



Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #1

Introduction and Purpose/Need
NEPA Process Overview

NEW MEADOWLANDS REBUILD BY DESIGN

PHASE 1 PILOT AREA
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

MARCH 23, 2016

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, Aero, GeoMapping, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Agenda

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Welcome and Introductions

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Overview of the Project, NEPA Process, & Timeline

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Citizen Outreach Plan and Public Involvement Plan

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Questions and Answers

- **Welcome** - Dennis Vaccaro, Mayor of Moonachie
- **Introduction** - NJDEP Team Members
- **Introduction** - Elected Officials
- **Introduction of CAG Members** - by Mayors and NJDEP

Dave Rosenblatt, Assistant Commissioner, NJDEP

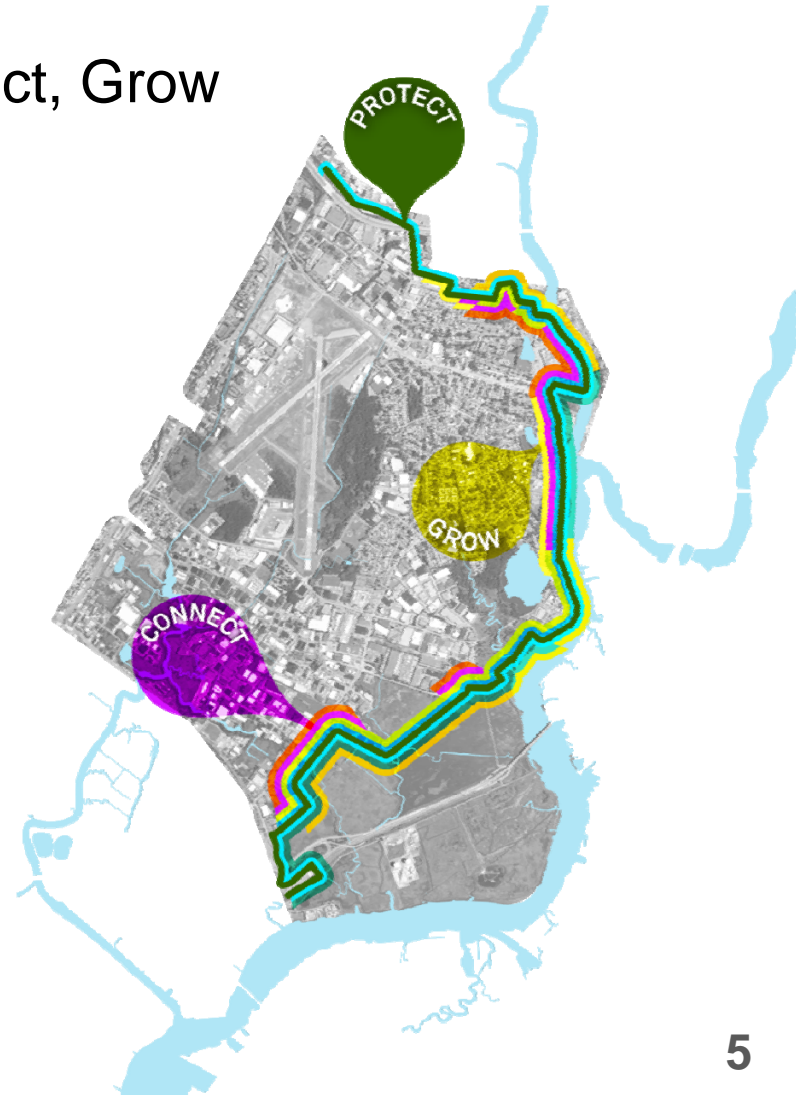
The Challenge:

- The New Jersey Meadowlands are subjected to extreme, repetitive flooding, as highlighted by Hurricane Sandy
- Flood waters in the project area come from:
 - Rainfall and “fluvial” flooding from the Hackensack River
 - Tidal surge flooding during strong storm events
- Most of the project area is < 6 feet above sea level
- We have \$150M to find a viable solution that reduces flooding in the project area to the extent possible

Project Overview

Proposed RBD Project (award-winning concept)

- New Meadowlands: Protect, Connect, Grow
 - Protect: flood protection
 - Connect: transportation improvements
 - Grow: re-development
- Cost Estimate (by MIT): **\$850M+**



Project Overview

Where We Stand

- HUD awarded State of New Jersey **\$150M** for Phase I Pilot Area, only
 - Project must be functional, and completed by 2022
- Planning, feasibility studies, designs cost (approx.): **\$30M**
- That leaves **\$110-120M** to construct a flood risk reduction solution
- Comparison:
 - FEMA Certifiable Levees: **\$35M** per mile
 - Large Storm Surge Barrier across the Hackensack River: **\$250M+**

Project Overview

Where We Stand

- NJDEP is:
 - Focusing on “Protect” component – foundation for “Connect” and “Grow”
 - Developing Alternatives that provide the most flood protection to the largest portion of the Phase 1 Pilot Area as possible
 - Focus on Low and Moderate Income (LMI) communities
 - Considering options that would allow vertical expansion with additional funding in the future
 - Seeking public input on the best methods and locations
- Please help us identify viable solutions that best help your communities!

The AECOM Team

Christopher Benosky, AECOM Project Manager

The AECOM Team

AECOM

URS

HDR

 **Dewberry**

MATRIX**NEW**WORLD



HR&A

ROBINSON

Remora Consulting



New Meadowlands LLC

- *Local expertise and experience*
- *Long history of working together*
- *Can meet the diverse requirements of the project*
- *Will develop a buildable and implementable plan*

Our Project Team



Tom MacAllen
Project Executive



Chris Benosky
Project Manager



Werner Mueller
Executive Committee



John Boulé
Executive Committee



Michael Cannon
Feasibility Study



Brian W. Boose
NEPA Process (EIS)



