

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SEQRA POSITIVE DECLARATION, PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING, AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD; NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT; NOTICE OF EARLY PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSAL IN 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS (EO 11988 AND EO 11990); NOTICE OF SECTION 106, NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT REVIEW (54 U.S.C. 306108)

FORGE RIVER WATERSHED SEWER PROJECT Mastic-Shirley Proposed Sewer District Town of Brookhaven, NY

December 23, 2015

Notification is hereby given to the public that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), as lead agency pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) (New York State Environmental Conservation Law Sections 3-0301(1)(b), 3-0301(2)(m) and 8-0113), has issued a positive declaration and intends on holding a public scoping session to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Forge River Watershed Sewer Project (the "proposed action") in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. The Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to serve as lead agency for environmental review of the proposed action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related laws.

The environmental review will be coordinated to satisfy the requirements of both SEQRA and NEPA. In accordance with SEQRA and its implementing regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617, GOSR has established itself as SEQRA lead agency and classified the proposed action as a Type I Action under 6 NYCRR 617.4. A full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part 1 regarding the proposed action 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 action described below may result in one or more significant environmental impacts and will therefore require the preparation of a SEQRA DEIS. GOSR will hold a public scoping session to focus the DEIS on potentially significant adverse impacts and to eliminate consideration of those impacts that are irrelevant or nonsignificant. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. §§4321-4370h), FEMA as NEPA lead agency will prepare a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the environmental significance of the proposed action.

Suffolk County, (Subgrantee), has applied to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for funding of the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative. The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DSHES) is the State Grantee partner. The Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative seeks to mitigate impacts to human life and property, surface waters and coastal wetlands, associated with onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system

failures caused by natural hazards. The natural hazards to be mitigated by this project are risks from rain events, storm surge and coastal flooding particularly, as they contribute to rising water tables and the potential for septic failures for up to 74% of homes in Suffolk County which rely on onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems such as septic and cesspools (“onsite systems”). The Initiative would be accomplished through five projects that would sewer parcels currently using onsite systems. These five projects are located in the Southwest Sewer District No. 3 (SSD #3), Carlls, Connetquot, Forge, and Patchogue River watersheds.

The proposed action concerns the sewerage of properties within the Forge River Watershed – one of the five watersheds included in the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative. The Forge River Watershed project is functionally, geographically, hydrologically and hydraulically separate from the four other projects included in the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative, and has independent utility and a distinct schedule for implementation. Therefore, a permissibly separate environmental review process for this project will be completed under SEQRA and NEPA along with a robust analysis of potential indirect and cumulative effects to ensure the review will be no less protective of the environment. The SEQRA DEIS and NEPA EA will evaluate the proposed action and alternatives for the Forge River Watershed Sewer Project.

The proposed action involves the establishment of a County sewer district that would include areas within the densely developed residential and commercial area bounded by the Sunrise Highway to the North, the Poospatuck Creek to the South, the William Floyd Parkway to the West and the Forge River and its tributaries to the East. A map with the specific project area boundary is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>. The proposed action proposes to decommission onsite systems within the project area and connect parcels to a new sewer collection system that would flow to a proposed new advanced wastewater treatment facility (AWTF).

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to mitigate short-term and repetitive, adverse impacts to human life and property associated with onsite system failures in the Forge River watershed in Suffolk County, New York caused by natural hazards. The secondary purpose is to mitigate long-term, adverse impacts associated with such failures on surface waters and coastal wetlands, reducing their ability to provide natural protection against storm surge. The project is needed because onsite systems (such as septic tanks and cesspools) in the project area within the Forge River watershed are susceptible to both capacity and treatment or disposal failures during flood events. The failure of onsite systems causes public health risks associated with uncontrolled wastewater discharges during and after storm events, thereby creating pathways for human exposure to harmful pathogens, increasing risk to human life and property, and degrading ecosystems that protect Long Island’s south shore against storm surge.

The proposed action may significantly affect one or more of the following environmental factors: Geology, Topography, and Soils; Air Quality; Water Quality; Wetlands; Floodplains; Coastal Resources; Vegetation; Wildlife and Fish; Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat; Cultural Resources; Aesthetic Resources; Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental

Justice; Land Use and Planning; Community Facilities and Services; Noise; Transportation; Public Services and Utilities; Public Health and Safety; Hazardous Materials; Climate Change; and Cumulative Impacts.

In the Draft EA and DEIS, FEMA and GOSR will consider a no action alternative, the proposed action, and a reasonable range of other action alternatives. Other action alternatives may include a combination of the following project components: different wastewater treatment technologies, different collection system infrastructure, location alternatives for the proposed advanced wastewater treatment facility, location alternatives for the proposed pump stations, and repairing and/or replacing onsite systems.

Additional reviews of the proposed action will be undertaken in coordination with the environmental review described above, including, but not limited to, those reviews required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108); Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et.seq.*); Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h-3(e)); and in accordance with the requirements for public review of a proposal in a 100-year floodplain and wetlands (Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990). The Town of Brookhaven's Calabro Airport is one site under consideration for the location of the advanced wastewater treatment facility and associated leaching field. Therefore, a potential release of airport property will be considered as part of the proposed action to be evaluated in the Draft EA and DEIS.

