COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

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

OCEAN COUNTY

July 17, 2015

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

This Notice is related to Federal assistance provided in response to the Presidentially-declared disaster, Superstorm Sandy. This notice shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

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 Final 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. Commenters may submit comments to DCA and objections to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure they will receive full consideration.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 27, 2015, the DCA on behalf of EDA will submit a request to HUD for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Stronger New Jersey Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) Program. EDA expects to fund the project using up to $1,372,512.30 of NCR funds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Application ID number: NCR40120
Project Title: Borough of Point Pleasant Beach - Channel Drive Streetscape Improvement Project
Location: Entire Length of Channel Drive, Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, Ocean County, New Jersey
The total estimated project cost is approximately $1,372,512.30.
The proposed project includes significant streetscape improvements along the entire 4.69-acre, five-block length of Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, which are designed to redevelop and rebrand the working waterfront district. Asphalt and concrete work along the

entire length of Channel Drive will include the milling and repaving of the roadway, replacing the existing curb with a six inch concrete curb, and lane striping. New crossing signage and concrete pavers will be installed at crosswalks and concrete pavers will be installed at intersections of Channel Drive at Broadway (two intersections), St. Louis Avenue, Chicago Avenue, Baltimore Avenue, and Boston Avenue. On the north side of Channel Drive, streetscape improvements will include the demolition and reconstruction of 13,095 square feet of sidewalk, the installation of concrete paver driveway aprons, two feet of concrete paver verge between sidewalks and curbs, fifty-four decorative light fixtures, five bus shelters, ten benches, and the planting of sixty-four shade trees. On the south side of Channel Drive, streetscape improvements will include the demolition of existing sidewalk, the reconstruction of sidewalk only at the six road intersections, and the planting of forty-four shade trees. On both the north and south sides of Channel Drive, the stormwater drainage inlets must be replaced/upgraded in accordance with the NJDEP Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. 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 acres of additional impervious cover.

One parcel at each intersection of Channel Drive and Broadway, 1526_168_5 at the west end and 1526_164_19 at the east end, will be used for new signage, fiberglass signature sculptures, landscaping, and lighting to highlight the entrances to the working waterfront district. Rights to use portions of these two properties will be acquired, with the possibility of purchasing 1526_168_5. There will be no demolition, renovation, or reconstruction of the privately owned structure located at 1526_164_19. The entire project will be constructed within the forty foot public right-of-way of Channel Drive, a local street. A five foot wide, from edge of roadway, shade tree easement will be required on both the north and south sides of Channel Drive. Additionally an eight foot wide, from edge of roadway, streetscape easement will be required on the north side of Channel Drive where necessary for sidewalk installation. All of the property owners contacted to date have expressed an interest in including trees on their property adjacent to the sidewalks, and some of them have also pledged matching dollars to supplement the full grant if needed.

The Responsible Entity, DCA, has determined that the proposed project is Categorically Excluded Subject to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(a). 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§58.5.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record on file at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Sandy Recovery Division, 101 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. or can be viewed online at http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/.

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

This is to give notice that the DCA 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 activity is funded with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under HUD grant number B-13-DS-34-0001.

The 4.69-acre proposed project site incorporates the entire five-block length of Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ and is entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area Zone "AE", as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 206 of 611, Map Number 34029C0206F, effective September 29, 2006. Additionally, the FEMA Preliminary FIRM layer shows the entire project area within an SFHA Zone A. This flood map incorporates all "A" categories, including in this case, category "AE".

DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. 1) Construction of the streetscape improvements as proposed in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal floodplain requirements. The proposed project is comprised of the streetscape improvements of Channel Drive in which the roadway will be repaved, the existing curb replaced, the lane restriped, and other associated improvements such as sidewalk replacement, storm drain improvements, lighting, bus shelters, benches and planting of shade trees. The improvements will greatly enhance the conditions of the roadway for the citizens in the working waterfront district and surrounding area and the sidewalks would provide a much-needed paved stretch for walking and other recreational use. The street improvements will allow for the continued safe use of these roadways during future potential flooding events, and the resetting of the storm drainage inlets will effectively reduce damage from flooding to nearby public and private infrastructure by allowing for proper and timely storm water drainage. Shade trees and benches that complement the proposed sidewalk paving along the street will be aesthetically pleasing for the entire area, as well as the installation of new signage, fiberglass signature sculptures, landscaping, and lighting that highlight the entrances for the area. Funding the proposed project would address the vital infrastructure and recreational needs of the area, and would aid in the recovery of nearby businesses and the community as a whole in the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey. Finally, it will serve the community by becoming an attraction and acting as a compliment to the city and surrounding neighborhoods. 2) Relocation of the project to a different location outside the 100-Year Floodplain. Relocating the infrastructure improvements to a site outside of a 100-year Floodplain is not financially feasible and would be contrary to the purpose and function of the proposed activities. Additionally, the roads are located in an area where the project is intended to improve public and private infrastructure and improve the storm water management system. Due to the devastating damages sustained from extensive flooding caused by Superstorm Sandy, the borough is in need of such improvements that would prevent future flooding during storms and thus, prevent future loss of life for the citizens in the area. Therefore, there are no relocation alternatives which would be as beneficial to the nearby community as a whole. 3) Utilizing Alternative Design Strategies. Alteration of the design and the use of alternative construction materials in place of the typical impermeable surfaces (asphalt and concrete) were considered as ways to potentially enhance or restore the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain. As suggested by the US EPA, these alterations could include

the incorporation of materials with permeable surfaces that allow water percolation such as recycled rubberized and porous concrete surfaces, rain gardens within the sidewalks to enhance flood functionality, and utilization of Complete Streets and Green Streets design approaches to complement the suggested designs. Some of these approaches, such as landscaping and tree planting, have already been included in the design. However, based on the nature of the project, i.e., repaving of street and sidewalks and drainage replacement for one street, the use of materials other than asphalt and concrete would have an insignificant beneficial effect on the floodplain as a whole and would be cost prohibitive, which would be more of a financial burden. 4) No Action Alternative. The "No Action Alternative" means that the proposed project would not be implemented and Channel Drive would likely remain in its current storm-damaged condition and may not receive funding to make the needed repairs and improvements to revitalize the working waterfront district that would largely benefit the surrounding area. Without the streetscape repairs and improvements, the street would remain in a state of disrepair and may potentially deteriorate and decline, and instead contribute to the continued lack of revitalization in communities most affected by Superstorm Sandy. Taking no action would not address the vital infrastructure needs of the area and would not aid in community and recovery in the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey.

DCA has reevaluated the alternatives to conducting project activities in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. 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 described in the Public Comments section of this notice.

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 educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on this project 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 July 27, 2015, or seven (7) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later, will be considered by DCA and EDA. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

DCA certifies to HUD that Charles A. Richman, 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 CDBG-DR 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 or undertaken activities 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 58.76) 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 Charles A. Richman
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs