



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**Testimony on The Status of East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR)  
New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection  
jointly with Committee on Parks and Recreation  
January 23, 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony here today.

Community Board 3 does not yet have a position on the new resiliency plan as we have not yet had sufficient opportunity to understand and investigate all the elements. We have serious concerns about the City administration's decision to change so drastically and with such short notice the ESCR project. When CB 3 was first informed that the project was delayed, we were told that there were "technical difficulties." Better clear communication at that point may have prevented this process from being so difficult now.

The new ESCR project is raising the entire park eight to ten feet with a landfill. It basically creates a mega-levee topped with a park next to the East River. Concerns were voiced by CB 3 members regarding the increased project cost \$1.45 billion compared to the original \$760 million and the three year completion timeline. Questions were also asked about the landfill approach and the necessity to cover existing plantings. Other technical questions on drainage, flood protection and storm water flood prevention still need to be answered.

Committing such a substantial amount of resources to a rushed engineering project for a park that provides 54 acres of much needed open public space for our community is not something we take lightly. The park will be closed again for at least three years, and there are many potential problems that have not yet been investigated and answered.

In conclusion we'd like to thank Council Member Rivera for her leadership in requesting this hearing. We firmly believe that we need to plan for resiliency but we need to do it right. We hope in the future the City will be more transparent and we will have better communication going forward.