Barbra Barnes
Ecological Design



John Bianco
Flood Risk
Mitigation
Design



Gonzalo Cruz
Urban Planning
& Design



Brian Beckenbaugh
Public
Outreach

Challenges and Preliminary Studies



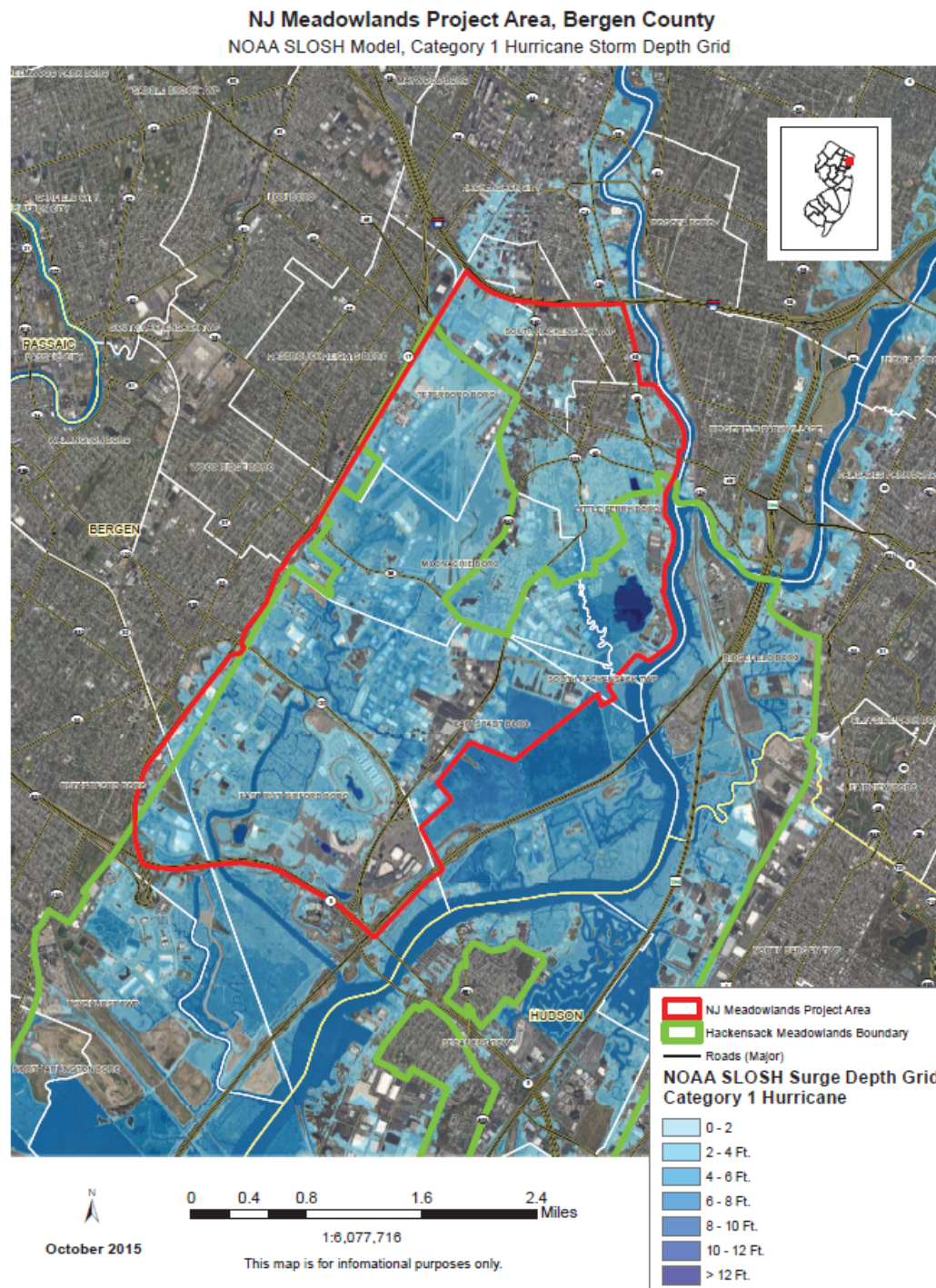
Floodplains

FEMA 1% Chance of
Exceedance Floodplain
Mapping



Floodplains

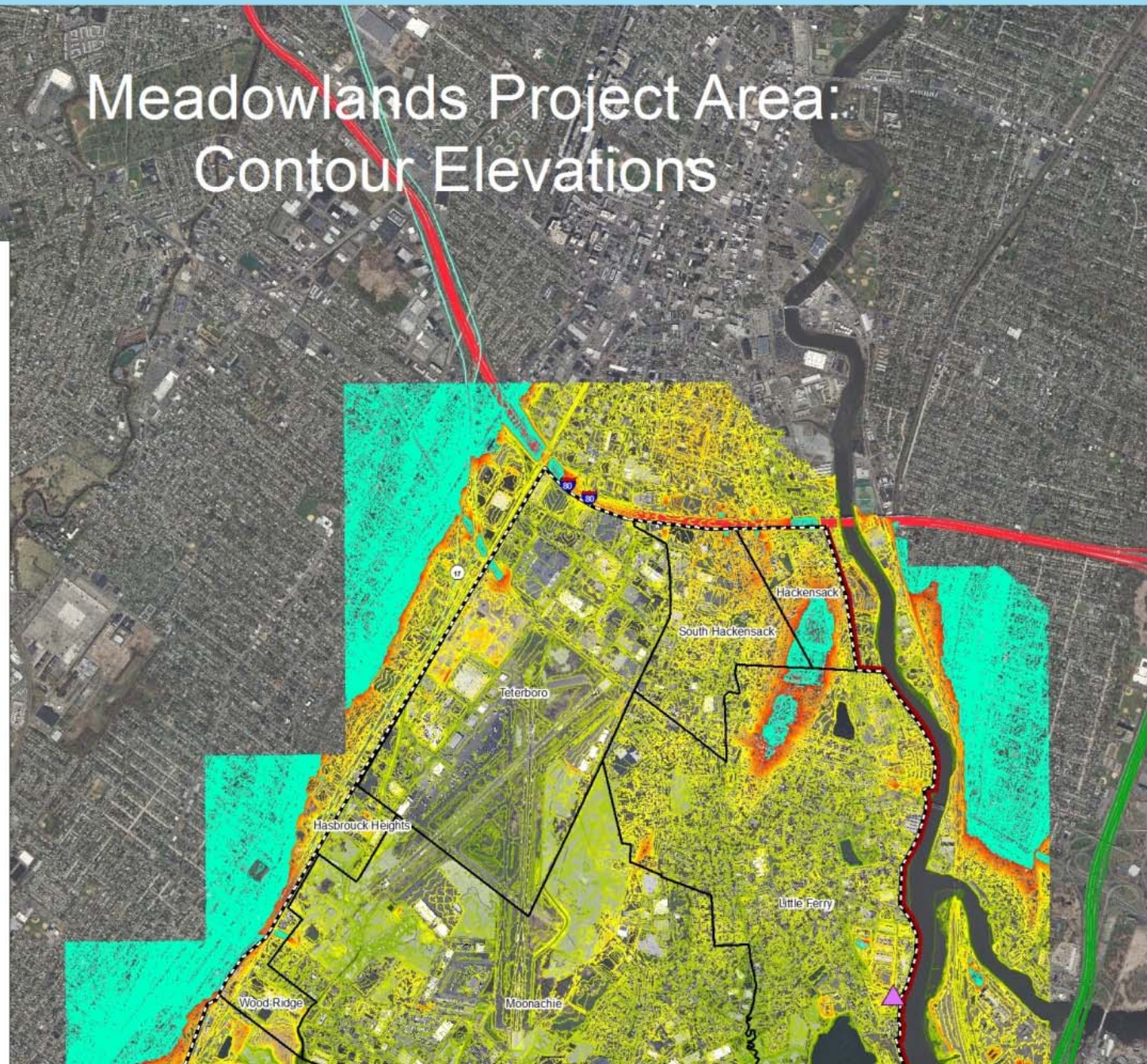
