



LEAD AGENCY DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

April 6, 2012

Coney Island Infrastructure Improvements (CEQR# 11DEP045K)

The New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC), on behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is proposing to implement infrastructure improvements over approximately 248 acres in the Coney Island neighborhood, which is located in Brooklyn Community District 13 (“proposed project”). These improvements would be made in accordance with DEP’s amended drainage plan (ADP) filed with the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office on December 29, 2010. The general boundaries of the proposed project area are Coney Island Creek to the north, Coney Island Boardwalk to the south, West 8th Street to the east and West 21st Street to the west.

The proposed project involves the reconstruction and enlargement of three existing outfalls, installation of new stormwater collection sewers, relocation and upgrade of distribution and trunk water mains, and relocation and upgrade of sanitary sewer lines along with the reconstruction of affected streets. Due to the drainage area’s low-lying topography, the proposed stormwater collection sewers are wide and shallow, and therefore require the relocation of sanitary lines and water mains within certain segments of built streets. Construction of the proposed project will also require the relocation of utilities, as necessary, within the proposed project area. Finally, the proposed project includes the design and construction of a consolidated wetland restoration plan at Calvert Vaux Park, in coordination with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), to address all permanent wetland impacts associated with the reconstruction and enlargement of three existing stormwater outfalls.

The proposed project area includes the ADP area described above and is comprised of the Coney Island Rezoning and Redevelopment Plan. The City Planning Commission (CPC) approved the rezoning of this area in July 2009 for the purposes of facilitating the redevelopment of the Coney Island waterfront with amusement and other uses. The proposed project area currently consists of small, medium and high-density residential uses; a mix of light industrial and parking uses along Coney Island Creek; commercial uses along the avenues (Neptune, Mermaid and Surf Avenues); and the famous Coney Island amusement center near the Boardwalk (i.e., south of Surf Avenue). There are also private and public open spaces throughout the proposed project area.

Carter H. Strickland, Jr.
Commissioner

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner,
Sustainability
alicata@dep.nyc.gov

59-17 Junction Blvd.
Flushing, New York 11373

Tel. (718) 595-4398
Fax (718) 595-4479

The objective of the proposed project is to improve stormwater drainage within the 248-acre proposed project area and upgrade the sanitary sewer system in accordance with the ADP. Upgraded and new sanitary and stormwater infrastructure is necessary to accommodate zoning conditions for residential, commercial and entertainment uses within the proposed project area.

The specific elements to be designed and constructed as part of the proposed project include:

- Installation of new gravity flow stormwater collection sewers (in accordance with the ADP and DEP design standards) over an approximately 248-acre project area.
- Relocation and upgrade of sanitary sewers and water mains within certain segments of the built streets as may be necessary to install the proposed storm sewers and meet current zoning conditions.
- Restoration and final paving of streets affected by sewer installation, and raising of streets in accordance with the street map, as necessary.
- Restoration of tidal wetlands at Calvert Vaux Park, which would provide consolidated wetland restoration for each of the three reconstructed and enlarged outfalls.
- Replacement or relocation of existing utilities, as necessary, within built streets and reconstruction of the affected streets.
- Reconstruction and enlargement of three outfalls extending from the sub-drainage areas to Coney Island Creek. Specifically, the proposed reconstruction of the outfalls include:
 - Relocation and enlargement of the West 15th Street outfall. This would involve construction of a new single barrel 7-foot-wide by 5-foot-high outfall and new tide gate to Coney Island Creek at a location immediately east of the existing outfall and extending north from West 15th Street. This proposed outfall would replace an existing 54-inch diameter stormwater outfall near the end of West 15th Street and would include reinforced concrete pipes supported by steel piles. The existing outfall would then be decommissioned with a steel sheet pile at the outlet.
 - Replacement and enlargement of the West 21st Street outfall. This would involve replacement of the existing outfall at that location with a new twin double barrel 7-foot 6-inch wide by 7-foot-high box storm sewer outfall and new tide gate to Coney Island Creek at a location immediately north of and extending from West 21st Street. The proposed outfall would replace and enlarge an approximately 13-foot wide by 7-foot 6-inch high stormwater outfall at this location.
 - Installation of a new outfall at West 12th Street. This would involve construction of a new 7-foot-wide by 5-foot-high outfall and new tide gate to Coney Island Creek at a location immediately north of and extending from West 12th Street. The proposed outfall would be in addition to an existing 9-foot wide stormwater outfall currently at this location.

The proposed outfall sites are located along a developed waterfront with a partially deteriorated shoreline edge. The reconstructed outfalls would terminate near the existing bulkhead and would extend out from the base of the outfall. Temporary impacts due to construction at the three proposed outfall sites would total approximately 4,500 square feet of unvegetated area within Coney Island Creek and would be restored onsite during the construction of each outfall.

Construction of the three proposed outfalls would require the permanent disturbance of about 2,500 square feet of unvegetated area and 750 square feet of the littoral zone (i.e., bottom sediments) within Coney Island Creek. Therefore, the proposed project includes consolidated wetland restoration at DPR's Calvert Vaux Park to address the permanent impacts associated with construction activities at each of the outfall sites. The park is located along Coney Island Creek and the Lower Bay and is approximately a half mile from the proposed project area and has been identified as a representative site for salt marsh and habitat restoration. Assuming a replacement ratio of 2 to 1 for the disturbance of vegetated salt marsh wetland habitat, the total consolidated restoration area would be about 6,500 square feet.

Due to the large extent of the proposed project area and existing built conditions, the proposed project would be constructed as multiple capital projects over several years, beginning in fall 2012. All phases would begin construction at the outfall prior to installing upland infrastructure improvements. Subsequent phases would include completion of storm sewer build-out in upland streets, relocation and upgrade of distribution and trunk water mains, relocation and upgrade of sanitary sewer lines, relocation of utilities, as necessary, and reconstruction of affected streets. All outfall construction, adjacent infrastructure improvements, and wetland restoration would be completed in 2017 with remaining upland construction expected to be completed in 2019. While the remaining upland construction may extend past the anticipated completion year in accordance with DEP's capital program and permitting and approval processes, the assessment of potential environmental impacts uses 2019 as the "build year."

The proposed work may require the following permits and/or approvals:

- New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) for any construction work within a City park and forestry approvals.
- New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) street and sidewalk construction permit for the work in local streets.
- New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) approval to install the proposed new storm outfall on within an existing mapped street (Dwight Avenue) and the clearing of trees within that right-of-way.
- New York City Department of Citywide Administrative (DCAS) approval to install the proposed outfalls across city waterfront property.
- Modification of DEP's MS4 SPDES Permit for the enlargement of outfalls.
- NYSDEC Tidal Wetlands Permit for activities in tidal wetlands and tidal wetlands adjacent areas (Article 25).
- NYSDEC Water Quality Certification for the activities in state waters (protection of waters, Article 15, Section 401).
- NYSDEC State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-10-001) and the creation of a new outfall that would be added to DEP's MS4 SPDES Permit (NY0026221).
- NYSDEC Industrial SPDES Discharge Permit for any temporary dewatering during construction and a Long Island Well Permit for groundwater pumping, if necessary.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Waters of the United States) permit for the proposed placement of the project outfall within tidal wetlands (dredging and filling activities) and the proposed tidal wetland restoration.
- USACE Section 10 permit for structures in navigable waters.
- Nationwide Permit 7–Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures, which authorizes activities related to the construction or modification of outfall structures and associated intake structures.

In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, and the City Environmental Quality Review process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, this Department believes it is the appropriate lead agency and assumes responsibility for conducting a coordinated review for the above-referenced project. We request that involved agencies contact this office within 30 days from this notification should there be any objection to the Department assuming lead agency for this environmental review.

Attached for your review is a copy of the project's Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS). Any questions or comments regarding the project should be directed to Alexander Wolk at 718-595-6450 or awolk@dep.nyc.gov within 30 days.



FOR

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner, Sustainability
New York City Department of Environmental Protection

CC: Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President
Eddie Mark, Brooklyn Community Board 13 Chairperson
Chuck Reichenthal, Brooklyn Community Board 13 District Manager
Robert Kulikowski, NYC Office of Environmental Coordination
Michael McSweeney, NYC City Clerk/City Record
John Cryan, NYSDEC
Steve Zahn, NYSDEC
George Nieves, USACE
Tricia Zenobio, Mayor's Office
Randal Fong, DCAS
Jack Hammer, HPD
Kay Zias, EDC
Nathan Bliss, EDC
Adam Meagher, EDC
Kevin Forma, DPR
Herve Carrie, DDC
N. Venugopalan, DDC

Sanjay Patel, DDC
Jim Garin, DEP
Irina Veytsman, DEP
Nick Barbaro, DEP
Julie Stein, DEP
Alexander Wolk, DEP