



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**COMBINED EARLY NOTICE OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND, NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, and ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Coastal and Social Resiliency Initiatives for Tottenville Shoreline  
Staten Island, New York**

This provides notice that the State of New York, as the “Responsible Entity,” as that term is defined by 24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)(i), has completed and made available for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that evaluates alternatives for increasing coastal and social resiliency along the Tottenville shoreline on the South Shore of Staten Island and help to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment. The State of New York is the Grantee of Community Development Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds appropriated by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) related to disaster relief, long-term recover, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacts and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act) in calendar years 2011, 2012, and 2013. The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) implements the State’s obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through duly authorized Certifying Officers. GOSR was formed under the auspices of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal’s Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), a public benefit corporation and subsidiary of the New York State Housing Finance Agency, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260.

**Certifying Officer:** Daniel Greene, General Counsel, New York State Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 25 Beaver Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10004.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.59 and 24 CFR part 55 as well as 6 NYCRR 617.12, this combined Early Notice of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetland, Notice of Availability of DEIS, and Announcement of Public Hearing satisfies three separate procedural requirements for project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

**Project Description:** GOSR proposes to provide \$69,000,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding to implement the Coastal and Social Resiliency Initiatives for Tottenville Shoreline (therein after, the “Proposed Activity”) located along the south shore of Staten Island and parallel that shoreline

within the Raritan Bay. The Proposed Activity will occur in the City of New York, borough of Staten Island, on public lands owned by the City of New York on-shore and underwater lands owned by the State of New York off-shore. The Proposed Activity consists of two projects, the Rebuilding by Design (RBD) Living Breakwaters Project and Tottenville Shoreline Protection Project. The proposed RBD Living Breakwaters Project includes (1) a system of off-shore engineered breakwaters designed to reduce wave energy at the shoreline, and prevent or reverse shoreline erosion while creating hard/structured marine habitat; (2) an on-shore community Water Hub that would provide a place for access to the waterfront, orientation, education, information on shoreline resiliency, community gathering space and other programming; (3) strategic placement of sand for restoration along the shoreline; and (4) a seasonal floating dock on the breakwater and a boat launch along the shoreline to be used for observations, monitoring, maintenance and stewardship, including specifically, for vessels operated by the Billion Oyster Project and any other anticipated project stewards. The proposed Tottenville Shoreline Protection Project would involve a system of shoreline protection measures working to attenuate waves, limit erosion and mitigate against coastal flooding and would be comprised of (1) an earthen berm; (2) a hybrid dune system; (3) an eco-revetment; (4) a raised edge; and (5) a trail system adjacent to the shoreline.

Persons desiring to be heard on environmental issues will be afforded the opportunity to be heard.

#### **Early Notice of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain and Wetland**

This is to give notice that the GOSR is conducting an evaluation of the Proposed Activity as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with 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 wetland. 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 Proposed Activity is needed to address the vulnerability Staten Island's South Shore to both event-based and gradual coastal erosion and land loss. The Proposed Activity is intended to reduce wave action and coastal erosion along the shoreline in Tottenville, while enhancing ecosystems and shoreline access, use and stewardship.

The Proposed Activity will result in impacts to 4.6 acres of 100-Year Floodplain and 14.7 acres of National Wetland Inventory and/or New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) -mapped wetlands. These impacts will consist of approximately 4.6 acres of native coastal vegetation planted through the implementation of the Tottenville Shoreline Protection Project, which would enhance and increase habitat availability for coastal wildlife, and approximately 12.7 acres through the implementation of the RBD Living Breakwaters Project, which would create a minimum of 16.8 acres of useable habit below mean high water.

Floodplain maps based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and wetlands maps based on the National Wetland Inventory and DEC data have been prepared and are available for review with additional information at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>.

### **Completion and Availability of the DEIS**

This is to give notice that a DEIS for the Proposed Activity has been completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, as well as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617. The DEIS for the Proposed Activity is available for public review and comment.

**Public Review:** Public viewing of the DEIS is available online at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs> and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00PM at the following locations:

- Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery: 25 Beaver Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004. Contact: (844) 969-7474
- New York Public Library, Tottenville Branch: 7430 Amboy Rd, Staten Island, NY 10307. Contact: Information Desk (718) 984-0945

Further information may be requested by writing to the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery: 25 Beaver Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004, emailing NYSCDBG\_DR\_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling (844) 969-7474. 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:** 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 8, 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 8, 2017: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery: 25 Beaver Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on May 8, 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.

### **Announcement of Public Hearing**

GOSR will hold a public hearing from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on April 26, 2017. The hearing location is Public School 6, 555 Page Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10307. The purpose of the public hearing is for GOSR to receive comments on the adequacy of the DEIS. GOSR will not respond to any of the comments or take action on the Proposed Activity at the hearing. Comments will be considered as part of the preparation of the Final EIS. The meeting facility is accessible to those with disabilities. Any individual who requires special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternative formats, is

requested to contact the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery at (844) 969-7474 or by email at [LivingBreakwaters@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:LivingBreakwaters@stormrecovery.ny.gov).