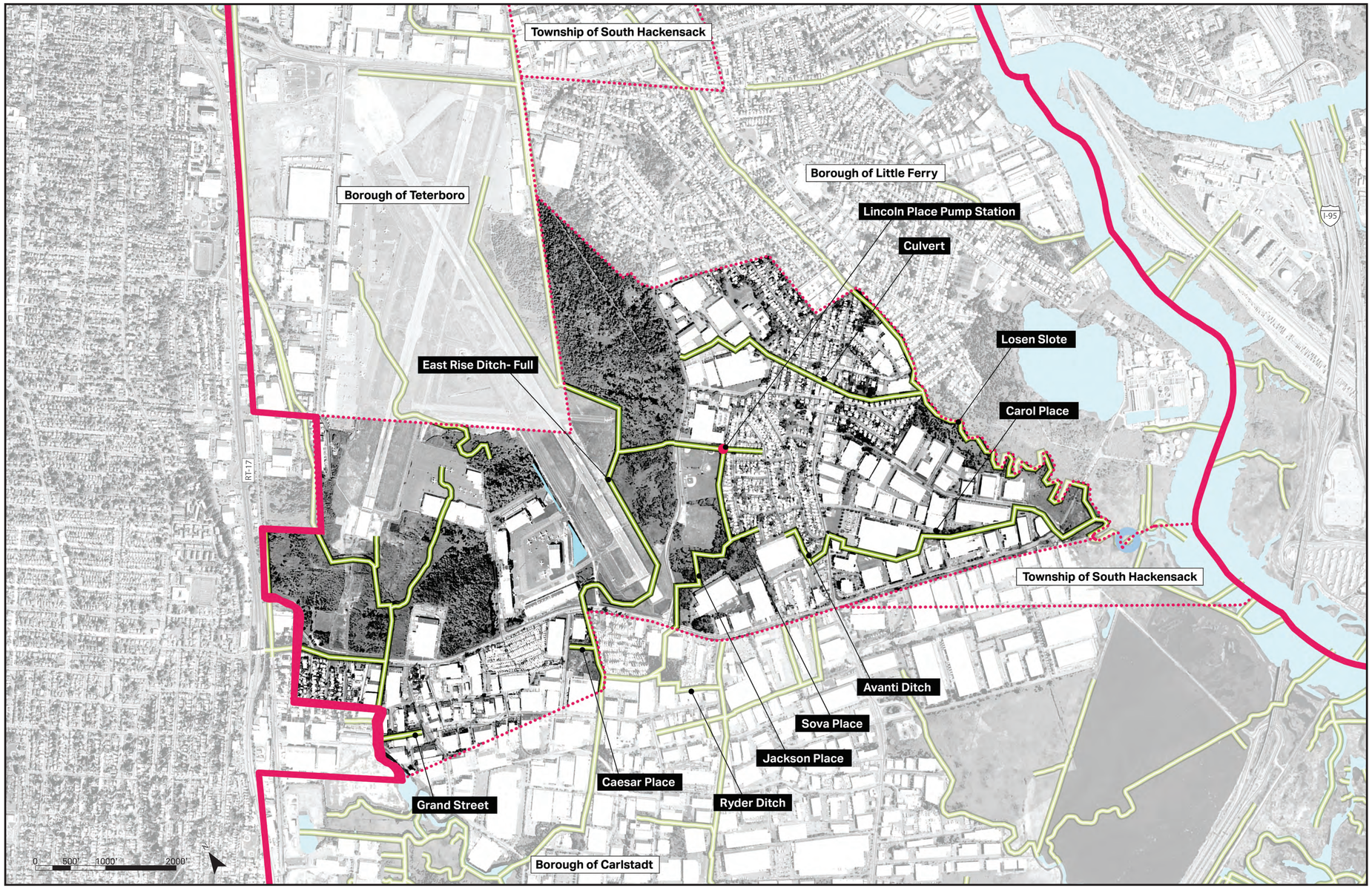
Ditch Survey, NJDEP (2016)

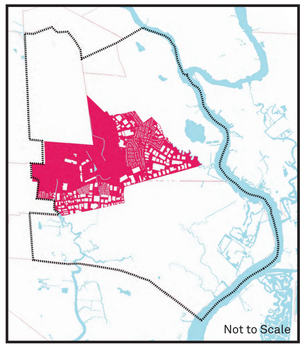
Storm Sewer Mapping Plans, Boswell McClave Engineering (2016)

EXISTING WATER-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

BOROUGH OF MOONACHIE

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Ditch
- Tide Gate
- Pump Station

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

Bergen Country Backflow Preventer Project, Neglia Engineering Associates (2015)

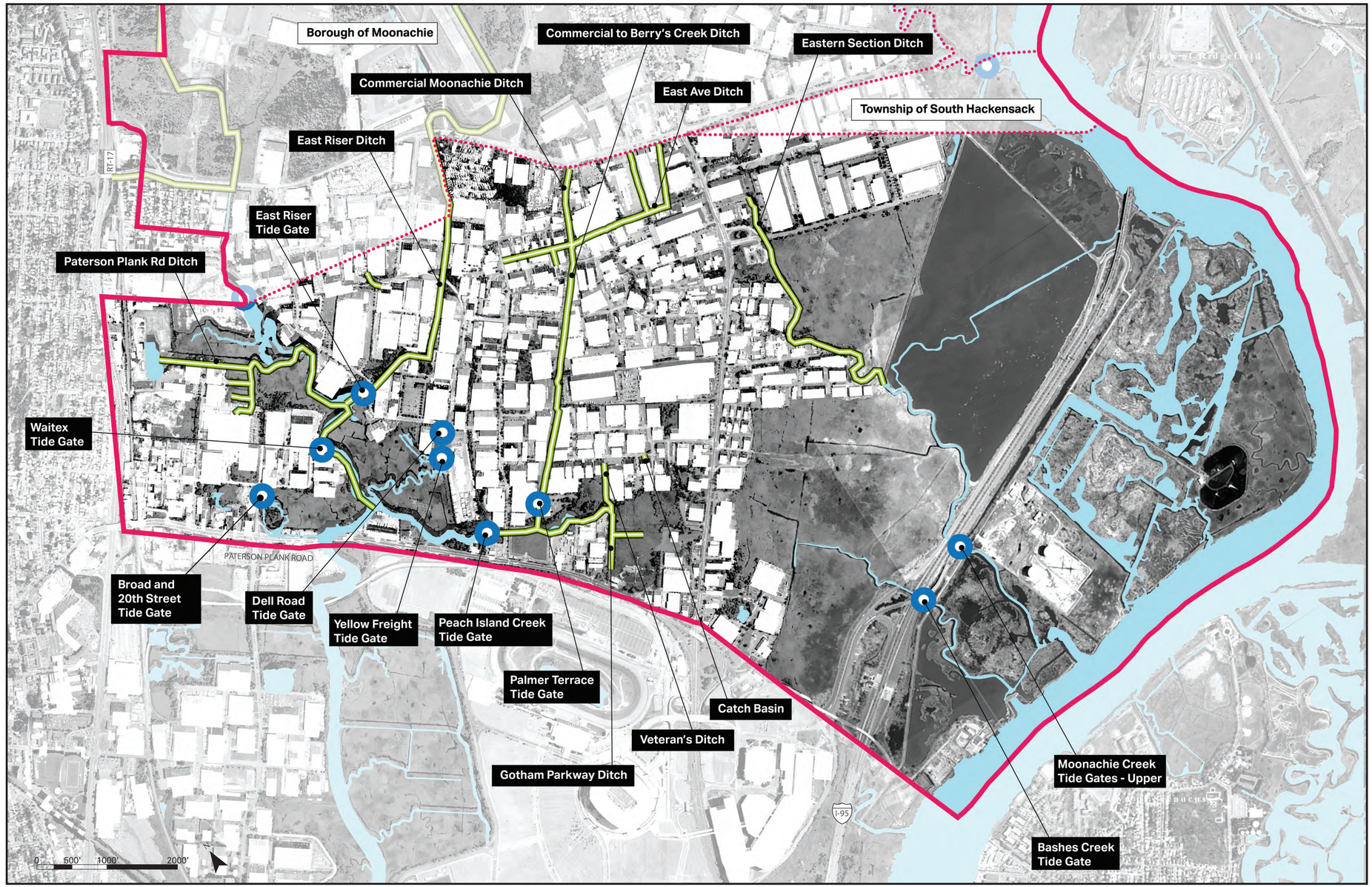
Ditch Survey, NJDEP (2016)

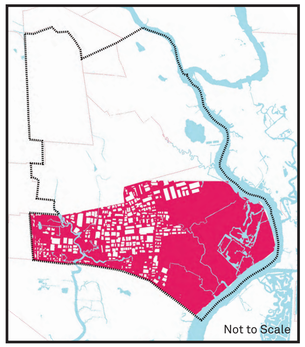
Storm Sewer Mapping Plans, Boswell McClave Engineering (2016)

EXISTING WATER-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

BOROUGH OF CARLSTADT

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Ditch
- Tide Gate
- Pump Station

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

Bergen Country Backflow Preventer Project, Neglia Engineering Associates (2015)

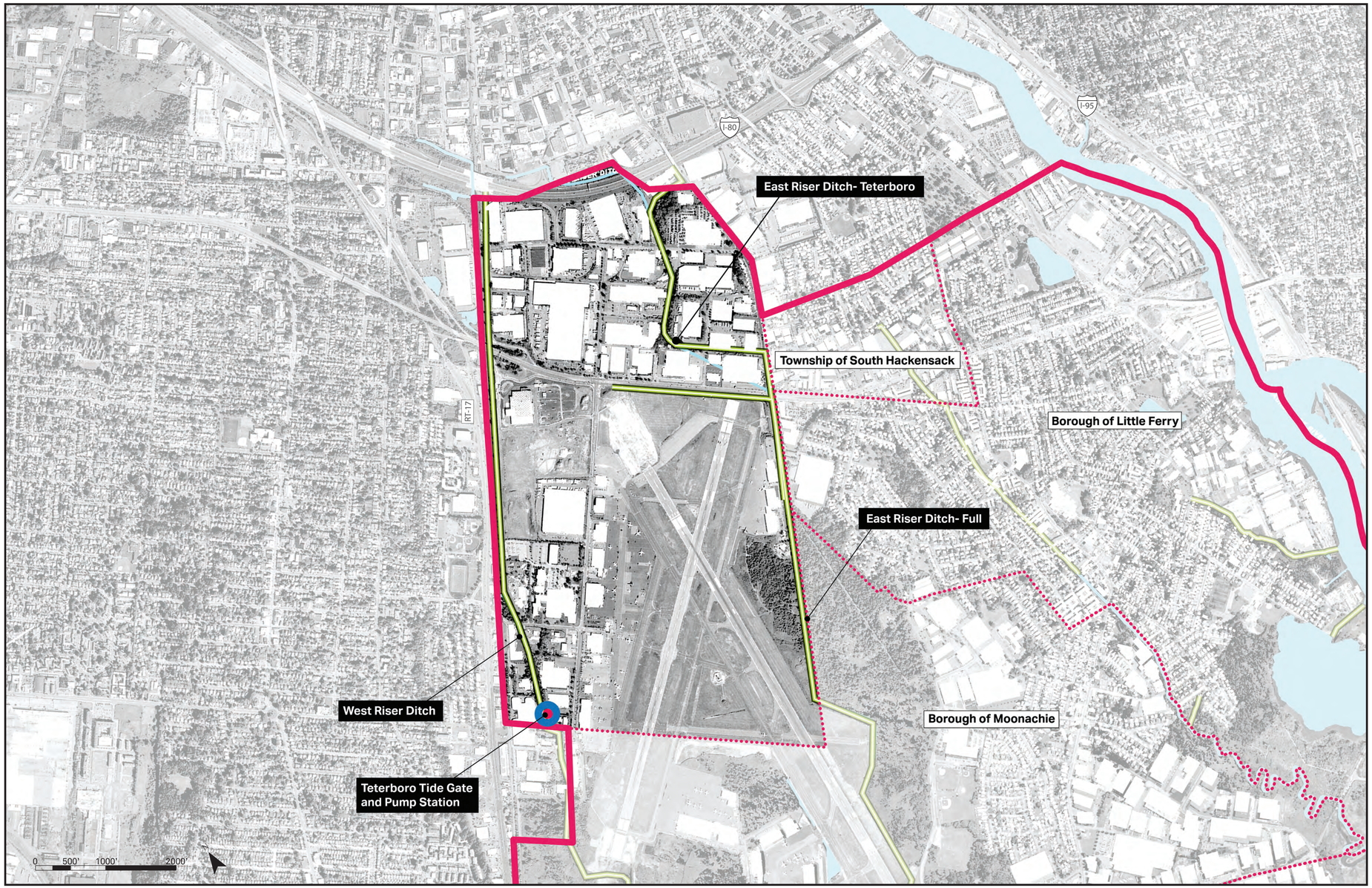
Ditch Survey, NJDEP (2016)

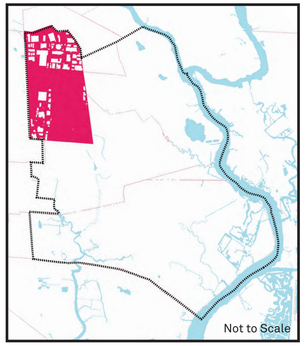
Storm Sewer Mapping Plans, Boswell McClave Engineering (2016)

EXISTING WATER-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

BOROUGH OF TETERBORO

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Ditch
- Tide Gate
- Pump Station

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

Bergen Country Backflow Preventer Project, Neglia Engineering Associates (2015)

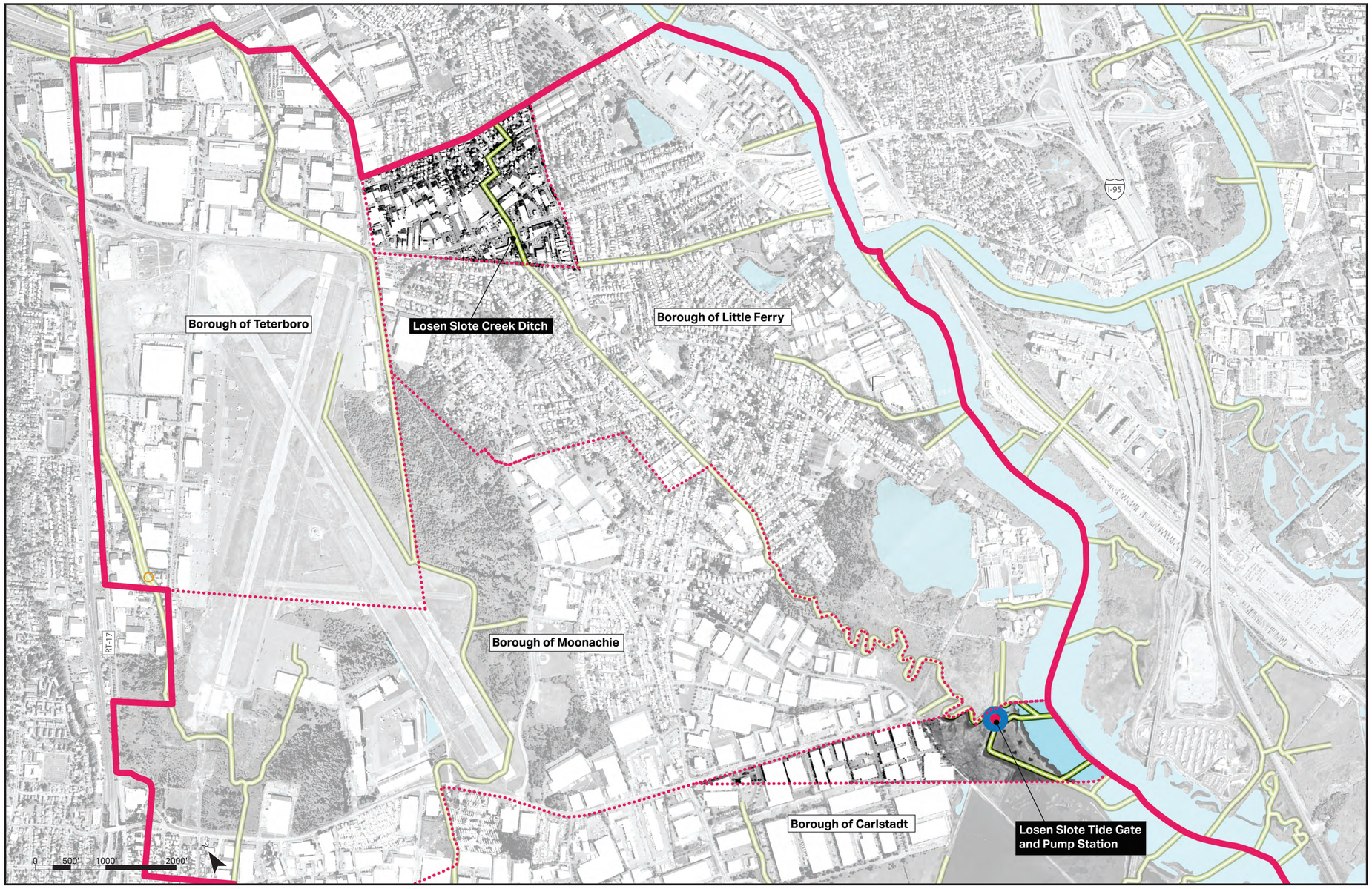
Ditch Survey, NJDEP (2016)

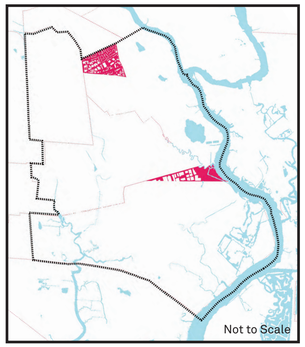
Storm Sewer Mapping Plans, Boswell McClave Engineering (2016)

EXISTING WATER-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Ditch
- Tide Gate
- Pump Station

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

Bergen Country Backflow Preventer Project, Neglia Engineering Associates (2015)

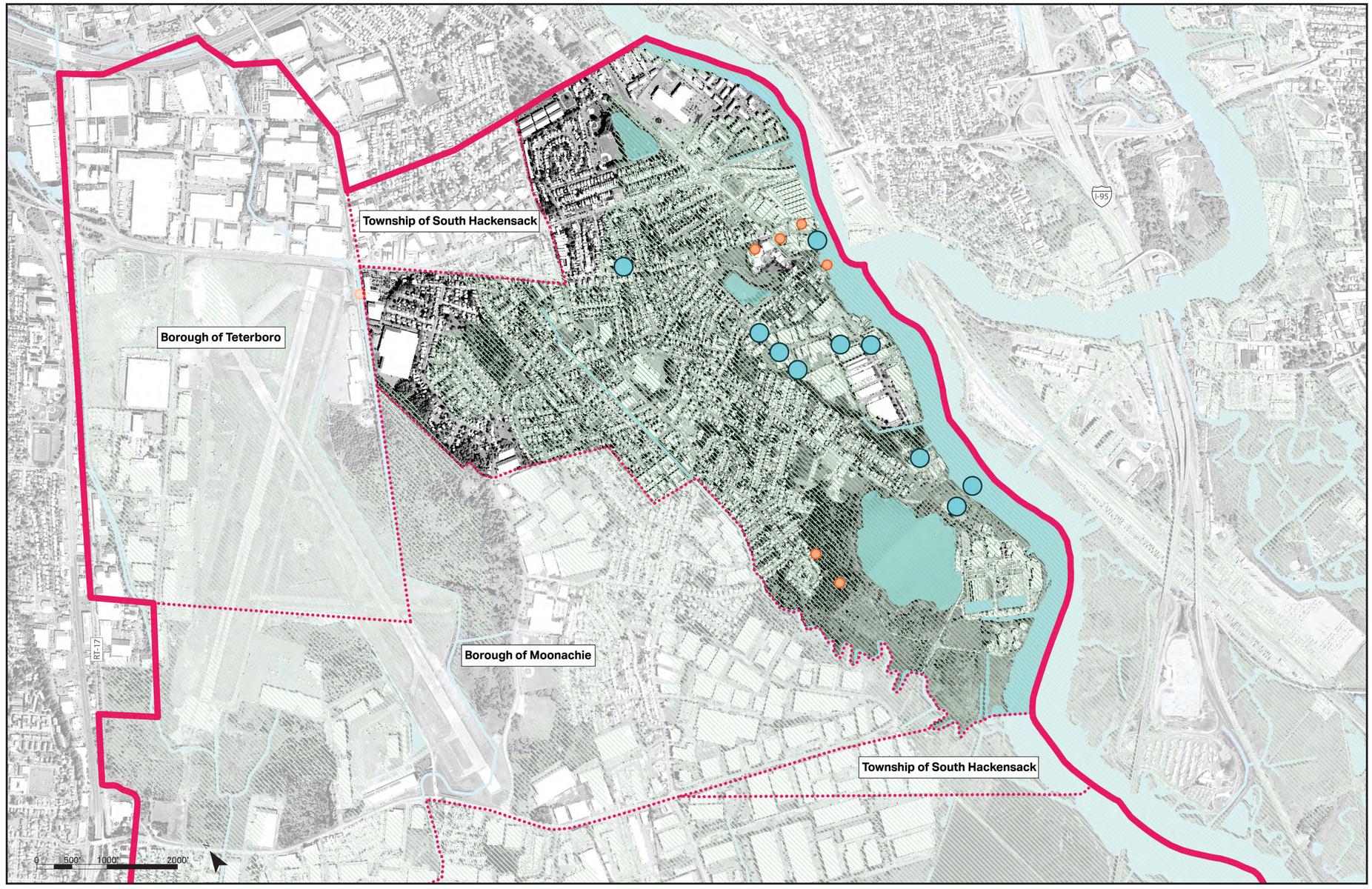
Ditch Survey, NJDEP (2016)

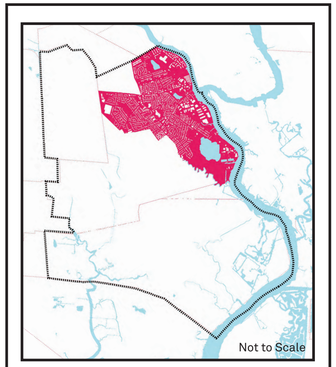
Storm Sewer Mapping Plans, Boswell McClave Engineering (2016)

CURRENT PROBLEM FLOODING AREAS

BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- 100-Year Floodplain FEMA FIRM
- Interior Flood-Prone Areas
- Water
- Public Input
  - Floods during Regular Rainfall
  - Floods during Heavy Rainfall
  - Floods during Major Storm

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

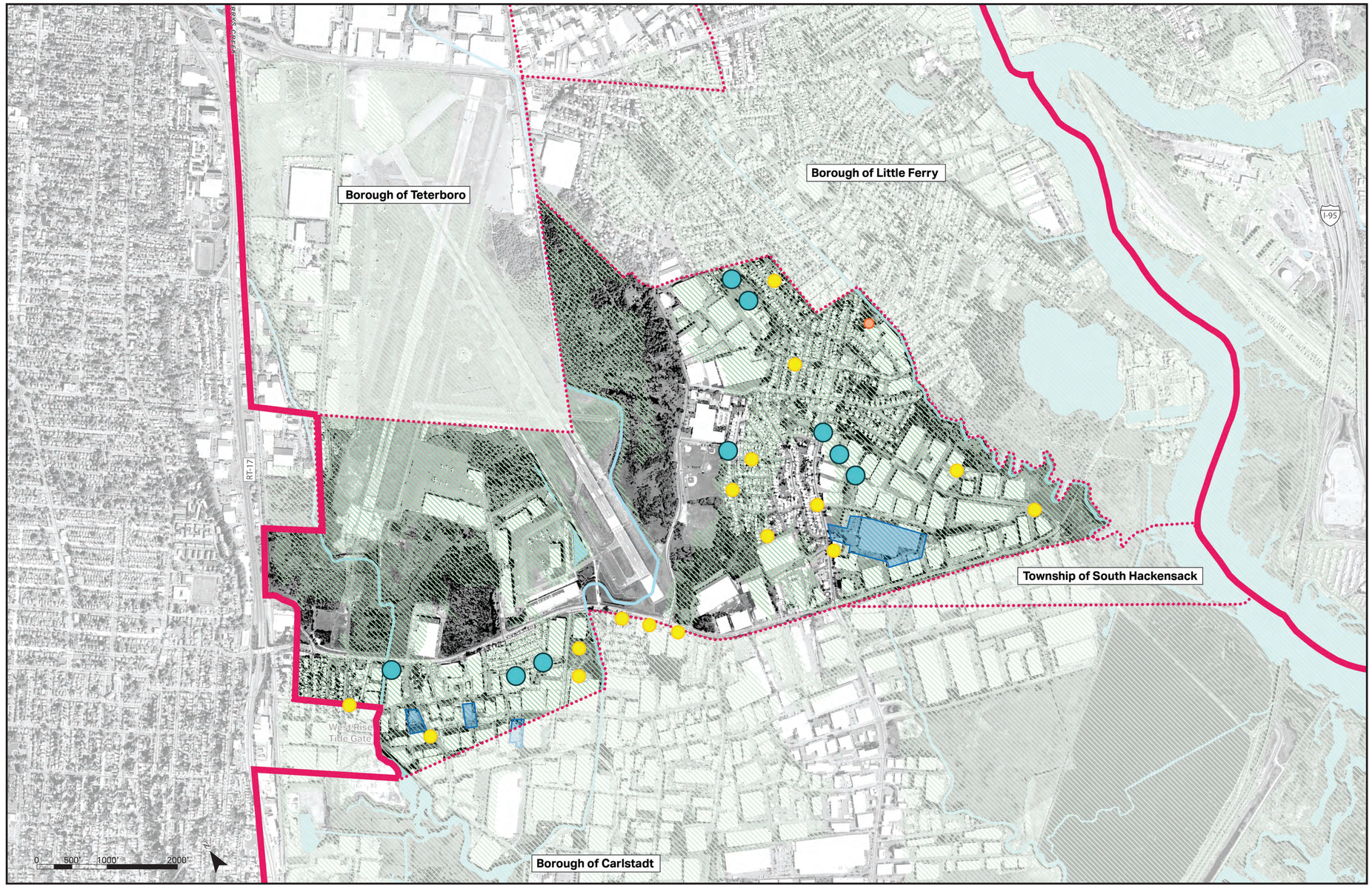
Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

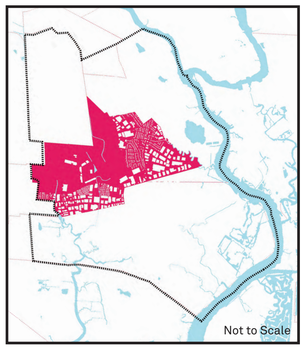
Public Input, April CAG Meeting (2016)

CURRENT PROBLEM FLOODING AREAS

BOROUGH OF MOONACHIE

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- 100-Year Floodplain FEMA FIRM
- Interior Flood-Prone Areas
- Water
- Public Input
  - Floods during Regular Rainfall
  - Floods during Heavy Rainfall
  - Floods during Major Storm

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

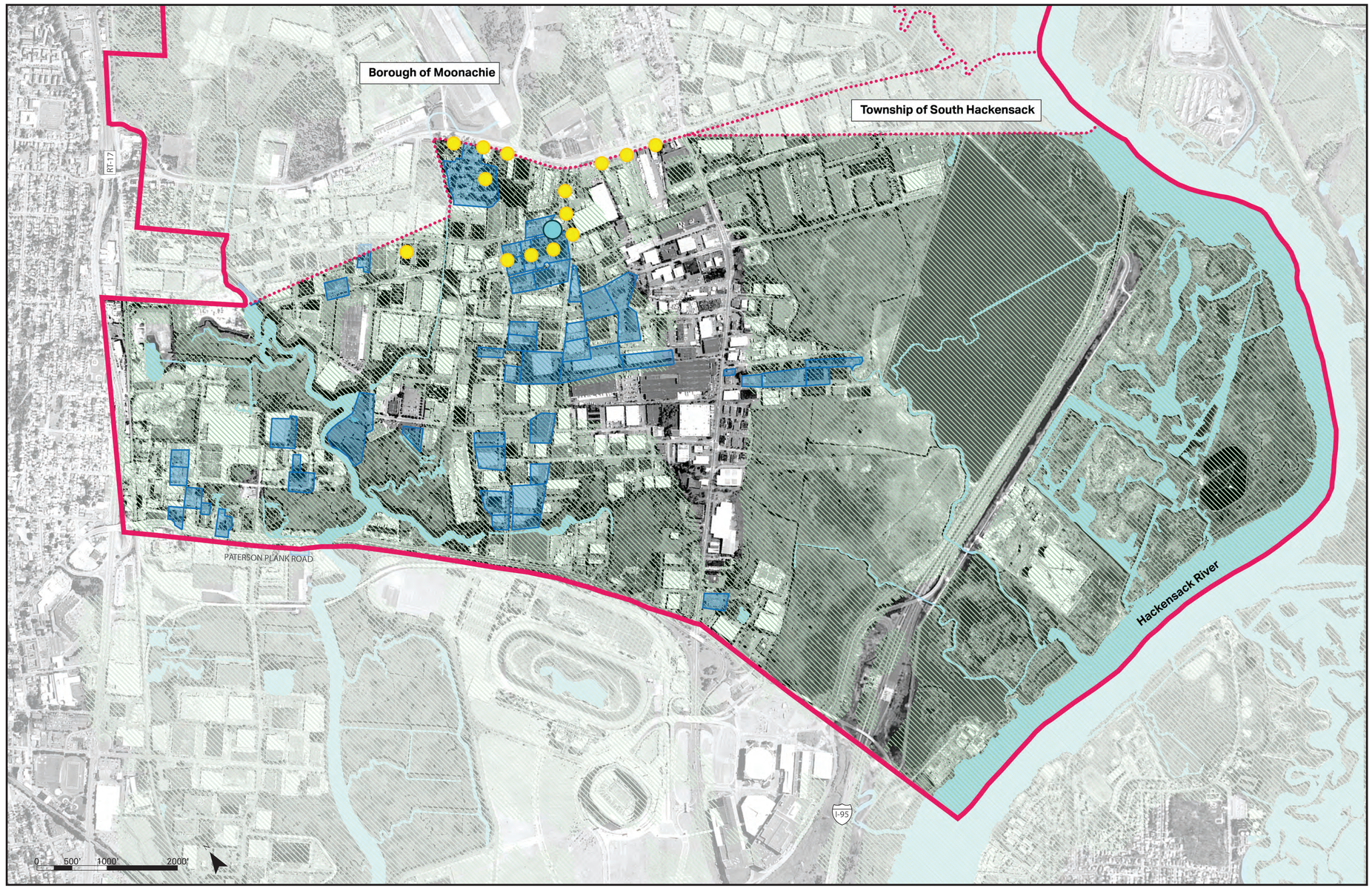
Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

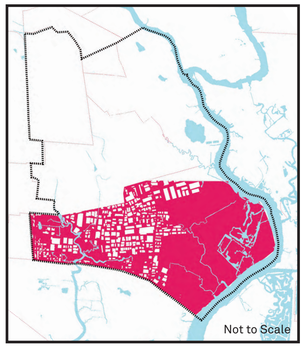
Public Input, April CAG Meeting (2016)

CURRENT PROBLEM FLOODING AREAS

BOROUGH OF CARLSTADT

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- 100-Year Floodplain FEMA FIRM
- Interior Flood-Prone Areas
- Water
- Public Input
  - Floods during Regular Rainfall
  - Floods during Heavy Rainfall
  - Floods during Major Storm

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

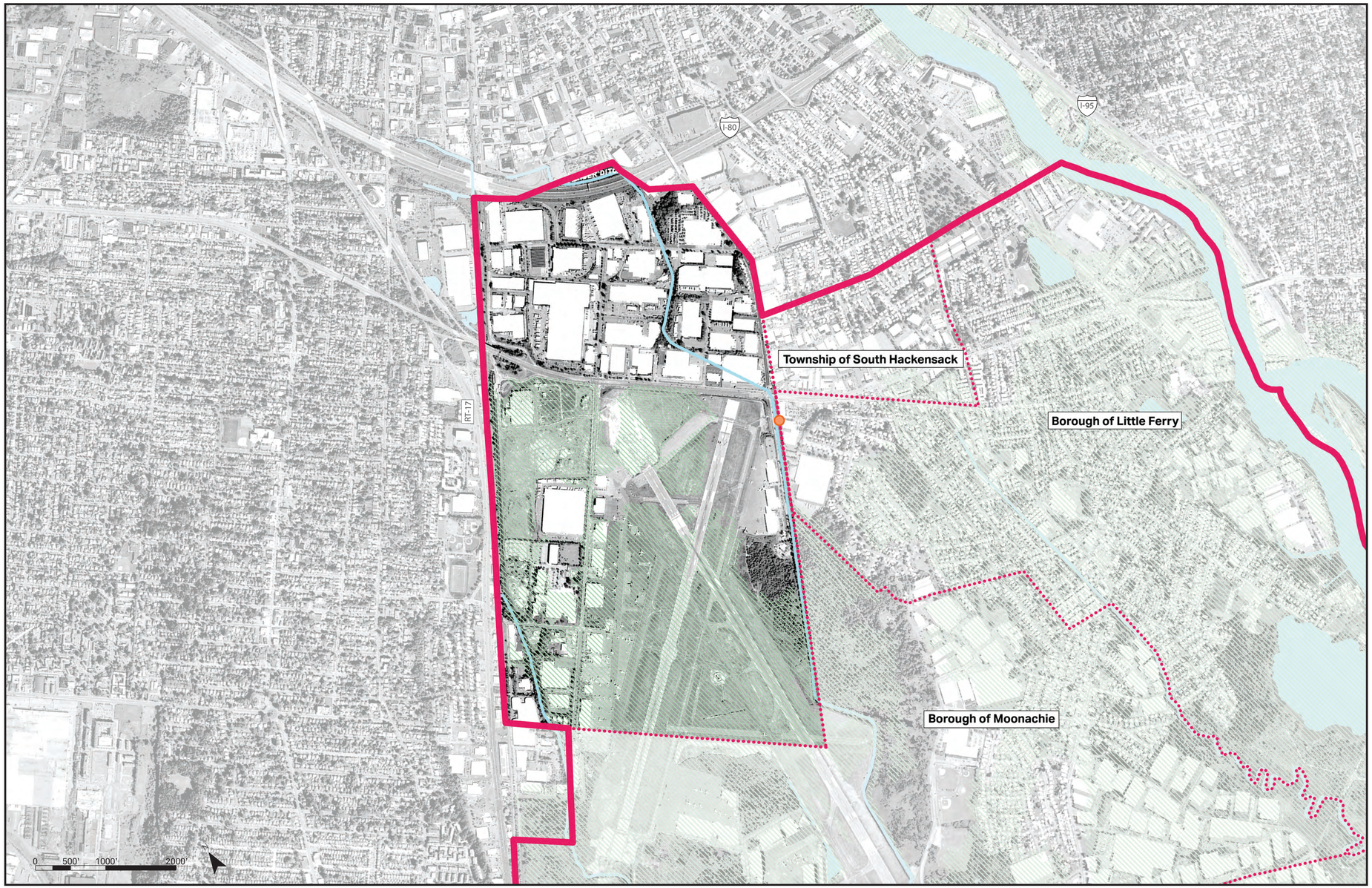
Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

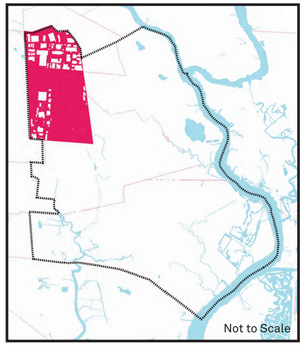
Public Input, April CAG Meeting (2016)

CURRENT PROBLEM FLOODING AREAS

BOROUGH OF TETERBORO

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- 100-Year Floodplain FEMA FIRM
- Interior Flood-Prone Areas
- Water
- Public Input
  - Floods during Regular Rainfall
  - Floods during Heavy Rainfall
  - Floods during Major Storm

NOTES

Source:

Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

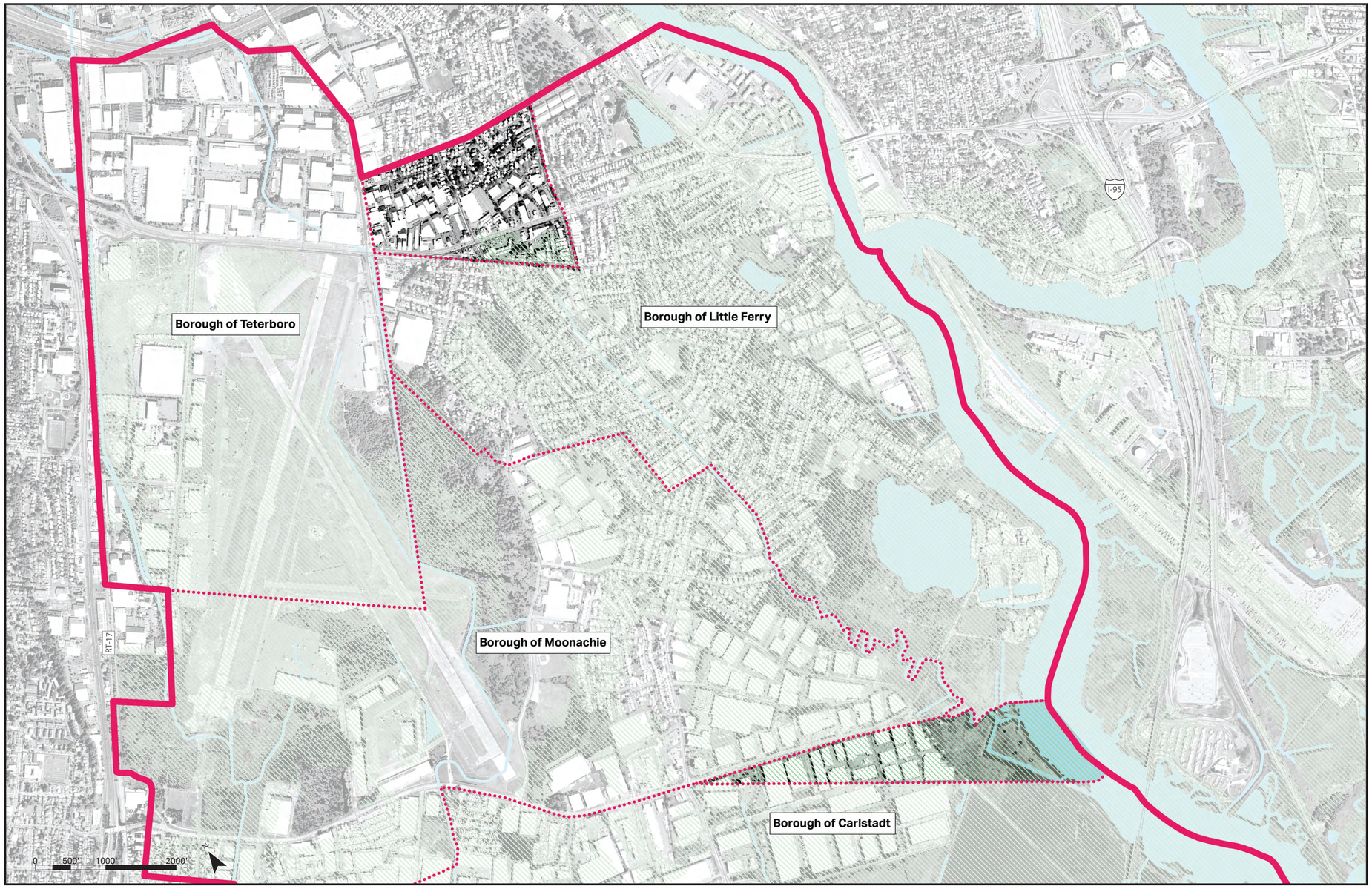
Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

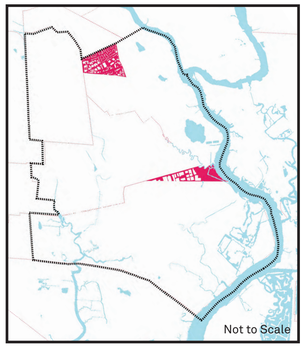
Public Input, April CAG Meeting (2016)

CURRENT PROBLEM FLOODING AREAS

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS





LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- 100-Year Floodplain FEMA FIRM
- Interior Flood-Prone Areas
- Water
- Public Input
  - Floods during Regular Rainfall
  - Floods during Heavy Rainfall
  - Floods during Major Storm

NOTES

Source:

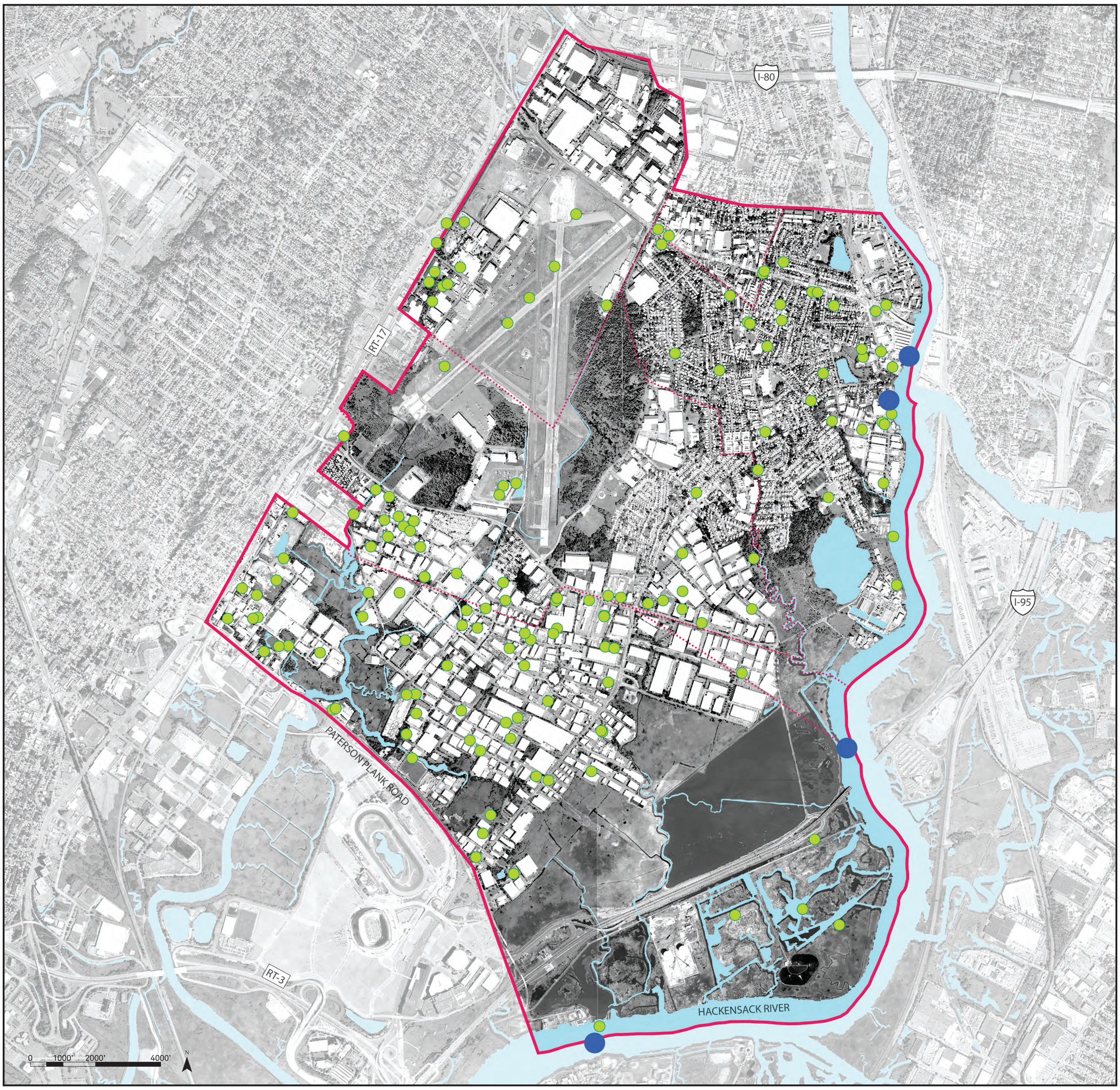
Hackensack Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan, NJSEA (2005)

Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, Bergen Country OEM (2015)

Public Input, April CAG Meeting (2016)

HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS + WASTE (HTMW) SITES

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS



LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Water
- Municipal Boundary
- Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- Potentially Contaminated Sites

NOTE

Source:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
STORET/Water Quality Portal (March 2016)
New Jersey Department oF Environmental Protection,
HAZSITE Electronic Data Interchange (April 2015)

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
July 6, 2016

AECOM

WETLANDS + MITIGATION BANKS

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS

LOCATION KEY

LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Water
- Municipal Boundary
- NJDEP Wetland
- USFWS Wetland
- Kane Mitigation Bank
- MRI Phase III Bank
- Marsh Resources Meadowlands Mitigation Bank (Phase 12)

NOTE

Source:
HDR Inc., (2016)
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Bureau of Geographic Information and Analysis (1999)
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory V2 (2016)

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
July 6, 2016

AECOM

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

Appendix F: Court Stenographer Transcript from the Public Scoping Meeting

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT

REBUILD BY DESIGN
MEADOWLANDS FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
JULY 6, 2016

At: Robert L. Craig School Gymnasium
20 West Park Street
Moonachie, New Jersey
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 6, 2016

By: Stephanie Lyn Rahn, RPR
License No. 975352

JerseyShore Reporting, LLC
517A Passaic Avenue
Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762
732-282-0704 Fax 732-282-0714

MR. ROSENBLATT: Good evening, All. Alright. My name is Dave Rosenblatt. I am the Assistant Commissioner for Engineering and Construction in New Jersey DEP. I am really happy that you have come out tonight to our very first public, public meeting for this Rebuild by Design Project in the Meadowlands.

Most of you know by now that HUD through a very extensive competition about two years ago awarded two projects in New Jersey, one was the Hudson River project that included Hoboken, Weehawken and Jersey City. The other one was, the other award winner was the Meadowlands project which includes the five towns in this area.

150 million dollars was the award, 150 million dollars for flood management in your towns. 150 million dollars does not go a long way, we have to be very careful how we spend that money. The resources to get us to construction are enormous. Construction itself is enormous. So what we are doing here tonight is soliciting from you your thoughts about what we are going to show you tonight. The work that our contractor AECOM has done to this point is presented on the walls, surrounding in the back and we presented verbally to

you also. Pay attention, make notes and come up and make comments when you have the opportunity.

This is a back and forth process, and it will be throughout the whole two years or year and a half that we have left in the early stages of the planning for this project. So it's not us coming to your community and saying this is what we are going to build. I do that, we do that in other towns, in certain circumstances. In certain circumstances when we do flood control projects or shore protection projects there is only one thing we can do and we know what it is and we tell the towns, this is what we are going to build. Often we work with the Army Core of Engineers and we say, you know, here are the designs that we have and if you like it, we will build it. This doesn't work that way. This is going to require your input. That's the only way this is going to work, it's a HUD requirement that we do this with a lot of public participation and, quite frankly, it's really the only way to go when you are talking about changing the way towns may look and feel, even a little bit of change is going to require your input and a lot of your approval.

So with that, I am going to turn this

over to the Project Manager, Linda Fisher, who is going to introduce the evening and some of the major players. Thank you.

MS. FISHER: Thank you, Dave. My name is Linda Fisher. I am the Project Team Manager for the Rebuild By Design Meadowlands project. So glad to see how so many people here tonight, we were a little worried. We spent a lot of time putting meetings together and it's always nice to see people interested in the project and showing up, so, we have a number of elected officials here tonight and if you would like to just wave, they are here representing their towns. So thank you for being here tonight. We appreciate that.

So tonight we are going to try to keep this to two hours. We have a 30-minute presentation for you which we are doing right now. We have a 30-minute comment period when we are through here. We will ask everybody to step up to the microphone and if you have something to say, it will be your time to say it. Then we will do a 60-minute workshop where you will have an opportunity to walk around to the different maps and posters we have in the back, to talk to resource experts, and talk about your concerns if you have any.

We have a stenographer here who is recording the evening. She will be at a table later on to take your comments. I think at the check in station outside you saw the translators that are available. They are here to translate Spanish and Korean for anybody who needs that, and we have American sign language, thank you.

So -- so that's a summary of what we will be doing here tonight. You have some handouts from the check in table, also your meeting packet contains the meeting flyer, the announcement that announces the meeting, it has a sheet in it about what is NEPA, we will be talking about that tonight in detail, but you will have something in your folder for reference later.

There is a NEPA timeline in there. There is 40 most frequently asked questions about the process. You received a binder of the draft scoping document, that's the basis of what this meeting is about tonight. There is a comment card in your folder and there is an informational flyer about who to contact in the future if you have questions or comments, and these items are available in Korean and Spanish out at the table if you didn't pick up those packets already, you can do so on your

way out.

So the objectives tonight, we are going to introduce the DEP team to you, we will introduce the AECOM team to you. We are going to let you know what is going on with the current proposed project. Some of you might be familiar with the Rebuild By Design concept that was awarded, the 150 million dollars. We are going to give you an update on where the project stands today, and we are going to go through the NEPA process and give you more information about the, you know, process we are going to be going through for the next 15 months or so.

So the objectives also are to go through the milestones and basically get you up to speed to where we are right now. So we would like to hear your comments tonight, the purpose of this meeting is to hear what you have to say about the project, about the process, all comments are welcomed and we will do our best to respond as appropriate.

So with introductions, you already met Dave Rosenblatt. I don't know where he went. He's our Assistant Commissioner. We also have tonight, Dennis Reinknecht, he's our Program Manager. I am

the Rebuild by Design Project Team Manager. Alexis Taylor is with us tonight, she is our Program Outreach Team Leader and Robert Marcolino (ph) is with us also, he's one of the Project Managers as well.

I'd like to introduce the AECOM team, Chris Benosky, Vice President and Rebuild By Design Program Manager. Garrett Avery (ph), Eco Systems Practice Director, he's in the back, and the RBD Project Team Manager also, he wears two hats. Brian Boose is our Regional NEPA Practice Director. Jennifer Warf is our NEPA Team Leader, and Brian Beckenbraugh (ph) is -- he's probably out at the sign in table, he's our Outreach Team Leader, so that's his station.

So with that, I am going to turn it over to Chris Benosky, Vice President of AECOM.

MR. BENOSKY: Thanks, Linda. Good evening. So what I am going to do is kind of walk you through where we are at today. You have heard Dave talk about the Rebuild By Design award and then the project so we what we are looking at, we wanted to tackle all the aspects of flooding, not just the Hurricane Sandys, the big storm events, but also, you know, some of the more nuisance flooding that

happens when you have heavy rainfalls, the fluvial flooding as we call it.

So I will walk you through a little bit about where we are at, and what we are planning on doing. This is the flood plain map for the area, for the project area. You can see, it's almost all blue, so I am sure you are all well aware that you are living in a flood plain. And that's the purpose of this project, what we can do to help you live with that water that comes in and out of your townships.

So this is just showing the topography, the yellows are the lower areas. Most of the areas in the project area are around six feet above mean sea level. You have some higher which are shown in orange which are up around 13, 20 plus feet which when we are looking at these different concepts about flood controls, where we tie into to help keep the waters from coming in.

So this is the winning concept, they had nine miles of flood protection that ran along the Hackensack River. It had the Protect Connect Row tag line to it, where the connect had transportation improvements and the grow had redevelopment areas behind the metal berm or the

band that they called it. The cost estimate for this was about $850 million, and like Dave said, HUD awarded this project $150 million for this pilot area one. That's our challenge, how do we take a $850 million concept, and do something that's going to make a difference in your lives for $150 million.

So this is the process that we have started going through and this meeting right here tonight is a big part of that process, like Dave said again, your opinion is what we need to get this project to where it needs to go.

So we are on a pretty tight timeline. The funding has a September 2022 deadline when the project needs to be completed. So we have to get through the planning and design phase, and get into construction and get something in the ground by September 2022, so as far as the budget goes, the $150 million funds everything including design, including the permitting, including the construction, so we figure there is about $30 million in the planning and study pieces that needs to be completed including the need for pieces process, that leaves us about $110 to $120 million for the actual construction.

So what we are trying to do, we are

looking at this -- in a whole systems type of approach. We don't want to just look at the flood protection component of it, we want to look at the -- we have sensitive areas, the Meadowlands, the ecological infrastructure, the social infrastructure which is the built environment where you guys live and work and the resource infrastructure, how the transportation ties in, and how we can tie in, things like green streets and different things that can make a difference not only in flood control but also the way you guys live and how you live your lives in this area.

So part of where we started was collecting data. We looked at a bunch of -- we contacted a bunch of you as far as the townships go, we have collected data through the public process which we will talk about in a couple more slides, we are looking to figure out what is out there, what can we build upon to help stretch that $150 million into something that can make a difference.

Again, so there is a couple of facts up here, one is the FEMA certifiable levies, which they run about $35 million dollars per mile. So the original design of six to nine miles of levies in it, so you can see that's not going to buy a full

line of protection. We can afford about $3 million at that level. But what we are doing is looking at different alignments and different elevations that we can use to reduce costs and again still make a difference, and of course whatever we do is going to avoid impacts to existing wetlands and sensitive areas.

So these were some of the initial studies, one of the concepts that we were asked to look at was a storm surge along the Hackensack River which was further south of the project area. While this has obviously some benefits tied to it, it had some also implications that were challenging for this project, one being a longer timeframe to implement, it expanded the study area and also our initial modeling showed impacts downstream of where the barrier would be. So it's a little difficult to do that on $150 million.

Concept two is the full length line of protection, again this is something that six to nine miles would cost $350 million roughly to build at that FEMA certifiable layer. We have looked at a number of alignments, we are not going to go through them all today, just trying to get a feel of how we can tie into those areas of higher ground, what we

can do, how we can shorten the lengths up, and do that, and we are still looking at those, but these are some of the ideas we are running through.

So again, to try to get down to that three mile length or to the $110, $120 million budget, we are looking at shorter lines of protection, so what -- can we tie into higher ground, can we do this in a phased approach, where we can implement part of it or even to a lower level. So maybe it doesn't protect against the Hurricane Sandys or maybe even not the 100 year storm, but maybe it can protect against some of the nuisance flooding, like the 25, 50 or ten year storms.

Along with that, whatever line of protection that we put up, we are going to have to do some type of interior drainage improvement. So we have got, and you all know, issues with water conveyance and clogged ditches and storm drains and things like that, so how can we approve the interior drainage, as we call it, behind that line of protection, to help get the water out of the towns and out into the river without causing flooding back behind the line of protection.

So I mentioned we haven't been doing

this in a vacuum, we have been doing this, gathering data from the public. We have a Citizens Advisory Group, a CAG group we call it, and the CAG, we have been meeting, I think we are on our third meeting and this was a meeting back in Little Ferry back on April 26 and a lot of the things you are going to see on the next slides and on the boards is input from the CAG so some of the citizens that are part of the CAG group came and talked about where there were issues with flooding, where they have seen flooding during rainfall events, here are some of the maps that are back there. I'll flip through them quickly. But it's where they have seen flooding from heavy rainfall, major storm flooding, regular rainfall flooding, and we tried to map that gapping the data, and putting that up, so you will see it back there, there is the blue dots represent the regular rainfall, yellow is the heavy and orange is the major flooding events.

So just flip through a couple of these, there is one for each town. We broke the meeting up into different work groups or sessions for each town. We have got more information on some towns than others, we are still looking for, so if anyone has additional information, please feel free to

share it with us tonight and we will get that incorporated into this. But you can see some of the mapping we have done.

So what are we carrying forward? As part of the NEPA process, we have to carry a set of alternatives forward to come up with the preferred alternatives and Brian is going to come up and talk about the NEPA process after I finish here.

So we kind of put them into three buckets, four if you call them, the no action bucket, but the three alternatives that we are looking at is some form of structural flood reduction or protection and that's in the form of a flood wall, a levy or some kind of front line of protection, and then there is the fluvial, the interior drainage improvements, what happens behind that line of protection, how can we improve some of the drainage, how can we reduce the flooding, the ponding and the things that impact your lives, and then the third is some hybrid. So we take pieces of the front line of protection, we use existing berms and levies and pump stations, maybe we can improve those and implement some kind of interior drainage that helps to get the water down to those lines of protection quicker, get it out and again, reduce the

flooding.

Those are the three we are carrying through the NEPA process, and now I am going to bring up Brian who is going to walk you through the process and let you know where we are at with that.

MR. BOOSE: How is everybody doing. Good? Surviving the heat? Okay. Very good.

My name is Brian Boose, I am the NEPA Program Manager, Regional Practice Manager and Director for AECOM. I have been doing NEPA a very very long time, and I am very excited about this project because this project is relatively unique. As Mr. Rosenblatt suggested early on in his comments, this project is not preconceived, this project requires your input. The NEPA process is the critical component of the overall project to gather your input, and this meeting is the first step in doing so. These are the components that we will cover in the next through slides.

So what is NEPA. NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It's been around for about 50 years. NEPA's sole purpose is to ensure that the government when they propose to do something new and different considers the environmental effects of the new and different thing

before making a decision to do something new and different and this project is new and different.

NEPA applies to federal actions because the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is the funder of this action. So NEPA applies to this federal action.

What does NEPA require? For major federal actions significantly effecting the quality of the human environment, NEPA requires that an environmental statement be completed. Environmental impact statement process has several procedural steps. We started this process officially when the notice of intent was published in the federal register and three local newspapers on June 20 of this year, and this public meeting is the first opportunity we have had to brief the project and the information as we have it to you.

What is an EIS contain. An EIS contains several core components. It contains a statement of purpose, what is the objective that you are trying to satisfy as well as the need? What is the problem that you are trying to overcome, why are you applying federal dollars, tax payer dollars to a problem that exists to achieve a better solution. It considers alternatives, different courses of

action that could satisfy the purpose and the need for action. And those are some of the alternatives that Chris just referenced during his discussion, the hard alternative, the levy alternative, the interior flooding and drainage alternative, a hybrid alternative, and NEPA requires you look at the no action alternative as well. People ask why do you look at the no action alternative? Well, the world is not static, and NEPA requires you look at what the world would be like if you took no action, if the federal government did nothing, and we need to compare that based on conditions, status quo, to what the world will look like or what we think the world will look like based on implementing each of the considered alternatives.

For each of those alternatives that are ultimately carried forward and you may note in Chris' presentation that the alternatives right now are not well defined, they are broad, and that's why as David Rosenblatt said, we need public input. It's critical to get your input to help shape those alternatives to find the best solution for these five towns.

So we will be conducting within the context of the EIS, a detailed environmental, social

and economic impact analysis of the each of the alternatives that we carry forward, the three build alternatives and the no action alternative.

As part of NEPA, a critical component is public participation, seeking input from the general members of the public, people that have businesses here, the regulatory community on the local, state and federal levels. All of that input comes in and combines with our subject matter experts to shape the analysis.

Here is the timeline that this specific EIS will follow. You can see the red block on the far right, we are here. We started with the notice of intent on the 20th of June which was about 15 or so days ago. We have will have a draft EIS we anticipate somewhere in the spring of 2017, and the final environmental impact statement somewhere in the order of September of 2017 with the ultimate decision document, the record of decision which will document the government's decision somewhere towards the end of 2018.

After about 30 years of doing this, this is a very aggressive timeline. As Chris pointed out, we have until 2022 to put a solution in the ground and operable.

In preparing for this process, we started as early as we possibly could. We started having meetings with the Citizens Advisory Group back in March when we had our first meeting to establish an understanding of what the project is and the concept, what the NEPA process is and how important public involvement is.

The CAG has met three times since then, and as Chris noted, a lot of the work products in the back were shaped by the input from the Citizens Advisory Group. Also involved in the process is the Executive Steering Committee and the overall public involvement process is codified within two documents that are available on that website, the community outreach plan and the guidance for public involvement, and those are available to the public. All public documents for the project are on that website.

Here is the construct of the overall public outreach and communication process for this project. It shows you the members of the Executive Steering Committee, the Citizens Advisory Group and the overall environmental impact statement outreach. Critical to note, right now the Citizens Advisory Group has about 40 members. The Citizens Advisory

Group welcomes additional members at any point, and if you would like to get involved, definitely talk to Alexis Taylor or reach out through the website and the email address.

This process with the CAG members has been very informative and is critical to the success of this project as is your input here tonight and throughout the scoping process. We will talk to the scoping process in a moment. The CAG members have been instrumental in helping us identify what the problem areas are, identifying potential solutions, how to shape the purpose and need for the action, various alternatives and what the issues concerns and methods of analysis should be for specific resource areas.

In fact in your packet or one of the documents that you picked up from the front desk is this document. This document contains our current state of knowledge about this project. The CAG was instrumental in helping us prepare this document or finding this document to the point that you see it tonight. This document is called the draft public scoping document, it reviews all of those components I discussed with you before. The purpose of the need, the status of the alternatives, the background

for the project, the award, the history of flooding within the Meadowlands as well as the resource areas we will be looking at within the environmental impact statement. I very much encourage you to read through this document and one of the things that we are looking for you to do as part of the scoping process is to provide comment on this document.

Here is a list of the CAG meetings that have been held, we have had three, we basically plan to hold them monthly throughout the 18 month life of this project.

There will be two additional opportunities for public involvement which will be similar to this, this is the public scoping process beginning, there will be a comment period on the draft EIS as well as a comment period on the final EIS before the ultimate decision document is written.

This is an overview of the scoping process, it occurs early in the process and the goal is to solicit your input, to provide you information, with what we know about the project, the background, and the issues that we have uncovered and to look for your input in helping us shape the analysis.

I already went over the public scoping document, and it outlines all those elements and that is the document in which we need you to focus and provide additional comments to direct us. We are here today and your other meeting packet in your folder, you have several pieces of information, what is NEPA, how to provide comment, who to reach out to for more information. This public scoping process lasts until July 21 so another couple weeks or so.

We very much respectfully request that you provide any comments that you have before July 21. Tonight you can provide those comments by two methods, one is there is a stenographer here who you can dictate your comments to, and in your packets there is a comment card, you can either fill out the comment card later and return it by regular mail or you can drop it in the box right there.

These are the documents that are available on the project website, the website is listed at the bottom. Here is the method to provide written comments.

Where are we now? This is a very quick overview, there is much more information within this document. The purpose of the project, the goal that it's trying to achieve, reduce flood risk, increase

the resiliency and protect critical infrastructure. Those are the alternatives that Chris briefed. The need is to address the systemic inland flooding that this area experiences, to protect life, property, and public health, to increase community resiliency, to potentially reduce flood insurance rates and the claims from future events and potentially restore property values by increasing flood protection and also finally potentially protect ecological resources and enhance their value and enhance civic, cultural and recreational values that they provide. These are the alternatives that Chris already briefed. This is the starting point for us, we are going to develop these further over time notably with your input. And we are at the end of my presentation.

MS. FISHER: This is now your opportunity to come up and say what you would like to say, provide your comments.

(There is a microphone over here. We just ask that you try to keep your comments to two minutes so that we can give a lot of people an opportunity to speak. Is there -- so we will be sitting at the panel over here. Just trying to moderate comments. So does anybody want to come up

and comment.)

MR. SMITH: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity.

MS. FISHER: If you will state your name.

MR. SMITH: I am going to do that. Bob Smith resident of Little Ferry, on the CAG committee there, life long resident of Little Ferry and the Meadowlands directly itself, passed by my late mother, she would tell you that. Anyway, I was just following up, I mentioned this two meetings ago about the fiberglass sheeting, and I was told by you folks that you were looking at that as a feasible alternative. These photos are from Somers Point, New Jersey around a housing area which I question how they got built. Looks like they are built on wetlands, but that's not the issue tonight. But anyway I was just wondering if there was any update on it or is that still something you are looking at doing.

MS. FISHER: So we are still in the same place we were basically when we had our last CAG meeting when we talked about this. I don't know if you want to --

MR. BENOSKY: Right, so that's still

one of the alternatives, about how we would build it, is it a berm, is it a flood wall, is it vinyl sheeting, so it's still one of the alternatives.

MR. SMITH: Alright, thank you.

MR. GRIER: My name is Thomas Grier. I live at Little Ferry, 23 Nicholas Street. I see that it's going to cost $150 million. What happened if you have a cost over on who is going to pick up that extra cost, because everything the government does there is a cost overrun.

MS. FISHER: So that will be considered in the alternatives, that will be part of the consideration, what can we afford to build.

MR. GRIER: Yeah, but if you start a project and they give you $150 million and you are three quarters of the project and you run out of money, who is going to pick up the rest, tax payers going to pick it up? That's what I'd like to know.

MR. RONNING: I am Dennis Ronning (ph), Program Manager. That's an excellent question. As part of -- as part of this analysis, we have to show a reasonable cost estimate of what this project will cost including even overhead, permits, we have to make a reasonable assumption in this phase, it's the feasibility portion. We have to factor in

uncertainties, you have a great question. We are going to have to put a range of uncertainty into it to make sure we don't exceed money that we don't have.

Some of the considerations that might end up happening later would be some of the items might be add-ons if sufficient funds become available where we actually prioritize some items, but the idea is there is no additional funds available, we have $150 million dollars in the grant from HUD.

MR. GRIER: Thank you.

MS. RUSHANK: Hello. My name is Andrea Rushank (ph). I work for Hackensack River Keeper. I am on the CAG. I just want to make a few comments about what I think the project should look like.

I think any project should be one that considers impacts on the entire Meadowlands District so that will involve taking up a thorough investigation of existing resources.

We also think that all existing wetlands should be maintained and protected because of the flood protection qualities that wetlands provides. Also including additional wetlands would be a good idea.

Finally, I think green infrastructure was mentioned and we believe that should be our primary component, there is multiple benefits to green infrastructure in addition to flood protection, water quality improvements, so we think that should be a major component. So thank you.

MS. FISHER: Thank you.

MS. GELLER: Sally Geller (ph), Meadowlands Coalition for Woodcliff Lake. I am also on the CAG. I think -- I have been concerned from the beginning about the growth or redevelopment portion of this. I think all of Bergen County is fully developed. We don't need to, you know, increase density or increase traffic or increase any of those problems. Green infrastructure, quality of life, things that are really important. And at a practical level, will those documents in the back of the room be available on the website and can we get more comment cards to pass out to residents as this process goes over the next couple of weeks.

MS. FISHER: Certainly.

MR. TURINO: Don Turino (ph), Six Helen Drive in Moonachie, and also President of Bergen County Audubon Society. I have been a resident of Moonachie for about 50 years, so you can imagine the

changes that I have seen from when I was a kid growing up in the Meadowlands to what it is now and I'd just like to remind everybody that a big part of the mess that we are in now is because we ignored the environmental impact of whatever we did, built anywhere without any recognition or any consideration for the future, so I hope any of this plan will consider greatly the environment, enhancing the environment and working with the environment rather than against it so not to make the mistakes or more mistakes that we made in the past. Thank you.

MR. SMITH: I am still Don Smith that was up here a little while a go. I noticed on the screen you brought up there about a tidal barrier down river at some point in the Newark Bay. And one of the things is that it could as you stated there, could cause downstream flooding if that was in place. My question is are you continuing to look at that as a feasibility and study that, and B, have you been in touch with one of the four cities or all four in Europe that had put gates in, the Thames in London, solved their problem; a river in Holland, can't remember the name of it, solved their problem; a river next to St. Petersburg; and the last one two

years ago, for Venice, Italy solved their flooding problem. So I just wonder if you have been in contact with that to get some intimate knowledge from them, what their studies were and how that might be applied here. I think it's why reinvent the wheel if we don't have to, in other words. Thank you.

MS. FISHER: Thank you. I will just quickly answer that, no, we have not been in contact with the other countries. However, you know, the surge gate was looked at and it was not only causing additional flooding elsewhere, it was also out of the price range. So it's not something that will carry forward into the --

MR. SMITH: Okay. The price range --

MS. FISHER: It exceeded.

MR. SMITH: What HUD --

MS. FISHER: Right.

MR. SMITH: But Joe Sepo (ph) at the Army Core still has the old plans sitting on the shelf and he would love to implement it. Personal conversation with him, thanks.

MR. SILVERLESTI: Bernie Silverlesti (ph), Little Ferry, New Jersey, 153 Echler Road. Hello, Linda, Brian.

I just want to come up and make one more request, the towns that were impacted by Sandy still are suffering. The downgraded real estate values, the stigma associated with water problems is a black cloud hanging over our heads, so obviously I am very much pro this whole effort, however I think every effort should be made in the planning to do what is necessary to make this entire district far more attractive. When I say attractive, we need good accessible open space park land, a lot of our park land currently is neglected.

Number two, unfortunately the town of Little Ferry, probably one of the only towns along the Hackensack River waterfront that has maybe two miles of waterfront, we have absolutely no access to the Hackensack River. This is pathetic. This means that despite the fact that we are on -- we are waterfront, we are a waterfront community, you can't even launch a kayak in Little Ferry, you can't launch a canoe. You can't sit alongside the riverfront unless you are trespassing on somebody's property.

Park land adds greatly to real estate values especially if it's accessible and attractive and well maintained. So I am asking in the

planning, this whole program which is going to take some time to be brought to fruition, try to figure out some way to give us a park land in Little Ferry with water front access, I appreciate it, thank you.

MR. HIDOT: I am Eric Hidot (ph) from Hudsonia. Just in case anyone thinks I am a carpet bagger because I am here from hundred miles north of the Meadowlands, I have been studying biological resources in the Meadowlands since 1999 and studying the Hudson River since 1971. I see this area as an extension of the Hudson River or as connected to the Hudson River biologically.

This is the 21st century, buyer diversity is important. Buyer diversity underlies all the ecosystem services we all require to survive and have a quality of life. NEPA requires attention to buyer diversity not just threatened and endangered species. Certainly state listed species of greatest conservation need which is a federal mandate and other -- other species of concern such as the plants listed as S1, S2 or S3 by the New Jersey national heritage program, so I think it's important that consideration of biological resources not be limited to threatened and endangered species, not be limited to wetland data which probably took

someone an hour to download from a publicly available source, federal and state wetlands mapping, and I had certainly hoped to see more on biological resources at this stage. This is the middle of the summer 2016. The draft and environmental impact statement is intended to be released in the spring of 2017. There isn't that much time to compile and analyze biological data and collect those new biological data that may be appropriate for designing and implementing a flood management project.

Finally, and I'll comment on this in more detail in writing, but the slides and the information on the story boards refers to potentially protecting ecological resources. I don't think potential is good enough. I think ecological resources need to be given priority along with the human resources that we are all here to protect, the two go hand in hand, they are not in conflict and this project needs to accord a higher priority to biological resources, not just potential protection. Thank you.

MR. WEBBER: Bill Weber, Two Carlson Street, Little Ferry. I am in favor of improving the existing drainage, especially the east Riser

ditch, Sands Creek, the Losen Slote and the Main Street pump station in Little Ferry which is -- I have actually seen during heavy rains two eight inch pipes coming out of the pump station and a stream of water that would be equal to a garden hose, so I really think the pumps actually need to be enlarged at that point.

That's all I got.

MS. GELLER: Sally Geller again, to that point, I heard it at the CAG meetings, lots of comments about this tidal gate works, that one doesn't, this ditch is filled, that one isn't and that's not reflected on those diagrams, and it would be very helpful, I think, to know which ones are in what condition and what repair and functionality.

MR. RASANSKI: Hi, Steve Rasanski (ph), also on Carlson Street. The Losen Slote runs literally three houses away from me, and what has happened over the years, is people have either filled it in or just kept putting top soil in their yards and it's actually just filled in the creek. At one point a block away, somebody put railroad ties on both sides of it and it is literally a foot wide. So when it rains heavily, anything north of that site floods, anything south of that site

floods, there is just no place for the water to go. I understood about a year ago the county supposedly had put out funds of roughly three to $400,000 to clean the slope, or had bought equipment. That just died, I don't know whatever happened with it. I know it's not you guys, you know, that action, but the slope, the creek definitely needs to be widened, maybe piped in areas, I don't know, but what is to stop it just from filling back in again or people filling it back in again over the years.

MS. FISHER: I believe that the permits were issued to clean the Losen Slote and I believe the work is happening now.

MR. RASANSKI: I have been told that DEP stopped it.

MS. FISHER: The permits were issued several weeks ago.

MAYOR RAGUSEO: Hi, good evening. Mayor Mauro Raguseo from Little Ferry. I just wanted to answer Steve's question, because I know Steve has been asking about this for quite awhile, and as you know from all the meetings I have been at in the last two years when we have been talking about this project, I have been bringing up the Losen Slote, and I am happy to report that today the

county began again, they had started in January, January 15 of '15, I remember that date because it was like a big celebration, and then they started on the lower part, the Losen Slote, and as they were working their way up, we got a phone call from the DEP saying you have to do more testing for broadcasting, and so that took another year of doing soil sampling and other investigatory work and working with the DEP and all these other issues, and the county two weeks ago, I believe two or three weeks ago, the permit was then granted, we had another meeting with the county and I spoke with the DPW superintendent today, because today they were supposed to start, and they said they were on site.

They will be moving up the Losen Slote, and they will be broadcasting in that area of the meadows, and when they get to the residential areas, the permit calls for the removal, trucked out and then put into I believe into, I believe, Overpeck or another site where it will be used for fill.

So after four years, four years, as you know, we finally got started again, but this brings up a good point that we have several different types of flood events that effect this region, we have the storm surge events, we have the heavy rain events,

and so there has got to be a combination of both, either improving or increasing pump stations. I mean we saw the big difference already on Route 46 at the old traffic circle that used to flood quite frankly even when it didn't even rain, it was high tide, full moon, it used to flood, and not only is it annoying but it also is a stigma, and last year they worked on the project, there is a pump station now with five pumps, they elevated the area, I am happy to report that during some heavy rain storms we have had in the last six months or so, there has been a dramatic improvement. Is it perfect? No, but there has been an improvement.

So pump stations do work, there has to be a combination of both and I am glad that the study will look at that. We have to stop the surge events, and we also have to work on getting the water out when it comes into the communities, and I also want to urge you, I mean I look at this timeline and I know everybody is as frustrated as I am, which I have expressed to you many times, I know we have to go through the process, but the people of these communities want relief quickly and so I would urge, as you are doing, to move as quickly as possible to get the studies done, keep the costs

down of all this engineering, architectural, no offense, so that the money can go to build the infrastructure that is needed to protect our communities and do it quickly and a combination, again, that looks at different types of flood events which you are doing but I have to say it's been a pleasure working with you, we have been through many many meetings in the last two years, especially in the last couple of months preparing for tonight, I am very impressed with the presentation and I am equally impressed with the good turn out from all the communities and I hope that that continues, because if we see a large turn out, large presence of people, it will let the federal and state government know that we haven't forgotten Sandy, we haven't forgotten what happened, and that we all are invested in making sure our communities continue to remain safe from flood events or will remain safe from flood events. Thank you very much for all your hard work.

MS. FISHER: Thank you, Mayor.

MS. COONEY: Jennifer Cooney, I live at One Sedida Place in Moonachie. I was just, I know I am probably thinking too far ahead, but once the project is done, I think you should consider who is

(1) going to keep, if it's in using different areas of
(2) the different towns, who is going to keep with
(3) maintenance of it because I know sometimes that gets
(4) thrown onto the towns or it should be the different
(5) departments in the towns working together in order
(6) to keep everything in the right capacity so
(7) everything works properly.
(8) And I think you should take into
(9) account the wildlife in the Meadowlands and the
(10) wetlands because I know it's a very diverse
(11) ecosystem over there, and yeah, that's it.
(12) MS. FISHER: Thank you.
(13) MS. TURCETTA: Hi, my name is Susan
(14) Turcetta (ph). I work in Moonachie and my family
(15) has had a business here for 46 years, and I also
(16) live in Moonachie. I just have a quick question, I
(17) understand this is a grant, however our neighbor
(18) MetLife which is enormous, and you know, is the home
(19) to the Jets and the Giants, I was wondering if they
(20) -- who, you know, we have to deal with a lot of
(21) traffic and all that during the games, and if they
(22) have been approached to help maybe with the project
(23) or can they contribute in anyway and maybe that $150
(24) million will be increased because we are trying --
(25) we are protecting their MetLife Stadium as well. I

mean we took the brunt of it during Sandy and they got nothing, and it's, you know, raises a lot of questions for the people who were effected so badly that probably don't want to say anything, because you know, conspiracy theories and all that, but my question is, have they been approached and do they want to be part of this project, because like I said, they are our neighbors and, you know, that's -- it would be very helpful to everybody if we could see more money be put into this project, because $150 million seems like a lot of money but at the end of the day, it's definitely -- it's not a lot. You know, especially with what we need and how many different components there are to the project.

MS. FISHER: So that's a great suggestion, we are looking into additional funding sources but it's a difficult process. It is something that we will be looking towards in the feasibility study.

MS. TURCETTA: I mean the NFL makes billions of dollars, they can help their -- especially, you know, it would be something great for them to do, it's something, you know, to suggest, maybe to ask if they want to be part of this project, it would be nice, you know. I was

just wondering.

MS. FISHER: It's a great suggestion.

MS. LOMBARDELLI: Sophie Lombardelli (ph), Moonachie.

Have any studies been done with the wonderful arena that's no longer being used and that wonderful shopping mall that's being put in, the extension of the work that's going to be done down there, how is that additional building going to impact this?

MR. BOOSE: As a component of the environmental impact statement, not only are we looking at the effects of this project but we are looking at the cumulative effects of this project plus all past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects. That will be presented in the cumulative impact analysis, so we will definitely overlay the entire world on the planet and show what the change will be.

MS. LOMBARDELLI: Including the casinos they are talking about possibly building over here? No, they voted that down? But it's still a possibility because it's not gonna -- it hasn't been voted down so that is a possibility, so that is also included in that?

MR. BOOSE: Yes, Ma'am.

MS. LOMBARDELLI: Thank you.

MR. DRESSELL: Frank Dressell, 19 Edson (ph) Drive, Moonachie, New Jersey. I'd just to like to add that we are all here hoping, most of us have gray hair if you noticed and we are looking for something that's going to give us some relief and assurance in the near future and this doesn't hold that for us, but we appreciate the effort I'm sure.

One of the things I'd like to comment on in the whole analysis, in the whole thinking about a program or something that's going to alleviate it, is to have in the district, in the area, a combined sense of or assignment of responsibility for maintaining the drainage systems. What we have is -- as a lot of things in New Jersey, municipal, individual agencies but we have everybody pointing a finger, who is -- never anybody's responsibility. County puts in a tide gate, nobody assumes the responsibility for the maintenance of it, so we go back and forth. And because we are so flat, drainage systems don't move and they sedimentize horrendously.

We need maintenance, and we need a program where its an obligatory program where the

municipalities or the county or combined agency maintains them constantly, and perhaps expeditiously, the DEP permission to clean ditches out, that's horrendous. On the municipal side, as the Mayor pointed out, it's a horrendous nightmare of bureaucracy that serves no purpose in the final analysis. Something should be done about that, at least a recommendation in your studies.

But we do need a very comprehensive program for continued maintenance of our drainage systems in any plan. Thank you.

MS. FISHER: So a couple of people have mentioned maintenance operations and maintenance and I just want to quickly speak to that. As a requirement of the funding source, we will be required to identify the responsible entity for maintenance. It will be spelled out in the project, so.

Would anybody else like to speak? Okay. I think at this point we will turn it over to the workshop. We are scheduled to be here until eight o'clock.

MR. BOOSE: Around the room you see various work stations, there is a DEP station, a NEPA process station, a biological resource station,

a hydraulic and flooding station, I have this material station and an environmental justice station. So if you have questions about those specific areas, about those specific areas, please visit those displays.

There is a comment card box over up here in the front with a beautiful handwritten sign done by me and then a stenographer station to dictate your comments if you have any. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting is concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

(1) CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER

(2)

(3) I CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true
(4) and accurate transcript of the testimony and
(5) proceedings as reported stenographically by me at
(6) the time, place and on the date as hereinbefore set
(7) forth.

(8) I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
(9) a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of
(10) any of the parties to this action, and that I am
(11) neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or
(12) counsel, and that I am not financially interested in
(13) the action.

(14)

(15)

(16)

(17)

(18)

(19)

(20)

(21)

(22) STEPHANIE LYN RAHN
License No. XIO1717
(23) Notary Public of the
State of New Jersey
(24) My Commission Expires
April 18, 2017

(25)

A

absolutely ... 30:15
access (2) 30:15 31:4
accessible (2) 30:10,24
accord (1) 32:20
account (1) 38:9
accurate (1) 44:4
achieve (2) 16:24 22:25
Act (1) 15:21
action (13) 14:10 16:5 16:6 17:1,2 17:7,8,10 18:3 20:12 34:6 44:10 44:13
actions (2) 16:3,8
actual (1) 9:24
add (1) 41:5
add-ons (1) 26:7
addition (1) 27:4
additional ... 13:25 20:1 21:12 22:4 26:9,24 29:12 39:16 40:9
address (2) 20:4 23:3
adds (1) 30:23
Advisory (6) 13:2 19:3 19:11,22,24 19:25
AECOM (5) 2:23 6:4 7:6 7:17 15:10
afford (2) 11:1 25:13
agencies (1) 41:17
agency (1) 42:1
aggressive ... 18:23
ago (8) 2:10 18:15 24:11 29:1 34:2 34:17 35:10 35:11
ahead (1) 37:24
Alexis (2) 7:1 20:3
alignments... 11:3,23
alleviate (1) 41:13
alongside (1) 30:20
Alright (2) 2:2 25:4
alternative ... 17:4,4,5,6,7 17:8 18:3 24:14
alternative... 14:6,7,11 16:25 17:2 17:15,16,18 17:22 18:2 18:3 20:13 20:25 23:2 23:12 25:1 25:3,12
American (1) 5:7
analysis (8) 18:1,10 20:14 21:25 25:21 40:17 41:11 42:7
analyze (1) 32:8
Andrea (1) 26:13
announce... 5:11
announces ... 5:12
annoying (1) 36:7
answer (2) 29:9 34:20
anticipate (... 18:16
anybody (3) 5:6 23:25 42:19
anybody's ... 41:18
anyway (3) 24:10,18 38:23
applied (1) 29:5
applies (2) 16:3,5
applying (1) 16:23
appreciate ... 4:14 31:4 41:9
approach (2) 10:2 12:8
approache... 38:22 39:6
appropriat... 6:21 32:10
approval (1) 3:24
approve (1) 12:20
April (2) 13:6 44:24
architectur... 37:1
area (14) 2:14 8:5,6 8:14 9:4 10:12 11:11 11:15 23:4 24:15 31:10 35:16 36:9 41:14
areas (14) 8:13,13,25 10:4 11:7 11:25 20:11 20:15 21:2 34:8 35:17 38:1 43:4,4
arena (1) 40:6
Army (2) 3:14 29:20
asked (2) 5:17 11:9
asking (2) 30:25 34:21
aspects (1) 7:23
assignment... 41:14
Assistant (2) 2:3 6:24
associated ... 30:4
assumes (1) 41:20
assumptio... 25:24
assurance (1) 41:8
attention (2) 3:1 31:16
attorney (2) 44:9,11
attractive (3) 30:9,9,24
Audubon (1) 27:24
available (9) 5:5,23 19:14,16 22:19 26:8 26:10 27:18 32:2
Avenue (1) 1:23
Avery (1) 7:8
avoid (1) 11:6
award (4) 2:13,15 7:21 21:1
awarded (3) 2:10 6:7 9:3
aware (1) 8:7
awhile (1) 34:21

B

B (1) 28:20
back (15) 2:25 3:3 4:24 7:9 12:23 13:5 13:5,12,17 19:4,10 27:17 34:9 34:10 41:21
backgroun... 20:25 21:23
badly (1) 39:3
bagger (1) 31:7
band (1) 9:1
barrier (2) 11:17 28:15
based (2) 17:12,14
basically (3) 6:15 21:9 24:22
basis (1) 5:19
Bay (1) 28:16
beautiful (1) 43:7
Beckenbra... 7:13
began (1) 35:1
beginning (... 21:15 27:11
believe (6) 27:2 34:11 34:12 35:10 35:19,19
benefits (2) 11:12 27:3
Benosky (4) 7:7,17,18 24:25
Bergen (2) 27:12,23
berm (2) 8:25 25:2
berms (1) 14:21
Bernie (1) 29:23
best (2) 6:20 17:22
better (1) 16:24
big (5) 7:24 9:9 28:3 35:3 36:3
Bill (1) 32:23
billions (1) 39:21
binder (1) 5:18
biological (7) 31:8,23 32:4,8,9,21 42:25
biologically... 31:12
bit (2) 3:22 8:3
black (1) 30:5
block (2) 18:12 33:22
blue (2) 8:7 13:17
boards (2) 13:7 32:14
Bob (1) 24:6
Boose (6) 7:11 15:6,8 40:11 41:1

42:23
bottom (1) 22:20
bought (1) 34:4
box (2) 22:17 43:6
Brian (6) 7:10,12 14:7 15:4,8 29:25
brief (1) 16:16
briefed (2) 23:2,13
bring (1) 15:4
bringing (1) 34:24
brings (1) 35:22
broad (1) 17:19
broadcasti... 35:7,16
broke (1) 13:21
brought (2) 28:15 31:2
brunt (1) 39:1
bucket (1) 14:11
buckets (1) 14:10
budget (2) 9:17 12:6
build (9) 3:8 3:13,16 10:19 11:21 18:2 25:1 25:13 37:2
building (2) 40:9,21
built (4) 10:6 24:16,16 28:5
bunch (2) 10:14,15
bureaucrac... 42:6
business (1) 38:15
businesses ... 18:7
buy (1) 10:25
buyer (3) 31:13,14,17

C

CAG (14) 13:3,3,8,9 19:8 20:5,9 20:19 21:8 24:7,23 26:15 27:10 33:10
call (5) 8:2 12:21 13:3 14:10 35:5
called (2) 9:1 20:22
calls (1) 35:18
canoe (1) 30:20
capacity (1) 38:6
card (4) 5:20 22:15,16 43:6
cards (1) 27:19
careful (1) 2:18
Carlson (2) 32:23 33:17
carpet (1) 31:6
carried (1) 17:17
carry (3) 14:5 18:2 29:14
carrying (2) 14:4 15:2
case (1) 31:6
casinos (1) 40:20
cause (1) 28:18
causing (2) 12:23 29:11
celebration... 35:3
century (1) 31:13
certain (2) 3:9,9
certainly (3) 27:21 31:18 32:3
certifiable ... 10:22 11:22
CERTIFIC... 44:1
CERTIFY ... 44:3,8
challenge (1) 9:4
challenging... 11:13
change (2) 3:23 40:18
changes (1) 28:1
changing (1) 3:21
check (2) 5:3 5:10
Chris (7) 7:7 7:17 17:3 18:23 19:9 23:2,12
Chris' (1) 17:18
circle (1) 36:4
circumstan... 3:9,10
cities (1) 28:21
citizens (7) 13:2,8 19:3 19:10,22,24 19:25
City (1) 2:12
civic (1) 23:10
claims (1) 23:7
clean (3) 34:4 34:12 42:3
clogged (1) 12:19
cloud (1) 30:5
Coalition (1) 27:9
codified (1) 19:13
collect (1) 32:9
collected (1) 10:16
collecting (1) 10:14
combinatio... 36:1,15 37:4
combined (2) 41:14 42:1
combines (1) 18:9
come (7) 2:5 3:1 14:6,7 23:18,25 30:1
comes (3) 8:10 18:9 36:18
coming (3) 3:7 8:19 33:4
comment (... 4:18 5:20 21:7,15,16 22:7,15,16 24:1 27:19 32:12 41:10 43:6
comments ... 3:2 5:3,23 6:17,19 15:14 22:4 22:11,12,14 22:21 23:19 23:21,25 26:15 33:11 43:9
Commissio... 44:24
Commissio... 2:3 6:24
committee ... 19:12,22 24:7
communic... 19:20
communiti... 36:18,23 37:4,12,17
community... 3:7 18:7 19:14 23:5 30:18
compare (1) 17:12
competitio... 2:9
compile (1) 32:8
completed ... 9:14,22 16:10
component... 10:3 15:16 18:4 27:3,6 40:11
component... 15:18 16:19 20:23 39:14
comprehen... 42:9
concept (5) 6:7 8:20 9:5 11:19 19:6
concepts (2) 8:17 11:9
concern (1) 31:20
concerned ... 27:10
concerns (2) 4:25 20:13
concluded ... 43:10
condition (1) 33:15
conditions ... 17:12
conducting... 17:24
conflict (1) 32:20
connect (2) 8:22,23
connected ... 31:11
conservatio... 31:19
consider (2) 28:8 37:25
considerati... 25:13 28:7 31:23
considerati... 26:5
considered ... 17:15 25:11
considers (3) 15:24 16:25 26:18
conspiracy ... 39:5
constantly ... 42:2
construct (1) 19:19
constructio... 2:4,19,20 9:16,20,24
contact (3) 5:22 29:3,9
contacted (1) 10:15
contain (1) 16:18

contains (4) 5:11 16:19 16:19 20:18
context (1) 17:25
continue (1) 37:17
continued (... 42:10
continues (1) 37:12
continuing ... 28:19
contractor ... 2:23
contribute ... 38:23
control (2) 3:10 10:10
controls (1) 8:18
conversatio... 29:22
conveyanc... 12:19
Cooney (2) 37:22,22
core (3) 3:14 16:19 29:20
cost (8) 9:1 11:21 25:7 25:8,9,10 25:22,23
costs (2) 11:4 36:25
counsel (2) 44:9,12
countries (1) 29:10
county (8) 27:12,24 34:2 35:1 35:10,12 41:19 42:1
couple (7) 10:17,21 13:20 22:9 27:20 37:9 42:12
course (1) 11:5
courses (1) 16:25
cover (1) 15:19
Craig (1) 1:9
creek (3) 33:1,21 34:7
critical (6) 15:16 17:21 18:4 19:24 20:6 23:1
cultural (1) 23:11
cumulative... 40:14,16
current (2) 6:5 20:18
currently (1) 30:11

D

data (7) 10:14,16 13:2,16 31:25 32:8 32:9
date (2) 35:2 44:6
Dave (6) 2:2 4:4 6:23 7:21 9:2,9
David (1) 17:20
day (1) 39:12
days (1) 18:15
deadline (1) 9:13
deal (1) 38:20
decision (5) 16:1 18:19 18:19,20 21:17
defined (1) 17:19
definitely (4) 20:2 34:7 39:12 40:17
Dennis (2) 6:25 25:19
density (1) 27:14
DEP (7) 2:4 6:3 34:15 35:6,9 42:3 42:24
Departmen... 16:4
departmen... 38:5
design (10) 1:1 2:6 4:6 6:7 7:1,7,21 9:15,18 10:24
designing (1) 32:10
designs (1) 3:15
desk (1) 20:17
despite (1) 30:17
detail (2) 5:14 32:13
detailed (1) 17:25
develop (1) 23:14
developed (... 27:13
Developme... 16:4
diagrams (1) 33:13
dictate (2) 22:14 43:9
died (1) 34:5
difference (... 9:6 10:10 10:20 11:5 36:3
different (17) 4:23 8:17 10:9 11:3,3 13:22 15:24 15:25 16:2 16:2,25 35:23 37:5 38:1,2,4 39:14
difficult (2) 11:17 39:17
direct (1) 22:4
directly (1) 24:9
Director (3) 7:9,11 15:10
discussed (1) 20:24
discussion ... 17:3
displays (1) 43:5
district (3) 26:18 30:8 41:13
ditch (2) 33:1 33:12
ditches (2) 12:19 42:3
diverse (1) 38:10
diversity (3) 31:14,14,17
document (... 5:19 18:19 18:20 20:18 20:18,20,21 20:22,23 21:5,7,17 22:2,3,24
documents ... 19:13,17 20:17 22:18 27:17
doing (15) 2:21 4:17 5:9 8:5 11:2 12:25 13:1 15:6,10,18 18:22 24:20 35:7 36:24 37:6
dollars (9) 2:15,16,17 6:8 10:23 16:23,23 26:10 39:21
Don (2) 27:22 28:13
dots (1) 13:17
downgrade... 30:3
download (1) 32:1
downstrea... 11:16 28:18
DPW (1) 35:13
draft (5) 5:18 18:15 20:22 21:16 32:5
drainage (1... 12:17,21 14:16,18,23 17:5 32:25 41:15,22 42:10
drains (1) 12:19
dramatic (1) 36:12
Dressell (2) 41:3,3
Drive (2) 27:23 41:4
drop (1) 22:17

E

early (4) 3:5 15:13 19:2 21:20
east (1) 32:25
Echler (1) 29:24
Eco (1) 7:8
ecological (4) 10:5 23:9 32:15,17
economic (1) 18:1
ecosystem (... 31:15 38:11
Edson (1) 41:3
effect (1) 35:24
effected (1) 39:3
effecting (1) 16:8
effects (3) 15:25 40:13 40:14
effort (3) 30:6,7 41:9
eight (2) 33:3 42:22
EIS (7) 16:18 16:18 17:25 18:12,15 21:16,17
either (3) 22:15 33:19 36:2
elected (1) 4:11
elements (1) 22:2
elevated (1) 36:9
elevations (1) 11:3
email (1) 20:4
employee (2) 44:9,11
encourage ... 21:4
endangere...

31:18,24
engineerin... 2:3 37:1
Engineers (... 3:14
enhance (2) 23:10,10
enhancing ... 28:9
enlarged (1) 33:6
enormous (3) 2:19,20 38:18
ensure (1) 15:23
entire (3) 26:18 30:8 40:18
entity (1) 42:16
environme... 10:6 16:9 28:8,9,10
environme... 15:21,25 16:10,10 17:25 18:17 19:23 21:3 28:5 32:6 40:12 43:2
equal (1) 33:5
equally (1) 37:11
equipment ... 34:4
Eric (1) 31:5
especially (5) 30:24 32:25 37:8 39:13 39:22
establish (1) 19:5
estate (2) 30:3,23
estimate (2) 9:1 25:22
Europe (1) 28:22
evening (6) 2:1 4:2 5:2 7:19 24:2 34:18
events (11) 7:24 13:11 13:19 23:7 35:24,25,25 36:17 37:5 37:18,19
everybody ... 4:19 15:6 28:3 36:20 39:9 41:17
exceed (1) 26:3
exceeded (1) 29:16
excellent (1) 25:20
excited (1) 15:11
Executive (2) 19:12,21
existing (5) 11:6 14:21 26:20,21 32:25
exists (1) 16:24
expanded (1) 11:15
expeditious... 42:3
experience... 23:4
experts (2) 4:24 18:10
Expires (1) 44:24
expressed (1) 36:21
extension (2) 31:11 40:8
extensive (1) 2:9
extra (1) 25:9

F

fact (2) 20:16 30:17
factor (1) 25:25
facts (1) 10:21
familiar (1) 6:6
family (1) 38:14
far (5) 9:17 10:15 18:13 30:8 37:24
favor (1) 32:24
Fax (1) 1:24
feasibility (3) 25:25 28:20 39:19
feasible (1) 24:13
federal (10) 16:3,6,8,13 16:23 17:11 18:8 31:19 32:2 37:14
feel (3) 3:22 11:24 13:25
feet (2) 8:14 8:16
FEMA (2) 10:22 11:22
Ferry (11) 13:5 24:7,8 25:6 29:24 30:13,19 31:3 32:24 33:2 34:19
fiberglass (1) 24:12
figure (3) 9:20 10:18 31:2
fill (2) 22:15 35:20
filled (3) 33:12,20,21
filling (2) 34:9,10
final (3) 18:17 21:16 42:6
finally (4) 23:9 27:1 32:12 35:22
financially ... 44:12
find (1) 17:22
finding (1) 20:21
finger (1) 41:18
finish (1) 14:8
first (4) 2:5 15:17 16:15 19:4
Fisher (19) 4:1,4,5 23:17 24:4 24:21 25:11 27:7,21 29:8,16,18 34:11,16 37:21 38:12 39:15 40:2 42:12
five (3) 2:14 17:23 36:9
flat (1) 41:22
flip (2) 13:12 13:20
flood (24) 1:2 2:16 3:10 8:5,8,18,21 10:2,10 14:12,14 22:25 23:6 23:8 25:2 26:23 27:4 32:10 35:24 36:4,6 37:5 37:18,19
flooding (20) 7:23,25 8:2 12:13,23 13:10,11,14 13:14,15,19 14:18 15:1 17:5 21:1 23:3 28:18 29:1,12 43:1
floods (2) 33:25 34:1
fluvial (2) 8:1 14:15
flyer (2) 5:11 5:21
focus (1) 22:3
folder (3) 5:15,21 22:6
folks (1) 24:13
follow (1) 18:12
following (1) 24:11
foot (1) 33:23
foregoing (1) 44:3
foreseeable... 40:15
forgotten (2) 37:15,16
form (2) 14:12,13
forth (3) 3:3 41:21 44:7
forward (5) 14:4,6 17:17 18:2 29:14
four (5) 14:10 28:21 28:22 35:21 35:21
Frank (1) 41:3
frankly (2) 3:20 36:5
free (1) 13:25
frequently ... 5:17
front (5) 14:14,21 20:17 31:4 43:7
fruition (1) 31:2
frustrated ... 36:20
full (3) 10:25 11:19 36:6
fully (1) 27:13
functionali... 33:15
funder (1) 16:5
funding (3) 9:13 39:16 42:15
funds (4) 9:18 26:7,9 34:3
further (3) 11:11 23:14 44:8
future (4) 5:22 23:7 28:7 41:8

G

games (1) 38:21
gapping (1) 13:16
garden (1) 33:5
Garrett (1) 7:8
gate (3) 29:11 33:11 41:19
gates (1) 28:22
gather (1)

gathering (1) 13:1
Geller (4) 27:8,8 33:9 33:9
general (1) 18:6
getting (1) 36:17
Giants (1) 38:19
give (6) 6:8 6:10 23:22 25:15 31:3 41:7
given (1) 32:17
glad (2) 4:6 36:15
go (13) 2:17 3:21 6:10 6:14 9:11 10:15 11:23 28:14 32:19 34:1 36:22 37:2 41:21
goal (2) 21:20 22:24
goes (2) 9:17 27:20
going (42) 2:22 3:8,13 3:17,18,23 3:25 4:2,15 6:2,4,5,8,9 6:12,12 7:16,19 9:5 9:8 10:25 11:5,23 12:16 13:6 14:7 15:3,4 23:14 24:6 25:7,8,17 25:18 26:2 31:1 38:1,2 40:8,9 41:7 41:12
gonna (1) 40:23
good (11) 2:1 7:18 15:7,7 24:2 26:25 30:10 32:16 34:18 35:23 37:11
governmen... 15:23 17:11 25:9 37:15
governmen... 18:20
grant (2) 26:10 38:17
granted (1) 35:11
gray (1) 41:6
great (4) 26:1 39:15,22 40:2
greatest (1) 31:19
greatly (2) 28:8 30:23
green (4) 10:9 27:1,4 27:15
Grier (4) 25:5,5,14 26:12
ground (4) 9:16 11:25 12:8 18:25
group (8) 13:3,3,9 19:3,11,22 19:25 20:1
groups (1) 13:22
grow (1) 8:24
growing (1) 28:2
growth (1) 27:11
guidance (1) 19:15
guys (3) 10:6 10:11 34:6
Gymnasiu... 1:9

H

Hackensac... 8:22 11:10 26:14 30:14 30:16
hair (1) 41:6
half (1) 3:5
hand (2) 32:19,19
handouts (1) 5:9
handwritte... 43:7
hanging (1) 30:5
happened (4) 25:7 33:19 34:5 37:16
happening ... 26:6 34:13
happens (2) 8:1 14:16
happy (3) 2:4 34:25 36:10
hard (2) 17:4 37:20
hats (1) 7:10
heads (1) 30:5
health (1) 23:5
hear (2) 6:17 6:18
heard (2) 7:20 33:10
heat (1) 15:7
heavily (1) 33:24
heavy (6) 8:1 13:14,18 33:3 35:25 36:10
held (1) 21:9
Helen (1) 27:22
Hello (2) 26:13 29:25
help (7) 8:9 8:18 10:19 12:22 17:21 38:22 39:21
helpful (2) 33:14 39:9
helping (3) 20:10,20 21:24
helps (1) 14:24
hereinbefo... 44:6
heritage (1) 31:22
Hi (3) 33:16 34:18 38:13
Hidot (2) 31:5,5
high (1) 36:5
higher (4) 8:15 11:25 12:7 32:20
history (1) 21:1
Hoboken (1) 2:11
hold (2) 21:10 41:8
Holland (1) 28:23
home (1) 38:18
hope (2) 28:7 37:12
hoped (1) 32:3
hoping (1) 41:5
horrendou... 42:4,5
horrendou... 41:23
hose (1) 33:5
hour (1) 32:1
hours (1) 4:16
houses (1) 33:18
housing (2) 16:4 24:15
HUD (5) 2:8 3:18 9:2 26:11 29:17
Hudson (4) 2:11 31:10 31:11,12
Hudsonia (1) 31:6
human (2) 16:9 32:18
hundred (1) 31:7
Hurricane ... 7:24 12:11
hybrid (2) 14:20 17:5
hydraulic (1) 43:1

I

idea (2) 26:9 26:25
ideas (1) 12:3
identify (2) 20:10 42:16
identifying... 20:11
ignored (1) 28:4
imagine (1) 27:25
impact (11) 14:19 16:11 18:1,17 19:23 21:4 28:5 32:6 40:10,12,17
impacted (1) 30:2
impacts (3) 11:6,16 26:18
implement ... 11:15 12:9 14:23 29:21
implementi... 17:14 32:10
implication... 11:13
important ... 19:7 27:16 31:14,23
impressed ... 37:10,11
improve (2) 14:17,22
improveme... 12:17 36:12 36:13
improveme... 8:24 14:16 27:5
improving ... 32:24 36:2
inch (1) 33:3
included (2) 2:11 40:25
includes (1) 2:14
including (7) 9:18,19,19 9:22 25:23 26:24 40:20
incorporat... 14:2
increase (5) 22:25 23:5 27:14,14,14
increased (1) 38:24
increasing ... 23:8 36:2
individual ... 41:17
informatio... 6:11 13:23 13:25 16:17 21:22 22:6 22:8,23 32:14
informatio...

5:21
informativ... 20:6
infrastruct... 10:5,5,7 23:1 27:1,4 27:15 37:3
initial (2) 11:8,16
inland (1) 23:3
input (14) 3:17,23 13:7 15:15 15:17 17:20 17:21 18:5 18:8 19:10 20:7 21:21 21:24 23:15
instrument... 20:10,20
insurance (1) 23:6
intended (1) 32:6
intent (2) 16:13 18:14
interested (2) 4:10 44:12
interior (5) 12:17,20 14:16,23 17:5
intimate (1) 29:3
introduce (4) 4:2 6:3,3 7:6
introductio... 6:22
invested (1) 37:17
investigati... 26:20
investigato... 35:8
involve (1) 26:19
involved (2) 19:11 20:2
involvemen... 19:7,13,16 21:13
issue (1) 24:17
issued (2) 34:12,16
issues (5) 12:18 13:10 20:13 21:23 35:9
Italy (1) 29:1
items (3) 5:23 26:6,8

J

January (2) 35:1,2
Jennifer (2) 7:12 37:22
Jersey (11) 1:11,24 2:4 2:10,12 24:15 29:24 31:22 41:4 41:16 44:23
JerseyShor... 1:23
Jets (1) 38:19
Joe (1) 29:19
July (4) 1:6 1:13 22:9 22:11
June (2) 16:14 18:14
justice (1) 43:2

K

kayak (1) 30:19
keep (7) 4:15 8:18 23:21 36:25 38:1 38:2,6
Keeper (1) 26:14
kept (1) 33:20
kid (1) 28:1
kind (4) 7:19 14:9,14,23
know (37) 2:8 3:12,15 6:4,11,23 7:25 12:18 15:5 21:22 24:23 25:18 27:13 29:10 33:14 34:5 34:6,6,8,20 34:22 35:22 36:20,21 37:15,23 38:3,10,18 38:20 39:2 39:5,8,13 39:22,23,25
knowledge ... 20:19 29:3
Korean (2) 5:6,24

L

L (1) 1:9
Lake (2) 1:24 27:9
land (4) 30:10,11,23 31:3
language (1) 5:7
large (2) 37:13,13
lasts (1) 22:9
late (1) 24:9
launch (2) 30:19,20
layer (1) 11:22
Leader (3) 7:3,12,14
leaves (1) 9:23
left (1) 3:5
length (2) 11:19 12:5
lengths (1) 12:1
level (4) 8:15 11:2 12:10 27:17
levels (1) 18:8
levies (3) 10:22,24 14:22
levy (2) 14:14 17:4
License (2) 1:20 44:22
life (5) 21:10 23:4 24:8 27:16 31:16
limited (2) 31:24,25
Linda (4) 4:1 4:5 7:18 29:25
line (9) 8:23 11:1,19 12:15,21,24 14:14,17,21
lines (2) 12:6 14:24
list (1) 21:8
listed (3) 22:20 31:18 31:21
literally (2) 33:18,23
little (16) 3:22 4:8 8:3 11:17 13:5 24:7,8 25:6 28:14 29:24 30:13,19 31:3 32:24 33:2 34:19
live (7) 8:9 10:6,11,11 25:6 37:22 38:16
lives (3) 9:6 10:12 14:19
living (1) 8:8
LLC (1) 1:23
local (2) 16:14 18:8
Lombardel... 40:3,3,20 41:2
London (1) 28:23
long (3) 2:17 15:11 24:8
longer (2) 11:14 40:6
look (14) 3:22 10:2,3 11:10 17:6 17:8,9,13 17:14 21:24 26:16 28:19 36:16,19
looked (3) 10:14 11:22 29:11
looking (18) 7:22 8:17 10:1,18 11:2 12:2,6 13:24 14:12 21:3,6 24:13,19 39:16,18 40:13,14 41:6
looks (2) 24:16 37:5
Losen (6) 33:1,17 34:12,25 35:4,15
lot (12) 3:19 3:23 4:8 13:6 19:9 23:22 30:10 38:20 39:2 39:11,12 41:16
lots (1) 33:10
love (1) 29:21
lower (3) 8:13 12:9 35:4
Lyn (2) 1:20 44:22

M

Ma'am (1) 41:1
mail (1) 22:16
Main (1) 33:1
maintained... 26:22 30:25
maintainin... 41:15
maintains (... 42:2
maintenan... 38:3 41:20 41:24 42:10 42:13,13,17
major (5) 4:2 13:14,19 16:7 27:6
making (2) 16:1 37:17
mall (1) 40:7
manageme... 2:16 32:11
Manager (9) 4:1,5 6:25 7:1,8,10 15:9,9 25:20
Managers (... 7:4
mandate (1) 31:20
map (2) 8:5 13:15
mapping (2) 14:3 32:3
maps (2)

March (1) 19:4
Marcolino ... 7:3
material (1) 43:2
matter (1) 18:9
Mauro (1) 34:19
Mayor (4) 34:18,19 37:21 42:5
Meadowla... 1:2 2:7,13 4:6 10:4 21:2 24:9 26:18 27:9 28:2 31:8,9 38:9
meadows (1) 35:17
mean (5) 8:14 36:3 36:19 39:1 39:20
means (1) 30:16
meeting (19) 1:5 2:6 5:10 5:11,12,20 6:18 9:8 13:4,4,5,21 15:17 16:15 19:4 22:5 24:23 35:12 43:10
meetings (7) 4:9 19:3 21:8 24:11 33:10 34:22 37:8
members (6) 18:6 19:21 19:25 20:1 20:5,9
mentioned ... 12:25 24:11 27:2 42:13
mess (1) 28:4
met (2) 6:22 19:8
metal (1) 8:25
method (1) 22:20
methods (2) 20:14 22:13
MetLife (2) 38:18,25
microphon... 4:19 23:20
middle (1) 32:5
mile (2) 10:23 12:5
miles (5) 8:21 10:24 11:21 30:15 31:7
milestones ... 6:15
million (22) 2:15,16,17 6:7 9:2,3,5 9:6,18,21 9:23 10:19 10:23 11:1 11:18,21 12:5 25:7 25:15 26:10 38:24 39:11
minutes (1) 23:22
mistakes (2) 28:11,11
modeling (1) 11:16
moderate (1) 23:25
moment (1) 20:9
money (6) 2:18 25:17 26:3 37:2 39:10,11
month (1) 21:10
monthly (1) 21:10
months (3) 6:12 36:11 37:9
moon (1) 36:6
Moonachie... 1:11 27:23 27:25 37:23 38:14,16 40:4 41:4
mother (1) 24:10
move (2) 36:24 41:22
moving (1) 35:15
multiple (1) 27:3
municipal (... 41:17 42:4
municipali... 42:1

N

name (8) 2:2 4:4 15:8 24:5 25:5 26:13 28:24 38:13
national (2) 15:20 31:22
near (1) 41:8
necessary (1) 30:8
need (19) 9:10,22 16:21 17:1 17:11,20 20:12,25 22:3 23:3 27:13 30:9 31:19 32:17 33:6 39:13 41:24,24 42:9
needed (1) 37:3
needs (6) 5:6 9:11,14,21 32:20 34:7
neglected (1) 30:11
neighbor (1) 38:17
neighbors (1) 39:8
neither (2) 44:8,11
NEPA (24) 5:13,16 6:10 7:11 7:12 14:5,8 15:3,8,10 15:15,20,20 16:3,5,7,9 17:6,9 18:4 19:6 22:7 31:16 42:25
NEPA's (1) 15:22
never (1) 41:18
new (15) 1:11 1:24 2:4,10 15:24,25 16:1,2 24:15 29:24 31:21 32:9 41:4,16 44:23
Newark (1) 28:16
newspaper... 16:14
NFL (1) 39:20
nice (2) 4:9 39:25
Nicholas (1) 25:6
nightmare ... 42:5
nine (3) 8:21 10:24 11:20
north (2) 31:7 33:24
notably (1) 23:14
Notary (1) 44:23
note (2) 17:17 19:24
noted (1) 19:9
notes (1) 3:1
notice (2) 16:13 18:13
noticed (2) 28:14 41:6
nuisance (2) 7:25 12:13
number (3) 4:11 11:23 30:12

O

o'clock (1) 42:22
objective (1) 16:20
objectives (... 6:2,14
obligatory ... 41:25
obviously (2) 11:12 30:5
occurs (1) 21:20
offense (1) 37:2
OFFICER ... 44:1
officially (1) 16:12
officials (1) 4:11
Okay (3) 15:7 29:15 42:20
old (2) 29:20 36:4
once (1) 37:24
ones (1) 33:14
open (1) 30:10
operable (1) 18:25
operations ... 42:13
opinion (1) 9:10
opportunit... 21:13
opportunit... 3:2 4:22 16:16 23:18 23:23 24:3
orange (2) 8:16 13:18
order (2) 18:18 38:5
original (1) 10:24
outlines (1) 22:2
outreach (5) 7:3,14 19:15,20,23
outside (1) 5:4
overall (4) 15:16 19:12 19:19,23
overcome (1) 16:22
overhead (1) 25:23
overlay (1) 40:17
Overpeck (1) 35:19
overrun (1) 25:10
overview (2) 21:19 22:23

P

p.m (2) 1:12 43:11
packet (3) 5:10 20:16 22:5
packets (2) 5:25 22:14
panel (1) 23:24
park (5) 1:10 30:10,11,23 31:3
part (14) 9:9 10:13 12:9 13:8 14:5 18:4 21:6 25:12,21,21 28:3 35:4 39:7,24
participati... 3:20 18:5
parties (1) 44:10
pass (1) 27:19
Passaic (1) 1:23
passed (1) 24:9
pathetic (1) 30:16
Pay (1) 3:1
payer (1) 16:23
payers (1) 25:17
people (11) 4:7,9 17:7 18:6 23:22 33:19 34:9 36:22 37:14 39:3 42:12
perfect (1) 36:12
period (3) 4:18 21:15 21:16
permission... 42:3
permit (2) 35:11,18
permits (3) 25:23 34:11 34:16
permitting ... 9:19
Personal (1) 29:21
Petersburg... 28:25
ph (14) 7:3,8 7:13 25:19 26:14 27:8 27:22 29:19 29:24 31:5 33:16 38:14 40:4 41:4
phase (2) 9:15 25:24
phased (1) 12:8
phone (1) 35:5
photos (1) 24:14
pick (4) 5:25 25:8,17,18
picked (1) 20:17
pieces (4) 9:21,22 14:20 22:6
pilot (1) 9:3
piped (1) 34:8
pipes (1) 33:4
place (5) 24:22 28:19 34:1 37:23 44:6
plain (2) 8:5 8:8
plan (4) 19:15 21:9 28:8 42:11
planet (1) 40:18
planning (6) 3:6 8:4 9:15 9:21 30:7 31:1
plans (1) 29:20
plants (1) 31:21
players (1) 4:3
please (2) 13:25 43:4
pleasure (1) 37:7
plus (2) 8:16 40:15
point (11) 2:24 20:1 20:21 23:13 24:14 28:16 33:7,10,22 35:23 42:20
pointed (2) 18:24 42:5
pointing (1) 41:18
Policy (1) 15:21
ponding (1) 14:19
portion (2) 25:25 27:12
possibility ... 40:23,24
possible (1) 36:25
possibly (2) 19:2 40:21
posters (1) 4:23
potential (3) 20:11 32:16 32:21
potentially ... 23:6,7,9 32:15
practical (1) 27:17
Practice (3) 7:9,11 15:9
preconceiv... 15:14
preferred (1) 14:6
prepare (1) 20:20
preparing (... 19:1 37:9
presence (1) 37:13
present (1) 40:15
presentatio... 4:16 17:18 23:16 37:10
presented (3) 2:24,25 40:16
President (3) 7:7,17 27:23
pretty (1) 9:12
price (2) 29:13,15
primary (1) 27:3
prioritize (1) 26:8
priority (2) 32:17,21
pro (1) 30:6
probably (5) 7:13 30:13 31:25 37:24 39:4
problem (6) 16:22,24 20:11 28:23 28:24 29:2
problems (2) 27:15 30:4
procedural... 16:11
proceeding... 44:5
process (33) 3:3 5:18 6:10,11,19 9:7,9,23 10:16 14:5 14:8 15:3,5 15:15 16:11 16:12 19:1 19:6,11,13 19:20 20:5 20:8,9 21:7 21:14,20,20 22:8 27:20 36:22 39:17 42:25
products (1) 19:9
program (1... 6:25 7:2,8 15:9 25:20 31:1,22 41:12,25,25 42:10
project (59) 1:2 2:7,11 2:13 3:6 4:1 4:5,6,10 6:5 6:9,19 7:1,4 7:10,22 8:6 8:9,14 9:3 9:11,14 11:11,14 15:12,12,14 15:15,16 16:2,16 19:5,17,21 20:7,19 21:1,11,22 22:19,24 25:15,16,22 26:16,17 32:11,20 34:24 36:8 37:25 38:22 39:7,10,14 39:25 40:13 40:14 42:17
projects (4) 2:10 3:10 3:11 40:16
properly (1) 38:7
property (3) 23:4,8 30:22
propose (1) 15:23
proposed (1) 6:5
protect (8) 8:22 12:10 12:12 23:1 23:4,9 32:19 37:3
protected (1) 26:22
protecting ... 32:15 38:25
protection ... 1:2 3:11 8:21 10:3 11:1,20 12:7,16,22 12:24 14:13 14:15,17,21 14:25 23:8 26:23 27:5 32:22
provide (9) 21:7,21 22:4,7,11 22:12,20 23:11,19
provides (1) 26:24
public (23) 1:5 2:6,6 3:19 10:16 13:2 16:15 17:20 18:5 18:6 19:7 19:12,15,16 19:17,20 20:22 21:13 21:14 22:1

22:8 23:5 44:23
publicly (1) 32:1
published (1) 16:13
pump (6) 14:22 33:2 33:4 36:2,8 36:14
pumps (2) 33:6 36:9
purpose (9) 6:17 8:8 15:22 16:20 17:1 20:12 20:24 22:24 42:6
put (10) 12:16 14:9 18:24 26:2 28:22 33:22 34:3 35:19 39:10 40:7
puts (1) 41:19
putting (3) 4:8 13:16 33:20

Q

qualities (1) 26:23
quality (4) 16:8 27:5 27:15 31:16
quarters (1) 25:16
question (7) 24:15 25:20 26:1 28:19 34:20 38:16 39:6
questions (4) 5:17,23 39:3 43:3
quick (2) 22:22 38:16
quicker (1) 14:25
quickly (6) 13:13 29:9 36:23,24 37:4 42:14
quite (3) 3:20 34:21 36:4
quo (1) 17:12

R

Raguseo (2) 34:18,19
Rahn (2) 1:20 44:22
railroad (1) 33:22
rain (3) 35:25 36:5 36:10
rainfall (4) 13:11,14,15 13:18
rainfalls (1) 8:1
rains (2) 33:3 33:24
raises (1) 39:2
ran (1) 8:21
range (3) 26:2 29:13 29:15
Rasanski (3) 33:16,16 34:14
rates (1) 23:6
RBD (1) 7:9
reach (2) 20:3 22:7
read (1) 21:4
real (2) 30:3 30:23
really (4) 2:4 3:20 27:16 33:6
reasonable ... 25:22,24
reasonably... 40:15
Rebuild (7) 1:1 2:6 4:6 6:6 7:1,7,21
received (1) 5:18
recognition... 28:6
recommen... 42:8
record (1) 18:19
recording (1) 5:2
recreationa... 23:11
red (1) 18:12
redevelop... 8:25 27:11
reduce (5) 11:4 14:18 14:25 22:25 23:6
reduction (1) 14:13
reference (1) 5:15
referenced ... 17:3
refers (1) 32:14
reflected (1) 33:13
region (1) 35:24
Regional (2) 7:11 15:9
register (1) 16:14
regular (3) 13:15,18 22:16
regulatory ... 18:7
Reinknech... 6:25
reinvent (1) 29:5
relative (2) 44:9,11
relatively (1) 15:12
released (1) 32:7
relief (2) 36:23 41:7
remain (2) 37:18,18
remember ... 28:24 35:2
remind (1) 28:3
removal (1) 35:18
repair (1) 33:15
report (2) 34:25 36:10
reported (1) 44:5
Reporting ... 1:23
represent (1) 13:17
representin... 4:13
request (2) 22:10 30:2
require (4) 3:17,23 16:7 31:15
required (1) 42:16
requireme... 3:19 42:15
requires (5) 15:15 16:9 17:6,9 31:16
resident (3) 24:7,8 27:24
residential ... 35:17
residents (1) 27:19
resiliency (2) 23:1,5
resource (5) 4:24 10:7 20:15 21:2 42:25
resources (... 2:19 23:10 26:20 31:9 31:23 32:4 32:15,17,18 32:21
respectfull... 22:10
respond (1) 6:20
responsibil... 41:15,19,20
responsible... 42:16
rest (1) 25:17
restore (1) 23:7
return (1) 22:16
reviews (1) 20:23
right (10) 4:17 6:16 9:8 17:18 18:13 19:24 22:17 24:25 29:18 38:6
Riser (1) 32:25
risk (1) 22:25
river (13) 2:11 8:22 11:10 12:23 26:14 28:16 28:23,25 30:14,16 31:10,11,12
riverfront (1) 30:21
Road (1) 29:24
Robert (2) 1:9 7:3
Ronning (2) 25:19,19
room (2) 27:18 42:23
Rosenblatt ... 2:1,2 6:23 15:13 17:20
roughly (2) 11:21 34:3
Route (1) 36:3
Row (1) 8:23
RPR (1) 1:20
run (2) 10:23 25:16
running (1) 12:3
runs (1) 33:17
Rushank (2) 26:13,14

S

S1 (1) 31:21
S2 (1) 31:21
S3 (1) 31:21
safe (2) 37:18 37:18
Sally (2) 27:8 33:9
sampling (1) 35:8
Sands (1) 33:1
Sandy (3) 30:2 37:15 39:1
Sandys (2) 7:24 12:11
satisfy (2) 16:21 17:1
saw (2) 5:4 36:3
saying (2) 3:7 35:6
scheduled (1)

42:21
School (1) 1:9
scoping (10) 1:5 5:19 20:8,9,23 21:6,14,19 22:1,8
screen (1) 28:15
sea (1) 8:15
Sedida (1) 37:23
sedimentiz... 41:23
see (15) 4:7,9 8:6 10:25 13:7,17 14:2 18:12 20:21 25:6 31:10 32:3 37:13 39:10 42:23
seeking (1) 18:5
seen (4) 13:10,13 28:1 33:3
sense (1) 41:14
sensitive (2) 10:4 11:6
Sepo (1) 29:19
September ... 9:13,17 18:18
serves (1) 42:6
services (1) 31:15
sessions (1) 13:22
set (2) 14:5 44:6
shape (4) 17:21 18:10 20:12 21:25
shaped (1) 19:10
share (1) 14:1
sheet (1) 5:12
sheeting (2) 24:12 25:3
shelf (1) 29:21
shopping (1) 40:7
shore (1) 3:11
shorten (1) 12:1
shorter (1) 12:6
show (3) 2:22 25:21 40:18
showed (1) 11:16
showing (2) 4:10 8:12
shown (1) 8:15
shows (1) 19:21
side (1) 42:4
sides (1) 33:23
sign (3) 5:7 7:14 43:7
significantl... 16:8
Silverlesti (2) 29:23,23
similar (1) 21:14
sit (1) 30:20
site (4) 33:25 33:25 35:14 35:20
sitting (2) 23:24 29:20
six (5) 8:14 10:24 11:20 27:22 36:11
slides (4) 10:17 13:7 15:19 32:13
slope (2) 34:4 34:7
Slote (6) 33:1 33:17 34:12 34:25 35:4 35:15
Smith (9) 24:2,6,7 25:4 28:13 28:13 29:15 29:17,19
social (2) 10:5 17:25
Society (1) 27:24
soil (2) 33:20 35:8
sole (1) 15:22
solicit (1) 21:21
soliciting (1) 2:21
solution (3) 16:24 17:22 18:24
solutions (1) 20:11
solved (3) 28:23,24 29:1
somebody (... 33:22
somebody'... 30:21
Somers (1) 24:14
Sophie (1) 40:3
source (2) 32:2 42:15
sources (1) 39:17
south (2) 11:11 33:25
space (1) 30:10
Spanish (2) 5:5,24
speak (3) 23:23 42:14 42:19
species (4) 31:18,18,20 31:24
specific (4) 18:11 20:14 43:4,4
speed (1) 6:16
spelled (1) 42:17
spend (1) 2:18
spent (1) 4:8
spoke (1) 35:12
spring (3) 1:24 18:16 32:7
St (1) 28:25
Stadium (1) 38:25
stage (1) 32:4
stages (1) 3:5
stands (1) 6:9
start (2) 25:14 35:14
started (9) 9:8 10:13 16:12 18:13 19:2,2 35:1 35:3,22
starting (1) 23:13
state (7) 18:8 20:19 24:4 31:18 32:2 37:14 44:23
stated (1) 28:17
statement (8) 16:10,11,20 18:17 19:23 21:4 32:6 40:12
static (1) 17:9
station (12) 5:4 7:15 33:2,4 36:8 42:24,25,25 43:1,2,3,8
stations (4) 14:22 36:2 36:14 42:24
status (2) 17:12 20:25
Steering (2) 19:12,22
stenograph... 5:1 22:13 43:8
stenograph... 44:5
step (2) 4:19 15:18
Stephanie (... 1:20 44:22
steps (1) 16:12
Steve (2) 33:16 34:21
Steve's (1) 34:20
stigma (2) 30:4 36:7
stop (2) 34:9 36:16
stopped (1) 34:15
storm (6) 7:24 11:10 12:12,19 13:14 35:25
storms (2) 12:14 36:10
story (1) 32:14
stream (1) 33:4
Street (5) 1:10 25:6 32:24 33:2 33:17
streets (1) 10:9
stretch (1) 10:19
structural (... 14:12
studies (5) 11:9 29:4 36:25 40:5 42:8
study (5) 9:21 11:15 28:20 36:16 39:19
studying (2) 31:8,9
subject (1) 18:9
success (1) 20:6
suffering (1) 30:3
sufficient (1) 26:7
suggest (1) 39:24
suggested (1) 15:13
suggestion ... 39:16 40:2
summary (1) 5:8
summer (1) 32:5
superinten... 35:13
supposed (1) 35:14
supposedly... 34:2
sure (4) 8:7 26:3 37:17 41:9
surge (4) 11:10 29:11 35:25 36:16

2:25
survive (1) 31:15
Surviving (1) 15:7
Susan (1) 38:13
systemic (1) 23:3
systems (5) 7:8 10:1 41:15,22 42:11

T

table (4) 5:2 5:10,24 7:14
tackle (1) 7:23
tag (1) 8:23
take (5) 5:3 9:4 14:20 31:1 38:8
talk (7) 4:24 4:24 7:21 10:17 14:7 20:2,8
talked (2) 13:9 24:23
talking (4) 3:21 5:13 34:23 40:21
tax (2) 16:23 25:17
Taylor (2) 7:2 20:3
team (9) 4:5 6:3,4 7:1,3 7:6,10,12 7:14
tell (2) 3:12 24:10
ten (1) 12:13
testimony (1) 44:4
testing (1) 35:6
Thames (1) 28:22
thank (20) 4:3,4,13 5:7 24:2 25:4 26:12 27:6 27:7 28:12 29:7,8 31:4 32:22 37:19 37:21 38:12 41:2 42:11 43:9
thanks (2) 7:18 29:22
theories (1) 39:5
thing (2) 3:11 15:25
things (10) 10:9,9 12:20 13:6 14:19 21:5 27:16 28:17 41:10,16
think (20) 5:3 13:4 17:13 26:16 26:17,21 27:1,5,10 27:12 29:5 30:6 31:22 32:16,16 33:6,14 37:25 38:8 42:20
thinking (2) 37:24 41:11
thinks (1) 31:6
third (2) 13:4 14:20
Thomas (1) 25:5
thorough (1) 26:19
thoughts (1) 2:22
threatened ... 31:17,24
three (12) 12:5 14:9 14:11 15:2 16:14 18:2 19:8 21:9 25:16 33:18 34:3 35:10
thrown (1) 38:4
tidal (2) 28:15 33:11
tide (2) 36:6 41:19
tie (4) 8:18 10:8 11:25 12:7
tied (1) 11:12
ties (2) 10:8 33:23
tight (1) 9:12
time (7) 4:8 4:21 15:11 23:14 31:2 32:8 44:6
timeframe ... 11:14
timeline (5) 5:16 9:12 18:11,23 36:20
times (2) 19:8 36:21
today (7) 6:9 7:20 11:24 22:5 34:25 35:13,13
told (2) 24:12 34:14
tonight (21) 2:5,21,23 4:7,11,14 4:15 5:9,13 5:20 6:2,17 6:24 7:2 9:9 14:1 20:7 20:22 22:12 24:17 37:9
top (1) 33:20
topograph... 8:12
touch (1) 28:21
town (3) 13:21,23 30:12
towns (14) 2:14,16 3:9 3:12,22 4:13 12:22 13:23 17:23 30:2,13 38:2,4,5
townships ... 8:11 10:15
traffic (3) 27:14 36:4 38:21
transcript (... 44:4
translate (1) 5:5
translators ... 5:4
transportat... 8:24 10:8
trespassing... 30:21
tried (1) 13:15
trucked (1) 35:18
true (1) 44:3
try (4) 4:15 12:4 23:21 31:2
trying (7) 9:25 11:24 16:21,22 22:25 23:24 38:24
Turcetta (3) 38:13,14 39:20
Turino (2) 27:22,22
turn (5) 3:25 7:16 37:11 37:13 42:20
two (21) 2:9 2:10 3:4 4:16 7:10 11:19 19:13 21:12 22:12 23:21 24:11 28:25 30:12 30:14 32:19 32:23 33:3 34:23 35:10 35:10 37:8
type (2) 10:1 12:17
types (2) 35:23 37:5

U

U.S (1) 16:4
ultimate (2) 18:18 21:17
ultimately ... 17:17
uncertainti... 26:1
uncertaint... 26:2
uncovered ... 21:24
underlies (1) 31:14
understan... 38:17
understan... 19:5
understood... 34:2
unfortunat... 30:12
unique (1) 15:12
update (2) 6:8 24:18
Urban (1) 16:4
urge (2) 36:19,24
use (2) 11:4 14:21

V

vacuum (1) 13:1
value (1) 23:10
values (4) 23:8,11 30:4,24
various (2) 20:13 42:24
Venice (1) 29:1
verbally (1) 2:25
Vice (2) 7:7 7:17
vinyl (1) 25:2
visit (1) 43:5
voted (2) 40:22,24

W

walk (4) 4:22 7:19 8:3 15:4
wall (2) 14:14 25:2
walls (1) 2:24
want (12) 10:2,3 23:25 24:24 26:15 30:1 36:19,23 39:4,7,24 42:14
wanted (2) 7:22 34:20
Warf (1) 7:12
water (10) 8:10 12:18 12:22 14:24 27:5 30:4 31:4 33:5 34:1 36:18

30:14,15,18 30:18
waters (1) 8:19
wave (1) 4:12
way (9) 2:17 3:17,18,21 3:22 6:1 10:11 31:3 35:5
wears (1) 7:10
WEBBER ... 32:23
Weber (1) 32:23
website (6) 19:14,18 20:3 22:19 22:19 27:18
Wednesda... 1:13
Weehawke... 2:12
weeks (5) 22:9 27:20 34:17 35:10 35:11
welcomed (1) 6:20
welcomes (1) 20:1
went (2) 6:23 22:1
West (1) 1:10
wetland (1) 31:25
wetlands (7) 11:6 24:17 26:22,23,24 32:2 38:10
wheel (1) 29:6
wide (1) 33:24
widened (1) 34:7
wildlife (1) 38:9
winner (1) 2:13
winning (1) 8:20
wonder (1) 29:2
wonderful ... 40:6,7
wondering ... 24:18 38:19 40:1
Woodcliff (1) 27:9
words (1) 29:6
work (16) 2:23 3:13 3:16,18 10:7 13:22 19:9 26:14 34:13 35:8 36:14,17 37:20 38:14 40:8 42:24
worked (1) 36:8
working (5) 28:9 35:5,9 37:7 38:5
works (2) 33:11 38:7
workshop (2) 4:22 42:21
world (5) 17:8,10,13 17:14 40:18
worried (1) 4:8
writing (1) 32:13
written (2) 21:18 22:21

X

XIO1717 (1) 44:22

Y

yards (1) 33:21
yeah (2) 25:14 38:11
year (7) 3:4 12:11,13 16:15 34:2 35:7 36:7
years (13) 2:9 3:4 15:22 18:22 27:25 29:1 33:19 34:10,23 35:21,21 37:8 38:15
yellow (1) 13:18
yellows (1) 8:13

Z

0

07762 (1) 1:24

1

100 (1) 12:11
110 (2) 9:23 12:5
120 (2) 9:23 12:5
13 (1) 8:16
15 (4) 6:12 18:14 35:2 35:2
150 (14) 2:15 2:15,17 6:7 9:3,6,18 10:19 11:18 25:7,15 26:10 38:23 39:11
153 (1) 29:24
18 (2) 21:10 44:24
19 (1) 41:3
1969 (1) 15:21
1971 (1) 31:10
1999 (1) 31:9

2

20 (3) 1:10 8:16 16:14
2016 (3) 1:6 1:13 32:5
2017 (4) 18:16,18 32:7 44:24
2018 (1) 18:21
2022 (3) 9:13 9:17 18:24
20th (1) 18:14
21 (2) 22:9 22:12
21st (1) 31:13
23 (1) 25:6
25 (1) 12:13
26 (1) 13:6

3

3 (1) 11:1
30 (2) 9:20 18:22
30-minute ... 4:16,18
35 (1) 10:23
350 (1) 11:21

4

40 (2) 5:17 19:25
400,000 (1) 34:3
46 (2) 36:3 38:15

5

50 (3) 12:13 15:22 27:25
517A (1) 1:23

6

6 (2) 1:6,13
6:00 (1) 1:12
60-minute ... 4:21

7

732-282-07... 1:24
732-282-07... 1:24

8

8:00 (1) 43:11
850 (2) 9:2,5

9

975352 (1) 1:20

Appendix G: Agency Comment Letters

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Jersey Field Office
4 E. Jimmie Leeds Road, Suite 4
Galloway, New Jersey 08205Tel: 609/646 9310
www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/

2016-CPA-0156

Linda Fisher, Project Team Manager
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Engineering and Construction
Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures
501 East State Street
Mail Code 501-01A
P. O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

JUN 0 2 2016

Subject: Rebuild by Design - Meadowlands, Pre-public Draft Scoping Document.

