Introduction & Overview

The purpose of Executive Order (EO) 11988 Floodplain Management is “to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.” The purpose of EO 11990 Protection of Wetlands is “to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative.” This report contains the analysis prescribed by 24 CFR Part 55 and documents the eight-step decision making process for the Proposed Action and pertains to activities within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or its successors, pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), or a successor program, whether advisory, preliminary, or final.

Below is a summary of the analysis conducted in accordance with 24 CFR Part 55 Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands and Executive Orders 11988, Floodplain Management.

The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), proposes to provide Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding for the installation of rain gardens and porous pavement at along four roads located within the Meadowbrook Corridor Stormwater System. The analysis that follows focuses on wetland impacts, as there is no new construction in floodplain as defined by EO 11988. Based on an analysis of the Proposed Action activities and locations described herein, it is concluded that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with funding for this Proposed Action within the wetland. The CDBG-DR funding is administered through the New York State Rising Community Reconstruction Program which is using bottom-up community participation and State-provided technical expertise to develop resilient and sustainable communities. Thus, alternatives preventing or impeding the development of resilient and sustainable communities are not considered reasonable alternatives.

**Applicable Regulatory Procedure Per Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands**

According to FEMA Map 36059C0237G, the project areas are not within a 100-year floodplain (See attached floodplain maps). The Proposed Activity is located within 1,050 square feet of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)-mapped freshwater wetlands, 1,272 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetland 100-foot buffer, and 908 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetland check zone. Therefore, Executive Order 11990 – Wetlands applies.

**Step 1: Determine if the proposed action is in a wetland.**

Based on online data, including data managed and updated by NYSDEC the Proposed Activity is located in 1,050 square feet of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)-mapped freshwater wetlands, 1,272 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetland 100-foot buffer, and 908 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetland check zone. These wetlands have been disturbed previously by
residential development and infrastructure. The Proposed Action will result in physical disturbances to these wetland areas only during construction.

**Step 2. Initiate Public Notice for Early Review of Proposal.**

Because the proposed action is located within wetlands, the GOSR published an early notice that allowed for the public and public agencies to provide input on the decision to provide funding for the proposed action. The early public notice and 15-day comment period is complete. No public comments were received.

"Early Notice of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland" was published in the Merrick Herald Life newspaper on February 13, 2020, with the 15-day period expiring on February 28, 2020. The notice targeted local residents, including those within the floodplain. The notice was also sent to the following state and Federal agencies on February 13, 2020: HUD; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); NYSDEC; NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; NYS Department of Transportation (DOT); and the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services. The notice was also sent to the Town of Hempstead. (See Appendix 2 of this EO 11988 Floodplain Management & EO 11990 Wetlands Protection Plan for the published notice, distribution list, and publication affidavit).

**Step 3. Identify and Evaluate Practicable Alternatives to Locating the Proposed Action in a 100-year Floodplain (or 500-year Floodplain if a Critical Action) or Wetland.**

The New York State Rising Community Reconstruction Program is structured to provide eligible communities’ resources and expertise to build projects resilient to future flooding events.

The primary alternative for the current proposed action is the “No Action” alternative. Not undertaking the Proposed Action would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Bellmore-Merrick New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan, in which it is a featured project that would reduce the risk of flooding in the NYRCP Bellmore/Merrick and Freeport Communities. The proposed project will reduce stormwater runoff impacts to Merrick Road which becomes impassable during and after storms and flooding events. The No Action Alternative would result in future severe flooding of the area and will cost the Hamlet of Merrick significantly more money in damages over time. Without the new porous pavement and rain gardens, the area would continue to be impacted by flooding and water damage.

The above identified alternatives will be re-evaluated in response to public comments received.

**Step 4: Identify and describe the proposed action’s direct and indirect effects associated with activities within a wetland.**

The Proposed project will involve the installation of rain gardens and porous pavement. The purpose of Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, is “to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative.” The proposed project will be beneficial to wetlands as the green infrastructure will retain water. There is be on adverse effects to the wetland. The proposed project will require Article 24, Environmental Conservation Law Implementing Regulations - 6NYCRR PART 663, Part 664, and Part 665 freshwater wetlands permit which includes requirements to preserve and protect the benefits that wetlands provide.

**Step 5: Identify methods to minimize the potential adverse impacts within a wetland and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values.**

The project involves the green infrastructure which will allow surface water to retained and slowing recharge soils and ground water. The green infrastructure is protective of wetlands as it retains water. Precautions would be taken during construction to preclude contamination of the waterway by suspended solids, sediments, turbid waters or any other environmentally deleterious materials. Excavated soil will be properly retained and covered to avoid runoff. The work areas would be isolated from flowing water. The proposed project will require Article 24, Environmental Conservation Law Implementing
Regulations - 6NYCRR PART 663, Part 664, and Part 665 freshwater wetlands permit which includes requirements to preserve and protect the benefits that wetlands provide.

**Step 6: Reevaluate the proposed action to determine if it is still practicable given its wetland effects.**

No additional impermeable surfaces would be created by the Project that would affect the functions and values of the wetland buffer. The Project would not adversely affect the natural and beneficial values of the wetland or lives and property. The Project would not alter the survival and quality of the adjacent wetland.

**Step 7. If the only practicable alternative is locating in a wetland or floodplain, publish a final public notice.**

It is the finding of this report that there is no practicable alternative to locating the project in the wetlands. The location within wetlands cannot be avoided to provide flood mitigation in the Merrick Community.

A combined Notice of Intent to Release Funds (NOIRROF)/final public notice was published in the Merrick Herald Life newspaper by the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery on September 17, 2020, in compliance with Executive Order 11990 and 24 CFR Part 55. The final notice details the reasons why the project must be located in wetlands, a list of alternatives considered, and all mitigation measures taken to minimize adverse impacts and preserve natural and beneficial values of the wetlands. All comments received during the comment period will be addressed prior to funds being committed to the proposed project. The comment period started with the Notice of Intent to Release Funds (NOIRROF)/final public notice on September 17, 2020. The comment period for the Final Notice is 15 days, which expires at 5pm on October 2, 2020. The Final Notice was also sent to the following state and Federal agencies on September 17, 2020: HUD, FEMA, USFWS, EPA, NYSDEC, NY SHPO, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. The notice was also sent to the agencies within the Town of Hempstead.

**Step 8: The proposed action can be implemented after steps 1 through 7 have been completed.**

Implementation of the proposed action require additional local and state permits.

Appendix 1 – Figures
Appendix 2 – Early and Final Notice of a Proposed Activity in Wetlands and affidavits of publication
Appendix 1 – Figures
Appendix 2 – Early and Final Notice of a Proposed Activity in Wetlands and affidavits of publication
STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Alison Bloom being duly sworn hereby declares and says, that she
is the Advertising Account Executive responsible for placing the
attached advertisement in: the Long Island Herald - Merrick
Herald Life newspaper for Miller Advertising Agency, Inc.;
located in New York, NY, and that the New York State Governor's
Office of Storm Recovery advertisement, of which the annexed is
a true copy, has been published in the said publication on the
following issue date(s): February 13, 2020

[Signature]
Alison Bloom

Subscribed to and Sworn before me

This 20th day of February 2020

[Signature]
Notary Public

Donna Perez
Notary Public State Of New York
No. 01PE6151365
Qualified In New York County
Commission Expires August, 14th - 2022
Dinkelmeyer devotes a day to reading

Books were flying off the shelves on Jan. 31 as students and staff at John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School celebrated Read Aloud Day. The day was filled with literacy activities that showed children that reading can be fun.

Principal Danica Brugge invited each class to her office where she read books aloud. Among her selections were Susan Verde’s “I Am Human” and “I Am Love,” and Peter Reynolds’ “Happy Dreamer” and “Say Something.” Some classes got to hear “Click, Clack, Quack to School,” which was written by former Dinkelmeyer student, Doreen Cronin.

Another favorite activity on World Read Aloud Day was buddy reading. Students from different grade levels read books together, including kindergartners from Marianne Devine’s class and fifth graders from Page Powers’ class. Devine said it was a great opportunity for the older students to read the books they remember from kindergarten to their younger peers.

To help with their future reading endeavors, all students were given World Read Aloud Day bookmarks.

