

**NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (NYCOMB)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR)
EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED
ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND**

October 20, 2017:

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of New York (the City) is proposing to undertake activities within the 100-year floodplain relating to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. President Obama signed the "Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013" (Public Law 113-2) into law on January 29, 2013. Among other appropriations, the Act included \$16 billion in CDBG-DR funds for "necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from Hurricane Sandy." Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58, the City, as the sub-recipient of the grant funds, has identified its Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the Responsible Entity for maintaining the CDBG-DR Environmental Review Record. This notice is required by Section 2(a)(4) of Executive Order (EO) 11988 for Floodplain Management, and by Section 2(b) of EO 11990 for the Protection of Wetlands, and is implemented by HUD Regulations found at 24 CFR 55.20(b) for the HUD action that is within and/or affects a floodplain or wetland.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands 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 education tool. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

The proposed project, known as the Edgemere Rebuild Relocation Program is funded through the City's Build It Back (BIB) Single Family Houses (1-4 unit) program which was designed to rehabilitate, elevate, and/or reconstruct properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy and managed by the NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery (HRO). The proposed project is located at the following addresses: Beach 43rd Street, Beach 46th Street, and Beach 47th Street in Queens County, New York.

In order to reduce long term physical and financial risk, BIB established a rebuild-relocation program within a defined hazard mitigation zone (HMZ). Within the HMZ, the City will reduce future risk to eligible BIB applicants by relocating them to City owned property further inland. Additionally, the damaged private property acquired by the City will be used to further neighborhood wide resiliency efforts through deed restrictions limiting future development.

The project consists of demolition of four storm-damaged single-family homes in Edgemere located at 569, 466A, 462, and 459 Beach 43rd Street and construction of four new single-family homes located at 410 and 423 Beach 43rd Street, 431 Beach 46th Street, and the east corner of Beach 47th Street and Norton Avenue (this subject lot contains no street address, the tax identifier for this parcel is BBL 4159690035). The entire project area is within the 100-year floodplain, as shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 3604970382F panel 382 of 457. In addition, the overall perimeter of the project area is located within mapped wetlands or wetland adjacent areas, as mapped by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The four existing homes located within the HMZ will be demolished. The lots will be acquired by New York City and will be deed-restricted to remain undeveloped open space in perpetuity. This will help preserve wetland and floodplain values in the community. The activities at the proposed new home sites include clearing, grading and construction of new single-family homes.

Temporary floodplain impacts would be limited to the extent of the properties (approximately 0.8 acres), with permanent impacts limited to the footprint of the four new homes. The new homes would be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) to reduce the potential impact from future flooding. Due to the proximity to wetlands, wetland permits may be required for the demolition activities at the four existing home sites. However, while demolition activities are proposed within wetland adjacent areas, no direct wetland impacts are anticipated as no new construction is proposed within the wetlands.

This public notice and the associated maps for the affected properties listed above are available for viewing using the following link <http://www.nyc.gov/html/recovery/html/home/home.shtml>.

OMB is interested in alternatives and public perceptions of possible adverse impacts that could result from these projects as well as potential mitigation measures. The activities will occur in areas served by existing infrastructure. All interested persons, groups and agencies are invited to submit comments regarding the proposed use of federal funds to support a project located in a floodplain. Written comments should be sent to OMB at 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor New York, NY 10007, Attn: Calvin Johnson, Assistant Director, CDBG Disaster Recovery. Comments may also be submitted via email at CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov. Written comments must be received by OMB on or before 11/6/17 or fifteen (15) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later.

Bill de Blasio, Mayor

City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, Dean Fuleihan, Director

City of New York, Office of Housing Recovery Operations, Amy Peterson, Director

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