



**Governor's Office of  
Storm Recovery**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**LISA BOVA-HIATT**  
Executive Director

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**OWEGO MUNICIPAL FACILITY, TOWN OF OWEGO, TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**MAY 12, 2017**

**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: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/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 to provide CDBG-DR funding to the Town of Owego to construct a new garage and office facility to house critical municipal operations for the Town of Owego, Tioga County, New York. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to move the current Town of Owego municipal facilities out of the 100-year floodplain to ensure the continued operation of town operations during flood events. The Proposed Project site is an approximately 4-acre wooded and undeveloped parcel on the northwest side of the current Owego Town Hall and police barracks on NY State Route 434. The Proposed Project would include the construction of a new 33,181 square foot facility that would include shared space for the Town's Sewer and Water Department, Parks Department Office, and Highway Department Office, including office space, meeting rooms, rest rooms, and garage bays. The facility will have a 9,300-square foot second floor. It is anticipated that this location would also be used as a staging area for utility companies, law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel, National Guard, and other municipal operations during emergency situations such as floods.

Construction activities would include tree removal; clearing; grubbing; footings, a roadway, and parking; installation of a water well; and construction of an on-site septic and leachate field. Approximately 3 acres of land would be cleared of trees for the construction of the new facility, septic system, supply well, parking and storm drainage basins. The current Owego Town Hall obtains water from an on-site water supply well. The water supplies for both the town hall and the new facility would be supplemented by the addition of a new supply well. A new septic system with onsite leachate field would be constructed in accordance with local and state requirements including permitting requirements. Stormwater runoff would be directed to onsite stormwater

retention basins and allowed to infiltrate the ground. The basins may be somewhat revised during finalization of site plans in response to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) permitting process. Implementation of the Proposed Project will allow the Town to provide uninterrupted municipal services during and following storm events.

The estimated total cost for the Proposed Project is \$4,882,868, funded with up to \$4,882,868 from the CDBG-DR program.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no further review of the Proposed Project is anticipated. HCR has determined that the EA for the project identified herein complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. HCR has determined that the Proposed Project will have no significant impact on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

**Public Review:** Public viewing of the EA is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs> and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the following address: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Contact: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSCDBG\_DR\_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling (518) 474-0755. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the 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 and/or NOIRROF:** Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the 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 May 30, 2017 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 May 30, 2017: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Lori A. Shirley at (518) 474-0755. All comments must be received on or before 5 pm on May 30, 2017 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 AND CERTIFICATION**

On or about May 31, 2017, 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 Lori A. Shirley, in her 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.

**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 Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649.

Lori A. Shirley  
Certifying Officer  
May 12, 2017