

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain

DATE OF PUBLICATION: June 4, 2015

TO: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the New York State Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (“GOSR”) under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action **Village of Patchogue Out-of-District Sewer Expansion** project in Patchogue, Suffolk County, New York (“Proposed Action”) is located in the 100-year floodplain. 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) and 79 Fed. Reg. 62,182 (Oct. 16, 2014).¹ As required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands, GOSR will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain, as well as the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands.

The Proposed Action is a federally funded undertaking involving federal, state and local regulatory approvals and discretionary permits associated with the construction of upgrades to the existing sewer collection system and the extension of sanitary sewer service to approximately 616 parcels outside the existing boundary of the Patchogue Sewer District (“Proposed Project”). The proposed project includes three main components:

- 1) *Collection System Extension*: 18,672 linear feet of 2 to 4-inch diameter HDPE piping would be installed for the low pressure sewer extension within existing paved public rights-of-way;
- 2) *Individual Sewer Connections*: individual on-site grinder stations and new service laterals of 1.25-inch diameter HDPE piping would be installed to connect the unsewered parcels to the system; and
- 3) *Pump Station Upgrades*: the existing pumps at the West Avenue Pump Station would be replaced with pumps of greater flow capacity to accommodate the increased sanitary flows, and an emergency generator would be installed.

The proposed sewer expansion area (“Project Area”) comprises 616 parcels that encompass approximately 270 acres outside the existing boundary of the Village of Patchogue Sewer District. Among these parcels, approximately 50 percent have available service laterals already connected to sewer mains that were installed as part of the previous sewer extension projects, while the remaining parcels do not have sewer availability and require additional sewer infrastructure to be installed to facilitate their connection. The project also includes upgrades to the West Avenue Pump Station, which is located at the southeast corner of West Avenue at Septhon Street.

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.

Approximately 74 percent of Suffolk County residences are unsewered and the majority of these unsewered areas are located in densely developed waterfront communities, while an estimated 69 percent of the total nitrogen affecting ground and surface water supplies emanates from wastewater, specifically onsite sewage disposal systems. Sanitary wastewater handled by existing on-site sanitary disposal systems (cesspools or septic systems) can enter water bodies via shallow groundwater and tidal flooding. When groundwater elevation is higher than the bottom elevation of existing on-site disposal system, sewer system capacity is limited, causing sewer backups in which untreated sewage directly enters groundwater.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve groundwater and surface water quality, and increase resiliency by restoring tidal wetlands and subaquatic vegetation that would attenuate wave action and reduce the damaging effects of storm surge. It would address nitrogen and pathogen pollution in the Patchogue River and Great South Bay by reducing the total net nitrogen load into the South Shore Estuary from existing on-site sanitary disposal systems. If approved, construction of the proposed project is anticipated to begin in 2018.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, citizens who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance 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, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

COMMENTS:

Written comments are requested and will be accepted by the person noted in FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, on or before **June 20, 2015**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 480-4644

Attn: Daniel Greene, Certifying Environmental Officer

Comments may also be submitted or further information can be requested via email at nyscdbg_dr_er@nyshcr.org. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Mondays through Fridays, at the GOSR office address listed above. The online version of the Draft Scope is available at the following publically accessible web site: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>.