

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A
FLOODPLAIN**

April 10, 2026

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

These notices shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about April 26, 2026 the DCA will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), Resilient Communities Program (RCP) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, to undertake a project known as Carteret RC 100021 Bergen Street Flood Mitigation for the purpose of reducing chronic and severe flooding within the affected drainage area in the Borough of Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The DCA has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, 101 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. The records are available for review and may be examined or copied on weekdays from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

**FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A
FLOODPLAIN**

This is to give notice that the DCA under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under CDBG-DR: Resilient Communities Program P-21-NJ-34-LDZ1, HUD grant number B-21-DF-34-0001. The proposed project(s) is located at 40 Bergen Street in the Borough of Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey and is located in a floodplain.

The project would include open-cut trench construction of gravity storm sewer piping composed of polyvinyl chloride or reinforced concrete pipe, along with the construction of a 172,048-cubic-foot bioretention basin designed to capture, treat, and temporarily store stormwater runoff from Bergen Street and the surrounding drainage area. A stormwater pump station measuring approximately 625 square feet would be constructed of concrete masonry unit construction and equipped with two 75-horsepower, 460-volt column pumps housed within a precast concrete wet well. The pump station would be supported by an estimated 250-kilowatt diesel generator with an

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associated 50- to 80-gallon fuel tank and would include an above-ground precast concrete valve chamber.

Stormwater collected within the bioretention basin would be attenuated through an outlet control structure and redirected to the pump station, where it would be pressurized and conveyed through a 24-inch-diameter Class 52 ductile iron force main to an outfall at the existing gabion basket area before discharging into the Arthur Kill. The existing drainage channel would be cleaned to remove accumulated sediment to facilitate positive drainage and would then be restored with native vegetation to maintain conveyance while enhancing ecological function.

Additional project elements would include resurfacing and restriping of Bergen Street to restore pavement affected by construction activities; construction of 24 standard parking stalls and one Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant parking stall with an access aisle; completion of all necessary landscaping; and planting of basin bottom and slope seed mixes and other vegetation selected to assist in stormwater retention and treatment. The project would also include dry floodproofing of the existing Bergen Street Sewage Pump Station, which is located adjacent to the proposed stormwater pump station, thereby improving the resilience of essential public infrastructure.

Overall, the proposed improvements would collect, filter, and manage stormwater runoff prior to discharge to the Arthur Kill, reducing flood risk along Bergen Street, improving water quality, and resulting in beneficial floodplain impacts through the conversion of previously developed land to a vegetated bioretention system.

The proposed project would have a direct impact on 4.7 acres of floodplain. Available Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) data were reviewed to determine if the project area is located within a designated Special Flood Hazard Area. All of the proposed activities (approximately 4.7 acres) would occur within the "AE" Special Flood Hazard Area zone floodplain (i.e. the 100-year floodplain), as depicted on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel Number 34023C0078G (Preliminary Date: 01/31/2014).

The DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Borough would not construct the proposed bioretention basin, new elevated stormwater pump station, force main, or outfall improvements, and no dry floodproofing improvements would be made to the existing sanitary sewer pump station. Stormwater would continue to be conveyed through existing infrastructure to the current drainage channel and outfall.

This alternative would result in the continuation of existing conditions, including inadequate drainage capacity, accumulation of stormwater on Bergen Street, and recurring flooding during heavy rainfall and major storm events. The adjacent sanitary sewer pump station would remain vulnerable to flood damage without dry floodproofing.

Because the No Action Alternative would not address documented flooding problems, unmet disaster mitigation needs, or risks to public infrastructure and safety, it does not meet the project purpose and was therefore not selected.

Alternative 1: Avoidance of the Floodplain (Off-Site Location)

Avoidance alternatives involving relocation of the project outside the floodplain were evaluated. Vacant land of sufficient size within the affected drainage area is extremely limited, and potential upland sites would require acquisition of privately owned properties, resulting in displacement, increased cost, and extended project timelines. Additionally, relocating stormwater infrastructure outside the floodplain would necessitate extensive storm sewer extensions and pumping systems to convey runoff from low-lying areas, increasing environmental disturbance and operational complexity.

