

## **EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

March 24, 2017

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This Notice is related to Federal assistance provided in response to the Presidentially-declared disaster, Superstorm Sandy. This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has determined that the following proposed actions under the Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency (FHR) Grant Program, developed to assist communities in the funding or projects or improvements that reduce storm surge or flood risk in high vulnerability areas. Therefore, the proposed project is located in the 100-year floodplain. DCA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and analyzing the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

### Project Description

Application ID number: FHR0000516

The proposed project involves storm water management infrastructure improvements in the area between 89<sup>th</sup> Street and 99<sup>th</sup> Street in Stone Harbor Borough, Cape May County. This area of the borough has been identified as highly vulnerable to flooding, with numerous repetitive and serious repetitive loss properties located in the project area. Furthermore, flooding in this area of the community can impede evacuation actions that propose to use the 96<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

The proposed project involves construction of a storm water pump station at an existing borough-owned sanitary sewer pump station at 320 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, placement of approximately 3,725 linear feet of various diameter PVC and ductile iron culvert piping and storm sewer valves along existing street right-of-way, and street intersection modifications (regrading and repaving) at 89<sup>th</sup> Street & Third Avenue and 99<sup>th</sup> Street & Third Avenue.

All of the proposed improvements would occur within the "AE" Special Flood Hazard Area zone floodplain (i.e. the 100-year floodplain), as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Map Number 34009C0242F, effective January 30, 2015. The proposed project would involve temporary occupancy of approximately 6.22 acres and permanent occupancy of approximately 0.18 acre (at 320 93<sup>rd</sup> Street) of the 100-year floodplain.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people 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 education tool. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment 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.

Written comments must be received by DCA on or before April 10, 2017, or fifteen (15) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later. DCA encourages electronic submittal of comments at

<http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800.

Commissioner Charles A. Richman  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs