

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

CARDINAL COVE

February 10, 2015

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 480-4644

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

Name of Responsible Entity: The New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), operating under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC). Contact: Daniel Greene.

Project Description: GOSR is the responsible entity for direct administration of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in New York State. GOSR proposes to provide funding to carry out the Cardinal Cove project, located at 397 Glendale Drive in the Town of Union, Broome County, New York.

The proposed project, sponsored by SEPP Inc., involves the construction of 50 affordable units in 25 duplex buildings, as well as a separate community building that would house community laundry facilities, on-site management office, computer lab, and community space. The proposed units range in size from one to three bedrooms. The site will include a playground, individual driveways at each townhouse, and an on-site storm water detention system.

The project would help replace affordable rental housing units damaged or destroyed by the flooding from Tropical Storm Lee with affordable decent, safe, and energy-efficient rental units located outside the floodplain. Twenty-five (25) of the units are targeted to households with incomes between 30 and 50 percent of the area median income (AMI), and 25 are targeted to households with incomes between 50 and 60 percent of the AMI.

The project site is 10.72 acres of undeveloped land. The Cardinal Cove project would disturb 8.4 acres. Roads, buildings, and other impervious surfaces would take up 2.9 acres, while 5.5 acres would consist of lawns and landscaping. Approximately 2.3 acres of the site would remain undisturbed. The project site is zoned for multi-family housing.

The project would be funded with up to \$6,400,000.00 from the CDBG-DR program.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the project has been prepared and is maintained on file. The ERR is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no

further review of the project is anticipated. A full copy of the ERR, including a completed National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) Environmental Assessment Checklist and area map, is available for public inspection during normal business hours in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 at the office listed below and online at:

<http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>

GOSR has determined that the ERR for the project identified herein complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, et al.

GOSR has also determined that the project, as proposed, will have no significant adverse environmental or socioeconomic impacts, either direct, indirect, or cumulative. There will be no significant impact on the human environment, and the project will not negatively impact the quality of the environment. Therefore, GOSR has determined that the project does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

Public Review: Public viewing of the ERR is available online at the website listed above and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at the following locations:

*Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10004
Contact: Daniel Greene (212) 480-4644*

*Town of Union, Town Hall
3111 East Main Street
Endwell, NY 13760
Contact: Paul A. Nelson (607) 786-2985*

Further information may be requested at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling GOSR at (212) 480-4644. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, appropriate local, state, and federal agencies, the regional office of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and to the HUD Field Office, and is being published in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

Public Comments on FONSI/Findings and NOIRROF: Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Project. Those wishing to comment should specify in their comments which distinct parts of this Combined Notice they intend to address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at: NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before Wednesday, February 25, 2015:

*Daniel Greene, Certifying Officer
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10004*

Comments may be received by telephone at (212) 480-4644. All comments must be received on or before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, or they will not be considered.

If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

Written notice of environmental clearance will be required prior to the removal of any limitation on commitment of federal funds in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.70.

On or about Thursday, February 26, 2015, the GOSR Certifying Officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of CDBG-DR funds as authorized by related laws and policies for the purpose of implementing this part of the New York State CDBG-DR program.

GOSR certifies to HUD that Daniel Greene, acting in capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, decision-making, and action, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. Moreover, GOSR certifies that an environmental review of the project described herein has been completed. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows GOSR to use CDBG-DR program funds.

Objections to Release of Funds - HUD will accept objections to the RROF and/or FONSI certification for a period of fifteen (15) days. The last day of the objection period is Friday, March 13, 2015. Potential objectors may contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity's non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are:

- (a) Certification was not executed by the responsible entity's Certifying Officer;
- (b) The responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;
- (c) The responsible entity has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or
- (d) A federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to:

*Tennille Smith Parker
Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division
Office of Block Grant Assistance
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410
Phone: (202) 402-4649*

Daniel Greene
GOSR Certifying Officer
February 10, 2015