to Kevin

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 2 2 2015

Stacy Bonnaffons
Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

Re: NCR40120- Channel Drive Point Pleasant Beach

Dear Ms. Bonnaffons:

This is in reference to the June 5, 2015 electronic message to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year floodplain. The project is a 4.69-acre site which includes five-block length of Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey. It is our understanding that the proposed project will involve funding from the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery federal program.

The notice provided a link to the NJ Department of Community Affairs website for additional information. However, the specified link takes us to a general page where one has to scroll among hundreds of documents in search of a project. After this back-and-forth scrolling, we were able to find the same notice we already have for this project and nothing else. As such, EPA would like a direct e-mailing of the environmental documents or a direct link to the project-specific documents, so that we may provide expedient and thorough comments. We are concerned that the lack of availability of information to the general public and other agencies may be preventing a fair and transparent process.

The project involves significant streetscape improvements including asphalt and concrete work along the entire length of Channel Drive, new crossing signage and concrete pavers at crosswalks and multiple intersections, concrete paver driveway aprons, two feet of concrete paver verge between sidewalks and curbs, fifty-four decorative light fixtures, five bus shelters, ten benches, the resetting of existing storm water drainage inlets, and the planting of over 100 shade trees. Subgrade preparation in the areas of sidewalk installation will require shallow excavation. Additional deeper excavation will be required for the installation of streetscape fixture foundations for light poles, benches, bus shelters, and other structures, as well as for any proposed electrical conduit for the proposed lighting. Minimal existing trees are proposed to be removed from the proposed project area. The project will result in less than 0.25 acre of additional impervious cover.

The project purpose is streetscape improvements which are designed to redevelop and rebrand the working waterfront district. Based on this statement, the geographical and environmental conditions of the project site, EPA offers the following recommendations:

- Recycled rubberized and porous concrete surfaces have been used around the country. These materials provide a porous surface that would absorb runoff, is less slippery, reduce heat by staying cooler and could provide a dry surface on flood prone areas.
- Benches made of recycled material are highly durable and maintenance free.
- The installation of solar panels to provide electrical service for lights fixture can reduce the carbon foot print of the project. Further, installation of these fixtures is less invasive.
- Rain gardens incorporated into the sidewalks can add beauty and flood functionality.
- Complete Streets and Green Streets are design approaches that together with the above recommendations should be considered in order to achieve the purpose of the project.

Please send EPA any additional environmental documents associated with this project for a more thorough review. Please note that this does not constitute a Sole Source Aquifer review. If you have any questions concerning this matter or would like additional information, please contact Maria Clark at 212-637-3789 or clark.maria@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section

cc: M.R. Furda, HUD