Dear Ms. Fisher:

Thank you for allowing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide comments on the Pre-Public Draft Scoping Document for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Proposal (Project). The Project is a result of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) securing a $150 million Community Development Block Grant (Disaster Recovery) (CDBG-DR) from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The purpose of the Project "...is to reduce flood risk in the Project area..." which was defined as "Phase 1 Pilot Area" and encompassed most lands west of the Hackensack River, east of State Route 17, south of Interstate 80 and north of Patterson Plank Road, within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey (Project Area). The NJDEP has identified other Pilot Project Phases that will presumably be developed in the future in the Hackensack River Watershed (HRW).

SERVICE COMMENTS

The following comments provide technical assistance including information regarding federally listed threatened and endangered species. These comments do not constitute consultation for any project pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) or preclude future comments pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344 *et seq.*). These comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended (NEPA) (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) to determine "... the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." (40 CFR Part 1501.7 Scoping). These comments do not

preclude additional comments on forthcoming environmental documents, including a Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Federally Listed Species

The proposed Project does not occur in known habitats of any federally listed threatened or endangered species under Service jurisdiction or their critical habitats. Although the Project will not likely affect a federally listed species, the Service requests that the NJDEP, on behalf of the HUD, consult with the Service regarding a final determination pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA.

National Environmental Policy Act

The goal of NEPA is to reduce adverse impacts to the environment, including cumulative impacts and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment (40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508). The Meadowlands is significantly degraded and is comprised of a patchwork of marginally functioning wetlands and waterways that historically measured over 21,000 acres. More than 70 percent of the total wetlands that once existed in the Hackensack Meadowlands District (HMD) have been destroyed by human activities (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007). In an August 19, 2015 meeting before the Meadowlands Interagency Mitigation Advisory Committee (MIMAC), for which the Service is an active member, the NJDEP presented an alternative for the Project that could involve the filling of over 100 acres of wetlands for the construction of levees and other flood control structures. Any additional losses of wetlands would be considered significant and should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Should the proposed Project involve an adverse effect to the aquatic environment, the goals of NEPA would not be fulfilled (*i.e.*, to protect and enhance the quality of the human environment). The filling of over 100 acres of wetlands in this important system is not supported by several Congressional initiatives aimed at the protection and restoration of the Meadowlands (P.L. 109-54; The Harbor Estuary Program; the Corps' Hudson Raritan Estuary Feasibility Study and Comprehensive Restoration Implementation – Hackensack Meadowlands; the New Jersey Division of Wildlife's Meadowlands Wildlife Action Plan; and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's 2004 Master Plan). In addition, as there are currently little to no mitigation opportunities available in the HMD, the Project proponent should examine off-site alternatives in the HRW to fulfill any mitigation responsibilities required by the CWA. This could include examining areas in the upper watershed of the Hackensack River or in adjoining watersheds of the Hudson and Passaic Rivers.

Purpose and Need

Pursuant to NEPA, it is vital that the purpose and need statement be easily understood in order to develop a proper scope of analysis for identifying reasonable and practicable alternatives for consideration, analyzing those alternatives in depth, and selecting the preferred alternative. Further discussion should be offered in the purpose and need statement with regards to the other identified Pilot Projects (Phase's 2 and 3), the interrelationship or interdependence, if any, with all three Pilot projects, and an expected timeline of when the other pilot projects are expected to be constructed.

Cumulative Effects

The EIS should describe that the Meadowlands has been severely degraded due to the cumulative actions of humans over the last two centuries and that any additional loss of wetlands or waters in the Project area will further exacerbate an already impaired waterway. The EIS should reference that wetlands, and their corresponding functions and values including flood protection, continue to be lost in the HMD despite the requirement to mitigate for adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. The EIS should reference that the current mitigation strategy of converting lesser quality aquatic habitats (*i.e.,* a *Phragmites* dominated marsh) to another of higher value does not result in added flood protection to the region. To offset the continuing cumulative effects in the HMD, the Service recommends that the applicant (1) minimize impacts to the aquatic environment by seeking Project alternatives that avoid the filling of wetlands and (2) for wetland impact areas that are deemed unavoidable, develop a viable mitigation plan to offset all adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. As mitigation opportunities are lacking in the HMD, the Service recommends the applicant examine areas in the HRW or elsewhere (*i.e.,* the adjacent Passaic or Hudson River watersheds) to meet all of the Project mitigation needs.

Indirect Effects

The EIS should discuss what, if any flooding impacts will occur outside of the geographic boundary of Pilot 1 (*i.e.*, the east side of the Hackensack River - the Towns of Secaucus, North Bergen, and Ridgefield Park) upon Project completion. The Service is concerned that flood waters that would normally be accommodated in the Project area may be diverted to other areas in the watershed. The EIS should also reference the potential indirect effects of converting known estuarine marshes to a freshwater habitat as tidal flow may be restricted upstream of the planned levees or flood control structures. The Project also has the potential to prohibit the passage of aquatic organisms upstream of any planned construction site. The conversion of aquatic habitats and/or the blocking of fish passage would necessitate additional mitigation requirements, in addition to any mitigation required for other unavoidable wetland or open water impacts.

Alternative Analysis

The Council of Environmental Quality states (40 CFR Part 1508.25) that a range of actions, alternatives, and impacts shall be considered in a NEPA document. For a proposed action or any reasonable alternative, the Federal action agency should determine the area that will be affected. In 1989 the EPA defined the geographic scope for an alternative analysis to "...include all areas that would be reasonable to consider in the industry." and that "...the basic project purpose will generally determine the appropriate geographical scope." The Service requests that the geographic scope of alternatives be expanded beyond Phase 1 of the Rebuild by Design Initiative (RDI) and include alternatives under consideration for other phases of the RDI that could meet the purpose/need of the Project. State Route 3 is at a sufficient elevation to act as a levee and combined with a flood control gate could minimize upstream tidal surge events in the HRW that occurred during Hurricane Sandy and provide the needed flood protection that is being sought with the subject Project. A flood gate could also result in reducing impacts to the aquatic environment and possible construction and mitigation costs for Phases 1 and 2 of the RDI.

Clean Water Act

The Congressional intent of the CWA "... is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." As the NJDEP and HUD are aware, the U.S. Congress passed the CWA to enable Federal agencies to restore, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Preliminary results of site characterization data in the Project area reveal elevated concentrations of metals throughout the Project site. These elevated compounds are likely resulting in a reduction of the quality and quantity of available benthic macroinvertebrates that serve as the food base for higher aquatic life and for aquatic-dependent predators. Moreover, the sediment metals contamination in the Project area is also likely impairing the site for use as fish/shellfish spawning and nursery habitat.

Contaminants

The Hackensack River is one of the most heavily polluted waterways in the Hudson Raritan Estuary. The Project proponent will have to demonstrate that the proposed Project will be protective of fish and wildlife resources once constructed. The Project area and the adjacent marsh plain and waterways are known sources of contamination, including high levels of heavy metals, dioxin, and furans, and as such, the applicant must determine the degree to which the Project will "introduce, relocate, or increase contaminants to the aquatic environment" (40 CFR Part 230.11 (d) Contaminant determinations). Introducing aquatic biota to a newly created wetland environment (*i.e.,* mitigation) that has not been properly remediated may increase the potential for those organisms to bioaccumulate those contaminants (*i.e.,* attractive nuisance).

The Project site is also in close proximity to several known National Priority List sites, including Ventron-Velsicol, Universal Oil Products, Scientific Chemical Processing, PJP Landfill, and Standard Chlorine Superfund site and many New Jersey State designated hazardous wastes sites (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2015, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007). The Project's proximity on the Hackensack River also poses a recontamination threat, as the construction of levees, pump stations, tide gates, and floodwalls, could release known contaminants. This could threaten several adjacent wetland sites, including the performance success of numerous wetland mitigation areas located in the Project area (*i.e.,* Secaucus High School, Global Terminal, MRI I-III Mitigation Banks, or the Kane Mitigation Bank). The Project site is also in close proximity to the confluence of the Passaic River, where several other Superfund and State hazardous waste sites occur (*i.e.,* Syncon Resins, Diamond Alkali, Diamond Head Oil Refinery, and Maywood Chemical Company). Based on the Project's proximity to these known polluted sites and waterways, the Service has determined that recontamination of any on-site Project mitigation will likely occur over time due to the effects of tidal action from the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers (White Paper, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2015).

The applicant should characterize the fill material and underlying sediments to determine the level of risk the Project site poses on the aquatic environment. Known contaminants for the Project site include heavy metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile and semi-volatile organics (VOCs and SVOCs), and chlorinated dioxins and furans. The applicant should conduct a literature search to determine the extent of contamination in the Project area

and for areas that lack contaminants information, further characterization of area sediments should occur. Any future sediment investigations should be reviewed and approved by NJDEP's Bureau of Environmental Evaluation and Risk Assessment program and also be pre-coordinated with the Service prior to performing any field work.

The applicant should also be prepared to remediate lands that are contaminated and are identified as potential aquatic features of the Project (*i.e.,* mitigated lands). This remediation could include the removal of any underlying sediments that fail one or more of the aquatic standards overseen by the NJDEP and EPA and replacing of contaminated areas with a minimum of two feet of clean fill material. The Service also requests the applicant submit a post-construction monitoring plan and develop a remedial strategy to be implemented should site monitoring indicate that contamination of any newly constructed aquatic Project feature is approaching unacceptable levels (*i.e.,* levels not protective of human health or wildlife resources; whichever is the more stringent). It is imperative that the applicant develop performance measures for the success of any mitigation plan and to demonstrate that the Project site is replacing the functions and values of permitted wetland fill in permanence. The Service is available to assist in the development of such a monitoring plan that addresses contamination in abiotic and biotic compartments of the environment, as well as contaminant trophic transport into fish and wildlife resources.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58.5 (Related Federal laws and authorities) (i)(2)(i) all properties that are being proposed for use in the HUD programs are to be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property. It appears that the use of CDBG-DR funds for the Project may be counter to this HUD requirement.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete ESA consultation with the Service during the NEPA review process;
- Minimize impacts to the aquatic environment by seeking alternatives that avoid filling of wetlands (*e.g.,* upland flood walls);
- Develop a mitigation plan that meets the requirements of the CWA for all unavoidable wetland impacts;
- Discuss the interrelationship and interdependence and a projected timeline of all three Pilot Phases (1 -3) of the RDI and how a flood gate at State Route 3 or other alternatives could meet the purpose and need for the Project;
- Provide information in the EIS regarding current wetland trends in the HMD, including: the conversion of one marsh to another of higher value to offset losses to the aquatic environment will likely result in a net loss of flood protection, and that there currently exists little to no mitigation opportunities in the HMD;
- Develop an alternatives analysis that meets the stated project purpose, including avoiding impacts to the aquatic environment and pursue mitigation opportunities within and outside the HMD to fulfill any compensatory requirements pursuant to the CWA;
- Conduct a literature search to determine the extent of contamination in the Project area;

- Conduct additional sediment investigations for Project areas that lack contaminants data and develop a sampling plan that has been reviewed by NJDEP and the Service before sampling occurs;
- Remediate any contaminated lands that are proposed as an aquatic feature of the Project and develop a remediation plan should any aquatic feature of the Project, including a mitigation site, become re-contaminated; and,
- Develop performance measures and a monitoring plan for all of the Project's aquatic features, including all mitigation and post construction planting.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We understand that the NJDEP and HUD are preparing to brief the MIMAC in June on the Project. We look forward to further discussing our concerns and that of the other MIMAC members at this meeting. If you have any question regarding the Service's comments, please contact Mr. Steven Mars at 609-382-5267.

Sincerely,

Field Supervisor
Eric Schrading

REFERENCES

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2015. Preliminary Assessment. Lower Hackensack River, Bergen and Hudson Counties, New Jersey. USEPA. Region 2, New York, New York. 122 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. The Hackensack Meadowlands Initiative. Preliminary Conservation Planning for the Hackensack Meadowlands. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey Field Office, Pleasantville, New Jersey. 422pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2015. White Paper: Recontamination of Mitigation Sites in the Meadowlands. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey Field Office, Galloway, New Jersey. 25 pp.

cc: HUD (Chang-Cimino, Fretwell, Beha, Brittan)
NMFS (Greene)
USEPA (Montella, Tomchuk)
USACE (Cannon)
NJDEP (Lockwood)
NJSEA (Feltes)

Rec'd DK 7/26/16

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 20 2016

Mr. Dennis Reinknecht
RBD Program Manager
NJDEP Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction
501 East State Street
Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Dear Mr. Reinknecht:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is submitting this letter in response to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) request for scoping comments on the Rebuild by Design – Meadowlands Flood Protection Project. The purpose of the project is to construct flood risk reduction measures within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack, all of which are located in Bergen County, NJ.

The proposed project was a winning concept through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's Rebuild by Design (RBD) competition. HUD awarded $150 million for the planning, design and implementation of the proposed project. The proposed measures are intended to address the impacts of coastal and inland flooding associated with sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events. The EIS will evaluate three Build Alternatives and a No Action Alternative. Alternative 1 will evaluate the use of levees, berms, barriers, or floodwalls to reduce flood risk; Alternative 2 will evaluate the use of drainage improvements through a variety of local projects aimed at reducing flood risk; and Alternative 3 will evaluate a hybrid of Alternatives 1 and 2. Based on the information provided in the Draft Public Scoping Document, EPA expects the draft EIS will be detailed, thorough, and inclusive, however, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight select areas of concern.

As raised by numerous citizens at the Public Scoping Meeting held on July 21, 2016 at the Robert L. Craig School Gymnasium, one of the challenges of this project will be balancing the need to enhance protection from storm events with citizens' concerns over impacts resulting from increased desirability and the potential future development that could result. Further, the scoping document highlights potential benefits of ancillary proposed projects, such as the addition of new pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle facilities that may be developed, as well as subsequent changes in zoning. These direct and indirect impacts can result in increased future development and should be evaluated with specific consideration to impacts to current residents as well as surrounding wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. These impacts should be evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The EPA acknowledges that the scoping document provides a proposed framework that is consistent with 404(b)(1) Guidelines to avoid and then minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic resources. The EIS should provide a detailed description of the wetlands/water bodies that may be affected for each of the actions under consideration that includes their location as well as an assessment of their functions and values. While the alternatives are not yet defined, there is potential for a variety of direct and secondary impacts to wetlands. In addition, the EIS should include an evaluation of ways in which each alternative site can be designed to avoid direct and indirect impacts to wetlands.

Unavoidable impacts to wetlands, surface water resources (impacts to rivers/streams quality and flow), and wildlife should be fully disclosed in the EIS. These impacts include but are not limited to: direct filling of wetlands for construction and/or operation; temporary impacts to wetlands resulting from access to wetland areas for construction purposes; indirect impacts, such as clearing impacts resulting in a change (either permanent or temporary) of cover type within a wetland (e.g., converting a forested wetland to an emergent or scrub/shrub wetland); indirect impacts resulting from erosion or sedimentation into wetlands or waterbodies; and secondary impacts which can result from construction of the project (i.e., additional development induced by the development of the project). While the document states that unavoidable impacts are "typically mitigated at a 1:1 ratio under NJDEP regulation," proposed mitigation must also be consistent with federal requirements. Further, EPA encourages the avoidance of wetland filling. EPA also recommends that the EIS identify appropriate options for compensatory mitigation for unavoidable direct and secondary aquatic impacts and impacts to state and federally listed endangered species. Due to the expected magnitude of wetlands that could be affected by a project, a comprehensive look at impact minimization and mitigation is warranted in the EIS.

In addition, all construction practices that will be utilized to minimize impacts should be documented. Specifically, standard conditions to protect wetlands should be documented in addition to steps that may be taken to reduce impacts to particularly sensitive areas. The EIS should also provide comprehensive information to explain how work in areas containing steep slopes will be stabilized to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts to wetlands. We recommend that the EIS identify any wetlands on the project sites that support rare and exemplary natural communities. If any of these areas exist, we recommend that the EIS describe specific mitigation measures to ensure that they will be protected from potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The EIS should also clearly identify the locations of any required access roads, or roads that will need to be improved to support the proposed project, and any impacts to wetland areas and a description of how the wetland ecosystems will be protected from indirect impacts from these roads. Additionally, the EIS should describe the long-term site maintenance techniques planned for the installation. The discussion should explain whether herbicides will be used and whether specific buffer zones will be established around wetlands where herbicide application would be prohibited. We recommend that the analysis be expanded to discuss the potential for the introduction of invasive species and methods to control their spread as a result of the project.

EPA encourages NJDEP to maximize sustainability of any built structures associated with the alternatives and minimize the carbon footprint of the project. This can be accomplished through a variety of approaches including utilization of local and recycled materials; recycling of materials that may result from construction and debris waste; and utilization of technologies and fuels that minimize greenhouse gas emissions. Further, where possible, renewable energy (including, but not limited to solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and biomass) and energy-efficient technologies should be incorporated into the design, construction, and operation of the alternatives.

Enhancement of open space was one of the potential approaches highlighted in the scoping document as a way to improve storm water drainage. EPA would like to highlight the potential role of low impact development and green infrastructure as a specific approach to effectively achieve the goal of improved storm water drainage. Low impact development (LID) refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration or use of stormwater in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitat. LID provides an opportunity to enhance public open space while simultaneously promoting the natural movement of water within the Meadowlands ecosystem through techniques such as rain gardens, bio retention facilities, permeable pavements and rain barrels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact Stephanie Lamster of my staff at 212-637-3465.

Sincerely,

Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section

Appendix H: Public Scoping Period Comment Matrix

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
1	PSM-001	Build Alternatives	Is there an update on my previous question regarding the use of fiberglass sheeting as a feasible alternative?	Yes, this alternative is currently under consideration. NJDEP is still in the process of evaluating alternatives. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
2	PSM-002	Proposed Action	What happens if there is a cost overrun?	As part of the Feasibility Study, NJDEP will develop a reasonable cost estimate for each alternative that includes reasonable assumptions based on the best available information during each phase of the Project. NJDEP will continue to refine the cost estimates during the design phases. This cost estimate must also factor in a range of uncertainty to ensure NJDEP does not exceed allotted funding to complete the Preferred Alternative. NJDEP may prioritize some items and/or identify other items as add-ons if sufficient funding becomes available later in the Project. Overall, there are currently no additional funds available beyond the $150 million grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

[1] Public Scoping Meeting: PSM-000, Federal Agency: FA-000, State Agency: SA-000, Local Agency: LA-000, Private/Public Entity: PE-000 (includes organizations, groups, and/or businesses), and Private Citizen: PC-000.

[2] **Green**	The comment was incorporated in the Final Public Scoping Document as suggested by the commenter.	**Blue**	No change was made to the Final Public Scoping Document in response to the comment.	**Purple**	The comment was incorporated in the Final Public Scoping Document in a different manner from that suggested by the commenter.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
3	PSM-003	Proposed Action	The project should consider impacts on the entire Meadowlands District so it will involve a thorough investigation of existing resources.	Expansion of the Project Area is not feasible under the current Project scope. 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 "Phase 1 Pilot Area." The Phase 1 Pilot Area is now referred to as the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project Area. This Project must implement a solution(s) that reduces flood risk within available or identified funding limits. As such, expansion of the Proposed Project and Project Area is not feasible. Impacts to resources in other portions of the Meadowlands will be considered within the cumulative effects analysis. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
4	PSM-003	Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	All existing wetlands should be maintained and protected because they provide flood protection qualities. Also including additional wetlands would be a good idea.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and Feasibility Study. Alternatives and specific Proposed Project elements will be identified in greater detail as the Feasibility Study for the Proposed Project progresses. The Feasibility Study will be conducted in the coming months and will result in more defined alternatives and Proposed Project specifics that will be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement's (EIS) analysis. Impacts to wetlands will be analyzed within the EIS; mitigation for any unavoidable wetlands impacts will be clearly described in the EIS, as developed in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
5	PSM-003	Build Alternatives	I think green infrastructure should be a primary component; there are multiple benefits to green infrastructure in addition to flood protection and water quality improvements.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. NJDEP is currently exploring green infrastructure opportunities for inclusion in the proposed Build Alternatives. As a result, a new section has been incorporated into the Final Public Scoping Document as **Section 7.3.19** (Sustainability/Green Infrastructure).

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
6	PSM-004	Build Alternatives	I have been concerned about the growth or redevelopment portion of this project. All of Bergen County is fully developed. We don't need to increase density or traffic. Green infrastructure and quality of life are things that are really important.	Comment noted. Potential impacts to land use and traffic will be addressed within the EIS and Feasibility Study. With regard to green infrastructure, please refer to Comment #5, above.
7	PSM-004	Public Scoping/ Outreach	Will the posters in the back of the room be available on the website and can we get more comment cards to pass out to residents as this process continues?	Yes. NJDEP provided the public with additional comment cards after the Public Scoping Meeting (PSM). All meeting handouts and posters from the PSM are available on the Project Website (www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov) along with a video of the PowerPoint presentation and oral comment period from the PSM. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
8	PSM-005	Proposed Action	A big part of the mess we are in now is that we ignored the environmental impact of construction without any recognition or consideration for the future. This plan should consider enhancing the environment and working with the environment rather than against it to prevent repeating the same mistakes.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the conduct of the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. The environmental impacts of the Project alternatives will be assessed in the EIS. NJDEP is examining opportunities to enhance the environment through the use of green infrastructure. Please refer to Comment #5 above for more information.
9	PSM-001	Build Alternatives	During the presentation, you brought up a tidal barrier in the Newark Bay. Are you continuing to look at this alternative in the Feasibility Study? Have you contacted the four cities in Europe that put gates in to solve their flooding problems to obtain information [knowledge and studies] from them and how that might be applied here? The US Army Corps of Engineers still has old plans on the shelf that they would love to implement.	No contact has been made with these cities to date. A surge gate alternative on the Hackensack River was explored early in Project planning, but it will not be carried forward for two reasons: (1) the analysis indicated it would cause additional flooding elsewhere, and (2) this alternative would cost more than $150 million. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
10	PSM-006	Recreation	The towns impacted by Sandy are still suffering. The downgraded real estate values and the stigma associated with water problems is a black cloud hanging over our heads. Every effort should be made to make this entire district more attractive. We need good accessible open space park land; a lot of our park land currently is neglected. In Little Ferry there is no access to the Hackensack River. You can't launch a kayak or a canoe, or sit alongside the riverfront unless you are trespassing on somebody's property. Park land adds to real estate values especially if it's accessible, attractive, and well maintained. Try to give us park land with water front access.	Comment noted. This will be considered during the alternatives development process, Feasibility Study, and as part of the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
11	PSM-007	Biological Resources	Biodiversity underlies all ecosystem services needed to survive and have a quality life. NEPA requires attention to biodiversity, not just threatened and endangered species. It's important to note that consideration of biological resources is not limited to threatened and endangered species or wetland data. I hoped to see more on biological resources data at this stage. There isn't much time to compile and analyze biological data and collect new data needed for designing and implementing a flood management project. The slides and the information on the story boards refer to potentially protecting ecological resources. I don't think potential is good enough. Ecological resources need to be given priority along with human resources, and this project needs to afford a higher priority to biological resources, not just potential protection.	Comment noted. The Proposed Project is an urban water management strategy whose overall purpose is to reduce flood hazard risks and flood-related public health risks with available funding. However, the ability to meet the purpose of the Project will be measured by the goals and objectives described in **Section 4.3** of the Public Scoping Document. Two of the Project goals include the protection of ecological resources and the improvement of water quality within the Project Area. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
12	PSM-008	Build Alternatives	I am in favor of improving the existing drainage, especially the East Riser Ditch, Sands Creek, the Losen Slote, and the Main Street pump station. I think the pumps need to be enlarged.	Comment noted. These features will be examined within the Feasibility Study as potential opportunities for improving the existing drainage in the Project Area. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
13	PSM-004	Build Alternatives	Lots of comments about, "this tidal gate works, that one doesn't, this ditch is filled, that one isn't" and that's not reflected on those diagrams. It would be very helpful, to know which ones are in what condition and what repair and functionality.	Comment noted. Data gathering is still underway. NJDEP will be evaluating the conditions of these features during the alternatives development and analysis phases of this Project. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
14	PSM-009	Build Alternatives	Over the years, Losen Slote has been filled in either by people filling it in or putting top soil in their yards and it filling in the creek. At one point, somebody put railroad ties on both sides of it and it is literally a foot wide. When it rains heavily, anything north or south of that site floods. There is no place for the water to go. About a year ago, the County put out funds of $300,000-$400,000 to clean the Slote; I don't know what happened with it. The creek needs to be widened, maybe piped in areas, but what is to stop it from filling back in again or people filling it in again over the years. I was told permits issued to clean the Losen Slote were stopped by NJDEP.	Comment noted. The permits have been issued to clean Losen Slote, and the work is underway. At the Public Scoping Meeting on July 6, 2016, the Mayor of Little Ferry confirmed the permits were issued 2-3 weeks ago and the county was onsite that day initiating the work. The project was stalled on January 15, 2015 due to the need for more soil sampling and investigatory work. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made. This ongoing activity will be included in the cumulative effects analysis of the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
15	PSM-010	Hydrology and Flooding	We have several different types of flood events affecting this region (e.g., storm surge events, heavy rain events), so there needs to be a combination of both, either improving or increasing pump stations. We saw the difference already on Route 46 at the old traffic circle that used to flood when it was high tide, full moon. Not only is it annoying, but it's also a stigma. Last year they worked on the project, and now there is a pump station with five pumps. So pump stations do work, but there has to be a combination of both and I am glad the study looks at that. We have to stop the surge events, and we have to work on getting the water out when it comes into the communities. I know we have to go through the process, but the people of these communities want relief quickly and so I would urge you to move as quickly as possible to get the studies done, keep the costs down of all this engineering and architecture, so the money can go to build the infrastructure needed to protect our communities and do it quickly.	Comment noted. Different types of flooding events will be considered during the Feasibility Study. An assessment of existing pump stations and the need for additional pump stations will be considered as part of that analysis. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
16	PSM-011	Proposed Action	Once the project is done, I think you should consider who is going to maintain it if it's in different municipalities. Sometimes that gets thrown onto the towns or it should be the different departments in the towns working together to keep everything in the right capacity so everything works properly.	As a requirement of the funding source, NJDEP will be required to identify the responsible entity for operations and maintenance (O&M) of each constructed Project component. This will be clearly identified during development of the Proposed Project alternatives. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
17	PSM-011	Biological Resources	I think you should take into account the wildlife and wetlands in the Meadowlands because it's a very diverse ecosystem over there.	Comment noted. Potential impacts to wetlands and other biological resources will be considered in both the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
18	PSM-012	Proposed Action	I understand that this is a grant. However, has our neighbor MetLife (home of the Jets and Giants) – who causes a lot of traffic on game days – been approached to help with this project or contribute additional funds since we are protecting their MetLife Stadium as well? $150 million seems like a lot of money. However, at the end of the day, it's definitely not a lot. Especially with what we need and how many different components there are to the project.	Comment noted. The Project requires that NJDEP looks into possible additional funding sources; this will be done as part of the Feasibility Study. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
19	PSM-013	Cumulative Effects	Have any studies been done with the wonderful arena that's no longer being used and that wonderful shopping mall that's being put in, the extension of the work that's going to be done down there, how is that additional building going to impact this? Including the casinos they are talking about possibly building?	As a component of the EIS, a cumulative impact analysis will be conducted and documented. As such, the EIS will examine the potential effects of this Project, and assess the cumulative effects of this Project in conjunction with all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
20	PSM-014	Proposed Action	We are all looking for something that's going to give us some relief and assurance in the near future and this doesn't hold that for us, but we appreciate the effort.	Comment noted. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
21	PSM-014	Proposed Action	We want a combined sense of assignment or responsibility for maintaining the drainage systems. We have a lot of municipal and individual agencies, but everybody is pointing a finger, and it is never anybody's responsibility. Because we are so flat, drainage systems don't move leading to sedimentation. We need maintenance, and we need an obligatory program where the municipalities or the County or combined agency maintains them constantly. On the municipal side, as the Mayor pointed out, it's a nightmare of bureaucracy that serves no purpose in the final analysis. Something should be done about that, at least a recommendation in your studies. But we do need a very comprehensive program for continued maintenance of our drainage systems.	Comment noted. The Feasibility Study and the NEPA analysis will examine a variety of potential solutions to reduce flood risk in the Project Area. However, the Proposed Project's funding cannot be used to address past actions, ongoing actions by others, or O&M issues associated with existing structures. This funding ($150 million) can only be used for the development of new flood control measures, and the conduct of the associated analyses. However, as a requirement of the funding source, NJDEP will be required to identify the responsible entity for O&M related to this Project. Please see Response to Comment #16. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
22	PSM-015	Proposed Action	At the last meeting someone asked about dredging the ditches in Little Ferry. We were told that was the town's responsibility. Those ditches were dug for a reason, they carry water away. They need to be improved and maintained.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #14, 16, and 21. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
23	PSM-015	Proposed Action	In reference to the large construction impacts on the wetlands, Metlife, American Dream, and Teterboro Airport were all built high to avoid flooding. This water runs down to us. They should help offset cost.	Comment noted. Please see Response to Comment #18. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
24	PSM-015	Build Alternatives	The Hackensack River is so silted up so much even small boats cannot pass. Dredging the river must be considered.	Comment noted. This potential alternative will be discussed in the "alternatives considered, but eliminated from further consideration" section of the EIS. The rationale for why each considered alternative has been retained and/or eliminated from further consideration will be documented in the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
25	PSM-016	Build Alternatives	In response to the Sandy Disaster Assistance meeting on 26 January 2016, I did research on storm surge protection. This research is being provided so towns of Little Ferry and Moonachie might find protection from future storms.	Comment noted. Thank you for sharing your research. NJDEP will take this information into consideration in the Feasibility Study. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
26	FA-001	Biological Resources	The Proposed Project does not occur in known habitats of any federally listed threatened or endangered species under Service jurisdiction or their critical habitats. Although the Project will not likely affect a federally listed species, the Service requests that the NJDEP, on behalf of the HUD, consult with the Service regarding a final determination pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).	Comment noted. NJDEP will consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Proposed Project in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
27	FA-001	Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	The goal of NEPA is to reduce adverse impacts to the environment, including cumulative impacts, and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. The Meadowlands is significantly degraded and is comprised of a patchwork of marginally functional wetlands and waterways that historically measured over 21,000 acres. More than 70% of the total wetlands that once existed in the Hackensack Meadowlands District (HMD) have been destroyed by human activities. In an 8/19/15 meeting before the Meadowlands Interagency Mitigation Advisory Committee (MIMAC), for which the Service is an active member, the NJDEP presented an alternative for the Project that could involve the filling of over 100 acres of wetlands for the construction of levees and other flood control structures. Any additional losses of wetlands would be considered significant and should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Should the Proposed Project involve an adverse effect to the aquatic environment, the goals of NEPA would not be fulfilled (i.e., to protect and enhance the quality of the human environment). The filling of over 100 acres of wetlands in this important system is not supported by several congressional initiatives aimed at the protection and restoration of the Meadowlands. In addition, as there are currently little to no mitigation opportunities available in the HMD, the Project proponent should examine off-site alternatives in the Hackensack River Watershed (HRW) to fulfill any mitigation responsibilities required by the Clean Water Act. This could include examining areas in the upper watershed of the Hackensack River or in adjoining watersheds of the Hudson and Passaic Rivers.	Comment noted. Further, as part of the alternatives screening process, criteria have been developed to rank Project alternatives with the potential to enhance or create wetlands and avoid or minimize wetlands impacts more favorably. Please see Response to Comment #4 for more information. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
28	FA-001	Purpose and Need	It is vital that the purpose and need statement be easily understood in order to develop a proper scope of analysis for the identifying reasonable and practicable alternatives for consideration, analyzing those alternatives in depth, and selecting the preferred alternative. Further discussion should be offered in the purpose and need statement with regards to the other identified Pilot Projects (Phase's 2 and 3), the interrelationship or interdependence, if any, with all three Pilot projects, and an expected timeline of when the other pilot projects are expected to be constructed.	Future "Pilot" phases and other reasonably foreseeable future projects within the Project Area and its vicinity will be analyzed in the cumulative impacts section of the EIS, as appropriate. A reference to the other two "Pilot" phases will be incorporated in the cumulative impacts analysis of the EIS, as discussed in **Section 7.4** of the Final Public Scoping Document. However, at this time, no specific timeline or funding has been identified or secured for additional phases. For more information, please refer to the Response to Comment #3.
29	FA-001	Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	The EIS should describe that the Meadowlands has been severely degraded due to the cumulative actions of humans over the last two centuries and that any additional loss of wetlands or waters in the Project Area will further exacerbate an already impaired waterway. The EIS should reference that wetlands, and their corresponding functions and values including flood protection, continue to be lost in the HMD despite the requirement to mitigate for adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. The EIS should reference that the current mitigation strategy of converting lesser quality aquatic habitats (*Phragmites* dominated marsh) to another of higher value does not result in added flood protection to the region. To offset the continuing cumulative effects on the HMD, the Service recommends that the applicant (1) minimize impacts to the aquatic environment by seeking Project alternatives that avoid the filling of wetlands and (2) for wetlands impact areas that are deemed unavoidable, develop a viable mitigation plan to offset all adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. As mitigation opportunities are lacking in the HMD, the Service recommends the applicant examine areas in the HRW or elsewhere (i.e., Passaic or Hudson River watersheds) to meet mitigation needs.	Comment noted. These elements will be addressed within the Biological Resources and Water Resources sections of the EIS, including potential impacts, mitigation measures, and permitting requirements, as appropriate. Please also see Responses to Comments #4 and 27 for more information. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
30	FA-001	Hydrology and Flooding	The EIS should discuss what, if any, flooding impacts will occur outside of the geographic boundary of Pilot 1 (i.e., the east side of the Hackensack River - the Towns of Secaucus, North Bergen, and Ridgefield Park) upon Project completion. The Service is concerned that flood waters that would normally be accommodated in the Project Area may be diverted to other areas in the watershed.	Comment noted. As part of the Feasibility Study, alternatives will be modeled to assess potential hydrologic impacts that could occur outside of the Project Area as a result of each considered alternative. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
31	FA-001	Proposed Action	The Council of Environmental Quality states that a range of actions, alternatives, and impacts shall be considered in a NEPA document. For a proposed action or any reasonable alternative, the Federal action agency should determine the area that will be affected. In 1989 the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) defined the geographic scope for an alternative analysis to "...include all areas that would be reasonable to consider in the industry." and that "...the basic project purpose will generally determine the appropriate geographical scope." The Service requests that the geographic scope of alternatives be expanded beyond Phase 1 of the Rebuild by Design Initiative (RDI) and include alternatives under consideration for other phases of the RDI that could meet the purpose/need of the Project. State Route 3 is at a sufficient elevation to act as a levee and combined with a flood control gate could minimize upstream tidal surge events in the HRW that occurred during Hurricane Sandy and provide the needed flood protection that is being sought with the subject Project. A flood gate could also result in reducing impacts to the aquatic environment and possible construction and mitigation costs for Phases 1 and 2 of the Rebuild by Design (RBD).	Comment noted. As noted previously, the Feasibility Study is exploring a variety of potential solutions. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #9, and #28. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
32	FA-001	Biological Resources	The EIS should also reference the potential indirect effects of converting known estuarine marshes to a freshwater habitat as tidal flow may be restricted upstream of the planned levees or flood control structures. The Project also has the potential to prohibit the passage of aquatic organisms upstream of any planned construction site. The conversion of aquatic habitats and/or the blocking of fish passage would necessitate additional mitigation requirements, in addition to any mitigation required for other unavoidable wetlands or open water impacts.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Potential impacts to aquatic habitats will be analyzed within the EIS; mitigation for any unavoidable impacts will be clearly described in the EIS, as developed in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
33	FA-001	Biological Resources	As the NJDEP and HUD are aware, the US Congress passed the Clean Water Act (CWA) to enable Federal agencies to restore, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Preliminary result of site characterization data in the Project Area reveal elevated concentrations of metals throughout the Project site. These elevated compounds are likely resulting in a reduction of the quality and quantity of available benthic macroinvertebrates that serve as the food base for higher aquatic life and for aquatic-dependent predators. Moreover, the sediment metals contamination in the Project Area is also likely impairing the site for use as fish/shellfish spawning and nursery habitat. The Hackensack River is one of the most heavily polluted waterways in the Hudson Raritan Estuary. The Project proponent will have to demonstrate that the proposed Project will be protective of fish and wildlife resources once constructed. The applicant must determine the degree to which the Project will “introduce, relocate, or increase contaminants to the aquatic environment” (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 230.11(d)).	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources from the Proposed Project, including from existing contamination sources and the alternatives’ inter-relationship with these contamination sources, will be analyzed within the EIS; mitigation measures for any unavoidable impacts will be clearly described in the EIS, as developed in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
34	FA-001	Hazardous Materials/ Biological Resources	The Project site is also in close proximity to several known National Priority List sites, including Ventron-Velsicol, Universal Oil Products, Scientific Chemical Processing, PJP Landfill, and Standard Chlorine Superfund site and many NJ State designated hazardous wastes sites. The Project's proximity on the Hackensack River also poses a recontamination threat, as the construction of levees, pump stations, tide gates, and floodwalls, could release known contaminants. This could threaten several adjacent wetland sites, including the performance success of numerous wetland mitigation areas located in the Project Area (i.e., Secaucus High School, Global Terminal, MRI I-III Mitigation Banks, or the Kane Mitigation Bank). The Project site is also in close proximity to the confluence of the Passaic River, where several other Superfund and State hazardous waste sites occur. Based on the Project's proximity to these known polluted sites and waterways, the Service has determined that recontamination of any on-site Project mitigation will likely occur over time due to the effects of tidal action from the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. The applicant should characterize the fill material and underlying sediments to determine level of risk the Project poses on the aquatic environment. The applicant should conduct a literature search to determine the extent of contamination in the Project Area and conduct further characterization of area sediments in areas that lack contaminants information. Any future sediment investigations should be reviewed and approved by NJDEP's Bureau of Environmental Evaluation and Risk Assessment program and also be pre-coordinated with the Service prior to performing any field work.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. A literature review will be conducted and reviewed as part of the hazardous materials assessment, as outlined in **Section 7.3.20** of the Public Scoping Document. Based on the evaluation of the Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative, recommendations will be presented, potentially including additional site investigation, remediation/mitigation, alternative locations for the Build Alternatives, and the reasoning for the recommendations. These recommendations and any future site investigations would be developed in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies. Construction and post-construction impacts will be analyzed to assess the potential for erosion and runoff, or re-suspension of sediments and changes in sediment quality or transport (see **Section 7.3.17** of the Public Scoping Document for more details). No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
35	FA-001	Hazardous Materials	The applicant should also be prepared to remediate lands that are contaminated and are identified as potential aquatic features of the project (i.e., mitigated lands). This remediation could include the removal of any underlying sediments that fail one or more of the aquatic starts overseen by the NJDEP and USEPA and replacing of contaminated areas with a minimum of 2 feet of clean fill material.	Comment noted. Please see Response to Comment #34, above. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
36	FA-001	Hazardous Materials/ Biological Resources	The Service also requests the applicant submit a post-construction monitoring plan and develop a remedial strategy to be implemented should site monitoring indicate that contamination of any newly constructed aquatic Project feature is approaching unacceptable levels (i.e., levels not protective of human health or wildlife resources; whichever is the more stringent). It is imperative that the applicant develop performance measures for the success of any mitigation plan and to demonstrate that the Project site is replacing the functions and values of permitted wetland fill in permanence. The Service is available to assist in the development of such a monitoring plan that addresses contamination in abiotic and biotic compartments of the environment, as well as contaminant trophic transport into fish and wildlife resources.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. NJDEP appreciates the USFWS' offer to assist in the development of a monitoring plan, should it be determined through the NEPA analysis that a monitoring plan is needed concerning potential impacts to, and consequent mitigation measures related to fish and wildlife resources, including impacts from existing contamination sources. Please see Reponses to Comments #32 - #36. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
37	FA-001	**Proposed Action/ Hazardous Materials**	Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58.5, all properties that are being proposed for use in the HUD programs are to be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substance, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property. It appears that the use of CDBG-DR funds for the Project may be counter to this HUD requirement.	Comment noted. HUD regulations are geared toward housing projects and are intended to protect people from living in contaminated properties or constructing new homes on contaminated land. The Proposed Project's overall purpose is to reduce flood hazard risks and flood-related public health risks with available funding. The ability to meet this purpose will be measured in terms of the Project goals and objectives outlined in **Section 4.3** of the Public Scoping Document. One of these goals entails reducing risks to public health. Potential hazards associated with the Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative, will be assessed and mitigation / remediation requirements (if deemed necessary) will be documented in the EIS in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies and in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
38	FA-002	**Cumulative Effects**	One of the challenges of this project will be balancing the need to enhance protection from storm events with citizens' concerns over impacts resulting from increased desirability and the potential future development that could result. Further, the scoping document highlights potential benefits of ancillary proposed projects, such as the addition of new pedestrian, bicycle, ad vehicle facilities that may be developed, as well as subsequent changes in zoning. These direct and indirect impacts can result in increased future development and should be evaluated with specific consideration to impacts to current residents as well as surrounding wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. These impacts should be evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the considered alternatives will be assessed within the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
39	FA-002	Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	The EIS should provide a detailed description of the wetlands/water bodies that may be affected for each of the actions under consideration that includes their location as well as an assessment for their functions and values. While the alternatives are not yet defined, there is potential for a variety of direct and secondary impacts to wetlands. In addition, the EIS should include an evaluation of ways in which each alternative site can be designated to avoid direct and indirect impacts to wetlands.	Comment noted. Please see Response to Comment #4. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
40	FA-002	Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	Unavoidable impacts to wetlands, surface water resources (impacts to rivers/stream quality and flow), and wildlife should be fully disclosed in the EIS. These impacts include but are not limited to: direct filling of the wetlands for construction and/or operational temporary impacts to wetlands resulting from access to wetlands areas for construction purposes; indirect impacts, such as clearing impacts resulting in change of cover type within a wetlands; indirect impacts resulting; indirect impacts resulting from erosion or sedimentation into wetlands or waterbodies, and secondary impacts which in result from construction of the project. While the document states that unavoidable impacts are "typically mitigated at 1:1 ratio under NJDEP regulation: proposed mitigation must also be consistent with federal requirements. Further, USEPA encourages the avoidance of wetland filling. USEPA also recommends that the EIS identify appropriate options for compensatory mitigation of unavoidable direct and secondary aquatic impacts and impacts to state and federally listed endangered species. Due to the expected magnitude of wetlands that could be affected by a project, a comprehensive look at impact minimization is warranted in the EIS.	Comment noted. Please see Response to Comment #4. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
41	FA-002	Biological Resources	All construction practices that will be utilized to minimize impacts should be documented. Specifically, standard conditions to protect wetlands should be documented in addition to steps that may be taken to reduce impacts to particularly sensitive areas. The EIS should also provide comprehensive information to explain how work in areas containing steep slopes will be stabilized to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts to wetlands. We recommend that the EIS identify any wetlands on the project sites that support rare and exemplary natural communities. If any of these areas exist, we recommend that the EIS describe specific mitigation measures to ensure that they will be protected from potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. The EIS should also clearly identify the locations of any required access roads, or roads that will need to be improved to support the proposed project, and any impacts to wetland areas and a description of how the wetland ecosystems will be protected from indirect impacts from these roads. Additionally, the EIS should describe the long-term site maintenance techniques planned for the installation. The discussion should explain whether herbicides will be used and whether specific buffer zones will be established around wetlands where herbicide application would be prohibited. We recommend that the analysis be expanded to discuss the potential for the introduction of invasive species and methods to control their spread as a result of the project.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during preparation of the EIS. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Build Alternatives and No Action Alternative will be analyzed and documented within the EIS. Alternatives and specific Proposed Project elements will be identified in greater detail as the Feasibility Study for the Proposed Project progresses (e.g., access roads). Best management practices and/or mitigation measures will be recommended to reduce potential impacts to wetlands and other sensitive biological resources from the introduction and/or spread of invasive species, increased soil erosion or sedimentation, among others during both the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Project, to the extent practicable. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
42	FA-002	Build Alternatives	USEPA encourages NJDEP to maximize sustainability of any built structures associated with the alternatives and minimize the carbon footprint of the project. This can be accomplished through a variety of approaches including utilization of local and recycled materials; recycling of materials that may result from construction and debris waste; and utilization of technologies and fuels that minimize greenhouse gas emissions. Further, where possible, renewable energy (including, but not limited to solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and biomass) and energy efficient technologies should be incorporated into the design, construction, and operation of the alternatives.	Comment noted. To the extent practical, the Project Team is exploring various low impact development and green infrastructure options to enhance the public realm while managing water more effectively in the Project Area. Please see Response to Comment #5.
43	FA-002	Build Alternatives	Enhancement of open space was one of the potential approaches highlighted in the Public Scoping Document as a way to improve storm water drainage. USEPA would like to highlight the potential role of low impact development and green infrastructure as a specific approach to effectively achieve the goal of improved storm water drainage. Low impact development (LID) refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or use of storm water in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitat. LID provides an opportunity to enhance public open space while simultaneously promoting the natural movement of water within the Meadowlands ecosystem through techniques such as rain gardens, bioretention facilities, permeable pavements, and rain barrels.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #5 and #42.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
44	PE-001	Biological Resources / Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	There are no specific plans as of yet, so comments cannot be very specific. However, at this point, I would like to point out that flooding is common in towns near the Meadowlands because many of those towns used to be Meadowlands - i.e. were built on filled in marshlands, and are thus low-lying and vulnerable to flooding. Marshlands act as sponges and reduce flooding, so wherever the marshes are reduced in size by development, there is less area to absorb excess water. This is not acknowledged anywhere in the document or plan. As a biologist who has studied the Meadowlands area extensively, I feel that increasing the extent of marsh - by restoring areas that have been paved over but are not in use - would be the most beneficial and least destructive path. Any further destruction of marshlands in order to build walls or other structures would be damaging to the ecology and biodiversity of this important ecosystem, the largest brackish marsh in the NY/NJ area. The ecosystem services (including reduction of flooding) provided by wetlands exceed most other types of natural systems, so the extent of the marsh should not be reduced at all by whatever you plan to do, but rather should be expanded.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #4 and 27 for more information. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
45	PE-002	Public Scoping/ Outreach	Our associate has a long history in Little Ferry and significant firsthand knowledge of flooding, flooding problems, and the causes of those flooding problems, in the Borough. We recommend our associate, as a key and knowledgeable stakeholder in this Proposed Project, be invited to participate in the ongoing planning process as a member of the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG).	Interested persons are encouraged to visit www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov. Additionally, they may contact NJDEP via email at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov to join the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG). NJDEP welcomes additional participation in the CAG. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
46	PE-002	Build Alternatives	The flood protection plan ultimately selected by the NJDEP should include: (a) The installation of backflow preventers on all five (5) of the stormwater outfall structures to the Hackensack River on our associates properties and on all stormwater outfalls to the Hackensack River within the Project Area and (b) recommendations to the Borough of Little Ferry and all other affected municipalities, made early on in project planning process, to amend municipal Master Plans and land development ordinances (including zoning, subdivision/site plan, floodplain, and stormwater management ordinances), to ensure redevelopment projects and proposed significant expansions or changes to existing developments within flood prone areas result in significant improvements to flood protection and resiliency.	Comment noted. An inventory of the existing flood control structures and local drainages is underway to evaluate whether they are currently functioning properly or require maintenance, replacement, or resizing. However, the Proposed Project's funding cannot be used to address past actions, ongoing actions by others, or O&M issues on existing structures. This funding can be used to enhance existing infrastructure, to develop new flood control measures, and to conduct associated analyses. While not funded specifically at this point, improved land use planning and ordinances could be logical and reasonable future outcome following implementation of this phase of the Project. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #16 and #21 for more information. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
47	PE-002	Build Alternatives	We recommend the flood protection plan include, early on in the planning process, an inventory and evaluation of the Project Area's existing stormwater drainage system elements, with plans then prepared to remedy any deficiencies in these existing systems.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #21 and #46. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
48	PE-002	Build Alternatives	Nonstructural and low-impact stormwater/floodplain management strategies and retrofitting measures would go a long way to reducing flooding and flood risk in Little Ferry and the other municipalities in and implemented (through State regulations and/or local ordinances) first and foremost and "to the maximum extent practicable," prior to proceeding with structural flood protection measures such as flood walls, levees, and berms.	Comment noted. Reducing impervious pavement and incorporating green infrastructure into the proposed Build Alternatives will be taken into consideration during the development of alternatives and the Feasibility Study. However, the Proposed Project's funding cannot be used to address past actions, ongoing actions by others, or O&M issues on existing structures. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #21, and #46. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
49	PE-002	Build Alternatives	We recommend that the NJDEP avail itself to recently completed, innovative design projects by Rutgers' students and our associate to serve as examples of how overlay zoning could facilitate economic development, flood protection, and flood resiliency for entire neighborhoods.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #46, and #56. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
50	PE-002	Build Alternatives	We recommend that the NJDEP instruct the Project Area's municipalities on how to best amend municipal master plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision/site plan ordinances, stormwater management plans/ordinances, and flood plain ordinances, to require all development projects to become more resilient to flood events over time, and give some thought to providing funding assistance to municipalities for developing such overlay zoning for the redevelopment of entire neighborhoods.	Comment noted. Please see Response to Comment #3. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
51	PE-002	Build Alternatives	We recommend that the NJDEP, in attempting to achieve the project goals, maximize the use of nonstructural and low-impact and retrofitting stormwater/floodplain management strategies, together with local drainage systems improvements, before considering structural flood control measures such as floodwalls, levees, and berms. Indeed, recognizing that the $150 million grant is only 17.6 percent of the originally proposed $850 million, this money should be spent in the manner that maximizes the benefits to the residents and businesses in the Project Area. What better way to do this than mimicking the NJDEP's own Stormwater Management regulations at New Jersey Administrative Code (NJAC) 7:8 that promotes the maximization of nonstructural and low-impact strategies in managing stormwater for the specific purpose of minimizing the need for expensive structural measures.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #5, #21, and #46.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
52	PE-002	Build Alternatives	The public scoping document acknowledges that there is an ongoing engineering Feasibility Study, the purpose of which is to determine what designs and strategies best address the impacts from the 2 types of flooding. It is clear that no project designs or even strategies for that design have been completed and the feasibility of the project has yet to be established. We find that the process proposed for the development of alternatives is appropriate and repeats the recommendation above. In addition, recognizing the funding limitations, we recommend the flood protection plan ultimately selected by the NJDEP, focus on the "Stormwater Drainage Improvement Alternative," since it is the more frequent, stormwater drainage issues that result in regular flooding in the Project Area. Solve the frequently occurring problem first. Then tackle the extreme event problem with long-term solutions involving overlay zoning designed to encourage economic development in the Project Area.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #5, #21, and #46.
53	PE-002	Public Scoping/ Outreach	The NJDEP considers the current 30-day public Scoping Period to be related to the EIS. We disagree. Nothing in the information thus far provided by the NJDEP to the public during the Public Scoping Period relates in any significant way to the EIS. Nonetheless, the Public Scoping Period does provide the public with the opportunity to make comments on the proposed project such as the comments provided herein, and thus this opportunity for public comment is welcomed.	Comment noted. The Public Scoping process is an integral component of the NEPA process and analysis, as described at 40 CFR Part 1501.7. In addition, opportunities are available for local citizens and interested parties to provide additional input throughout the NEPA process. Please see Response to Comment #45. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
54	PE-002	Visual Quality/ Aesthetics	Protecting a flood prone community from the damaging impacts of repeated flooding, should serve to stabilize the community to some extent and create an environment promoting continued economic investment. The extent, to which this happens, is dependent on the specific flood protection plan and its effectiveness. One should realize that even if the community as a whole benefits from a flood protection plan, individual property owners might be significantly and negatively impacted by the actual flood facilities constructed. Flood protection walls, levees, and berms, while providing protection from large flood surge events, would, in many instances, occupy privately owned lands and may damage those properties by condemning lands currently providing significant lands currently occupied by housing, parking, and landscaped open space. All such structural flood protection measures would block aesthetic views of the Hackensack River waterfront the residents currently enjoy and value, diminishing the real estate value. Property owners should be reimbursed for the value of the property condemned to accommodate structural flood protection measures. Therefore, we cannot recommend floodwalls, levees, or berms at this time.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Alternatives and specific Proposed Project elements will be identified in greater detail as the Feasibility Study for the Proposed Project progresses. Potential impacts to land use, aesthetics, recreation, property values, and other considerations identified by the commenter will be addressed in the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
55	PE-002	Proposed Action	The NJDEP and individual municipalities, acting independently or in concert with each other, have significant powers to reduce flooding and flood damages over time by simply revising State floodplain and stormwater management regulations and/or local master plans, zoning ordinances, site plan and subdivision ordinances, and stormwater/floodplain management ordinances, to incorporate rules within flood prone areas, such as establishing the regulatory design flood at the level of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 500-year flood, establishing requirements for elevating structures and parking, among others.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #3, #5, #21, and #46.
56	PE-003	Build Alternatives	Our organizations recommend that NJDEP promote the use of green infrastructure to address stormwater and flooding. We are attaching a Rutgers University Guidance Manual on Green Infrastructure, which provides guidance for communities and design professionals. This manual should be utilized in the planning process of the New Meadowlands project to better identify opportunities and implement green infrastructure.	Comment noted. Thank you for providing the manual for use in this planning process. NJDEP has gathered several green infrastructure regional plans and guides for use during the alternatives development process and Feasibility Study. NJDEP is currently exploring various alternatives that incorporate green infrastructure into the proposed design of the Build Alternatives. Please see Response to Comment #5.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
57	PE-003	Proposed Action	Our organizations recommend that NJDEP utilize a holistic planning approach that focuses on long-term solutions. While the Proposed Project has evolved from a more comprehensive "Protect, Connect, Grow" concept to a narrower focus on just the "Protect" component, the Proposed Project can and should still incorporate long-term and holistic planning approaches emphasizing resiliency. According to the National Ocean Service, resilience means the ability of a community to "bounce back" after hazardous events such as hurricanes, coastal storms, and flooding - rather than simply reacting to impacts. As such, the Proposed Project should explore and implement ways for the communities and ecosystems in the Meadowlands to "bounce back," rather than singularly focus on reducing flood risk. Specifically, there should be greater recognition of impacts expected from sea level rise and an emphasis on long-term solutions that consider impacts on the entire Meadowlands District. To fully understand the effects of sea level rise and to construct and project that accomplished long-term solutions, the Proposed Project must first undertake a thorough investigation of existing resources, including a study of the biological resources in the Meadowlands and a hydrological study of the entire Meadowlands District.	To the extent feasible, this will be addressed within the context of the cumulative impacts analysis of the EIS. However, NJDEP must implement a solution to reduce flood risk within available funding. Please refer to **Section 3.3** of the Final Public Scoping Document for information the Proposed Project's evolution as a result of these constraints. As noted in **Section 2.2.3** of the Public Scoping Document, the effects of sea level rise will be analyzed in the EIS. In addition, the EIS will contain appropriate information on the biological resources and hydrology of the affected environment. Please also see Response to Comment #3.
58	PE-003	Proposed Action	Our organizations believe the identified Project Area is too narrow. Given the complexity and importance of the Meadowlands, the Proposed Project should consider impacts on the entire Meadowlands District, even if flood risk reduction measures are only constructed within the boundaries of the five identified communities.	Comment noted. Please see Responses to Comments #3 and #57. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
59	PE-003	Purpose and Need	Section 4.1 of the Draft Public Scoping Document defines the Purpose. As explained above, the Proposed Project should focus on holistic approaches and long-term solutions to coastal and fluvial flooding. Limiting the purpose of the Project to "reducing flood risk in the Project Area, thereby protecting infrastructure, residences, and businesses" may unduly constrain the effectiveness and potential reach of the Project. Our organizations urge the NJDEP to state the purpose as follows: "The purpose of the Proposed Project is to increase the resilience of the communities and ecosystems in the Project Area through the use of planning adaptation, and construction of flood risk reduction measures."	In response to this comment, the purpose statement was modified as follows: "The purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce flood risk and increase the resiliency of the communities and ecosystems within Project Area, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, residences, businesses, and ecological resources from the more frequent and intense flood events anticipated in the future." This change has been made to the Final Public Scoping Document.
60	PE-003	Purpose and Need	Beyond the primary needs of addressing (1) systemic inland flooding from high-intensity rainfall/runoff events, and (2) coastal flooding from storm surges and abnormally high tides, the Public Scoping Document also identifies other needs the Project seeks to address and co-benefits expected to result from the Project. Notably missing from the "needs" identified in Section 4.2 are any needs connected to ecological, environmental, or biodiversity health. Our organizations urge DEP to include in Section 4.2 the following needs: protect ecological resources by preventing the filling of wetlands; improve water quality; and conserve biodiversity.	Comment noted and incorporated. The goals of the Proposed Project have been updated in response to this comment to address protection of ecological resources, including wetlands, and biodiversity. Please see the last paragraph of **Section 4.2** and the last two goals in **Section 4.3** in the Final Public Scoping Document.
61	PE-004	Public Scoping/ Outreach	Two letters of comment that I submitted on two earlier iterations of a flood protection project, dated 15 January 2015 and 7 October 2015, are appended and incorporated into my present comments and should be entered into the NEPA record as such.	Comment noted. These letters have been incorporated into the Administrative Record of the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
62	PE-004	Biological Resources	It is difficult to comment on the Scoping Document because in its current form it addresses a wide range of possible actions and is vague, as well as because the environment of the project area has been altered over the centuries and is complex socially, physiographically, and ecologically. It is doubtful that my comments (and perhaps even the comments of all the CAG members) will address all the concerns and potential impacts of the proposed project. Whatever actions are taken in the flood protection project, it will have widespread and long-lasting impacts, both positive and negative, on the human and non-human environment. To date, very little attention has been paid to biological resources in either the two iterations of the Rebuild by Design New Meadowlands proposal or the currently proposed project.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Alternatives and specific Proposed Project elements will be identified in greater detail as the Feasibility Study for the Proposed Project progresses. The Feasibility Study will be conducted over the coming months and will result in more defined alternatives and Proposed Project specifics that will be incorporated into the EIS analysis. Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources will be analyzed within the EIS; mitigation for any unavoidable impacts will be clearly described in the EIS, as developed in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
63	PE-004	Hydrology and Flooding	Page 1. Section 1.2. Fluvial (i.e., rainfall and runoff induced) flooding is distinguished from storm surges and “abnormally high tides.” The use of the term fluvial is confusing in that it can refer to streams or the Hackensack river itself or in the document seemingly to runoff alone. It is more useful to distinguish 3 types of flooding: 1. Local stormwater from impervious surfaces that has not yet reached a stream or the river; 2. Freshwater discharge from the Oradell Reservoir and tributaries of the Hackensack River estuary; and 3. Storm surge and unusually high tide flooding from the Hackensack River estuary. 1 originates within the “upland” areas, 2 comes down “stream,” and 3 comes up “stream.” It is possible to have flooding from the estuary without a storm surge if there is sufficient rainfall or snowmelt within the watershed. Actions to reduce flooding will vary depending on the source of the floodwaters.	For clarity, the use of the term "fluvial" has been altered to "inland" within the Public Scoping Document. Thus, two types of flooding will be addressed: inland and coastal. Inland flooding encompasses flooding that occurs when moderate precipitation accumulates over several days, intense precipitation falls over a short period, or rivers or streams overflow (fluvial flooding).

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
64	PE-004	Proposed Action / Build Alternatives	The consideration of true fluvial flooding, or the fluvial contribution to flooding (freshwater discharge spilling over the Oradell Dam and coming down tributaries of the Hackensack River estuary) raises the question whether the capacity of the Oradell Reservoir and existing small impoundments on Hackensack River estuary tributaries could be increased (by raising dams or by dredging) with benefit to flood-prone areas downstream by virtue of increased storage. There appears to be relatively little development within 1 m vertically of the Oradell Reservoir water level. The Draft EIS (DEIS) should include an analysis of the feasibility and potential effectiveness of additional water storage in existing impoundments.	Comment noted. This potential alternative will be discussed in the “alternatives considered, but eliminated from further consideration” section of the EIS. The rationale for why each considered alternative has been retained and/or eliminated from further consideration will be documented in the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
65	PE-004	Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	The wetlands in the Project Area serve to protect developed areas from flooding and wave energy of various kinds. Minor wetland filling is still occurring and should be aggressively stopped. The illegal dumping of serpentinite rock waste from Stevens Institute on the old fill at the end of JoMike Court in the Kane Natural Area (Carlstadt) resulted in new wetland fill around the edges of the old fill. Recent earthmoving activities on the south side of Commerce Street (also Kane Natural Area) have probably resulted in new fill in the same wetland. Field work for the DEIS should include a detailed on-the-ground inspection for recent fill of the entire shoreline and wetland boundaries of the Project Area.	Comment noted. The Proposed Project's funding cannot be used to address past actions, ongoing actions by others, or O&M issues on existing structures. This funding can only be used for the development of new flood control measures and the conduct of the associated analyses. These analyses will consider existing wetland fill within the Affected Environment portion of the EIS analysis. This particular concern should be brought to the attention of the US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch, as they have authority over fills placed in jurisdictional "Waters of the US," including wetlands. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
66	PE-004	Biological Resources/ Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the US	Evapotranspiration (ET) is a component of the water budget of the Project Area. Taller stature, higher biomass vegetation (trees v. shrubs) tends to transpire more water. Wild vegetation continues to be removed or reduced for various purposes. It appears the part of Teterboro Airport Woods lying east of the intersection of Redneck Avenue and Moonachie Avenue is slated for cutting because it is near the end of the Teterboro Airport runway. The DEIS should include an analysis of the potential loss or gain of ET involved in various kinds of vegetation conversion. Not only does ET remove some water from the ground, but it also cools the surroundings in warm weather, an important ecosystem service as the northeastern climate warms. It is unclear how significant ET is in the water budget of the project area.	ET associated with extant and proposed future-case vegetation in the Project Area will be addressed in the analysis of the Water Resources within the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
67	PE-004	Biological Resources	Flood defenses such as levees and stormwater ponds, and the cleaning of existing ditches, may improve or worsen the mosquito situation. The Meadowlands are especially at risk of nuisance and vector mosquitoes because of residual floodwater habitats and abundant container habitats for egg-laying and larval development. The current transmission of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases including malaria and Zika virus, require forethought so existing and future ponds, marshes, ditches, and other potential mosquito larval habitats do not become important producers of vector species. It is crucial mosquito management be designed into flood defenses to avoid disease outbreaks and the consequent use of mosquito adulticides which are dangerous for humans and wildlife. Addressing these problems post facto is inefficient. The DEIS should incorporate these considerations.	Comment noted. Invasive species and other pests (i.e., mosquitoes) will be analyzed in the EIS, and appropriate Best Management Practices will be identified to minimize potential impacts during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project elements. **Section 7.3.14** of the Public Scoping Document has been updated in response to this comment.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
68	PE-004	Proposed Action/ Build Alternatives	Section 3.2. The document refers to the "protect, connect, grow" goal of the earlier RBD proposal. The Proposed Project is focusing on flood protection. Implementing flood defenses, and adding further development to areas protected by those defenses ("Grow"), is an inappropriate approach for a flood prone coastal area where sea level is rising. It is inevitable that areas will eventually be flooded as much, or more, than occurred as a result of Hurricane Sandy, because of sea level rise, worsening coastal storms and storm surges, and because coastal flood defenses are subject to failures. Much of the low-lying, flood prone, portion of the Project Area is on old wetland fill, which is subsiding. Ultimately it may not be possible to keep storm surges and other estuarine floodwaters out of the Project Area despite incrementally built-up flood defenses. The current environmental analysis is a valuable opportunity to consider long term solutions. Two analyses should be included in the DEIS. First, an analysis of whether it would make economic, social, and ecological sense to use currently available funds or other funds to move the most threatened residences, businesses, and infrastructure out of the most flood-prone areas. If the current federal funds cannot be spent for this purpose, the DEIS should state why. Second, the municipalities in the Project Area should begin planning the "un-development" or managed migration of existing development out of the most flood-prone portions of the Project Area.	Comment noted. This potential alternative will be discussed in the "alternatives considered, but eliminated from further consideration" section of the EIS. The rationale for why each considered alternative has been retained and/or eliminated from further consideration will be documented in the EIS. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
69	PE-004	Purpose and Need/ Biological Resources	Section 4.3. The Proposed Project Goals and Objectives The Proposed Project Goals and Objectives constitute an important set of aims. However these omit the conservation of biodiversity. The Meadowlands have statewide and national importance for biodiversity. Many of the uncommon and rare species and habitats of the Meadowlands, undoubtedly including the project area, remain undiscovered and undocumented. Biodiversity conservation needs to be added to the list of goals. Nearly half of Moonachie constitutes greenspace (i.e., undeveloped habitats), and almost half of the low-lying eastern portion of Carlstadt is also greenspace. Smaller but significant areas of the other three municipalities are greenspace. This makes the conservation and management of greenspace especially important locally as well as to the large scales at which the greenspaces in question provide biodiversity support and other ecosystem services. It also means that a large proportion of greenspace is potentially available for stormwater absorption, microclimatic cooling, flood buffering, and the other services that forests, shrubland, and marshes provide to people. However, to continue to provide, or to provide at greater levels, the ecosystem services that include maintenance of air and water quality, flood modulation, and biodiversity support, greenspaces need to be analyzed and managed for ecosystem services.	Comment noted. Two additional goals have been incorporated into **Section 4.3** of the Public Scoping Document to address the importance of protecting ecological resources and water quality within the scope of the Proposed Project. Please also see Response to Comment #60.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
70	PE-004	Biological Resources	Section 6.0: The jurisdiction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in addition to federally listed T&E species, includes bald eagles and golden eagles. Potential impacts of the project on these species must be analyzed. There may be other regulatory nexus such as the protection of migratory birds. State listed T&E species, and other animal Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) must be addressed under NJDEP jurisdiction. In some cases because of, the urban environmental, there are many rare animals and plants of statewide significance in the project area. Among the SGCN species occurring in the project area are bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, soar, common nighthawk, yellow-crowned night-heron, wood thrush, eastern box turtle, northern diamondback terrapin, and northern brown snake. SGCN other than currently listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species and intended to be considered in planning decisions so those SGCN do not become endangered in the future. Other species that are not currently listed as NJ SGCN but arguable should be on the list include Atlantic Coast leopard frog (at least regionally rare, with a documented population in Moonachie) and Mattox's clam shrimp (globally rare, in Carlstadt as recently as 2010. Although consideration of rare plan species listed as S1, S2, or S3 by the NJ Natural Heritage Program (http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/#luplan) may not be required by law in NJ, for the sake of biodiversity conservation and precedent in environmental review, these species should be considered in the DEIS. Rare plants known from the project area include many-spiked flatsedge (*Cyperus polystachyos*). Rare plants found elsewhere in the Meadowlands that should be surveyed for include floating marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyl ranunculoides*).	Comment noted and the Final Public Scoping Document has been updated in response to this comment. In **Section 7.3.14** (Biological Resources) under the “Desktop Study” subsection: federally listed T&E species and critical habitats from the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service; State-listed T&E, rare, and special concern species and their habitats from NJDEP National Heritage Program; New Jersey Herptile Atlas and Breeding Bird Atlas; and other available GIS data, published literature, and web-based resources will be reviewed. Under the “Field Surveys” subsection of **Section 7.3.14** (Biological Resources), biological field surveys of the Project Area will be conducted concerning T&E, rare, special concern species, and critical habitats. Assessments of impact to these protected species and habitats will be included in the EIS. In response to this comment, the following information is added to this section of the Public Scoping Document: "NJDEP Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Migratory Birds."

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
71	PE-004	Cultural Resources	Section 7.3.5: The document states "there are no known archaeological sites present within one mile of the Project Area." I believe the site where signs of prehistoric human activity and mastodon bones were excavated near Polifly Road and Route 80 is within one mile of the Project Area. The Native dugout canoe found in the Meadowlands may be relevant. Moreover, there is a midden from historic oyster shell button manufacture more than 50 years ago in Little Ferry that seems to qualify as a historic archaeological site. In wetland and floodplain dominated environments, especially where there has been human-accelerated soil erosion in the watershed, archaeological sites (cultural resources) are often reworked by floods and deeply buried by estuarine or fluvial deposition of sediment, and deep testing is necessary to locate many sites.	Comment noted. AECOM will follow up with the commenter to obtain further information on these two sites for incorporation into the EIS analysis. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
72	PE-004	Biological Resources	Section 7.3.14: This section omits critically important literature references such as Richard Kane's survey of bird areas in the Meadowlands, many years of bird observation records published in Records of New Jersey Birds, and the Hudsonia butterfly and odonate surveys conducted for the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI). Consultants and NJDEP must have conducted a more thorough literature review during the six months since the project was initiated. No field work (biological survey work) has yet been reported specifically for this project. The critical winter and early spring seasons for many species (raptors, marsh birds, and early plants) have apparently been missed. Hopefully surveys will be conducted next winter and spring. However, some species (northern harrier, pied-billed grebe, cuckoos) may not breed in the same locations each year, and some plants may not appear above ground or flower in a particular year. Thus it is important for a project of this scale to include multiple seasons of biological surveys.	Comment noted. The recommended literature references have been added to the Final Public Scoping Document. The intent of the list of references in the document is to provide the reader an idea of the types of sources/references that will be considered, and is not meant to be an all-inclusive list. A comprehensive list of references will be reviewed, considered, and included within the EIS.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
73	PE-004	Biological Resources	To minimize impacts on biological resources, and avoid unnecessary conflicts between biological resources and other goals of the project, the earliest consideration of biology is crucial. The flood protection proposal is currently vague and it is not known whether the project will include only minor engineering to address local stormwater runoff problems, or massive features such as levees (berms or dikes). Biological data collection should be reported on at each CAG meeting so CAG members may comment and help strengthen this aspect of the DEIS.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. As field data are collected and processed, NJDEP will provide periodic updates to the CAG. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
74	PE-004	Biological Resources	The PSD mentions 275 species of plants in the Meadowlands. A list of 1,000 species of vascular plants recorded recently or historically in the Meadowlands was posted on the Web in 2002, and subsequently the list has been significantly expanded. Having information such as this is important in designing field surveys and analyzing potential impacts. As discussed above, in addition to Federal and State listed T&E species, NJ animal SGCN, and State Natural Heritage Program S1, S2 and S3 plants should be surveyed for. The biologists who conduct such surveys must be highly trained and experienced, and allowed sufficient time and minimal distractions to find rare as well as common species.	Comment noted. The number of plant species identified in **Section 7.3.14** of the Final Public Scoping Document has been revised from 275 to 1,000 species of plants recorded recently or historically in the Meadowlands. Please also refer to Responses to Comments #70 and #74.
75	PE-004	Biological Resources	It is difficult to tell from the brief description of “Field Studies,” but it seems the consultants are proposing to study representative habitats and extrapolate to other similar habitats. The problem with this approach is that in altered; urban-industrial environments like the Meadowlands, the occurrences of species are less predictable than in more “natural” environments.	The Project Team will utilize methodologies that include scientifically accurate, legally sufficient techniques used in other NEPA analyses, whereby a representative location will be selected for censusing to represent other similar habitats. NJDEP has incorporated additional information in response to this comment under the "Field Studies" subsection of **Section 7.3.14** (Biological Resources). Please note that this does not apply to protected species, only to characterization of general habitat assemblages.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
76	PE-004	Biological Resources	I concur with the opinions expressed by Bill Sheehan and Don Smith that no wetlands should be filled for the flood protection project. Wetlands, even if degraded, provide important flood protection services and other ecosystem services, and because wetland mitigation is not effective in the Meadowlands. Wetland mitigation, as practiced for the past 25 years in the Meadowlands, has not been very effective or long lasting, has made wetlands more vulnerable to sea level rise and less effective at sequestering carbon, and resulted in the destruction of the habitats of rare species. I hope that any necessary wetland mitigation will use more effective approaches and methods, designed with full up-to-date knowledge of the Meadowlands biota and familiarity with recent research on important species such as common reed, and that the need for wetland mitigation be avoided if possible. If mitigation is necessary, there are potential alternative approaches that could better serve the optimization of environmental resources and ecosystem services. This should be analyzed in depth in the DEIS.	Comment noted. This will be taken into consideration during the NEPA analysis and Feasibility Study. Please see Responses to Comments #4 and #27-32. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
77	PE-004	Hazardous Materials	In 2011, associated with Hurricane Irene, a massive sewage spill occurred at the Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) sewage treatment plant in Little Ferry. This plant should be improved to prevent such spills in the future when a sewage spill concurrent with a storm surge could carry sewage and its microbial hazards inland into residential and other areas. Other potential sources of microbial or toxicological hazards should be identified and remediation set in motion.	Comment noted. While improving the current sewage treatment plant is not part of this Project scope (see Response to Comment # 21), this information will be taken into consideration during the development of Project alternatives and as part of the Feasibility Study; some of these issues will be discussed in the EIS, as well. Please see Responses to Comments #33-37. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
78	PE-004	Proposed Action	If I understand NEPA correctly, in order to avoid segmentation the preparers need to discuss potential future phases of the flood protection project. Although the three “Pilot” phases are shown in Figure 3 in the document, I do not see a discussion of “Pilots” 2 and 3. One reason this is important is because installation or improvement of flood defenses such as berms is likely to require incremental increases in extent and height as sea level continues to rise or the percentage of impervious cover in the watershed increases. Inevitably there will be political and economic pressures for new development in the study area, despite the current and future threats of flooding.	Future "Pilot" phases and other future projects within the Project Area and its vicinity will be analyzed in the cumulative impacts analysis of the EIS. To clarify this, NJDEP has added a reference to the other two "Pilot" phases being addressed in the cumulative impacts analysis of the EIS in **Section 7.4** of the Final Public Scoping Document. For more information, please refer to the Responses to Comments #3 and #28.
79	PE-004	Public Scoping/ Outreach	CAG members have been receiving paper copies of documents with plastic covers. The plastic is non-recyclable in most communities. Given the landfill history of the Meadowlands, I would feel more comfortable receiving documents that just contained paper and staples.	Comment noted. In the future, the Project Team will implement this recommendation for CAG meeting handouts/documents. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
80	PE-004	Public Scoping/ Outreach	Although CAG members were asked to comment on an earlier, pre-public draft of the Public Scoping Document, there is little evidence in the current document that my comments were addressed.	Out of the 96 comments received from the CAG, 62 of these comments were incorporated into the Draft Public Scoping Document. The remaining comments were either addressed in a different manner from that suggested by the commenter within the document or the comment was noted with no change made to the document. Please see the response to your comments above for more clarification on how some of these prior comments were incorporated and/or considered. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

#	Commenter Code[1]	Main Topic	Comment	Response to Comment[2]
81	PC-001	Proposed Action	Never in a million years should national tax dollars be turned over to NJDEP. I find this agency to by sneaky, secretive, to be anti-environmental in so many respects, and detrimental in actions to NJ residents. Also, many of the problems in flooding came about because of poor planning activities in the communities listed below. They brought flooding on themselves by poor planning by corrupt politicians, looking to make money on the side. We have terrible corruption in NJ. This entire project needs to be handled through the towns to get their planning changed first to acknowledge climate change. All of this pending will not come to a hill of beans if the communities listed below continue in their poor planning activities.	Comment noted. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
82	PC-002	Proposed Action	This flood control project must be completed as soon as possible. The local residents have suffered loss, drop in real estate values, flood premiums increases, and emotional distress due to the recent flooding of our communities by the Irene flood and Sandy.	Comment noted. Per Project funding requirements, this Project must be operational by no later than September 2022. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.
83	PC-002	Public Scoping/ Outreach	Also a better form of advertising the meeting must be done. Better advertising means more attendance.	Comment noted. Please refer to **Section 2.0** of the Public Scoping Summary Report for complete details on the efforts made to advertise the Public Scoping Meeting. NJDEP will continue to explore ways to improve communication and advertising, and welcomes suggestions from local citizens on specific advertisement opportunities and/or media. No change to the Public Scoping Document has been made.

This Page has been Intentionally Left Blank.