

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain

Date: May 29, 2025

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed action under CDBG-DR: Resilient Communities Program P-21-NJ-34-LDZ1 is located in the floodplain, and DCA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, 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 Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is on Scott Avenue in the Borough of Sayreville, Monmouth County, NJ (40° 29' 42.476" N, 74° 17' 32.082" W).

This activity proposes to reconstruct the Melrose Pump Station above the FEMA 100-year floodplain (Zone VE EL. 15). The pump station's proposed elevation will be at EL. 18.10 feet, or approximately 3 feet above the design flood elevation. The pump station is located within the limit of moderate wave action. The project's construction activities include: 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' x 16' x 8' H precast concrete valve chamber, 680 linear feet of 10" PVS force main with tracer wire and locator balls, a 6' x 10' x 8' H precast concrete meter chamber, and improvements including the construction of a concrete curb and milling and paving of the existing asphalt. All of the proposed activities (0.17 acres) will take place within the FEMA 100-year floodplain (Zone VE EL. 15).

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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. 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 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.

Written comments must be received by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) at the following address on or before June 14, 2025, or 15 days from the actual date of the publication, whichever

is later: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800, Attention: Samuel R. Viavattine, Deputy Commissioner. Comments may also be submitted via email at DRM.EPHComments@dca.nj.gov.

Commissioner Jacquelyn A. Suarez
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs