

**EARLY NOTICE OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN, FLOODWAY, AND WETLANDS**

**EAST BRANCH OF THE AUSABLE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT
EAST BRANCH OF THE AU SABLE RIVER NEAR THE HAMLET OF UPPER JAY
TOWN OF JAY, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK**

December 19, 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 to fund the East Branch of the Ausable River Restoration Project (hereinafter, the "Proposed Activity") and is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal (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. 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, floodways, 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 Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program for storm recovery activities in New York State.

The Proposed Activity will involve implementation of improvements to the East Branch of the Ausable River (EBAR) near the hamlet of Upper Jay, Town of Jay, Essex County, New York. During Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, the EBAR was profoundly impacted by rising stormwater: banks collapsed and widened, channels morphed, and debris and sediment deposits were left throughout the system. The Proposed Activity will involve construction activities at two (2) locations and seeks to restore and improve river system functioning through the restoration of over widened reaches; mitigating channel widening and restoration of habitat; and clearance of debris along the EBAR and its tributaries. Implementation of the Proposed Activity will lead to decreased risk of future flooding, alleviation of ice jamming, protection of critical infrastructure, and will help protect public and private assets from future flood and debris damage.

The Proposed Activity will involve improvements to approximately 4,000 linear feet of the EBAR, which constitutes approximately 24.3 acres below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), in the 100-year floodplain, and in the floodway.

Floodplain maps based on the FEMA Base Flood Elevation Maps and wetlands maps based on the National Wetland Inventory and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) data 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 P. McAllister, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, email: James.McAllister@stormrecovery.ny.gov. For more information, call: (646) 256-9485. All comments received by January 5, 2021 will be considered.