NOAA Category 1
Hurricane SLOSH Model



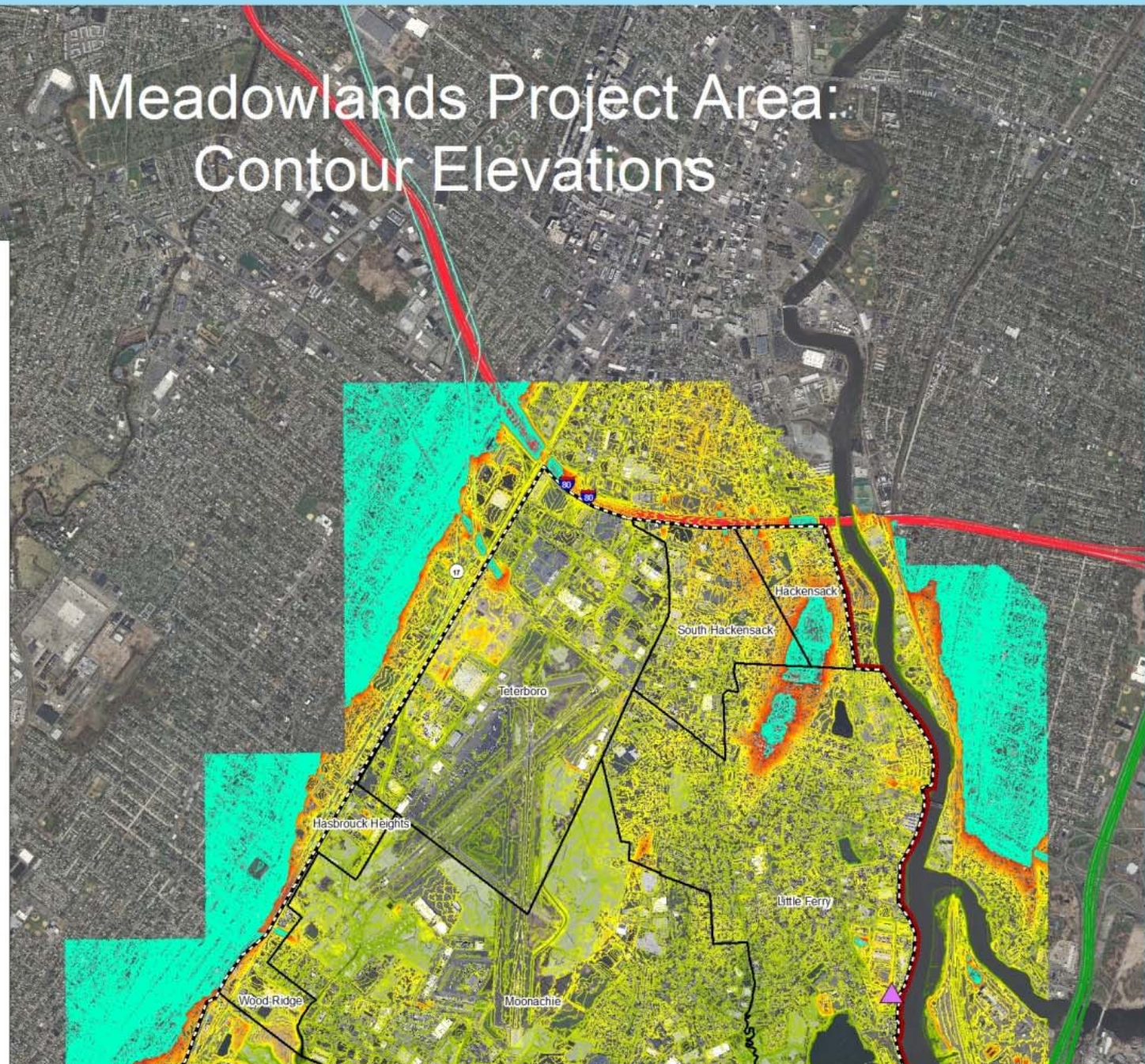
Topography

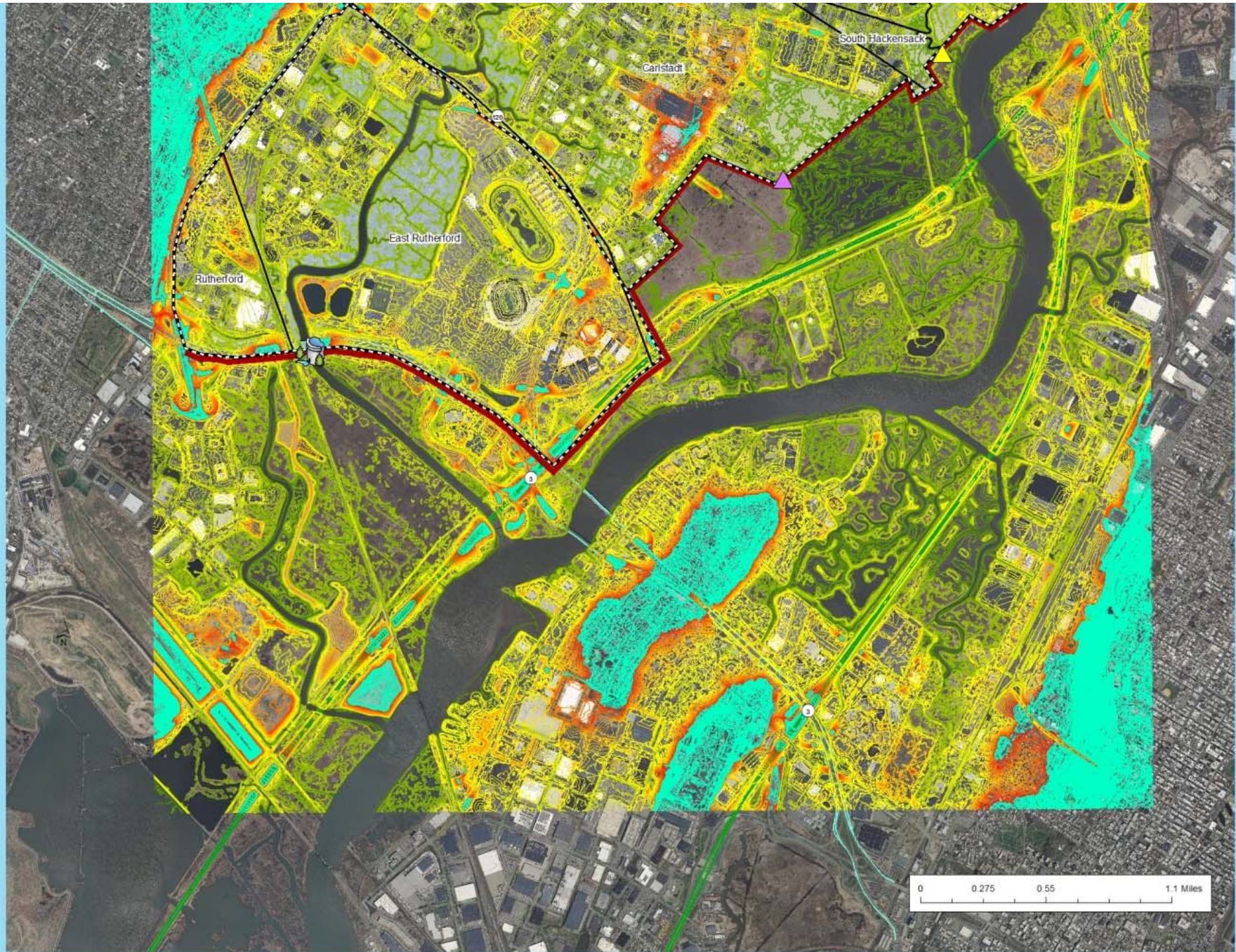


Meadowlands Project Area: Contour Elevations

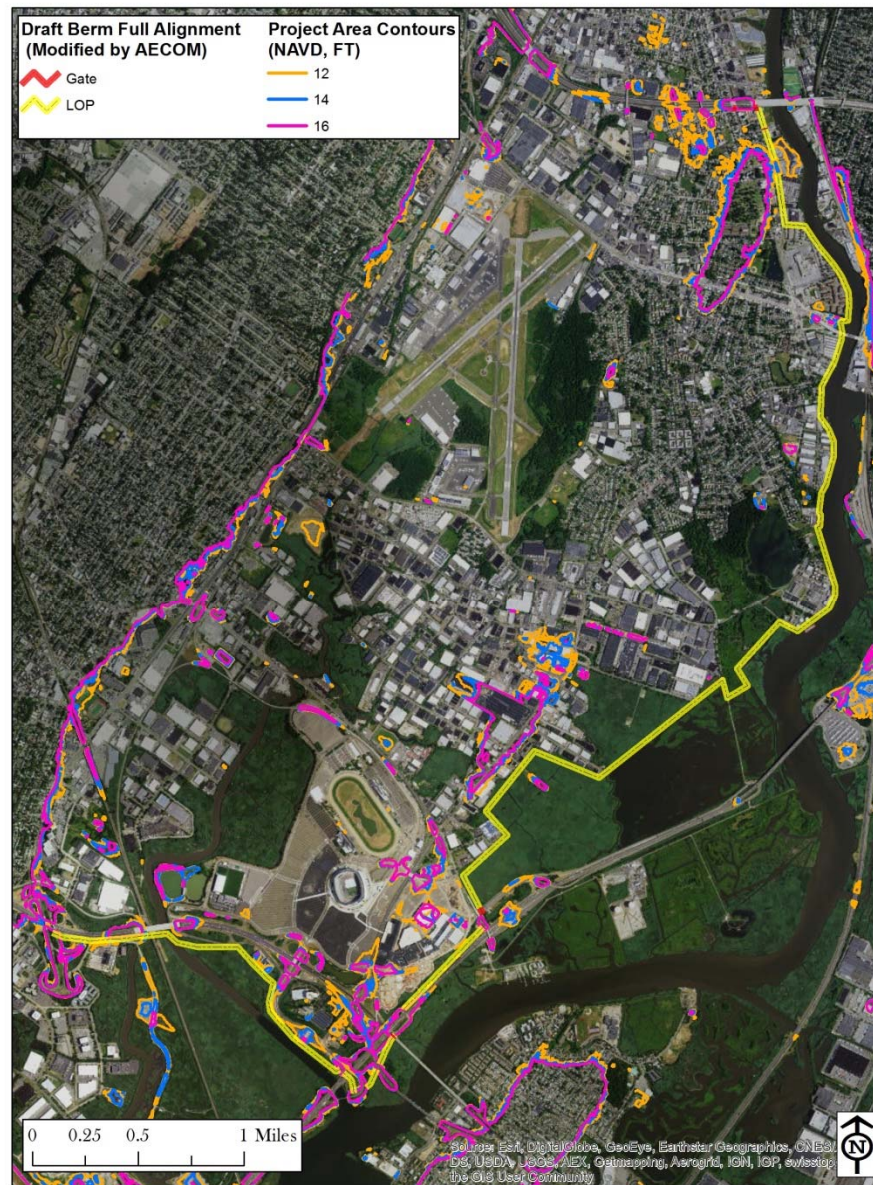


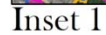
Meadowlands Project Area: Contour Elevations



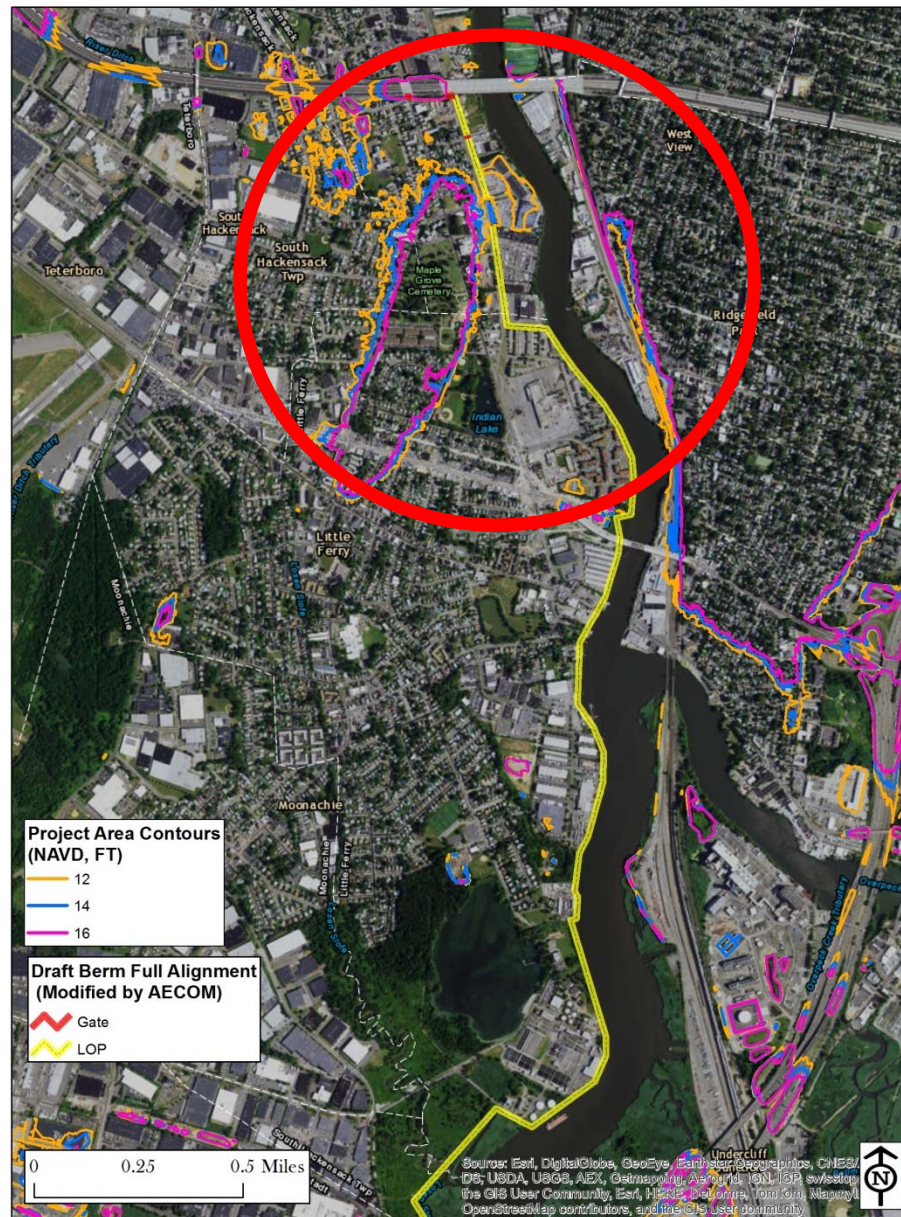


Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments



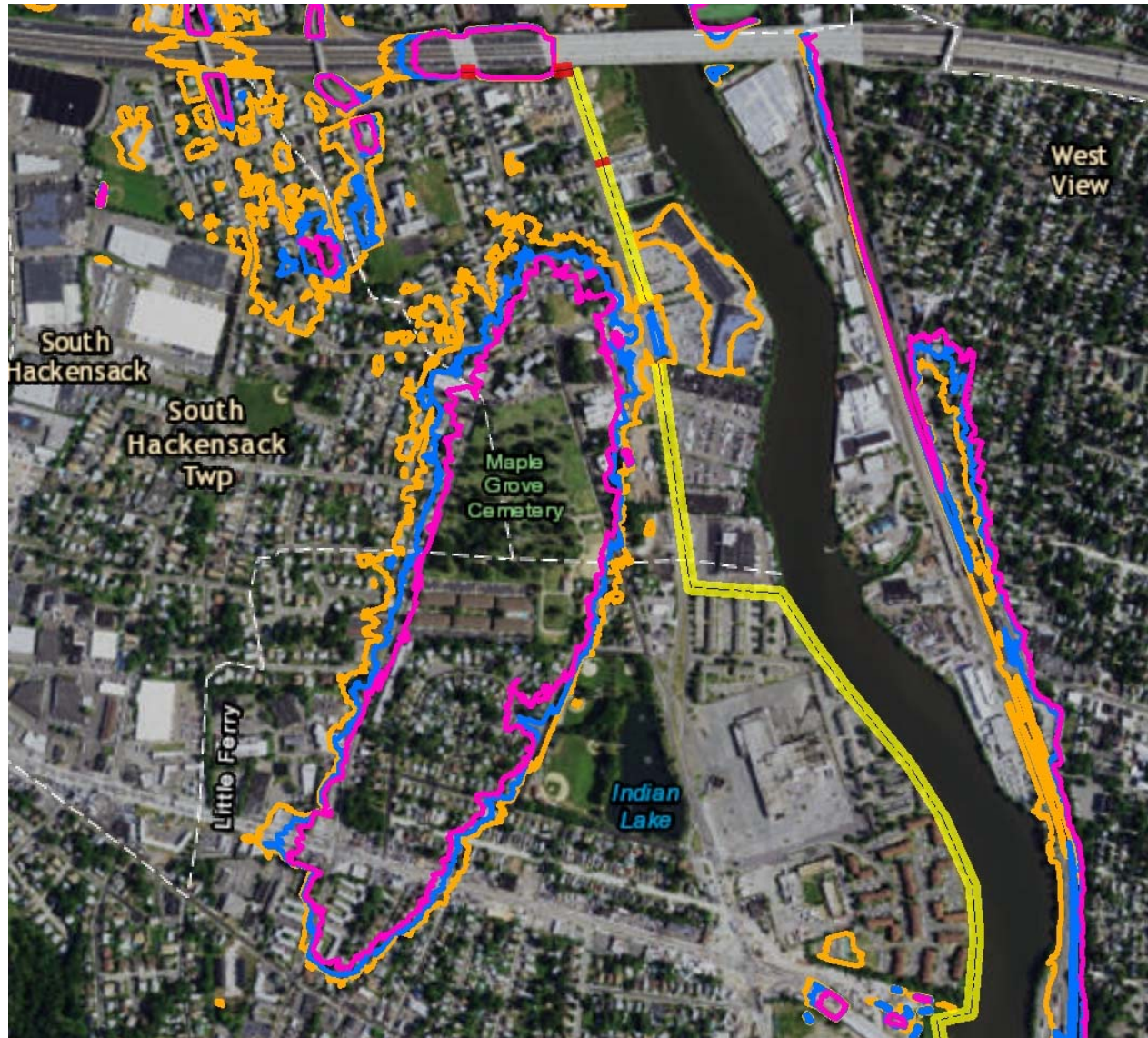
AECOM

Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments

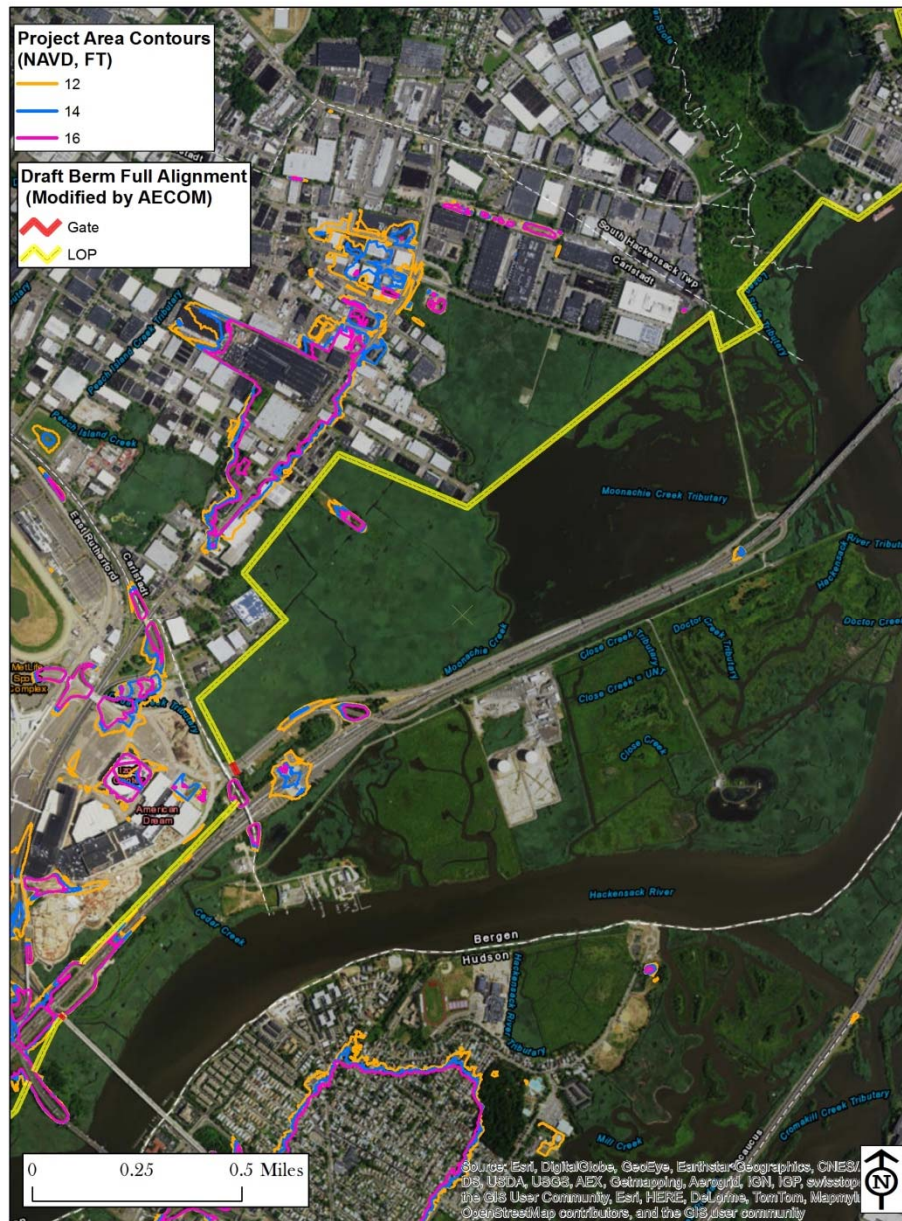


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Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments

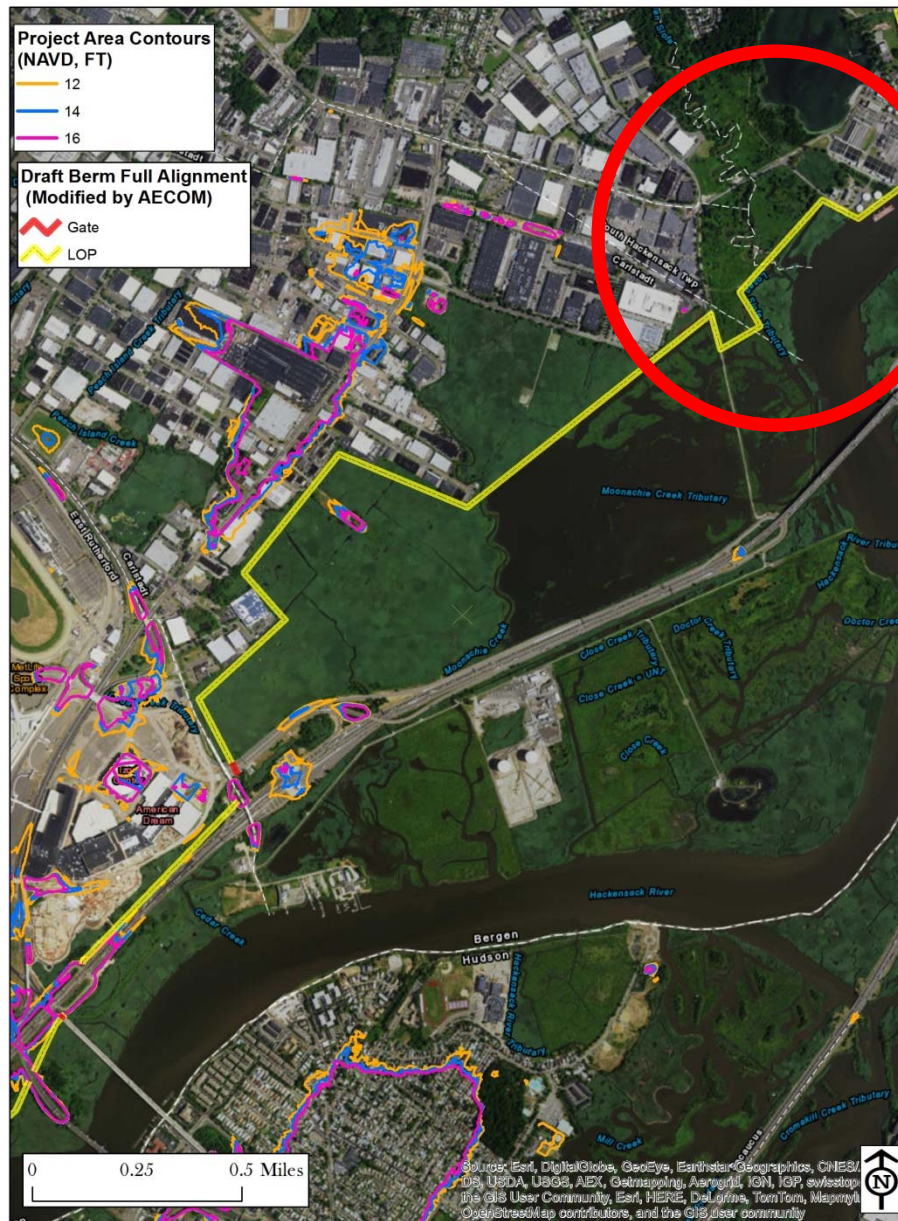


Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments

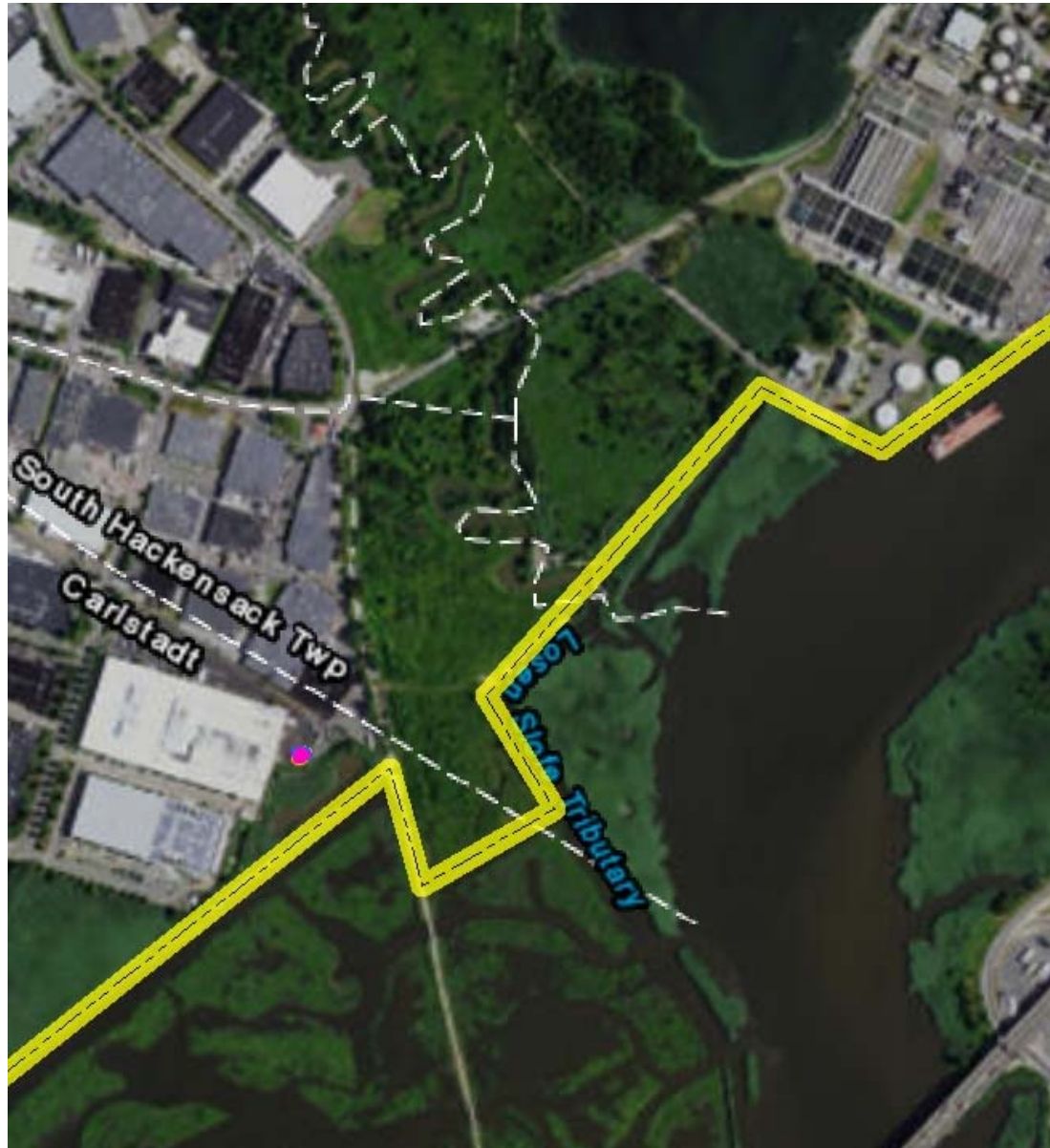


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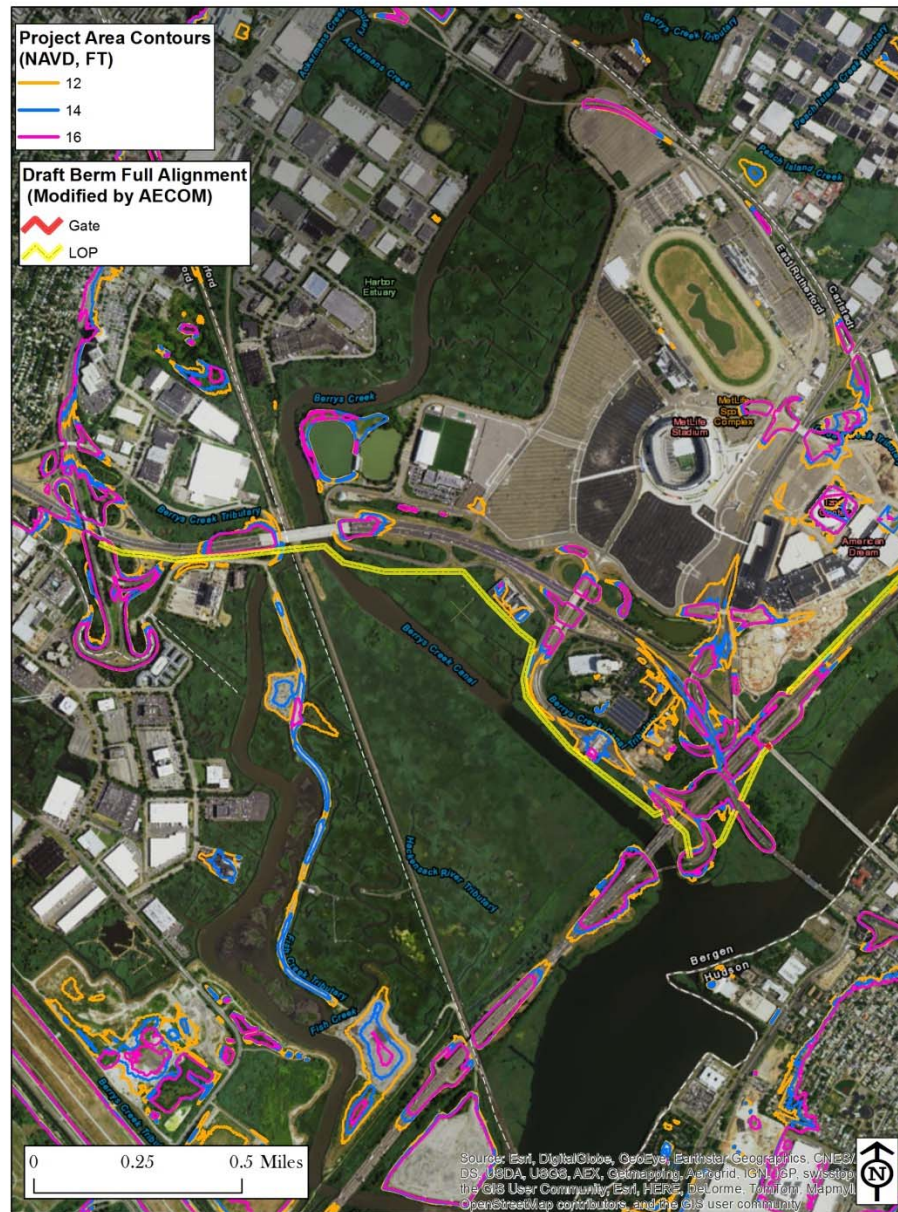
Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments



Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments

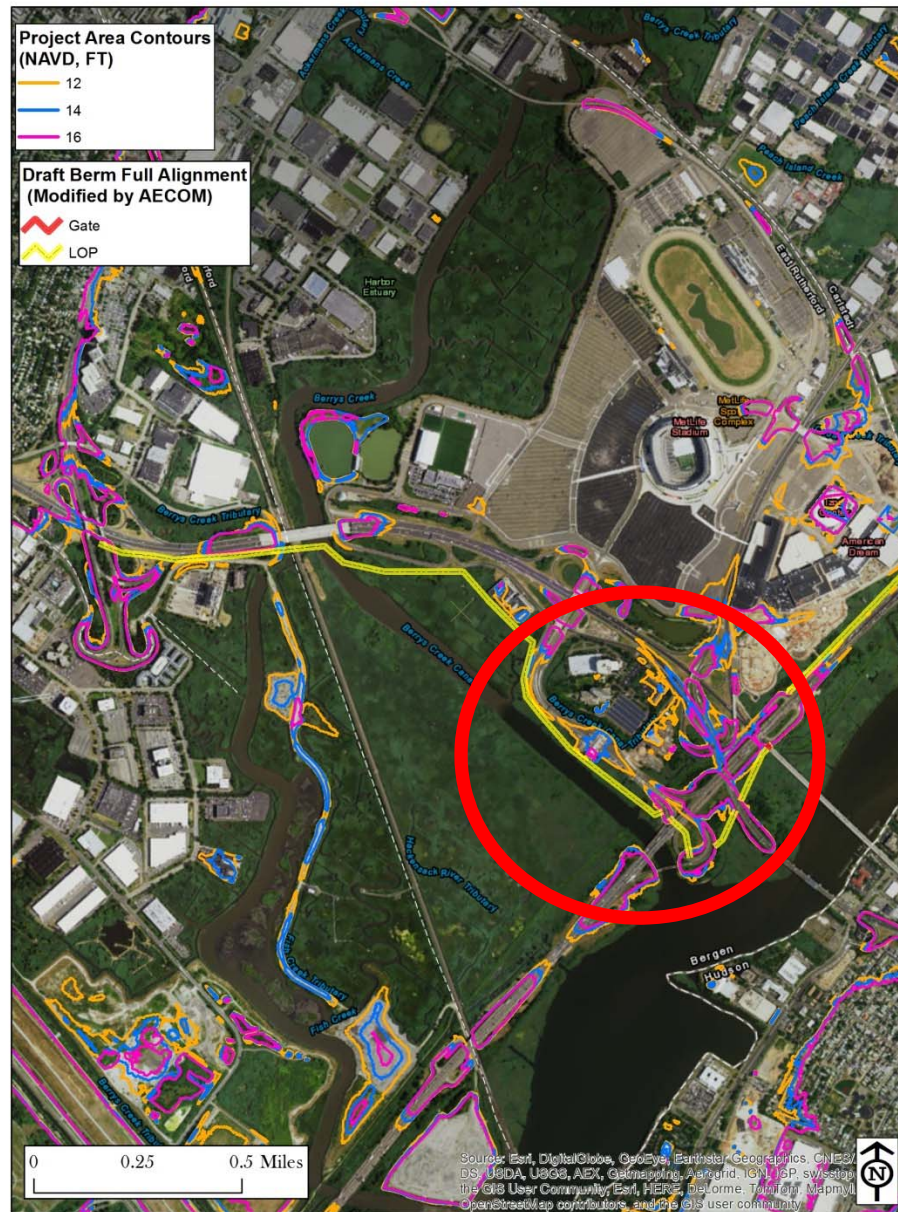


Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments



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Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments

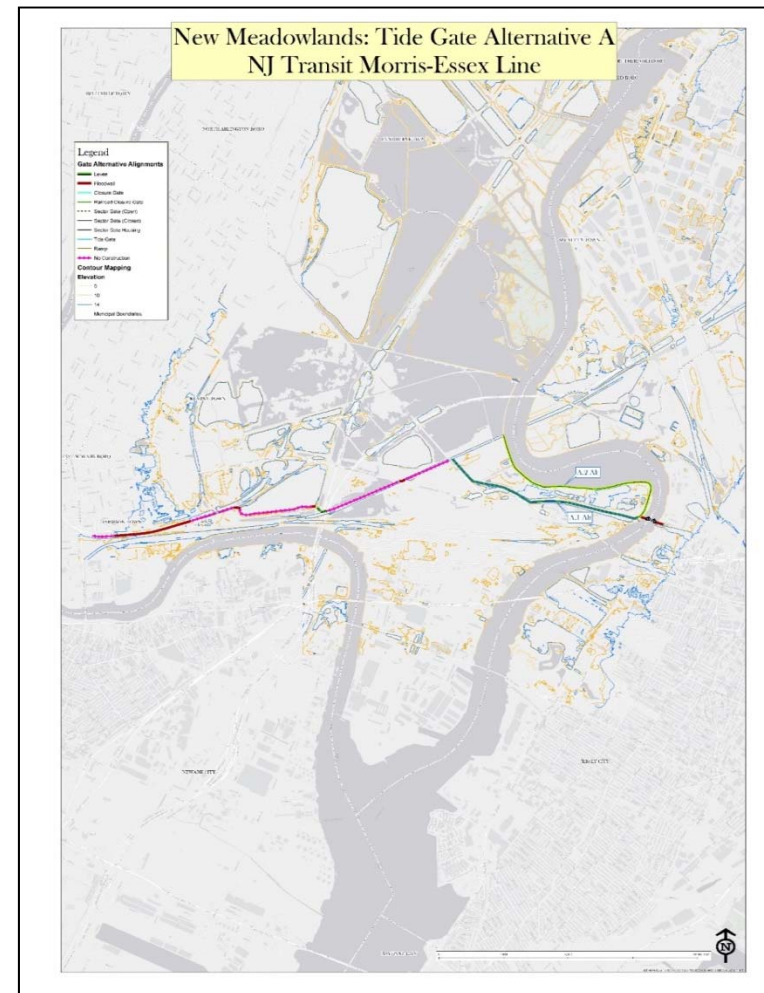
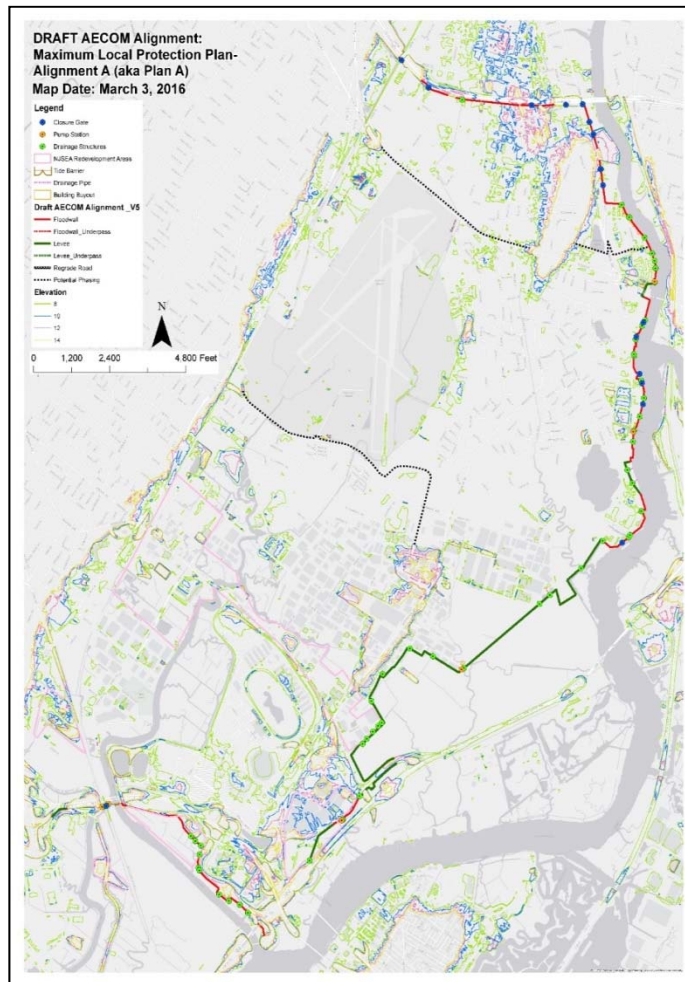


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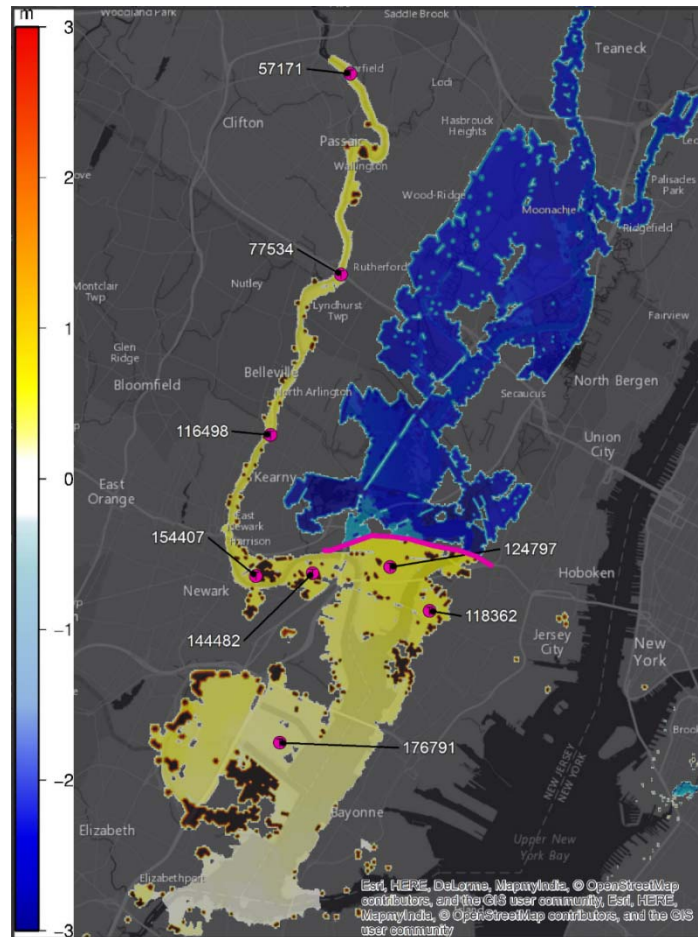
Preliminary Flood Protection Alignments



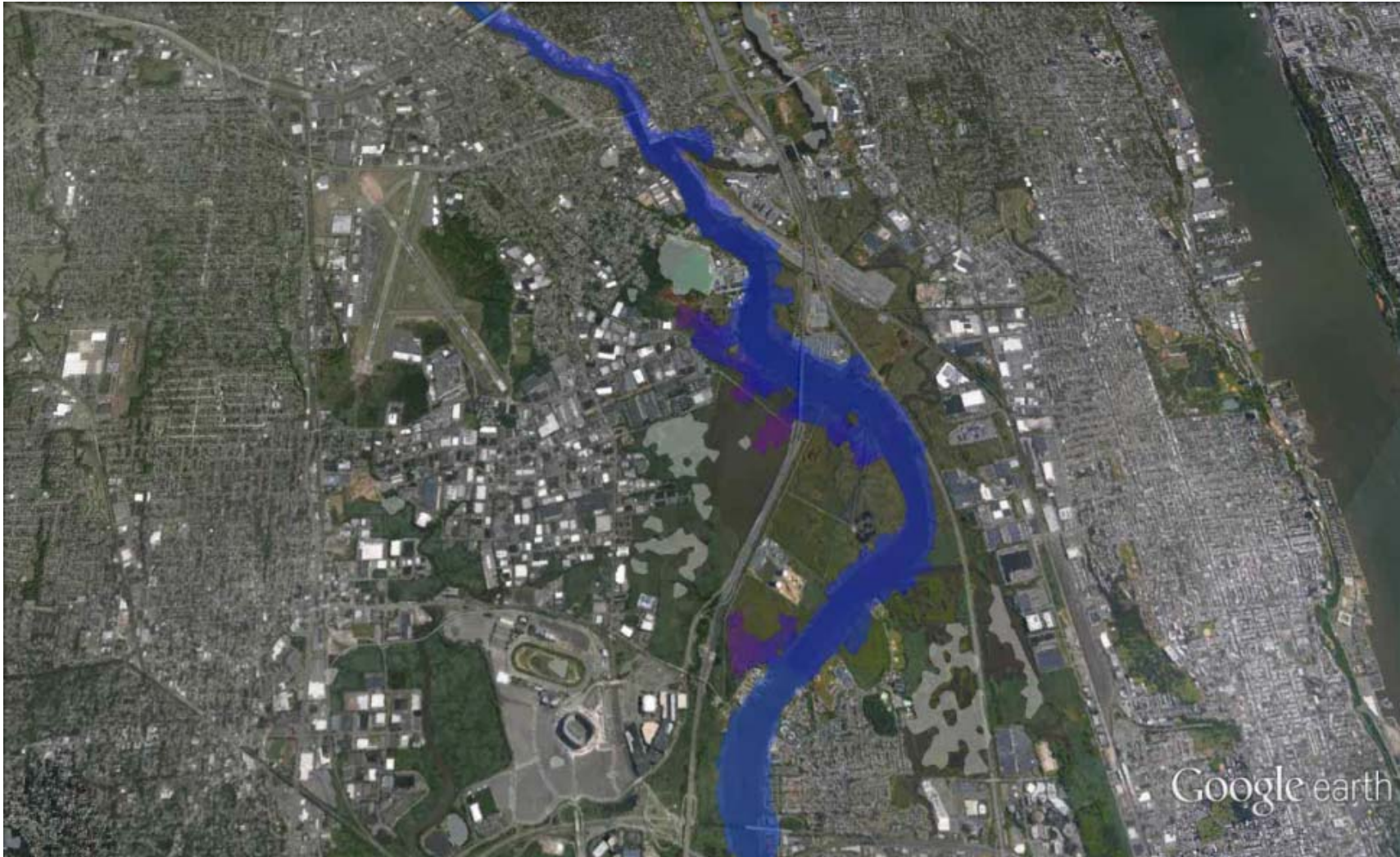
Preliminary Flood Protection Alternatives



Hydrodynamic Modeling

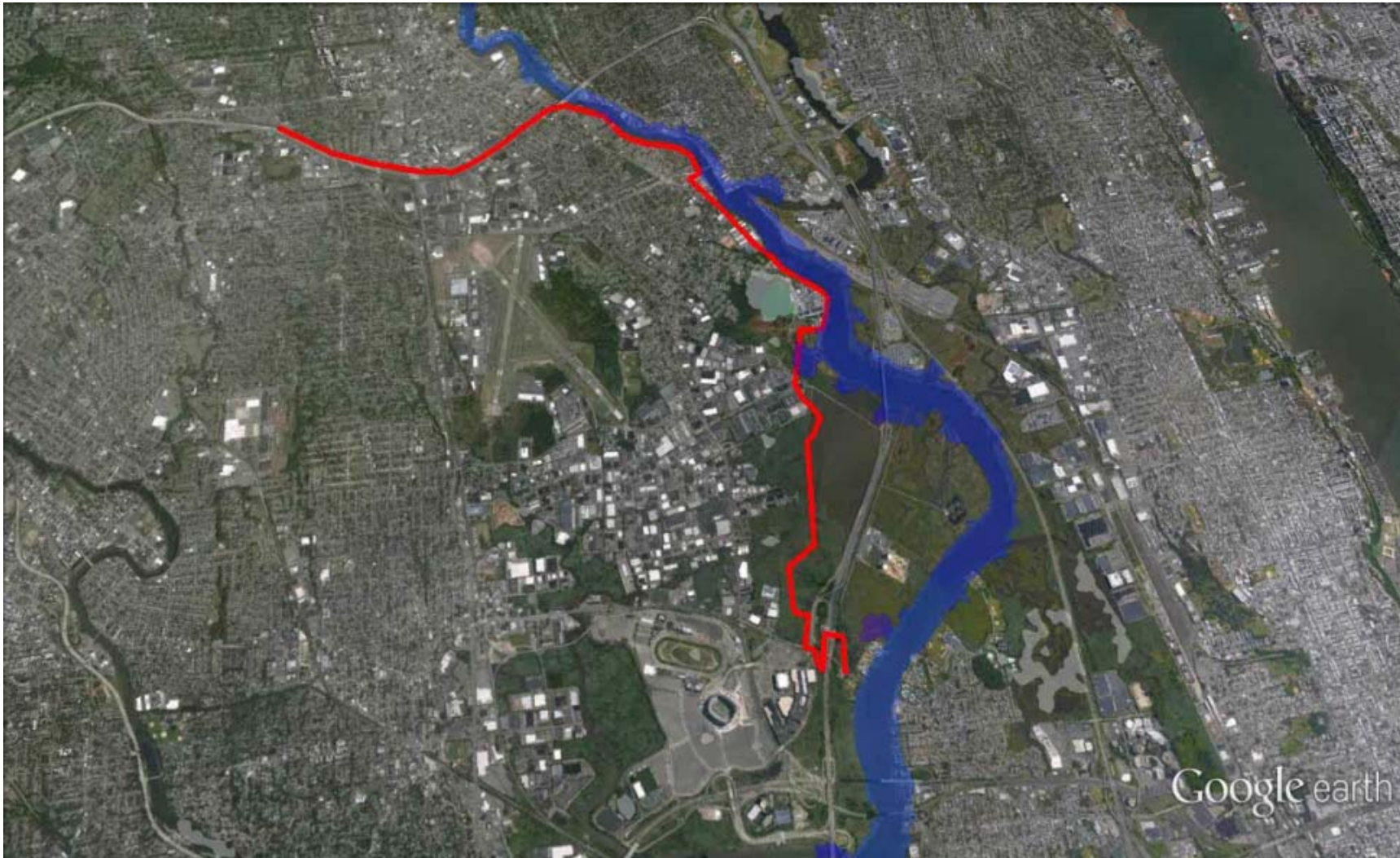


MIKE21 - Hydrodynamic Modeling



Existing Conditions

MIKE21 - Hydrodynamic Modeling



With Line of Protection

NEPA Process

Brian W. Boose, Team NEPA Manager

NEPA Overview

National Environmental Policy Act (1970)

- Purpose: Ensures the Federal government considers the environmental effects of all projects, prior to implementation
- Applies to all projects with a Federal connection (e.g., funding)
- Requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for “major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment”
- EIS process has several procedural steps to ensure public input is obtained and considered

NEPA Overview



Scoping Process Overview

- “Scoping” – process by which meaningful public input is sought to focus the NEPA analysis
- 30-day Public Scoping Period
 - Formally begins with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS
 - *Federal Register, Little Ferry Local, Hackensack Chronicle, South Bergenite*
 - Occurs early in the NEPA (environmental review) process to focus the NEPA analysis on specific alternatives, issues, concerns, and methods of analysis
 - A Public Scoping Meeting occurs at least 15 days after publication of the NOI

Scoping Process Overview

- Draft Public Scoping Document
 - Describes the purpose and need of the project
 - Identifies an initial range of alternatives
 - Identifies resource areas that should be analyzed
 - Outlines methods to assess resources and effects
- Will be made available when the NOI is published
 - On project website; Listserv will be notified
- Oral and written comments will be invited from the public during the 30-day scoping process, and at the Public Scoping Meeting

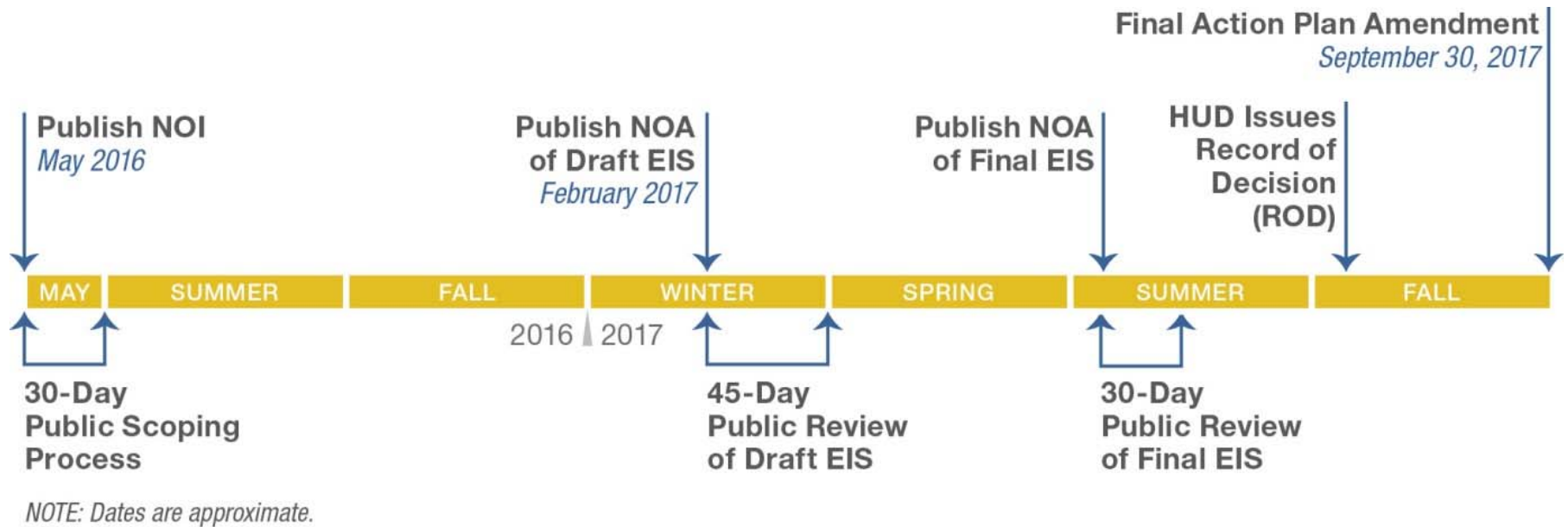
EIS Overview

- Major components:
 - Consideration of Alternatives – analyzes potential options for increasing flood protection in the project area
 - Detailed social, economic, and environmental analysis of three Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative
 - A program of public participation and interagency coordination throughout development of the EIS
- Coordinates with Federal, State, and local agencies; stakeholder groups; and general public

EIS Overview

- Draft EIS
 - 45-day public comment period
 - Public meeting
- Final EIS – responds to comments on Draft EIS
 - Initiates another 30-day public comment period
- Record of Decision (ROD) – identifies Federal decision made

NEPA Timeline



Note: Dates are approximate and subject to change

- To engage a diverse group of public and agency participants to provide timely and relevant information throughout the NEPA process
 - Establish two-way communication between NJDEP and the public
 - Regular meetings and informative data exchanges
 - Educate the public about the NEPA process
 - Roles of the government, stakeholders, and the general public
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of outreach and public involvement activities on a continual basis

Public Outreach Process

- Citizen Outreach Plan (COP); Public Involvement Plan (PIP)
- Public Outreach coordinated through the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)
 - Notably includes underserved and vulnerable populations
- Accommodations at public meetings for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency
 - Documents available in Spanish, Korean; other languages upon request

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog

Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski

www.renewjerseystronger.org

Public Outreach Tools

- Project Branding
- Project Website and E-mail
- NJDEP Listserv
- Monthly Updates/Newsletters
- Meeting Announcements
- Media Relations
- Social Media
- Other Tools



Linda Fischer, NJDEP Project Manager

Roles and Responsibilities

NJDEP *(with AECOM)*

- Spearhead the NEPA process, prepare the EIS, and explain the different phases to the public
- Provide public with updates and lead public meetings
- Receive and consider comment from stakeholders and public
- Specific to CAG participation, the NJDEP will:
 - Develop information materials that can be used by CAG members to inform and educate the broader public
 - Provide agenda and other information regarding meeting content
 - Distribute all materials provided at the meeting on the project website
 - Distribute summary of meeting to public for comment
 - Collect CAG comments on meeting summary and revise accordingly

Roles and Responsibilities

Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)

- Attend CAG and public meetings
- Serve as the liaison between NJDEP and the community
- Share with the NJDEP and the Mayors:
 - Issues, concerns, and priorities of the public
 - Inform the NJDEP of best local networks of communication
- Share with community:
 - Information about project goals and objectives
 - Processes and procedures of the project
 - Responses to issues and concerns

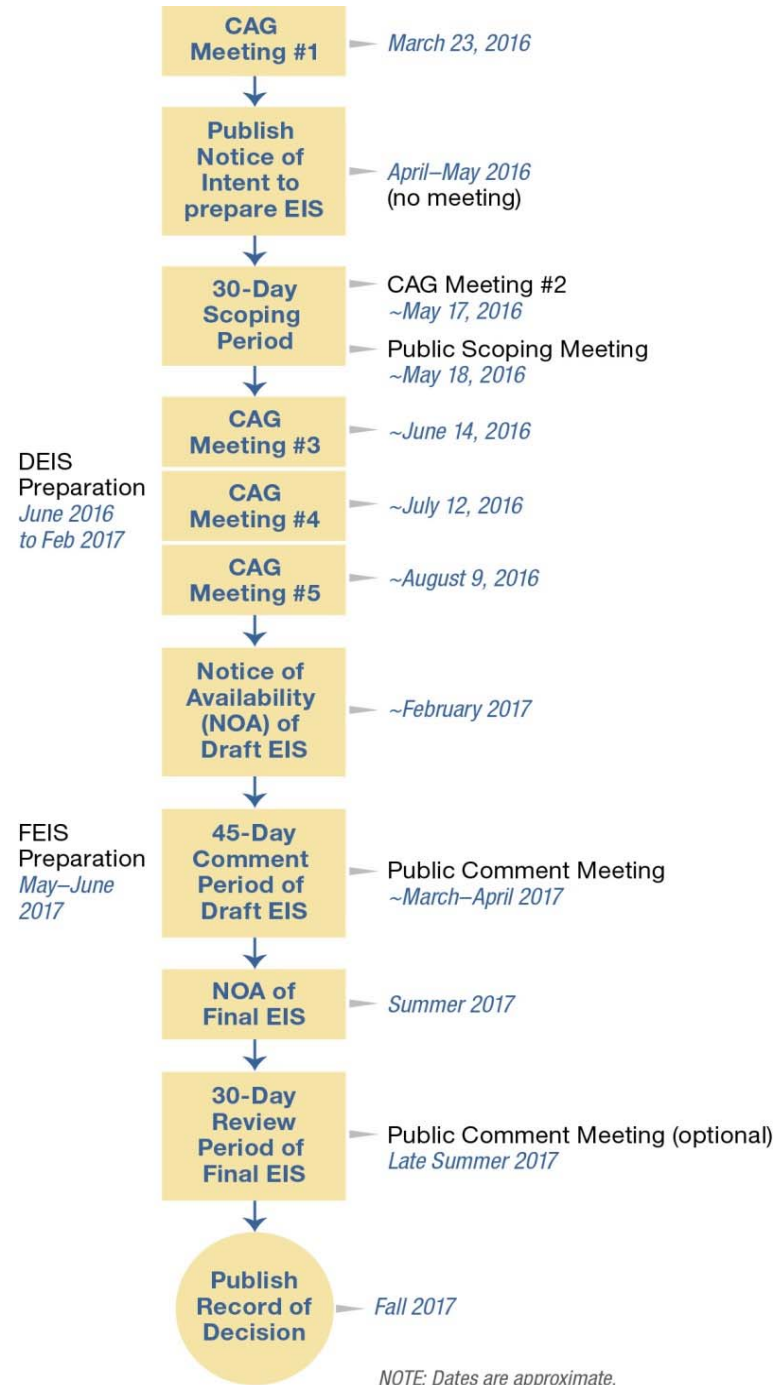
Citizen Advisory Group Meetings

CAG Meetings

- **CAG Meeting #1** – Purpose and Need – ***This meeting***
- **CAG Meeting #2** – Scoping/Data Gathering – May 17, 2016
- **CAG Meeting #3** – Screening Criteria/Metrics – June 2016
- **CAG Meeting #4** – Alternatives Screening – July 2016
- **CAG Meeting #5** – Alternatives Analysis – August 2016
- **Subsequent CAG Meetings** – September 2016 – September 2017, as appropriate and needed

Brian W. Boose, Team NEPA Manager

Key Input Milestones



- **Purpose:** to reduce the flood risk within the project area
 - Minimize the impacts from coastal storm surge and rainfall flood events on the community
 - Provide benefits and improve the quality of life/standard of living of the area's residents
- **Need:** to provide increased flood protection to the residents, businesses, and critical community infrastructure within the project area
 - Decrease costs
 - Increase public health and safety
 - Provide opportunities for additional quality of life improvements

Where Are We Now? **Proposed Action**

Proposed Action:

- Refine RBD vision to provide a level of flood protection that satisfies local needs and Federal funding requirements
- Focus on the Phase 1 Pilot Area
 - Possibly expanded to include the Boroughs of East Rutherford and Rutherford, and the Township of Lyndhurst, among others

Where Are We Now? Initial Alternatives

- Alternative 1: Modified/Reduced Phase 1 Pilot Area RBD Concept
 - Appropriate levees, berms, drainage structures, pump stations, floodgates, storm surge barrier, and/or other hard and soft infrastructure, to achieve flood protection
- Alternative 2: Phase 1 Pilot Area Fluvial/Rain Event Drainage Improvement
 - Series of projects that would reduce the regular, small-scale flooding events that disrupt the local communities
- Alternative 3: Hybrid
 - Hard and soft infrastructure
 - Local drainage improvement projects
- No Action Alternative

Linda Fischer, NJDEP Project Manager

Key Contact Information and Communication

Name	Affiliation
Alyson Beha	HUD Region II Senior Regional Planner
Linda Fisher	NJDEP Project Team Manager
Alexis Taylor	NJDEP Outreach Team Leader
Christopher Benosky	AECOM – Project Manager
Garrett Avery	AECOM – Deputy Project Manager
Brian Beckenbaugh	AECOM – Outreach
Brian W. Boose	AECOM – NEPA Project Manager

Website: www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov

E-mail: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

The NJDEP will be the key agency responsible for receiving, publicly distributing (including via the CAG), and coordinating all information relative to this NEPA process

NJDEP/AECOM Upcoming Activities

- Prepare Meeting Summary for this meeting
- Continue developing:
 - Initial Alternatives
 - Feasibility Study
 - Draft Public Scoping Document
- Provide CAG with Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document for review and comment over a 15-day period (approx. April 1-15, 2016)
- Prepare for Public Scoping Period and Public Meeting
- Implement Public Involvement Plan, including website, newsletter, etc.
- Prepare for Scoping/Data Gathering CAG Meeting in May 2016 (approx.)
- Publish the NOI in April or May 2016

Next Steps

CAG – Call to Action:

- Review and comment on Meeting Summary for this meeting
- Share information from this Meeting with constituents
- Educate constituents on the project and NEPA Process
- Build interest in the project
- Assist in disseminating information concerning the Public Scoping Process and Meeting
- Review the Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document over a 15-day period; provide comments by April 15, 2016
- Begin obtaining information, ideas, and potential concerns from constituents

Next Steps

Critical Schedule Dates (approximate)

- **Late April – early May** – Publish NOI
- **At NOI Publication** – Make Available Draft Public Scoping Document
- **May 17** – CAG Meeting #2 – Scoping/Data Gathering (tentative)
- **May 18** – Public Scoping Meeting (tentative)
- **June 14** – CAG Meeting #3 – Screening Criteria/Metrics (tentative)
- **July 12** – CAG Meeting #4 – Alternatives Screening (tentative)
- **August 9** – CAG Meeting #5 – Alternatives Analysis (tentative)

COP and PIP

- Finalizing the Draft COP
- 30-Day Public Comment Period
 - COP posted on project website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov
 - Submit comments via rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Question & Answer Session



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

