



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

James Rubin
Executive Director



January 30, 2015

Ms. Holly M. Leicht
Regional Administrator, HUD Region 2
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3541
New York, NY 10278-0068

Re: Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of Living Breakwaters and Tottenville Dune Projects (Richmond County, NY)

Dear Ms. Leicht:

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery ("GOSR") proposes to serve as lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and related laws, for the environmental review of the proposed Rebuild by Design Living Breakwaters Project and the proposed New York Rising Community Reconstruction Tottenville Dune Project (collectively, the "Proposed Actions"). GOSR is conducting an environmental review of the Proposed Actions 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 By this letter, GOSR also requests your agency's participation in the environmental review as a cooperating agency.

The Proposed Actions consist of two individual projects located on the south shore of Staten Island. While each project has an independent and distinct utility, the projects would be implemented in the same geographic region, have similar implementation schedules, and share similar purposes and design considerations. Therefore, GOSR has determined that it would be appropriate to consider these two projects in a single environmental review.

The Rebuild by Design Living Breakwaters project consists of the construction of a system of breakwaters in the littoral zone off the south shore of Staten Island (Richmond County, NY) across from Conference House Park in Tottenville and extending approximately 13,000 linear feet to the east. The breakwaters would be designed to attenuate waves during severe weather events and reduce coastal erosion, while enhancing ecosystems and shoreline use. The proposed project would include the siting and construction of a "Water Hub" building to serve as a nearby educational and recreational facility with programming related to the breakwaters. The location of the Water Hub will be evaluated as part of the environmental review. The project would promote resiliency across Staten Island's many neighborhoods through social resiliency-focused training and education programs.

The New York Rising Community Reconstruction Tottenville Dune Project consists of the construction of resilient dune structures and plantings on a portion of the Tottenville shoreline that would be parallel to the breakwaters. The dune project would provide additional storm protection to adjacent Staten Island communities and help counter the effects of long term coastal erosion in this area of the Staten Island shoreline.

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.



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If approved, construction of the dune project is anticipated to begin in 2016, and the breakwaters project is anticipated to begin in 2017.

Review of the Proposed Actions under NEPA would satisfy the requirements of 24 CFR Part 58, the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and City Environmental Quality Review.

Your agency has been identified as a potential cooperating, involved, or interested agency for the review and approval of the Proposed Actions. If your agency consents to GOSR's serving as the lead agency for review under NEPA and SEQRA and will cooperate in the review, please so indicate by signing this letter and returning it at your earliest convenience to Daniel Greene, 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004 or Daniel.Greene@stormrecovery.ny.gov. If we have not heard from you by 30 days from this letter, your consent will be assumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (212) 480-4644. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Greene
Deputy General Counsel and Certifying Officer

- cc: Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, Acting Director/Assistant Director, US Department of Housing & Urban Development, Office of Block Grant Assistance, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division
- Ms. Therese Fretwell, Regional Environmental Officer, Region II, HUD Office of Community Planning and Development
- Ms. Irene Chang-Cimino, Senior Advisor, Strategic Regional Coordination, HUD Region 2

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

HUD Region 2

By: _____ Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Title: _____