

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

January 8, 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 January 24, 2026 the Department of Community Affairs (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, Resilient Communities Program funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, to undertake a project known as Melrose Pump Station Improvements for the purpose of reconstructing the Melrose Pump Station above the FEMA 100-year floodplain (Zone VE EL. 15) in the Borough of Sayreville, 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. 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 on Scott Avenue in the Borough of Sayreville, Middlesex County and is located in the floodplain. This activity proposes to reconstruct the Melrose Pump Station above the FEMA 100-year floodplain (Zone VE EL. 15) as the current pump station is below the flood hazard

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elevation and the station experienced flooding in 2012 due to Superstorm Sandy from the Raritan Bay that resulted in damage to the station. The project site is located in an area of industrial and commercial uses and within the Flood Hazard Area of the Raritan Bay.

The new pump station will be an approximately 25.5-foot by 15-foot precast building with an elevated first floor at elevation 18.10, or approximately 3 feet above the design flood elevation. The pump station is also located within the limit of moderate wave action. The project also includes the following activities: demolition and reconstruction of the existing Melrose Sanitary Pump Station, the removal of the existing equipment and pumps located in the wet well and dry well, site demolition, reconstructing the existing building above the flood elevation, installation of submersible pumps, installation of piping fitting, valves, replacement of the existing on-site force main, installation of pump station control building, controls, VFDs, installation of emergency generator, and miscellaneous site construction. Site demolition will include demolishing the existing masonry building and the removal of the existing 550-gallon above-ground diesel fuel tank and valve chamber. A 125KW diesel-fuel generator with a 260-gallon subbase fuel tank will be located inside the pump station and provide backup power during outages. The new pump station will be a precast building with an elevated first floor at approximately 18.10 feet. Construction will also include the installation of a 10-foot by 16-foot by 8-foot precast concrete valve chamber, 690 linear feet of 10-inch PVC DR18 force main with tracer wire and locator balls, a 6-foot by 10-foot by 8-foot precast concrete meter chamber, and improvements including the construction of a concrete curb and milling and paving of the existing asphalt. The project lot is 4.7 acres in size, and the project proposes a total of 7,508 SF (0.17 acres of disturbance).

All of the proposed activities (0.17 acres) will take place within the FEMA 100-year floodplain (Zone VE EL. 15). These improvements will help to prevent power failures and damage related to future flood events while reducing health and safety concerns resulting from potential wastewater overflows at the sanitary sewer pumping station.

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:

- Alternative 1: No Action
The No Action Alternative was considered and eliminated because it would not address the need to protect the flood station from future flood events. The elevation of the pump station above the flood elevation will help minimize the likelihood of damage as a result of flood events. It is not feasible to relocate the pump station to another part of the Borough at this time. Land use on site will remain the same and the improvements will benefit the pumping station and local community for years to come while ensuring efficient wastewater services in the area.
- Alternative 2: Relocate the Pump Station out of the Floodplain
Alternative 2 was considered and eliminated due to the environmental constraints on site, including the lack of available land at a higher elevation within a practical

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distance from the existing infrastructure. Additionally, relocating the pump station outside of the floodplain would require extensive routing of utilities, resulting in substantial construction costs, operational disruptions, and potentially additional environmental impacts. These factors make relocating the station outside of the floodway less viable compared to implementing flood protection measures at the existing site.

- Alternative 3: Relocate the Pump Station to Another Site
Alternative 3 was considered and eliminated as relocating the pump station would require extensive modifications to existing infrastructure. Such changes would involve significant capital investment, prolonged service disruptions and potentially complex permitting challenges. Furthermore, identifying and acquiring a suitable new site with proximity to downstream infrastructure presents additional logistical hurdles.

In the absence of the proposed project, existing conditions and vulnerabilities are expected to persist and worsen. The existing pump station, which sits below the regulatory flood hazard elevation, will remain exposed to flooding and storm surge. Sea level rise projections for the Raritan Bay region suggest that flood frequency and severity will increase, further heightening the risk of service distribution, equipment failures, and untreated wastewater discharges. Without intervention, long-term deterioration of the facility and recurring flood damage will continue to undermine the resilience of the Borough's sanitary conveyance system.

Mitigation measures to be taken will include:

- The pump station will be elevated to elevation 18.10, 3 feet above the Flood Hazard Area (FHA) Design Flood Elevation, to limit flood damage.
- The diesel-powered generator will be elevated to reduce instances of power outages that could potentially result in sewage overflows and health and safety concerns.
- A Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit will be obtained from the NJDEP in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:13.

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.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the 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 the floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the

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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 the 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 January 24, 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 Sayreville 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