

**EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF
A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN and WETLAND**

**NEW CREEK BLUEBELT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT NC-13 AND NC-14
STATEN ISLAND, NY**

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NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN and WETLAND

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal (HUD) regulations under 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain would have on the human environment.

The proposed project is part of the Mid-Island Drainage Plan developed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) for the New Creek Watershed, located in Staten Island, NY. The Mid-Island area, including the New Creek Watershed, has historically experienced chronic street and property flooding. Proposed improvements would mitigate the threat of flooding through targeted drainage improvements and would improve degraded water quality and ecology by providing cost-effective stormwater management that protects important natural open spaces in the New York City Bluebelt program. To improve water quality and reduce local flooding, storm sewers would be installed in streetbeds to collect street runoff and direct it to Best Management Practices (BMPs) prior to discharge into waterbodies and Bluebelt wetlands. BMPs provide stormwater treatment through constructed wetlands, which remove pollutants along the stream corridor.

The proposed project would implement two BMPs proposed as part of the Mid-Island Drainage Plan, BMPs NC-13 and NC-14. BMPs NC-13 and NC-14 include the installation of public drainage infrastructure improvements in a section of the New Creek Bluebelt bounded by Strobe Avenue, Seaver Avenue, Hylan Boulevard, and Meadow Place in Staten Island, NY. The proposed improvements include outfalls, culvert and weir structures, micropools, landscaped berms, an outlet stilling basin, and stabilization of existing stream banks. Together, these improvements would result in a constructed wetland area with a footprint of approximately three (3) acres and would manage the stormwater drainage from more than 60 acres of the surrounding neighborhood.

Funding for the project will be provided by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Storm Mitigation Loan Program (SMLP) with support from the HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program for storm recovery activities in New York State.

A floodplain map, based on the FEMA Base Flood Elevation Maps, and a wetlands map, based on the National Wetland Inventory and NYSDEC data, have been prepared for this project and are available for review at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains or wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands facilitates and enhances Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the proposed action or a request for further information to Thomas King, Assistant General Counsel and Certifying Officer, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, NY 12260; email: NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. All comments received by **July 24, 2015** will be considered.

Thomas King, Assistant General Counsel and Certifying Officer

July 9, 2015