— Compiled by Alyssa Seidman

PSEG LI employee from Merrick devotes time to his community

Throughout the year, teams of PSEG Long Island employees visit the Interfaith Nutrition Network’s (INN) Mary Brennan Soup Kitchen in Hempstead to lend a helping hand.

At least once a month, PSEG LI employees provide meals, food, clothing and toiletries to the INN’s guests, and help our with whatever else is needed. Recently, employee Dov Bergida, of Merrick, pitched in at the soup kitchen help sort clothing donations.

Other responsibilities include preparing and serving meals to guests and stacking non-perishable food items in the pantry. Here, guests receive free food items to provide their families with weekend meals.

Other opportunities include working in the walk-through thrift shop, helping guests select donated clothing, kitchen items and other household essentials free of judgment and free of charge.

— Compiled by Alyssa Seidman

FIFTH GRADERS LYLA Garnock, left, Seline Tanriverdi and Chloe McCann took turns reading a book to kindergarten Chase Niranhu.

PSEGL I employee from Merrick devotes time to his community

Throughout the year, teams of PSEG Long Island employees visit the Interfaith Nutrition Network’s (INN) Mary Brennan Soup Kitchen in Hempstead to lend a helping hand.

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— Compiled by Alyssa Seidman

PSEG LONG ISLAND employee Dov Bergida, of Merrick, recently pitched in at the INN’s Mary Brennan Soup Kitchen in Hempstead to sort clothing donations.
EARLY NOTICE OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
IN A WETLANDS

MEADOWBROOK CORRIDOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
MERRICK, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK
February 13, 2020

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), has received an application from the Town of Hempstead to use Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding from the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program to implement the proposed Meadowbrook Corridor Green Infrastructure Project in Merrick, Nassau County, New York (hereinafter, the “Proposed Activity”) and is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990 - Wetlands in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations (24 CFR Part 55).

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity, including alternative locations outside of the floodplain and wetlands. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains or wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Funding for the Proposed Activity will be provided by the HUD CDBG-DR program for storm recovery activities in New York State.

The Town of Hempstead is requesting CDBG-DR funding for the design and construction of green infrastructure drainage improvements within the Meadowbrook Corridor. The project is intended to prevent and reduce flooding of the existing residential community and streets. It would divert and delay stormwater runoff, which is currently overloading the system, from entering existing natural and constructed stormwater facilities before ultimately discharging into West Meadowbrook Creek.

Specifically, the project will involve the installation of rain garden and porous pavement at locations along Webster Avenue, Camp Avenue, Michalicki Place and Reid Avenue. The Proposed Activity will result in temporary impacts 1,050 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetlands, 1,272 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetland 100-foot buffer, and 908 square feet of DEC-mapped freshwater wetland check zone. The temporary impacts include construction activities such as excavation. The permanent impacts will consist of the removal of 2,362 square feet of asphalt to be replaced by porous pavement. A rain garden, located in the NYSDEC freshwater wetland, will be constructed at the end of Reid Avenue and Michalicki Place. These changes will not have any adverse effects impacts to the natural and beneficial functions and values of the wetland. The replacement of asphalt with porous pavement and the rain gardens will have a positive impact on the wetland allowing longer water retention. Additionally, the rain gardens will treat stormwater removing pollutants and solids before it is infiltrated or discharged.

Within the NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands 100-foot buffer and Freshwater Wetland Checkzone, the Proposed Action includes replacement of existing asphalt with porous pavement and installation of rain gardens within the grass area between the road curb and the sidewalk. As stated above, these
changes will have positive impacts to any existing wetland.

The proposed project will require Article 24, Environmental Conservation Law Implementing Regulations - 6NYCRR PART 663, Part 664, and Part 665 freshwater wetlands permit which includes requirements to preserve and protect the benefits that wetlands provide.

According to FEMA Map 36059C0237G, the project areas are not within a Special Flood Hazard Area. Floodplain maps based on the FEMA Base Flood Elevation Maps and wetlands maps have been prepared and are available for review with additional information at http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs.

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Activity or request further information by contacting James McAllister, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 500 Bi-County Boulevard, Suite 300, Farmingdale, NY 11735; email: James.McAllister@stormrecovery.ny.gov. Standard office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. For more information, call: (646) 256-9485. All comments received by February 28, 2020 will be considered.
Meadowbrook Green Infrastructure
Distribution List for Early Notice

FEDERAL AGENCIES

By Overnight Express:
Tennille Smith Parker, Director
U.S. Dep. of Housing and Urban Development
Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division
451 7th Street SW, Room 7272
Washington, DC 20410

By Email only:
Ms. Rhoda M. Nicholson
U.S. Dep. Of Housing and Urban Development
disaster_recovery@hud.gov

Mr. Mike Poetzsch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
poetzsch.michael@epa.gov

By U.S. Mail:
Ms. Therese J. Fretwell, Enviro. Officer, R 1 & 2
U.S. Dep. of Housing and Urban Development
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3541
New York, NY 10278-0068

Thomas Von Essen, Regional Administrator
U.S. Dep. of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency, R II
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Hempstead Town Clerk
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Hempstead, NY 11550
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Ms. Sylvia A. Cabana
Hempstead Town Clerk
1 Washington Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
PUBLIC NOTICE

COMBINED FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

MEADOWBROOK CORRIDOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
MERRICK, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK

September 17, 2020

Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient: New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Contact: James McAllister (646) 256-9485.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Final Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetland and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOIRROF) satisfies two separate procedural requirements for project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

Project Description: The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of HCR’s HTFC, is responsible for the direct administration of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in New York State. GOSR proposes to provide CDBG-DR funding ($767,603) to the Town of Hempstead for the design and construction of green infrastructure drainage improvements within the Meadowbrook Corridor in the hamlet of Merrick, Nassau County, New York (the “Proposed Project”). The project is intended to prevent and reduce flooding of the existing residential community and streets. It would divert and delay stormwater runoff, which is currently overloading the system as experience during Superstorm Sandy, from entering existing natural and constructed stormwater facilities before ultimately discharging into West Meadowbrook Creek. The project consists primarily of the installation of rain gardens and porous pavement along Webster Avenue, Camp Avenue, Michalicki Place, and Reid Avenue, within the Meadowbrook Corridor.

PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND

This work will be located in NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands and 100-foot buffer and the Freshwater Wetland Checkzone. Since the action will include new construction in wetland, Executive Order 11990 require that the project not be supported if there are practicable alternatives to development in floodplain and new construction in wetlands.

The primary alternative for the current Proposed Project is the “No Action” alternative. Not undertaking the Proposed Project would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Bellmore-Merrick New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan, in which it is a featured project that would demonstrate the viability of green infrastructure projects within the Town of Hempstead and reduce the risk of flooding in the NYCR Community. The Proposed Project will reduce stormwater runoff impacts to local roads which become impassable during and after storms and flooding events. The “No Action” alternative would result in future severe flooding of the area and will cost the Town of Hempstead and the residents in the hamlet of Merrick significantly more money in damages over time. Without the new porous pavement and rain gardens, the area would continue to be impacted by flooding and water damage. The Proposed Project will not have any adverse effects impacts to the natural and beneficial functions and values of the wetland. The replacement of asphalt
with porous pavement and the rain gardens will have a positive impact on the wetland allowing longer water retention. Additionally, the rain gardens will treat stormwater removing pollutants and solids before it is infiltrated or discharged.

Applicable permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be acquired before work is commenced. The Applicant will be bound by any permit stipulations or mitigation measures listed in permits acquired for this project.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment have an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance 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/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

An early public notice of proposed activity within the 100-year floodplain was published by the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery on February 13, 2020, in the Merrick Herald Life. No comments were received. A draft Floodplain Management Plan (8-step process) documenting compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 as well as floodplain and wetland maps have been prepared for this project and are available for review at: http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION

On or about October 5, 2020, the HCR 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 CDBG-DR program.

HCR certifies to HUD that James McAllister, in his 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 and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. 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.

Public Comments on the Proposed Activity within a Floodplain and Wetland and/or NOIRROF: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Project. The public is hereby advised to specify in their comments which “notice” their comments address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before October 2, 2020 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 October 2, 2020: Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment, Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on October 2, 2020 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

Objection to Release of Funds: HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and GOSR’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors may contact HUD or the GOSR Certifying Officer 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 HCR’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) another 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...

James McAllister
Certifying Officer
September 17, 2020
Meadowbrook Green Infrastructure
NEPA Distribution List

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