

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND
NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN THE
100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

MONMOUTH COUNTY

August 29, 2014

New Jersey Economic Development Authority
36 West State Street
PO Box 990
Trenton, NJ 08625-0990
609-858-6700

This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Per 24 CFR 58.33, and 24 CFR 55.20(b)(1), the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF) and the Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain will be published simultaneously with the submission of the RROF. The funds are needed on an emergency basis due to a declared disaster from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, which made landfall on October 29, 2012. As a result, the comment periods for the NOI-RROF, 100-Year Floodplain and RROF have been combined.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about August 30, 2014, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on behalf of EDA will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program pursuant to the Disaster Relief (DR) Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program. EDA expects to fund the following four projects using approximately \$3,128,634 of NCR funds.

The following information pertains to these projects:

Project Title: Borough of Oceanport Streetscape Project (NCR39451)

Location: East Main Street from Lake Drive to south of county-owned bridge over Oceanport Creek, Oceanport, Monmouth County, NJ

Estimated Cost: \$390,000

Project Description: NCR39451 proposes the construction of granite block curb, wide decorative paver sidewalk, and pedestrian crosswalk; the installation of pedestrian lighting and traffic signs; and additional necessary site work and electrical work related to the above improvements along East Main Street from Lake Drive northwest to the county bridge in the Borough of Oceanport in Monmouth County.

Project Title: Borough of Belmar Streetscape Project (NCR39449)

Location: Main Street from 10th Avenue to 5th Avenue in the Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, NJ

Estimated Cost: \$604,476

Project Description: NCR39449 involves installation of existing pavers; repair and replacement of sidewalk and curb; inclusion of 28 street/pedestrian lights; planting/replanting of 50 shade trees; installation of detectable warning surfaces, and new paver sidewalk along a 5-block section of the borough.

Project Title: Borough of Sea Bright, Complete Streets for Downtown Sea Bright (NCR39452)

Location: Ocean Avenue, from Osborne Place to Rumson Bridge, Sea Bright, Monmouth County, NJ

Estimated Cost: \$1,384,158

Project Description: NCR39452 proposes the construction of improved parking, street trees, pedestrian-scale street lights, street furniture, bicycle lanes, and the reconstruction of crosswalks on Ocean Avenue from Osborne Place to Rumson Bridge in the Borough of Sea Bright in Monmouth County.

Project Title: City of Long Branch Streetscape Project (NCR39441)

Location Brighton Avenue between Ocean Blvd and Railroad, Long Branch, Monmouth County, NJ

Estimated Cost: \$750,000

Project Description: NCR39441 proposes a streetscape improvement project on Brighton Avenue, from Ocean Avenue west to the North Jersey Coast Line railroad. The project includes drainage and inlet repair; lighting; installation and repair of pavers between sidewalk and curb; installing tree grates; additional street trees; and ADA compliant paver crosswalks with handicap ramps.

The Stronger NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) Program supports the long-term recovery of small businesses and communities by funding projects that contribute to the economic revitalization throughout New Jersey, but focusing on the nine most impacted counties. NCR supports projects that retain or hire new employees, contribute to the State's economy, serve Low or Moderate Income (LMI) areas, create or maintain LMI jobs, remove slum or blight, or address an urgent need related to Superstorm Sandy. These projects are commercial or mixed use projects, typically development and public improvement or streetscape revitalization.

EDA has determined that the proposed projects are Categorically Excluded SUBJECT to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(a)(4)(i). As such, a Statutory Checklist has been completed in order to determine whether the project is in compliance with the authorities cited at 24 CFR§50.4 and 58.5.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, 36 West State Street, PO Box 990, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. by contacting Erin B. Gold at 609-858-6718 or may be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that the EDA has conducted an evaluation 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 Wetlands Protection. The following activities are funded under the NCR program under (B-13-DS-34-001).

NCR39451 proposes the construction of granite block curb, wide decorative paver sidewalk, and pedestrian crosswalk; the installation of pedestrian lighting and traffic signs; and additional necessary site work and electrical work related to the above improvements along East Main Street from Lake Drive northwest to the county bridge in the Borough of Oceanport in Monmouth County. NCR39451 is located entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area Zone "AE " Zone floodplain, as shown on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 184 of 457, Map Number 34025C0184G, revised January 31, 2014.

DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts of NCR39451 and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. Relocating the Proposed Action outside of the 100-year floodplain was considered. However, due to its geography and proximity to the Oceanport, much of Oceanport is within the 100-year floodplain. A GIS analysis using the latest FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was performed to further characterize land parcels and floodplain designations in Oceanport, and approximately 42% of parcels within the borough are classified as being entirely or partially within the 100-year floodplain (Zones "A" or "V"). Therefore, relocating the proposed project to another available nearby parcel would not necessarily avoid floodplain effects. A No Action alternative was considered and rejected because the No Action alternative would not address the post-Sandy economic revitalization needs of Oceanport. Similarly, no alternative actions that would serve the same purpose and would avoid construction within the 100-year floodplain were identified.

NCR39452 proposes the construction of improved parking, street trees, pedestrian-scale street lights, street furniture, bicycle lanes, and the reconstruction of crosswalks on Ocean Avenue from Osborne Place to Rumson Bridge in the Borough of Sea Bright in Monmouth County. NCR39452 is located in a designated Special Flood Hazard Area "AE" Zone floodplain as indicated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 201 of 457, Map Number 34025C0201G revised January 31, 2014.

DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts of NCR39452 and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. Relocating the Proposed Action outside of the 100-year floodplain was considered. However, due to its geography and proximity to the Oceanport, much of Sea Bright is within the 100-year floodplain. A GIS analysis using the latest FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was performed to further characterize land parcels and floodplain designations in Sea Bright, and approximately 75% of parcels within the borough are classified as being within the 100-year floodplain (Zones "AE", "AO" and "VE"). Therefore, relocating the proposed project to another available nearby parcel would not necessarily avoid floodplain effects. A No Action alternative was considered and rejected because the No Action alternative would not address the economic revitalization needs of Sea Bright and adjacent shore tourism area. Similarly, no alternative actions that would serve the same purpose and would avoid construction within the 100-year floodplain were identified.

DCA has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that there are no practicable alternatives. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

DCA has determined that construction and operation of the proposed projects would not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the project site or

surrounding areas. Therefore, the proposed project would be compliant with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (44 CFR § 59) and EO 11988 on Floodplain Management (42 FR 26951).]

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects may submit written comments to Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/> and to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. All comments received by September 6, 2014 will be considered by DCA and EDA. Comments should specify which Notice (Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds [NOI-RRF] or Notice of Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain) they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCA certifies (on or about August 30, 2014) to HUD that Richard E. Constable, III, in his capacity as Commissioner of DCA consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities, and allows DCA to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DCA's certification for a period of seven (7) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of DCA; (b) DCA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs