

# DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project

**LEAD AGENCY:** On behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the City of New York, as the recipient of HUD grant funds, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is the “Responsible Entity,” as defined by HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.2(a)(7)(i), for the Proposed Project. In accordance with criteria in 40 CFR § 1501.5(c), HUD has designated OMB as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Project (42 USC §§ 4321 et seq.). Additionally, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) has assumed the responsibilities of Lead Agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR).

**ABSTRACT:** The Proposed Project is a comprehensive urban water management project designed to reduce the risk of floods from coastal storm surges and/or flooding from high-intensity rainfall events. The Proposed Project would be located in the Borough of Manhattan, New York City. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to address coastal flooding vulnerability in a manner that reduces flooding risk while enhancing waterfront open spaces and access to the waterfront. The principal objectives of the Proposed Project are as follows: (1) provide a reliable coastal flood protection system against the design storm event for the protected area; (2) improve access to, and enhance open space resources along the waterfront, including East River Park and Stuyvesant Cove Park; (3) respond quickly to the urgent need for flood protection and resiliency, particularly for communities that have a large concentration of residents in affordable and public housing units along the proposed project area; and (4) achieve implementation milestones and comply with the conditions attached to funding allocations as established by HUD, including scheduling milestones.

The DEIS includes a detailed project description and a description of environmental impacts, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, associated with a No Action Alternative, Preferred Alternative, and three other With Action Alternatives. A range of reasonable alternatives (Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) are evaluated in the DEIS. OMB and NYC Parks are recommending that Alternative 4 be selected as the Preferred Alternative.

Electronic copies of the DEIS are available for public review on the following websites:

<http://www.nyc.gov/cdbgdr> or <https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/planning/neighborhood-development/east-side-coastal-resiliency>. CDs and paper copies of the DEIS will also be available for review at the following locations during regular business hours:

- OMB, 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007
- NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401, New York, NY 10065

The New York City Planning Commission (CPC) will hold a public hearing together with OMB and NYC Parks at 10:00 AM on July 31, 2019, at 120 Broadway, Concourse Level, New York, NY, 10271. Comments must be submitted on or before August 15, 2019, using one of the following ways: (1) orally or in writing at the Public Hearing; (2) via email to [CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov](mailto:CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov); (3) online at <http://www.nyc.gov/cdbgdr>; or (4) mail or hand delivery to:

- New York City Office of Management and Budget, c/o Calvin Johnson, Assistant Director CDBG-DR, 255 Greenwich Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10007
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, c/o Colleen Alderson, Chief, Parklands and Real Estate, The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401, New York, NY 10065

For further information, please contact Eram Qadri, Unit Head – Environmental Review, CDBG Disaster Recovery, OMB, (212)-788-6282 or [CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov](mailto:CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov).