

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

August 7, 2014:

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, & Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on behalf of the Responsible Entity, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Revitalization (NCR) Program, is located in the 100-year floodplain, and NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the actions in the floodplain and 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.

The Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) Program funds projects that contribute to economic revitalization. These projects are commercial or mixed use projects, typically development and public improvement or streetscape revitalization.

The purpose of NCR39440 is to create an attractive city-wide gateway and wayfinding signage program to provide directions to visitors for parking, landmarks, other amenities, and local businesses in the City of Hoboken in Hudson County, NJ. The City of Hoboken will also revitalize First Street (between Marshall Drive and Bloomfield Street) through streetscape improvements to make it into an attractive commercial corridor. The streetscape site is partially within the Special Flood Hazard Area Zone "AE" Zone floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 106 of 118, Map Number 34017C0106E, effective December 20, 2013.

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 NJDCA on or before August 23, 2014. NJDCA encourages electronic submittal of comments at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Stacy Bonaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 by August 23, 2014. The Notice can be viewed at NJDCA during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Further information can be found on the DCA web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP