



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures

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April 5, 2016

Donald Burns, Acting Director, Planning and Program Development
Federal Transit Administration - Region 2
1 Bowling Green, Room 429
New York, NY 10004

RE: Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of and Invitation to Participate in
Environmental Review Process for the Hudson River Rebuild By Design Project in Hoboken,
Jersey City and Weehawken

Dear Mr. Burns:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Hudson River Resist Delay Store and Discharge Rebuild By Design Project (Hudson River RBD) on behalf of the State of New Jersey as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) and 79 Federal Register 62,182 (October 16, 2014). In accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, as Responsible Entity has designated NJDEP to assist with the environmental review and preparation of the EIS. With this letter, the NJDEP also requests the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) participation in the EIS review as a participating agency.

The Hudson River RBD project consists of four distinct elements that are Resist, Delay, Store and Discharge which will deal with both tidal surge and rain events in a variety of methods throughout Hoboken, Jersey City and Weehawken. While each aspect has independent utility, the project will be implemented in the same geographical region, identical schedules and share similar purpose and design elements. Therefore, the NJDEP and HUD have determined that all aspects of this project should be encompassed within a single EIS.

The Hudson River RBD project consists of a yet to be determined northern Resist alignment from Weehawken down into Hoboken and a separate southern Resist alignment from Hoboken down into Jersey City that will be an approximate maximum combined 15,300 liner feet. The Resist alignment would be designed to prevent a Sandy like storm from flooding the project area. The Delay, Store Discharge portions of the project will focus on green and gray infrastructure to address the historical flooding in the project area from frequent high volume rain events. All four aspects of the project will

work towards maintaining the urban aesthetic, incorporating park space and enhancing public access while meeting the primary flood reduction goals. If approved, construction of the Resist, Delay, Store and Discharge elements is anticipated to begin in 2019 and will have been reviewed under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related laws in order to satisfy the requirements of 24 CFR 58. More project descriptions is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/floodhazard/rbd-hudsonriver.htm>.

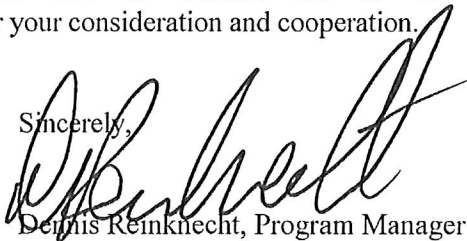
As part of the environmental review process for this project, the lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process. As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in commenting on the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. These efforts will build on the early participation opportunities that were provided during the vision study process. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies in relation to your agency's area of expertise;
- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of draft environmental documents related to your field of expertise to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternative considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

If your agency consents to the NJDEP's serving as the lead agency for review under NEPA as per HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 and will participate in the review as a participating agency, please indicate by signing this letter and returning it at your earliest convenience to Dennis Reinknecht, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures at the address above or at Dennis.Reinknecht@dep.nj.gov. If the NJDEP has not received a response from you within 30 days from this letter, your consent will be assumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 609-777-4152 or at Dennis.Reinknecht@dep.nj.gov. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dennis Reinknecht, Program Manager

cc:

Dave Rosenblatt, NJDEP, Assistant Commissioner for Engineering and Construction

This undersigned participating agency hereby consents to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection serving as lead agency for the Hudson River RBD EIS described above.

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

By: Donald Burns, Acting Dir. of Planning
Date: 6/20/16
Name: Dan Moser
Title: Community Planner