



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

For Immediate Release  
October 26, 2022

### **Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces \$14 Million Flood Protection Project Completed in Brooklyn**

*Resiliency Measures Will Better Protect Residents, Community Infrastructure from Major Weather Events, Storm Surge, High Tide*

Brooklyn, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced completion of the Fresh Creek Coastal Resiliency Project to protect the most at-risk sections of Fresh Creek's shoreline in Canarsie, Brooklyn that are vulnerable to flooding caused by high water levels during storm surge and high tide. The flood protection measures will improve resiliency in the area, which is a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area.

GOSR Executive Director Katie Brennan said, "By reducing the potential for flooding along Fresh Creek, this project will protect residents and enable important infrastructure to withstand the impact of future storms. Importantly, our work to improve this community's resiliency will also combat the inevitable rise in sea levels due to climate change."

The \$14 million project installed [new tide gate chambers within culverts flowing to Fresh Creek](#) at Avenue K, Avenue L, Avenue M, Avenue N, and Seaview Avenue. The gates, or "flappers," protect the exit point from the sewage pipelines into the creek. This helps prevent water from the creek from backflowing through culverts and allows the existing drainage system to function more efficiently.

The outfall into Fresh Creek at Avenue M, which is blocked by sedimentation and other debris that hinders the flow of water, was reconstructed with a reinforced concrete storm sewer outfall. As water reaches high levels during storm surges, high tides, and extreme weather events, these measures will prevent water from the creek from back flowing through the storm water sewer system and flooding the neighborhood. Restoration of the Avenue M outfall will mitigate the impacts of erosion currently deteriorating the coastline.

Residents in this area along the Fresh Creek shoreline frequently deal with the effects of climate change. Water reaches high levels during storm surge and high tide, which causes catch basins to overflow with stormwater and could result in flooding. This project will help the community adapt to the effects of climate change by reducing flooding during future storms and due to sea-level rise, as well as helping the area recover more quickly during future storm events.

U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries said, "As we mark a decade since Superstorm Sandy, many New Yorkers continue to feel its devastating effects, especially those near the Fresh Creek Basin. The combination of degraded sewers, being surrounded by bodies of water and the rise in extreme weather events resulting from the climate crisis makes the Canarsie community particularly vulnerable to flooding events. That

was why it was so important for every level of government to come together to secure funding and support for the Fresh Creek Tide Gate project. I thank the hard work of the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for getting us to today so that we can be better prepared to face future storms."

Senator Roxanne Persaud said, "With the tenth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy's destruction of the area approaching, we are reminded that the community, especially near Fresh Creek, is at risk of floods. I thank the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and DASNY for completing the Fresh Creek Coastal Resiliency Project, which will help protect this at-risk area of Canarsie from flooding during high tides, coastal storm surges, and heavy rain. I look forward to efforts in other parts of Canarsie so that all residents can alleviate their anxiety. Resiliency is critical."

Assemblymember Jaime Williams said, "I am delighted that the Fresh Creek Coastal Resiliency Project has been completed, and now our community will have a greater ability to both withstand and then bounce back following hurricanes and other hazardous natural events."

Assemblymember Nikki Lucas said, "I applaud Governor Hochul and her administration for seeing this vital and important infrastructure resource completed. During the week which marks the 10th anniversary of Super Storm Sandy and its impact throughout the 60th District, having strong resiliency projects in place to protect the long-term health and stability of our communities is very important. I celebrate the completion of the Fresh Creek Coastal Resiliency Project that will help protect our low-lying coastal neighborhood for years to come".

NYC Council Member Mercedes Narcisse said, "I am truly pleased that the \$14 million Fresh Creek Coastal Resiliency Project is now complete. With the 10th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy upon us, and so-called 'once in a lifetime' storms now a much more regular occurrence, this should provide relief to all my neighbors in Canarsie that our beloved neighborhood is now better protected. These new flood protection measures now implemented will help ensure that flood waters do not once again rush into the streets of Canarsie and into the cars and homes of my neighbors ever again."

The project was completed in partnership with the Dormitory Authority of the State of NY. DASNY President and CEO Reuben R. McDaniel, III, said, "DASNY is proud to partner with GOSR to help Canarsie residents guard against flooding now and in the future. We're grateful to Governor Hochul for her continued support of this important initiative and her commitment to strengthening communities all across New York."

### **About GOSR**

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. More recently, GOSR is also coordinating recovery and resiliency efforts for Hurricane Ida. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure, and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. The agency is also leveraging Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds to implement resiliency initiatives. More information about GOSR and its programs is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

Through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) and Infrastructure Programs, the State takes on a variety of initiatives developed during its bottom-up community planning process to improve

resiliency, protect critical infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and reduce hardship. Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county, and non-profit partners to bring hundreds of locally devised proposals to fruition.

###