



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT
DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (NEGATIVE DECLARATION)**

RANSOM PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

DATE: August 30, 2019

NAME OF ACTION: Ransom Park Improvements Project

LOCATION: Ransom Park, Route 17C and Locust Street, Hamlet of Tioga Center
Town of Tioga, Tioga County, NY

SEQRA CLASSIFICATION: Type I (*ENB Required*); Unlisted

REVIEW TYPE: Coordinated; Uncoordinated

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE: Negative Declaration; Positive Declaration

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's (NYSHCR) Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), has established Lead Agency status pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) (ECL Sections 3-0301(1)(b), 3-0301(2)(m) and 8-0113 and 6 NYCRR Part 617) for the environmental review of the Ransom Park Improvements Project (Proposed Project). In accordance with SEQRA and its implementing regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617, GOSR has established itself as SEQRA lead agency and has classified the Proposed Project as an Unlisted Action. A Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part 1 regarding the Proposed Project has been circulated for review and comment to interested and involved agencies. GOSR has evaluated the criteria found under 6 NYCRR 617.7(c), completed Parts 2 and 3 of the EAF, and determined that the Proposed Project would not result in significant environmental impacts. This memo is incorporated by reference into Part 3 of the EAF and serves as the rationale for GOSR's determination of significance.

The Proposed Project:

The Proposed Project will involve streambank protection activities along Pipe Creek in areas that impact Ransom Park and recreational improvements to Ransom Park. Ransom Park is located at 3054 Route 17C, Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, NY (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and the work on Pipe Creek will occur on a property located at 3027 State Route 17C, Tioga Center, NY (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1).

The Proposed Project will involve stream bank protection activities in two locations, where a total of seven (7) stream rock barbs will be installed in Pipe Creek: five (5) will be located upstream and west of Ransom

Ransom Park Improvements Project
Negative Declaration – August 30, 2019

Park and two (2) will be located immediately downstream and east of Ransom Park. The five (5) upstream barbs will be installed on a privately owned parcel of land (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1). Improvements to Ransom Park will include the installation of a paved walking path, a concrete pad with an outdoor bench along the walking path, and signage along the walking path. Tree clearing will be performed as needed, though it is estimated approximately six (6) trees will need to be removed. Topsoil, seed, and mulch will be applied to all disturbed areas. Any stockpiled soil will be stabilized with either seed or a secured impervious cover, and surrounded by silt fencing. Erosion and sediment controls will be installed, which will include the use of a temporary compost sock above the high water mark of Pipe Creek to prevent the discharge of sediment into Pipe Creek.

Purpose and Need:

On September 7, 2011, Tropical Storm Lee stalled over the Southern Tier and dropped over 11 inches of rain on Tioga County during a 24-hour period. Torrential rains, coupled with saturated soil and a swollen Susquehanna River from Hurricane Irene, which occurred the week of August 28, 2011, led to record high water levels.

Rising waters of the Susquehanna River associated with Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused severe flash flooding, and destroyed homes, businesses, infrastructure, and agricultural land in the Town of Tioga. Because of the storms, many roads in Tioga were closed, including Halsey Valley, State Highway 96, Glen Mary Drive, and sections of NYS Route 17C. The southern portion of Halsey Valley Road that connects to 17C is a critical connector in the Town and its closure limited emergency vehicles' access during and immediately after the storm.

The extreme rains also caused water in Pipe Creek to overrun its banks. Excess velocity, coupled with sediment and debris in the Creek, resulted in an estimated \$1.6 million in culvert repairs. The Tioga Central School District bus garage located in Tioga Center sustained approximately \$300,000 in damage, and the Town's Ransom Park required \$100,000 in repairs. Floodwaters associated with Tropical Storm Lee also washed away the Town's unprotected salt supply, causing potential environmental contamination, which can negatively affect the productivity of nearby agricultural lands.

In addition, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee altered the streams, creeks, and river within the Tioga Community by eroding their banks and creating unstable riparian areas. Sediment and debris that eroded from the upslope areas of the various watersheds moved downstream and settled in areas already impounded by culverts or debris, or located in "slack water" areas of the Susquehanna River. The erosion and sedimentation created flooding situations in the Tioga Community where the streams were blocked due to undersized culverts or where the waters of the Susquehanna were 'backing up' into the stream bed.

In addition to physical damage, floodwaters associated with Tropical Storm Lee negatively impacted the quality of life for residents in the Town of Tioga. The local branch of the U.S. Post Office, located in Tioga Center, was flooded with 8 feet of water because of the storm and as a result, was permanently closed, and the community's zip code was removed from service.

The Proposed Project would make Ransom Park resilient to future storms and save the Town from future repair costs. The streambank restoration components of the Proposed Project will not only protect Ransom Park from future flood damage, but will also help relieve the Town of flooding overall.

In-stream rock barb structures function to alter the hydraulics of the flowing water in the channel. When designed and installed properly, in-stream rock barbs reduce the shear stresses on the outside bank, preventing erosion and lateral migration, while slowing and re-directing the higher velocity flows away

Ransom Park Improvements Project
Negative Declaration – August 30, 2019

from the affected bank, in addition to encouraging deposition on the affected bank side and assisting in proper sediment pass through of the treated reach.

The two proposed rock barb installation locations were selected due to the existing and current lateral migration of the stream occurring during high flow events, threatening private property, Town property and railroad property. Installing the rock barbs in the locations proposed would prevent further lateral migration of the stream in two key areas, preventing potential costly repairs for residents and the Town in the future. The rock barb installation would prevent the excess buildup of gravel bars and the accelerated lateral migration of sediment in the stream.

Existing Conditions:

The Proposed Project is located in the Town of Tioga, in southern Tioga County, New York. The Town of Tioga is primarily an agricultural community located in the center of Tioga County and encompasses approximately 59 square miles. Tioga is bounded by the Susquehanna River to the south, the Village of Owego and Glen Mary Drive to the east, the Town of Candor to the north, and the Town of Barton to the west.

Major drainage features in the Town include the Susquehanna River to the south and east, Owego Creek, and Pipe Creek to the east. The Tioga Town Center is located approximately 0.3 mile west of the north bank of the Susquehanna River in its historical upper floodplain. The section of the Susquehanna River between Smithboro and Tioga Town Center has a series of floodplains with varied elevations that step down to river level. Pipe Creek is located at the northern edge of the Town. It has a watershed of 46.4 square miles and approximately 68% of its watershed is covered by forest. Pipe Creek historically tops its banks during heavy rains, causing flooding and damaging parts of the Town's infrastructure, including flooding of the Tioga Central School District's bus garage.

After the 2006 storms, the Town used \$100,000 in FEMA Public Assistance funding to repair the barn in Ransom Park, stabilizing walls and installing a concrete foundation to replace the earthen one originally installed. The Proposed Project would further enhance those improvements and advance resiliency strategies to mitigate the damage of future storms. A key strategy for the Town of Tioga is to protect their assets; as the only park in the Town, Ransom Park is an important community asset that merits such protection.

Funding:

The total Proposed Project cost is estimated at \$223,920.00. GOSR proposes to allocate funding pursuant to the HUD CDBG-DR program as authorized by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013). The NYS HTFC, which administers the CDBG-DR program funds on behalf of GOSR, intends to approve funding for the Proposed Project as described in this notice.

Environmental Considerations:

The SEQRA EAF Parts 1 and 2 assessed multiple resource topics, and no potential impacts were identified. The SEQRA analysis finds that the Proposed Project will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

As specified in design plans completed for the Proposed Project, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been completed, all contractors and sub-contractors will be required to implement and maintain stormwater management practices and erosion and sediment control measures as specified in the SWPPP. Erosion and sediment control measures will protect downstream waterbodies. Disturbed areas will be re-

Ransom Park Improvements Project
Negative Declaration – August 30, 2019

seeded, and disturbed areas that will be left exposed from more than five (5) days, and not subject to construction traffic, will receive a temporary seeding. Cut and fill slopes will be brought to final proposed grades as soon as possible, and seeded and mulched immediately. All soil erosion and sediment control measures will be installed before beginning earth moving activities.

It is anticipated that the following environmental permit authorizations will be required for the Proposed Project: United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – Protection of Waters – Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters Permit; NYSDEC Section 401 Water Quality Certification; NYSDEC – SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (if Proposed Project involves ground disturbance of one acre or more); and a Town of Nichols Floodplain Development Permit. Proposed Project activities will be completed in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local permit requirements and conditions.

Standard Requirements:

Any change to the Proposed Project as described will require re-evaluation by GOSR's Certifying Officer for compliance with SEQRA and other law, regulations and policies.

This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.

Additional Mitigation Measures:

To the extent required and/or practicable and applicable, any approval of the Proposed Project is subject to the following mitigation measures being adhered to by the grant recipient to minimize environmental impacts and create a more sustainable project:

- Construction and demolition – to the maximum extent possible, utilize local and recycled materials in construction process and recycle materials generated onsite.
- Clean diesel – implement diesel controls, cleaner fuel, and cleaner construction practices for on-road and off-road equipment used for transportation, soil movement, or other construction activities, including:
 - Strategies and technologies that reduce unnecessary idling, including auxiliary power units, the use of electric equipment, and strict enforcement of idling limits; and
 - Use of clean diesel through add-on control technologies like diesel particulate filters and diesel oxidation catalysts, repowers, or newer, cleaner equipment.
- Stormwater – utilize low impact development (LID) principles such as minimizing effective imperviousness to create site drainage, and the planting of native and non-invasive vegetation on the Proposed Project site for stormwater management purposes. Other LID practices can include bioretention facilities, rain gardens, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, and permeable pavements;
- Cost-efficient, environmentally friendly landscaping – EPA's GreenScapes program provides cost-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions for landscaping;
- Energy efficiency – energy-efficient technologies should be incorporated, when possible; and

Ransom Park Improvements Project
Negative Declaration – August 30, 2019

- Water conservation and efficiency – promote water conservation and efficiency through use of water efficient products (toilets, faucets, showerheads) and practices. Consider use of products with the WaterSense label where appropriate.

In addition to the factors considered above, the GOSR considered the following guidance from the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations and determined that the Proposed Project would:

- (i) Not result in “a substantial adverse change in existing air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity, traffic or noise levels; a substantial increase in solid waste production; a substantial increase in potential for erosion, flooding, leaching or drainage problems;” (§617.7(c)(1)(i))
- (ii) Not result in “the removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation or fauna; substantial interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; impacts on a significant habitat area; substantial adverse impacts on a threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or the habitat of such a species; or other significant adverse impacts to natural resources;” (§617.7(c)(1)(iii))
- (iii) Not result in “the impairment of the environmental characteristics of a Critical Environmental Area as designated pursuant to subdivision 617.14(g) of this Part;” (§617.7(c)(1)(iii))
- (iv) Not result in “the creation of a material conflict with a community’s current plans or goals as officially approved or adopted;” (§617.7(c)(1)(iv))
- (v) Not result in “the impairment of the character or quality of important historical, archaeological, architectural, or aesthetic resources or of existing community or neighborhood character;” (§617.7(c)(1)(v))
- (vi) Not result in “a major change in the use of either the quantity or type of energy;” (§617.7(c)(1)(vi))
- (vii) Not result in “the creation of a hazard to human health;” (§617.7(c)(1)(vii))
- (viii) Not result in “a substantial change in the use, or intensity of use, of land including agricultural, open space or recreational resources, or in its capacity to support existing uses;” (§617.7(c)(1)(viii))
- (ix) Not result in “the encouraging or attracting of a large number of people to a place or places for more than a few days, compared to the number of people who would come to such place absent the action;” (§617.7(c)(1)(ix))
- (x) Not result in “the creation of a material demand for other actions that would result in one of the above consequences;” (§617.7(c)(1)(x))
- (xi) Not result in “changes in two or more elements of the environment, no one of which has a significant impact on the environment, but when considered together result in a substantial adverse impact on the environment; or” (§617.7(c)(1)(xi))
- (xii) Not result in “two or more related actions undertaken, funded or approved by an agency, none of which has or would have a significant impact on the environment, but when considered cumulatively would meet one or more of the criteria in this subdivision.” (§617.7(c)(1)(xii))

Ransom Park Improvements Project
Negative Declaration – August 30, 2019

Therefore, GOSR, acting as Lead Agency, and having prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form, has determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not need to be prepared.



Lori A. Shirley
Director

Date: August 30, 2019

Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
New York State Homes & Community Renewal
38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207
(518) 474-0755

Attachments:

Short Environmental Assessment Form (Parts 1, 2 and 3)
Lead Agency Letter Sent
Negative Declaration Distribution List
Lead Agency Letter Responses

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

Instructions for Completing

Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

<u>Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information</u>			
Name of Action or Project:			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map):			
Brief Description of Proposed Action:			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor:		Telephone:	
		E-Mail:	
Address:			
City/PO:		State:	Zip Code:
1. <u>Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation?</u>		NO	YES
If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. <u>Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency?</u>		NO	YES
If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: Floodplain Development Permit; building permit		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. a. <u>Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?</u> _____ acres			
b. <u>Total acreage to be physically disturbed?</u> _____ acres			
c. <u>Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?</u> _____ acres			
4. <u>Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:</u>			
5. Urban Rural (non-agriculture) Industrial Commercial Residential (suburban)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Agriculture Aquatic Other(Specify):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. <u>A permitted use under the zoning regulations?</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. <u>Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. <u>Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?</u>	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. <u>Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area?</u> If Yes, identify: _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. <u>Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels?</u> b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. <u>Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements?</u> If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. <u>Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply?</u> If No, describe method for providing potable water: <u>NA</u> _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. <u>Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities?</u> If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: <u>NA</u> _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places? b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. <u>Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency?</u> b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

14. <u>Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site</u> Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Agricultural/grasslands Early mid-successional <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Suburban											
15. <u>Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?</u>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
NO	YES										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
16. <u>Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?</u>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
NO	YES										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
17. <u>Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources?</u> If Yes, a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties? b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? If Yes, briefly describe: _____ _____	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #cccccc;"></td> <td style="background-color: #cccccc;"></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>							
NO	YES										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
18. <u>Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)?</u> If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment: _____ _____	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
NO	YES										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
19. <u>Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility?</u> If Yes, describe: _____ _____	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
NO	YES										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
20. <u>Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste?</u> If Yes, describe: _____ _____	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
NO	YES										
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
<p>I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>Applicant/sponsor/name: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><u>Signature</u> <u>Lou A. Smith</u> Title: Director, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment</p>											



Disclaimer: The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources in order to obtain data not provided by the Mapper. Digital data is not a substitute for agency determinations.



Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	No
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No

Project:

Date:

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 2 - Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept “Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?”

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. <u>Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?</u>		
2. <u>Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?</u>		
3. <u>Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?</u>		
4. <u>Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?</u>		
5. <u>Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?</u>		
6. <u>Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?</u>		
7. <u>Will the proposed action impact existing:</u> a. public / private water supplies? b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?		
8. <u>Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?</u>		
9. <u>Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?</u>		
10. <u>Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?</u>		
11. <u>Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?</u>		

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered “moderate to large impact may occur”, or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

The proposed action will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Please see additional details of design elements that have been included to avoid or reduce impacts in the State Environmental Quality Review Act Determination of Non-significance (Negative Declaration).

Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.

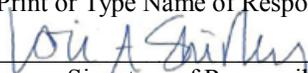
Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

Name of Lead Agency

Date

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Title of Responsible Officer



Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

April 5, 2019

Re: Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of the **Ransom Park Improvements Project**: 3054 Route 17C (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and State Route 17C (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1), Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, Tioga County, New York

Dear Involved/Interested Agency:

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery ("GOSR") proposes to serve as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and related laws for the environmental review of the proposed work associated with the Ransom Park Improvements Project (the "Proposed Action"). GOSR is conducting an environmental review of the Proposed Action on behalf of the State of New York as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under 42 U.S.C. § 5304(g).¹

The Ransom Park Improvements Project (Project) will involve streambank protection activities along Pipe Creek in areas that impact Ransom Park and recreational improvements to Ransom Park. Ransom Park is located at 3054 Route 17C, Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, NY (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and the work on Pipe Creek will occur on a property located at 3027 State Route 17C, Tioga Center, NY (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1).

The Project will involve stream bank protection activities in two locations, where a total of seven (7) stream rock barbs will be installed in Pipe Creek: five (5) will be located upstream and west of Ransom Park and two (2) will be located immediately downstream and east of Ransom Park. The five (5) upstream barbs will be installed on a privately owned parcel of land (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1). Improvements to Ransom Park will include the installation of a paved walking path, a concrete pad with an outdoor bench along the walking path, and signage along the walking path. Tree clearing will be performed as needed, though it is estimated approximately six (6) trees will need to be removed. Topsoil, seed, and mulch will be applied to all disturbed areas. Any stockpiled soil will be stabilized with either seed or a secured impervious cover, and surrounded by silt fencing. Erosion and sediment controls will be installed, which will include the use of a temporary compost sock above the high water mark of Pipe Creek to prevent the discharge of sediment into Pipe Creek.

¹ The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, operating under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Housing Trust Fund Corporation, is the responsible entity for the administration of the CDBG-DR grants to the State of New York.

During Tropical Storm Lee, Ransom Park was inundated with stormwater. Tropical Storm Lee produced 11 inches of rain over a 24 hour period in the Town of Tioga. These extreme rains, combined with the previous heavy rainfall from Hurricane Irene less than a month prior, led to record high water levels. In addition, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee altered the streams, creeks, and river within the Tioga Community by eroding their banks and creating unstable riparian areas. Sediment and debris that eroded from the upslope areas of the various watersheds moved downstream and settled in areas already impounded by culverts or debris, or located in “slack water” areas of the Susquehanna River. The erosion and sedimentation created flooding situations in the Tioga Community where the streams were blocked due to undersized culverts or where the waters of the Susquehanna were “backing up” into the stream bed.

After the 2006 storms, the Town used \$100,000 in FEMA Public Assistance funding to repair the barn in Ransom Park, stabilizing walls and installing a concrete foundation to replace the earthen one originally installed. The proposed Project would further enhance those improvements and advance resiliency strategies to mitigate the damage of future storms. A key strategy for the Town of Tioga is to protect their assets; as the only park in the Town, Ransom Park is an important community asset that merits such protection. The proposed Project would make the park resilient to future storms and save the Town from future repair costs. The Project will not only protect Ransom Park from future flood damage, but will help relieve the Town of flooding overall.

This action has been preliminarily classified as an UNLISTED action pursuant to SEQRA. Additional information regarding the Proposed Action and its location are provided in the enclosed full Environmental Assessment Form. The review of the Proposed Action under SEQRA would satisfy the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.

Your agency or organization has been identified as a potential cooperating, involved, or interested agency for the review and approval of the Proposed Action. We are **requesting that all identified involved agencies respond within 30 days, by May 6, 2019** regarding GOSR serving as lead agency in order to expedite this review. If your agency consents to GOSR’s serving as the lead agency for review under SEQRA, please so indicate by signing this letter and returning it to Lori A. Shirley at 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, or simply email a signed copy to Lori.Shirley@nyshcr.org. If we have not heard from you by May 6, 2019, your consent will be assumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (518) 474-0755. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Shirley
Director, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery

The undersigned hereby consents to the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery serving as lead agency for the Proposed Action described above.

Agency/Organization: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Permits/Approvals/Comments: _____

Enclosure: Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1
 Project Location Maps
 List of Involved and Interested Agencies



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

Ransom Park Improvements Project
Involved/Interested Agencies

INVOLVED AGENCIES

David Bimber, Regional Permit Administrator, Region 7
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
615 Erie Blvd. West
Syracuse, NY 13204

Lewis Zorn, Supervisor
Town of Tioga
54 Fifth Avenue
Barton, NY 13734

Robert Klossner
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Tioga
54 Fifth Avenue
Barton, NY 13734

INTERESTED AGENCIES

Brian A. Orzel
New York District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch
29 Federal Plaza, Room 1937
New York, NY 10278-0090

Ron Rausch, Director
Environmental Management Bureau
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor
Albany, New York 12238

Thomas Von Essen, Regional Administrator
U.S. Dep. of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency, R II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

Marlene White
Supervisor, Mitigation Projects
NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 7A - 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12242

Brenda Middendorf
Town Clerk
Town of Tioga
54 Fifth Avenue
Barton, NY 13734

Wendy Walsh, Director
Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District
183 Corporate Drive
Owego, NY 13827



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor



April 5, 2019

Re: Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of the **Ransom Park Improvements Project**: 3054 Route 17C (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and State Route 17C (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1), Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, Tioga County, New York

Dear Involved/Interested Agency:

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery ("GOSR") proposes to serve as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and related laws for the environmental review of the proposed work associated with the Ransom Park Improvements Project (the "Proposed Action"). GOSR is conducting an environmental review of the Proposed Action on behalf of the State of New York as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under 42 U.S.C. § 5304(g).¹

The Ransom Park Improvements Project (Project) will involve streambank protection activities along Pipe Creek in areas that impact Ransom Park and recreational improvements to Ransom Park. Ransom Park is located at 3054 Route 17C, Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, NY (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and the work on Pipe Creek will occur on a property located at 3027 State Route 17C, Tioga Center, NY (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1).

The Project will involve stream bank protection activities in two locations, where a total of seven (7) stream rock barbs will be installed in Pipe Creek: five (5) will be located upstream and west of Ransom Park and two (2) will be located immediately downstream and east of Ransom Park. The five (5) upstream barbs will be installed on a privately owned parcel of land (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1). Improvements to Ransom Park will include the installation of a paved walking path, a concrete pad with an outdoor bench along the walking path, and signage along the walking path. Tree clearing will be performed as needed, though it is estimated approximately six (6) trees will need to be removed. Topsoil, seed, and mulch will be applied to all disturbed areas. Any stockpiled soil will be stabilized with either seed or a secured impervious cover, and surrounded by silt fencing. Erosion and sediment controls will be installed, which will include the use of a temporary compost sock above the high water mark of Pipe Creek to prevent the discharge of sediment into Pipe Creek.

¹ The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, operating under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Housing Trust Fund Corporation, is the responsible entity for the administration of the CDBG-DR grants to the State of New York.

During Tropical Storm Lee, Ransom Park was inundated with stormwater. Tropical Storm Lee produced 11 inches of rain over a 24 hour period in the Town of Tioga. These extreme rains, combined with the previous heavy rainfall from Hurricane Irene less than a month prior, led to record high water levels. In addition, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee altered the streams, creeks, and river within the Tioga Community by eroding their banks and creating unstable riparian areas. Sediment and debris that eroded from the upslope areas of the various watersheds moved downstream and settled in areas already impounded by culverts or debris, or located in "slack water" areas of the Susquehanna River. The erosion and sedimentation created flooding situations in the Tioga Community where the streams were blocked due to undersized culverts or where the waters of the Susquehanna were "backing up" into the stream bed.

After the 2006 storms, the Town used \$100,000 in FEMA Public Assistance funding to repair the barn in Ransom Park, stabilizing walls and installing a concrete foundation to replace the earthen one originally installed. The proposed Project would further enhance those improvements and advance resiliency strategies to mitigate the damage of future storms. A key strategy for the Town of Tioga is to protect their assets; as the only park in the Town, Ransom Park is an important community asset that merits such protection. The proposed Project would make the park resilient to future storms and save the Town from future repair costs. The Project will not only protect Ransom Park from future flood damage, but will help relieve the Town of flooding overall.

This action has been preliminarily classified as an UNLISTED action pursuant to SEQRA. Additional information regarding the Proposed Action and its location are provided in the enclosed full Environmental Assessment Form. The review of the Proposed Action under SEQRA would satisfy the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.

Your agency or organization has been identified as a potential cooperating, involved, or interested agency for the review and approval of the Proposed Action. We are **requesting that all identified involved agencies respond within 30 days, by May 6, 2019** regarding GOSR serving as lead agency in order to expedite this review. If your agency consents to GOSR's serving as the lead agency for review under SEQRA, please so indicate by signing this letter and returning it to Lori A. Shirley at 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, or simply email a signed copy to Lori.Shirley@nyshr.org. If we have not heard from you by May 6, 2019, your consent will be assumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (518) 474-0755. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Shirley
Director, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

The undersigned hereby consents to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery serving as lead agency for the Proposed Action described above.

Agency/Organization: NYSDEC

By: TERESA A. PHELPS; Environmental Analyst 1

Name: TERESA A. PHELPS

Title: Environmental Analyst I

Date: 5/6/2019

Permits/Approvals/Comments: See Attached Comments

Enclosure: Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 1
 Project Location Maps
 List of Involved and Interested Agencies

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Permits, Region 7

1285 Fisher Avenue, Cortland, New York 13045-1090

Phone: (607) 753-3095 • Fax: (607) 753-8532



Joe Martens
Commissioner

May 6, 2019

Lori A. Shirley
Director, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
38-40 State Street
Hampton Plaza
Albany, NY 12207

RE: SEQR LEAD AGENCY CONCURRENCE
Ransom Park Improvements Project, 3054 State Route 17C
Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, County of Tioga

Dear Ms. Shirley:

The DEC agrees to The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) serving as Lead Agency for the above-referenced project.

As an involved agency, DEC would like to provide you with the following comments:

1. Pipe Creek, at this location, is a Class C, Navigable Stream. Any disturbance to the bed or banks of Pipe Creek will require a NYSDEC Article 15 Protection of Waters Permit for excavation or fill in a navigable body of water and a Water Quality Certification.
2. No NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands are mapped in our GIS at this location.
3. There are federally-regulated wetlands on this property and a permit may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For projects located in DEC Region 7, contact USACE, Buffalo District, Attn: Regulatory Branch at (716) 879-4330 or LRB_Regulatory@usace.army.mil.
4. Additionally, the DEC has a pending permit application for Norfolk Southern for work at their bridge over Pipe Creek, located approximately 500' upstream of the Susquehanna River. The Ransom Park Project will be near this railroad project. Much of the work proposed by the railroad will be around the bridge area, but they have proposed work to extend approximately 145' from their bridge, along the northwest embankment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (607) 753-3095, ext. 294 or email at taphelps@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



Teresa A. Phelps, Environmental Analyst 1
Division of Environmental Permits-Cortland Office

cc: Robert W. Klossner, Town of Tioga
DEP File, Cortland Office



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

RECEIVED APR 08 2019

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

April 5, 2019

Re: **Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of the Ransom Park Improvements Project:** 3054 Route 17C (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and State Route 17C (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1), Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, Tioga County, New York

Dear Involved/Interested Agency:

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery ("GOSR") proposes to serve as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and related laws for the environmental review of the proposed work associated with the Ransom Park Improvements Project (the "Proposed Action"). GOSR is conducting an environmental review of the Proposed Action on behalf of the State of New York as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under 42 U.S.C. § 5304(g).¹

The Ransom Park Improvements Project (Project) will involve streambank protection activities along Pipe Creek in areas that impact Ransom Park and recreational improvements to Ransom Park. Ransom Park is located at 3054 Route 17C, Hamlet of Tioga Center, Town of Tioga, NY (Tax ID: 149.09-1-18.2) and the work on Pipe Creek will occur on a property located at 3027 State Route 17C, Tioga Center, NY (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1).

The Project will involve stream bank protection activities in two locations, where a total of seven (7) stream rock barbs will be installed in Pipe Creek: five (5) will be located upstream and west of Ransom Park and two (2) will be located immediately downstream and east of Ransom Park. The five (5) upstream barbs will be installed on a privately owned parcel of land (Tax ID: 148.08-1-25.1). Improvements to Ransom Park will include the installation of a paved walking path, a concrete pad with an outdoor bench along the walking path, and signage along the walking path. Tree clearing will be performed as needed, though it is estimated approximately six (6) trees will need to be removed. Topsoil, seed, and mulch will be applied to all disturbed areas. Any stockpiled soil will be stabilized with either seed or a secured impervious cover, and surrounded by silt fencing. Erosion and sediment controls will be installed, which will include the use of a temporary compost sock above the high water mark of Pipe Creek to prevent the discharge of sediment into Pipe Creek.

¹ The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, operating under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Housing Trust Fund Corporation, is the responsible entity for the administration of the CDBG-DR grants to the State of New York.

During Tropical Storm Lee, Ransom Park was inundated with stormwater. Tropical Storm Lee produced 11 inches of rain over a 24 hour period in the Town of Tioga. These extreme rains, combined with the previous heavy rainfall from Hurricane Irene less than a month prior, led to record high water levels. In addition, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee altered the streams, creeks, and river within the Tioga Community by eroding their banks and creating unstable riparian areas. Sediment and debris that eroded from the upslope areas of the various watersheds moved downstream and settled in areas already impounded by culverts or debris, or located in "slack water" areas of the Susquehanna River. The erosion and sedimentation created flooding situations in the Tioga Community where the streams were blocked due to undersized culverts or where the waters of the Susquehanna were "backing up" into the stream bed.

After the 2006 storms, the Town used \$100,000 in FEMA Public Assistance funding to repair the barn in Ransom Park, stabilizing walls and installing a concrete foundation to replace the earthen one originally installed. The proposed Project would further enhance those improvements and advance resiliency strategies to mitigate the damage of future storms. A key strategy for the Town of Tioga is to protect their assets; as the only park in the Town, Ransom Park is an important community asset that merits such protection. The proposed Project would make the park resilient to future storms and save the Town from future repair costs. The Project will not only protect Ransom Park from future flood damage, but will help relieve the Town of flooding overall.

This action has been preliminarily classified as an UNLISTED action pursuant to SEQRA. Additional information regarding the Proposed Action and its location are provided in the enclosed full Environmental Assessment Form. The review of the Proposed Action under SEQRA would satisfy the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.

Your agency or organization has been identified as a potential cooperating, involved, or interested agency for the review and approval of the Proposed Action. We are **requesting that all identified involved agencies respond within 30 days, by May 6, 2019** regarding GOSR serving as lead agency in order to expedite this review. If your agency consents to GOSR's serving as the lead agency for review under SEQRA, please so indicate by signing this letter and returning it to Lori A. Shirley at 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, or simply email a signed copy to Lori.Shirley@nyshr.org. If we have not heard from you by May 6, 2019, your consent will be assumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (518) 474-0755. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Shirley
Director, Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

The undersigned hereby consents to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery serving as lead agency for the Proposed Action described above.

Agency/Organization: Tioga Co. SWCD

By: Wendy Waloh

Name: WENDY WALSH

Title: DISTRICT MANAGER

Date: 4/11/19

Permits/Approvals/Comments: _____

Enclosure: Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 1
 Project Location Maps
 List of Involved and Interested Agencies