Cooperating agencies identified under NEPA include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and potentially others. The draft EA will be prepared to meet all environmental and other relevant regulatory requirements of these agencies. Involved Agencies identified under SEQRA include the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation; DSHES ; New York State Office of State Comptroller, Division of Legal Services; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) - Region 1; New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; New York State Department of State Division of Coastal Resources; New York State Department of Transportation; Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Long Island Rail Road; Suffolk County; Suffolk County Planning Commission; Town of Brookhaven and Town of Brookhaven Planning Board.

A Draft Scope of Work (“scope” or “scoping document”) for the coordinated Draft EA and DEIS is available for public review and comment at the public locations and website listed below. Comments relating to the Draft Scope of Work are requested and will be accepted by the contact person listed below until February 16, 2016. Additionally, public scoping will be conducted, including a public scoping meeting on January 26, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at William Paca Middle School, 338 Blanco Drive, Mastic Beach, NY 11951. The process of determining the scope, focus and content of an environmental document is known as “scoping.” Scoping meetings are a useful opportunity to obtain information from the public and governmental agencies. In particular, the scoping process asks agencies and interested parties to provide input on the proposed alternatives, the purpose and need for the project, the proposed topics of evaluation, and potential

impacts and mitigation measures to be considered. The scoping process will also allow FEMA and GOSR to coordinate with other cooperating (NEPA) or involved (SEQRA) agencies to reach agreement on relevant issues in order to minimize the inclusion of unnecessary issues. Should FEMA determine that the project would result in significant impacts and therefore require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the public scoping process for SEQRA will also satisfy the public scoping requirements of NEPA.

Following the public scoping process, coordinated Draft EA and DEIS documents will be prepared for the proposed action and alternatives. When the Draft EA and DEIS are completed, a notice will be sent to individuals and groups known to have an interest in the Draft EA and DEIS and particularly in the environmental impact issues identified therein. Any person or agency interested in receiving a notice and commenting on the Draft EA and DEIS should contact the person listed below.

The Draft Scope can be viewed and downloaded from the following website location: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>. A hard copy of the Draft Scope is available for viewing at the following locations:

GOSR

25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10004
Mon – Fri 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Town of Brookhaven

Town Clerk
1 Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738
Mon – Fri 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Suffolk County

Division of Planning & Environment
H. Lee Dennison Building, 4th Floor
100 Veterans Memorial Hwy
Hauppauge, NY 11788
Mon – Fri 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Brookhaven Free Library

273 Beaver Dam Road
Brookhaven, NY 11719
Mon – Thurs 9:30 am – 8pm; Fri 9:30am – 5pm; Sat 9:30am – 5pm

Notice for Early Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands (EO 11988 and EO 11990). This is to give notice that FEMA has determined that the above referenced proposed action in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York (“proposed action”) is located partially in the 100-year floodplain, and partially in the 500-year floodplain. The proposed action involves the establishment of a County sewer district which would decommission onsite systems within the project area and connect parcels to a new sewer collection system that would flow to a proposed new advanced wastewater treatment facility (AWTF). The project area encompasses approximately 750 acres, of which approximately 45 acres are located in the floodplain. The proposed action may also involve temporary or permanent impacts in jurisdictional wetlands. Maps of floodplain and wetlands areas are provided in the Draft Scope available at the locations listed above. As required by EO 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9, FEMA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetlands, as well as potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands. The proposed project seeks to mitigate impacts to human life and property associated with onsite system failures during flood hazard events, as well as impacts associated with such failures on surface waters and coastal wetlands, and their resulting ability to provide natural protection against storm surge. As such, it intends to reduce the extent and degree of flood hazard in the project area.

All interested agencies, tribes, groups, and persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed action and the Draft Scope of Work to the appropriate CONTACT PERSON listed below. All comments submitted on or before February 16, 2016 will be considered prior to the preparation and distribution of the coordinated Draft EA and DEIS.

CONTACT PERSON:

For any comments related to the Draft Scope of Work for the NEPA Draft EA; proposal in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands (EO 11988 and EO 11990); or Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act Review (54 U.S.C. 306108), please contact:

FEMA NY SRO
118-35 Queens Blvd
Forest Hills NY 11375
Attn: Brandon M. Webb
EHP Special Projects Lead
917-753-2821
FEMA-4085-Comment@fema.dhs.gov

For any comments related to the Draft Scope of Work for the SEQRA DEIS, please contact:

Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery
99 Washington Avenue Suite 1224
Albany, New York 12260

Attn: Thomas J. King, Esq.
Director – Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Assistant General Counsel
518-473-0015
nyscdbg_dr_er@nyshcr.org

All comments must be submitted electronically or postmarked on or before February 16, 2016 or they will not be considered for the Draft Scope of Work.