Off-site locations would also introduce new impacts to wetlands, riparian areas, or previously undisturbed land, while reducing the effectiveness of stormwater control at the point of collection. Because these alternatives do not adequately manage stormwater where flooding occurs and would result in greater environmental and socioeconomic impacts, avoidance of the floodplain is not practicable.

Alternative 2: Distributed or Smaller-Scale Green Infrastructure

An alternative involving multiple smaller, distributed green infrastructure practices—such as rain gardens, infiltration basins, or permeable pavement—was considered. Due to high groundwater levels, unsuitable native soils, and tidal influence, infiltration-based practices are not feasible at this location and would not comply with NJDEP Stormwater Best Management Practices. Smaller distributed systems would also lack sufficient storage and conveyance capacity to manage major storm events and would provide limited flood risk reduction. This alternative would not reliably meet the project purpose and therefore is not practicable.

Alternative 3: Gravity-Only Stormwater Conveyance

This alternative would involve construction of a bioretention basin to capture and treat stormwater runoff from Bergen Street, with stormwater discharged by gravity to the existing drainage channel and outfall, without the use of a pump station or force main.

This alternative was evaluated but determined to be infeasible due to site constraints and hydraulic limitations. The bottom elevation of the proposed bioretention basin would be lower than the elevation of the existing drainage ditch and outfall, preventing positive gravity drainage to the Arthur Kill. As a result, stormwater would not fully drain from the basin during storm events, reducing available storage volume and limiting the basin's effectiveness in managing larger runoff volumes.

In addition, the existing outfall lacks sufficient capacity to convey all stormwater generated by the Bergen Street drainage area during heavy rain events. Relying solely on gravity discharge would therefore fail to adequately reduce flooding along Bergen Street and could worsen ponding conditions within the basin. Because this alternative would not reliably manage stormwater volumes or meet the project purpose, it was not selected.

Alternative 4: Reduced-Scope Project

A reduced-scope alternative involving partial infrastructure improvements—such as storm sewer upgrades without a bioretention basin or pump station or floodproofing without stormwater system upgrades—was also considered. These options would not meaningfully reduce flood risk or manage stormwater volumes during major storm events. Failure to include floodproofing measures for adjacent sewer infrastructure would leave critical public infrastructure vulnerable to flood damage. As a result, reduced-scope alternatives do not meet the project purpose and are not practicable.

Alternative 5: Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

The Proposed Action includes construction of a bioretention basin combined with a new stormwater pump station that will be elevated to comply with NJ FHACA flood-resistant construction standards, a force main, an improved outfall, storm sewer improvements, and dry floodproofing of the existing sanitary sewer pump station located adjacent to the new facility. Stormwater would be captured, treated, and temporarily stored in the bioretention basin and then conveyed under controlled conditions to the Arthur Kill via a pump-assisted discharge.

This alternative was selected as the preferred option because it effectively addresses site-specific flooding constraints, provides reliable stormwater storage and conveyance capacity during major storm events, and complies with NJDEP Stormwater Best Management Practices for green infrastructure that manage runoff quantity and quality without reliance on infiltration into native soils. The selected site is particularly suitable because it is Borough-owned vacant land located within the affected drainage area, allowing for long-term public maintenance and avoiding displacement. Vacant land of sufficient size is extremely limited in this portion of Carteret, and no practicable alternative sites exist outside the floodplain that would avoid impacts to wetlands or riparian areas while still meeting the project purpose.

While flood mitigation projects often involve work within floodplains and wetlands, the project site was previously developed with residential buildings and currently consists of managed open space rather than undisturbed natural floodplain. The proposed improvements would enhance the site's flood management function and long-term resilience. Temporary watercourse disturbance associated with outfall construction would be minimized and restored following installation, as the outfall would be located underground.

The Proposed Action best meets the project purpose by reducing flood risk, improving stormwater quality, protecting critical infrastructure, and providing long-term community benefits. For these reasons, it was selected as the environmentally preferable practicable alternative that meets the project purpose and need.

Mitigation

Design-Based Minimization Measures

- The bioretention basin is designed to temporarily store and treat stormwater during storm events and release flows under controlled conditions, thereby reducing peak discharge rates and flood elevations within the floodplain and downstream receiving waters.
- The stormwater management system complies with NJDEP Stormwater Best Management Practices, utilizing green infrastructure to treat runoff quantity and quality without reliance on infiltration into native soils, which is appropriate for site-specific soil and groundwater conditions.
- Pump-assisted discharge and force main conveyance are designed to maintain hydraulic capacity during large storm events and high-tide conditions, minimizing backwater effects and localized flooding.
- All infrastructure components are non-habitable and designed for floodplain conditions, consistent with floodplain management principles and regulatory standards.
- The new stormwater pump station will be elevated above the regulatory flood elevation in accordance with NJ Flood Hazard Area Control Act requirements, ensuring flood-resistant construction and uninterrupted system operation during major storm events.
- The existing sanitary sewer pump station will be dry-floodproofed to prevent floodwater intrusion and protect essential utilities during flood conditions.

Construction-Phase Minimization Measures

- Construction activities within the floodplain area will be limited to the minimum extent necessary to install project components.
- Temporary impacts associated with outfall installation will be minimized by constructing the outfall below grade, thereby avoiding long-term surface disturbance to floodplain vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment control measures, including silt fencing, stabilized construction entrances, and phased grading, will be implemented in accordance with NJDEP and local requirements to prevent sediment transport into floodplain waters during construction.
- Construction staging areas will be located outside wetlands and sensitive floodplain features to the maximum extent practicable.
- Disturbed areas will be stabilized as soon as practicable following construction to reduce exposure to storm events during the construction period.

Restoration and Long-Term Mitigation Measures

- All temporarily disturbed floodplain areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions or better following project completion.
- Revegetation will consist of appropriate native or site-adapted species consistent with surrounding floodplain conditions to promote long-term stability and ecological function.
- Long-term public ownership of the site ensures routine inspection, operation, and maintenance of stormwater and flood control infrastructure, preserving floodplain function over time.
- The project will not alter existing land use patterns or induce additional floodplain development, thereby avoiding secondary or cumulative floodplain impacts.

Avoidance of Greater Impacts

- Alternative sites outside the floodplain were evaluated and determined to be impracticable due to limited land availability, potential impacts to wetlands or riparian areas, and inability to meet project purpose and need.
- The project site consists of previously developed residential land currently maintained as managed open space rather than undisturbed natural floodplain, allowing the project to be implemented with fewer environmental impacts than would occur at other potential locations.
- The selected alternative represents the practicable alternative that best minimizes potential adverse impacts to the floodplain that meets the purpose of reducing flood risk and improving stormwater management within the affected drainage area.

Mitigation Summary

Through careful site selection, incorporation of green infrastructure, controlled stormwater conveyance, flood-resilient design, restoration of disturbed areas, and long-term public maintenance, the Proposed Action (aka preferred alternative) avoids unnecessary floodplain impacts and minimizes unavoidable effects. These measures collectively ensure that floodplain values are protected and enhanced, and that risks to life, property, and natural floodplain functions are reduced consistent with the goals of Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR Part 55.

Conclusion

The DCA has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR 55, 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.

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There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain 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 floodplain 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 floodplain, 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 the project may submit written comments to Samuel Viavattine, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. Comments may also be submitted via email at DRM.EHPComments@dca.nj.gov. All comments received by April 26, 2026, or fifteen (15) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later, will be considered by DCA. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The DCA certifies to HUD that Samuel Viavattine in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner 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 NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Borough of Carteret to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the DCA's certification for a period of fifteen 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 the DCA; (b) the 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 or other participants in the development process have committed funds, 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Gerilee Bennett, ODR, 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.

Samuel Viavattine, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Community Affairs