



*For Immediate Release*

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY HOSTS PRE-BID CONFERENCE AND NETWORKING EVENT FOR MWBE FIRMS AND SECTION 3 BUSINESSES**

**Mineola, New York (March 2, 2015)** – Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) Jamie Rubin and Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano today hosted a pre-bid conference and prime/ sub-contractor networking event at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building for Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) and Section 3 businesses. The event, associated with Phase E3 of the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant project, aimed to engage interested M/WBE firms and community-based organizations, and provide them with information about Bay Park and other agency undertakings. The event comes just two weeks after New York State committed an additional \$150 million (on top of the previously allocated \$101 million) to improve the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant and facilitate mid-stage level nitrogen treatment at the facility.

"The Storm Recovery Office is fully committed to engaging the services and support of M/WBE firms and Section 3 business as we continue to build a better, more State," said Executive Director Jamie Rubin. "Our engagement with local firms in storm-impacted communities comes at a pivotal moment in New York's recovery from Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Cultivating partnerships such as these is a critical component to our success."

"I thank Governor Cuomo and his Office of Storm Recovery for their partnership in repairing and strengthening the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant against future storms," said County Executive Mangano. "Nassau County will strive to meet or exceed the Governor's M/WBE goals. From 2013 to 2018, this project alone is projected to provide \$185 million in M/WBE opportunities."

Executive Order 11246 requires that projects made possible through Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must comply with conditions of Equal Employment Opportunity, M/WBE, Affirmative Action, and all applicable laws and regulations of the federal government and the State of New York.

New York State has established an overall participation goal of 30 percent for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, 15 percent for Minority-Owned Business Enterprises and 15 percent for Women-Owned Business Enterprises. This program has been developed pursuant to generally accepted principles and applicable state and federal regulations.

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 ensures that employment, training and contracting generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons. Section 3 businesses provide economic opportunities to low-and

very low-income persons– where at least 51 percent or more is owned by Section 3 residents; whose permanent, full-time employees include persons, at least 30 percent of whom are currently Section 3 residents, or within three years of the date of first employment with the business concern were Section 3 residents; or that provides evidence of a commitment to subcontract in excess of 25 percent of the dollar award of all subcontracts to be awarded to a Section 3 business concern.

Firms in attendance today were able to learn more about the GOSR and its programs, specifically the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant project, as well as NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure projects, which will require procurement by sub-recipients of construction and professional services. The event specifically highlighted work that will be performed under contract for Bay Park by Nassau County including– but not limited to– construction of the Main Substation building, transformers, emergency diesel generators, and plumbing and HVAC systems. As such, Nassau County aims to receive proposals from firms who can provide services such as construction management, general construction, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, architecture and engineering.

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 and Infrastructure programs, more than \$4 billion made available through the HUD CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. More information about the GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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