



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$19 MILLION IN STORM RESILIENCY PROJECTS TO BEGIN THIS SPRING ON LONG ISLAND

Projects Selected by Local Community Reconstruction Committees Will Allow Streetlights in Long Island Communities to Remain Operational During Major Power Outages, Raise Potable Water Supply, Stabilize Shorelines, and Enhance Drainage Systems

(January 27, 2020) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced that \$19 million in projects on Long Island are set to begin this spring to help flood-prone communities plan and prepare for future extreme weather events. The five projects were identified by NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee members as priorities for their neighborhoods and are among hundreds across the State funded by GOSR's NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program.

"As New York State continues to evolve for the challenges of the 21st Century, it must implement a range of strategies to specifically combat the impacts of climate change, rising seas and increasingly destructive weather," said **GOSR's Executive Director of Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs, Alana Agosto**. "Working with storm-affected localities across the State, the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program is facilitating community-specific improvements that will protect life and property for many years to come. Thank you to our local partners, who are helping to make these critical efforts possible."

Governor Cuomo established the NYRCR Program in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy, which one-by-one stalled over the New York region between 2011 and 2012. Recognizing that New Yorkers are often the true experts on the needs and assets of their own communities, the NYRCR Program was created to balance top-down strategies with bottom-up solutions, while empowering local residents and business owners in the recovery and resiliency process.

The projects announced today for Nassau County are:

North Shore Bulkheading Project – City of Long Beach - \$14,500,000: This project will repair and improve existing bulkheads to better protect the City of Long Beach from future storms. During Superstorm Sandy, as water came from the Atlantic Ocean on one side of the barrier island, it was met by storm inundation from the bayfront. The cumulative effects were devastating. As part of this project, existing bulkheads will be brought to an overall uniform

height designed for storm protection, including on the eastside of the Doyle Street (Sarazen) and Heron (Ouimet) Street Canals and all street ends abutting Reynolds Channel west of New York. The bulkhead located on West Bay Drive between Magnolia and Washington Blvd. will remain, however, the existing cap will be removed and replaced atop the steel bulkhead. The existing rail will be reinstalled on the new cap and the existing steel bulkhead will be scraped, primed, and coated. Through its enhancements and additions, the project will enable the city to protect its shores from future major weather events and reduce risk for its residents.

Southern Nassau Lifeline Corridor – Traffic Signals and Street Lighting - \$2,050,000: Working with the Town of Hempstead to retrofit streetlights and with Nassau County to install transfer switches on traffic signal poles, this initiative will safeguard key evacuation routes in the communities of Baldwin, Bellmore, Freeport, Massapequa, Merrick, Seaford and Wantagh. The upgrades will allow lights and traffic signals to remain operational in the event of a power outage. During Superstorm Sandy, widespread outages affected several Nassau County roadways leaving communities in disarray and in danger on the roads.

The Suffolk County awards announced today are:

Araca Road (Dalton Point) Shoreline Stabilization, Babylon - \$1,245,500: During the NYRCR Planning process, members of the program’s Babylon committee voiced their concerns over the vulnerability of the town’s shoreline at the terminus of Araca Road, which had experienced repeated instances of flooding. This project will address infrastructure needs by replacing existing bulkheads and installing new bulkheads along waterfront areas. American Cape Beach Grass will be planted behind the sections of the bulkhead to the east and west sides of Araca Road.

Penataquit Village Resiliency Improvements, Bay Shore - \$600,000: This project will implement a series of green infrastructure improvements at Penataquit Village, a town of Islip Housing Authority development. Through drainage improvements, the effort will help filter pollutants and reduce flooding, allowing Penataquit Village residents to access evacuation routes, while preserving access into the development for first responders.

Improvements to Potable Water and Fire Protection System – Gilgo and West Gilgo - \$690,700: During Superstorm Sandy, the West Gilgo potable water supply system was in danger of being submerged by flood waters and nearly failed due to the water rising to the existing height of the wellheads and electrical controls. This project will elevate the top of a wellhead and the critical supporting infrastructure above Base Flood Elevation allowing drinking water to continue to reach residences in the surrounding area in the case of major storm events. This project will also improve fire protection within the Gilgo community to minimize the distance between fire wells and residential structures in the event of emergencies. During Superstorm Sandy, residents in the community were endangered by potential fire risks from electrical components permeated by flooding waters. This project will mitigate these hazards by

providing improved access to water for fire suppressing operations allowing the community and the Babylon Fire Department to safely and effectively contain and put out possible fires in case of weather events.

“In light of severe weather that Long Island has faced and to better prepare for future storms, it’s important we make substantial investments to ensure our coastal communities are more resilient,” **said Senator Todd Kaminsky**. “I’m proud to work with Governor Cuomo and GOSR to deliver real solutions to help protect our shorelines.”

“As the destruction caused by Superstorm Sandy looms in our past, it is essential that we continue to make improvements to storm resiliency looking forward,” **said Senator John Brooks**. “These projects are a much-needed investment in our preparedness for whatever the future might hold. I thank Governor Cuomo for making these funds available for projects that ultimately protect the lives and wellbeing of Long Island homeowners.”

“I am extremely pleased and gratified to know that \$2,536,200 worth of NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Projects will begin this spring in communities located in my Senate District,” **said Senator Phil Boyle**. “The NYRCR Committees worked long and hard to identify critically important mitigation projects in their respective areas who suffered significant damages during Superstorm Sandy. The identified projects will greatly help to mitigate future hazards and provide a greater level of safety for thousands of my impacted constituents. I thank Governor Cuomo and the entire NY Rising Team for their steadfast commitment to insure that the NYRCR projects proceeded.”

“So many communities are still being devastated by floods, whether it be from storms or high tides,” **said Assemblymember Missy Miller**. “Rather than investing money into rebuilding each year, we need to be proactive and take steps to make our communities more resilient. I’m very happy to hear that the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery will be allocating \$19 million to ensure the communities that are impacted most by floods, such as Long Beach, are better prepared to face future disasters.”

“Retrofitting streetlights in order to ensure that all lights and traffic signals are fully operational in the event of a power outage is incredibly important being that our next Superstorm is just around the corner,” **said Assemblymember Judy Griffin, who serves on the New York State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee**. “This is a big step forward in improving our storm response on Long Island to alleviate potential dangers on our roads and permit safe evacuation when necessary. I thank Governor Cuomo for securing this important funding.”

“The devastating impacts of Superstorm Sandy are still being felt by homeowners and our communities as a whole,” **said Assemblymember Mike LiPetri**. “It is imperative that we continue to make the necessary investments to ensure the long term sustainability of our coastal communities. On behalf of the residents of the South Shore of Long Island, we

appreciate the additional support being provided here today and welcome these much needed shoreline stabilization projects to our communities.”

“This plan addresses critical improvements in Nassau County to protect the city of Long Beach from a repeat of what happened during Superstorm Sandy,” **said Assemblymember David McDonough**. “Also, traffic signal and street light improvements along the South Shore are essential to improving the safety of residents in the event of an evacuation during future storms.”

“Nassau County residents all along the South Shore are looking forward to these critical projects that will further harden electric infrastructure and fortify shorelines that power and protect our communities,” **said Nassau County Executive Laura Curran**. “I thank our New York State partners, especially Governor Cuomo, for helping Long Island build stronger, safer and smarter.”

"In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, we have worked tirelessly with all of our partners to ensure we have the tools and infrastructure in place to withstand these extreme weather events," **said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone**. "I want to thank the Governor for his continued commitment to rebuilding a stronger Long Island and this latest multi-million dollar investment will further strengthen our coastline and protect our communities against flooding."

“I thank Governor Cuomo and the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery for their continued commitment to helping protect our vulnerable shoreline communities,” **said Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer**. “With this investment through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, these areas will be better prepared, protected and able to withstand the harsh effects of future storms. “

“On behalf of the residents of the Town of Hempstead, I’d like to thank the Governor for all of his efforts to secure funding to enhance resiliency in our communities that were devastated by Superstorm Sandy,” **said Town of Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin**. “By safeguarding our roadways, we’re protecting our neighborhoods in the event of an emergency that results in the loss of power.”

“We are most grateful to Governor Cuomo for providing this integral funding to Penatquait Village in Bay Shore,” **said Town of Islip Supervisor Angie Carpenter**. “This funding will ensure the safety of the community’s residents by providing evacuation and access routes to First Responders, while also preserving the environment with state-of-the-art drainage, filtration and preventative flooding measures.”

NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Program

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committees across the state, and have together proposed hundreds of projects inspired by the unique needs and assets of their regions. Now in the implementation stage,

GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county and non-profit partners to bring locally-devised proposals to fruition.

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. 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 funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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