

Notice of Availability
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Notice of Intent of FEMA to Adopt Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for HUD-Assisted Project
Proposed Hudson River Floodwall Infrastructure and Resilience Park
Hoboken, Weehawken, and Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide Federal financial assistance to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as Subapplicant for the construction of flood mitigation infrastructure (Proposed Action) in Hoboken, including adjacent areas of Weehawken and Jersey City. Funds have previously been allocated for this project through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR); NJDEP has since applied for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program funding from DHS-FEMA to supplement overall construction costs. The purpose of the BRIC grant program is to proactively invest in hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks that communities face from disasters and natural hazards.

The Proposed Action is for the construction of a comprehensive north-south oriented floodwall and floodgate system. Construction would include hard (walls) and soft (landscaping) infrastructure barriers for coastal defense and the separation of stormwater structures from the combined sewer overflow (CSO) system on the exterior. Other features in the project include establishing a park on and around the barrier, T-wall and I-wall monoliths (concrete stem wall supported by steel sheet piles), and 28 flood gates.

The Proposed Action would take place in the 100-year floodplain (AE and VE Zones) and impact approximately 230 square feet of freshwater wetlands, which means that the project has the potential to affect, and be affected by, the floodplain and wetlands. FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the most practicable alternative to reduce flood risk and minimize impacts from coastal storm surge, high tide, and rainfall flood events in the Action Area. The Proposed Action meets the BRIC grant program goals to invest in hazard mitigation and resiliency measures that protect property and human lives from future natural hazards. Potential impacts to water quality or aquatic habitat will be minimized through the application of best management practices and adherence to all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and ordinances.

In accordance with FEMA's implementation for NEPA compliance under FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, FEMA is required, during decision making, to fully evaluate and consider the environmental consequences of major federal actions it funds or undertakes. In accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1 and the principles of Unified Federal Review (UFR), FEMA is working with NJDEP to recirculate and adopt the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project that was prepared by HUD in June 2017. This document can be found here: <https://dep.nj.gov/floodresilience/rebuild-by-design-hudson-river/rebuild-by-design-hudson-river-documents-resources/#feis>.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain and/or wetland impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to: FEMA Region 2, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY, 10278 or via email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental documentation for this project.