

**City of New York
Office of Management and Budget
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

**Notice of a Public Meeting to Receive Comments on the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project
Draft Scope of Work to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Borough of Manhattan, NY**

The City of New York, through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), and under the authority of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations found at 24 CFR Part 58, and in conjunction with cooperating, involved, and interested agencies, is proposing to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze the potential environmental and social effects of design alternatives being proposed to reduce coastal flooding impacts and improve coastal and social resiliency along a segment of Manhattan's East River waterfront. The City is the grantee of \$335 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for Hurricane Sandy, which would be provided to OMB acting under HUD's authority, to design and implement this project.

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy significantly impacted the City of New York, exposing its vulnerability to coastal storm impacts. The hurricane caused extensive storm surge flooding and resulted in significant damages to residential and commercial properties, critical transportation, power, and sewer infrastructure, and in turn impacted vital healthcare and other essential services. To address this vulnerability, the City is proposing an integrated flood protection system that is referred to as the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project. The proposed project area begins on the south at Montgomery Street and extends north to East 23rd Street (and, in one alternative, to East 25th Street) with inland segments along these streets. Within this proposed project area, the City is proposing to install a flood protection system that is integrated with City parkland and streets. The proposed alternative designs involve a combination of berms (or "bridging berms"), floodwalls, and deployable systems. Additionally, the proposed action would improve and enhance waterfront open space resources, including East River and Stuyvesant Cove Parks and improve related City infrastructure. Assuming all approvals are issued, project construction is anticipated to commence in summer 2017.

Since this proposal has the potential to result in significant environmental and social impacts and requires approvals from multiple City, state and federal agencies, an EIS will be prepared to examine these potential impacts and to receive public comments on the proposed project, its alternatives, and the impact analyses contained in the EIS. Since funds from the HUD CDBG-DR program would be disbursed through OMB for project implementation, OMB is the Lead Agency for the review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Since a large segment of the proposed project corridor is also within City parkland and requires approvals from DPR, DPR is the Lead Agency for review pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR).

Public Scoping is a process where the public is invited to comment on the Draft Scope of Work to prepare the Draft EIS. This Draft Scope of Work provides a summary description of the proposed project, the alternatives, required approvals, and the proposed content and methodologies to be used in preparing the Draft EIS impact analyses. A Public Scoping Meeting to accept oral and written public comments on the Draft Scope of Work will be held on December 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Bard High School Early College at

525 East Houston Street, New York, NY 10002. A copy of the Draft Scope of Work can also be obtained online at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cdbg/html/home/home.shtml> or by contacting:

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Written comments on the Draft Scope of Work can also be submitted to the above mailing addresses, fax numbers, or email addresses through December 21, 2015.

Since the proposed project is also subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the written requests of individuals and organizations to participate as Section 106 Consulting Parties may also be made at the public scoping meeting or to the contact persons identified above.