



CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2 PACKET

Scoping/Data Gathering Meeting

NEW MEADOWLANDS REBUILD BY DESIGN

PHASE 1 PILOT AREA
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

April 26, 2016

Prepared By

AECOM

Hackensack River

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog
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Table of Contents

1.0 Power Point Presentation.....	2
2.0 Responses to CAG Questionnaire #1	12
3.0 Personal Notes	28

List of Acronyms

CAG	Citizen Advisory Group
CDBG-DR	Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESC	Executive Steering Committee
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
OSC	Outreach Subcommittee
ROD	Record of Decision

Agenda

Scoping/Data Gathering CAG Meeting

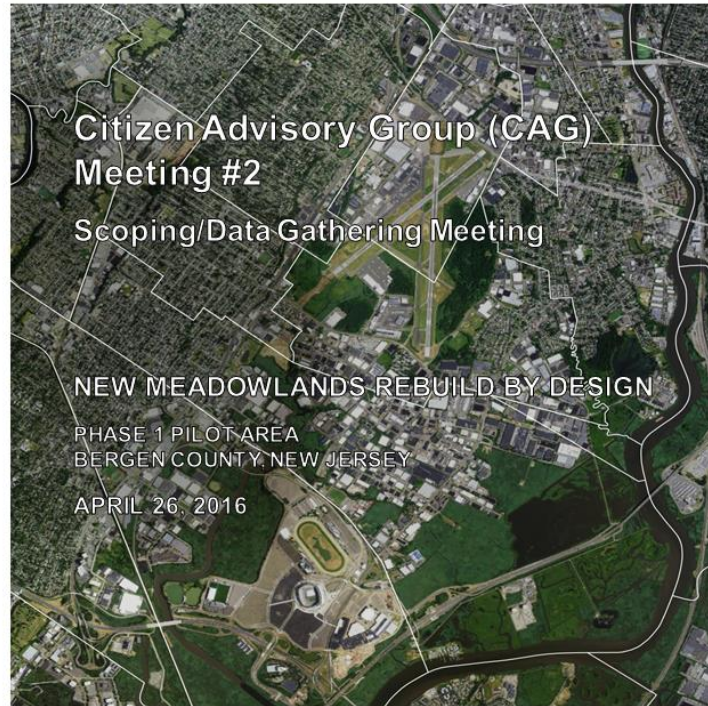
6-8 PM, April 26, 2016
Little Ferry Borough Hall
215 Liberty Street
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

- **Welcome**
- **Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives** – Linda Fisher, Project Team Manager, Rebuild by Design New Meadowlands, NJDEP
 - Obtain CAG Input on Local Flooding
 - Draft Citizen Outreach Plan, accepting comments through May 6, 2016
- **CAG Member Introductions**
- **AECOM Presentation** – Christopher Benosky, Vice President, AECOM
 - Current Project Status/Goals – update since March 23, 2016
 - Alternatives, Data Gathering, Drainage Study
- **Status of NEPA Process** – Brian W. Boose, AECOM NEPA Project Manager
 - Questionnaire Responses
 - Workshop Portion of Meeting Overview
- **Break-out Sessions** (approximately 1 hour)
- **Reconvene and Review**
- **Q&A/Closure**

1.0 Power Point Presentation



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Agenda

- 1 *Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives*
- 2 *CAG Member Introductions*
- 3 *Status of the Project*
- 4 *Status of the NEPA Process*
- 5 *Responses to Questionnaire #1*
- 6 *Workshop Structure*
- 7 *Workshop – Break-out Sessions*
- 8 *Reconvene and Review*
- 9 *Questions and Answers/Closure*

1 Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives

Linda Fisher, NJDEP Project Manager

- NJDEP appreciates the CAG Responses to the Questionnaire!
- The Project will focus on reducing flood risk
- We will have about \$110M to build the Project after all analyses are complete
- Status of Project Area Ditch Mapping Exercise
- Draft Citizen Outreach Plan posted to Project website
 - ✓ Website: www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov
 - ✓ E-mail: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov
 - ✓ **Accepting comments through May 6, 2016**
- **Meeting Objective:** Obtain CAG Input on Local Flooding

2 CAG Member Introductions

CAG Members: Please introduce yourselves

- Name
- Town and/or Affiliation
- Length of Residency
- Ideas/Concerns/Area(s) of Expertise

3 Status of the Project

Christopher Benosky, Vice President, AECOM

- Current Project Status/Goals (update since March 23, 2016)
- Status of Alternatives and Data Gathering
- Status of Drainage Study

4 Status of the NEPA Process

Brian W. Boose, AECOM NEPA Team Leader

- Status of the Notice of Intent
- Status of the Public Scoping Document
- Status of the Public Scoping Process

5 Responses to Questionnaire #1

- Purpose & Need*
- Flooding Problem Areas*
- Alternatives*
- Locations of CAG and Public Meetings*
- Next CAG Meeting and Format*
- Stakeholders
- Best Local Newspapers
- Newsletter Location
- Other Suggestions

* = Addressed in this meeting.

6 Workshop Structure

- Break-out Session tables
- Google Earth
- Dots and maps
- Facilitator/recorder at each table
- Photos to central table
- About 1 hour to share your concerns, ideas, and locations

7**Workshop – Break-out Sessions**

We welcome and need your input!

8**Reconvene and Review**

- Table-by-Table Summary and Review/Discussion
- Next Steps

Next Steps

NJDEP/AECOM Upcoming Activities

- Prepare Meeting Summary for this meeting, including consolidating data
- Continue developing:
 - Initial Alternatives
 - Feasibility Study
 - Draft Public Scoping Document
- Finalize the Citizen Outreach Plan, including responding to comments on the Draft and posting the Final to the website (May 2016)
- Provide CAG with Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document for review and comment over a 15-day period (May 2016)
- Prepare for Public Scoping Period and Public Meeting
- Implement Public Involvement Plan, including website, newsletter, etc.
- Prepare for next CAG Meeting in May 2016 (approx.)
- Publish the NOI in June 2016

Next Steps

CAG – Call to Action

- Review and comment on Meeting Summary for this meeting
- Review and comment on the Draft Citizen Outreach Plan
- Share information from this Meeting with friends and neighbors
- 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 in May 2016
- Continue obtaining information, ideas, and potential concerns from constituents

Next Steps

Critical Schedule Dates (approximate)

- **Late May – early June** – Publish NOI
- **At NOI Publication** – Make Available Draft Public Scoping Document
- **Mid-May** – CAG Meeting #2b – Scoping/Data Gathering 2.0 (tentative)
- **Mid-June** – Public Scoping Meeting (tentative)
- **Mid-July** – CAG Meeting #3 – Screening Criteria/Metrics (tentative)
- **Mid-August** – CAG Meeting #4 – Alternatives Screening (tentative)
- **Mid-September** – CAG Meeting #5 – Alternatives Analysis (tentative)

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

9**Questions and Answers****Open Group Discussion**

- Additional thoughts on the CAG Questionnaire #1
- Next CAG Meeting logistics
- Other concerns and ideas

10**Closure**

Thank you!

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2.0 Responses to CAG Questionnaire #1

CAG Questionnaire #1: Responses Gathered - as of 4.26.16

A. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

1. **Purpose and Need.** As discussed at the CAG meeting on March 23, 2016, the NJDEP is focused on reducing flooding within the project area. Is that the proper focus for this analysis (v. “Connect” and “Grow” concepts from the initial RBD concept design)? Are there other Needs we should be addressing here, within the framework of the RBD competition?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Reducing flooding is correct focus for purpose and need; consider roadway improvement integrated with flood protection (\$\$ from DOT/FHWA?); smaller flooding events are more important to address, as is existing local flood protection infrastructure. Incorporate renewable energy and existing habitat/wetlands management plans, plus recreation and quality of life considerations. Don't create walls and barriers in community.

Commenter 1: I would like to see forward planning for a roadway along the riverfront from NJ Route 3 North to connect with NJ Route 46 then continuing north and connecting with US RT 80, possibly continuing further to connect to NJ RT 4. This would accomplish many benefits; some of them are by eliminating flooding for many towns, as well as providing better traffic flow from the RT 3 Sports Complex, (stadium, racetrack, arena, and the American Dream project). This would also remove the daily truck traffic that passes very close to the two Elementary schools in Little Ferry. The safety of the children crossing this roadway as well as the very disturbing noise level in the classrooms, and the air pollution from the high volume of traffic that passes very close to both of these schools. This could be a multi-phase project, first sheet piling along the Pier head and Bulkhead line. (No ROW acquisition required), including Tide gates and Archimedes screws instead of pumps as they do not clog. Best of all, the roadway would be funded mostly by the Department of Transportation Federal funds and possibly some NJDOT money. This would provide a permanent solution to the Regions problems.

Commenter 2: We need to put more emphasis on restoring wetlands to alleviate flooding.

Commenter 3: What happens if water is released from Oradell Dam and a wall has been placed at the river edge?

Commenter 4: Clearly there are flooding problems that need to be addressed; I don't have an opinion as to the best methods for this. I have doubts whether “grow” is appropriate, with or without a dike or “green infrastructure,” given the long term flooding hazards, sea level rise, and increasing precipitation. Other than that, I feel strongly that biodiversity issues, and possibly renewable energy capture/generation, should be considered in concert with flood defenses as I've commented previously on this project.

Commenter 5: I agree with this geographically limited scope, given the limited grant funds available at this time. I also agree with starting work under the “Protect” concept from the initial RBD concept.

Commenter 6: Would agree that reducing flood risks is the proper focus (as opposed to connect and grow). Would also suggest that, within the scope of the RBD mandate, having a focus on 10 year storm/SLR as well as 100 year flooding issues would be beneficial.

From our perspective we would be very interested in plans that had co-benefits that helped meet the goals of the NY NJ HEP Action Plan. This includes reducing storm water and nutrients in the Hackensack River and tributaries through storm water controls and best practices; restoration efforts that advance the Hudson Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan, including advancing projects identified on the map at <http://www.harborestuary.org/watersweshare/>; and increased public access to the River (see existing access to the River and HEP guidelines at <http://www.harborestuary.org/prs.htm>).

Commenter 7: Yes; protection is the proper focus; the communities are well developed already, as is all of Bergen County (and indeed, I would argue, most of New Jersey); growth would most likely be a burden, rather than an opportunity. We really need a definition of *connection* in this context. We certainly need to avoid physical barriers being created that would create disconnecting neighbors and communities, and to ensure that the project does not protect some residences and businesses at the expense of others. I could see advantages in minimizing traffic and congestion, but otherwise we are pretty well connected physically. Communities must remain connected to waterways and natural features; we cannot be burying brooks and building structures to make them inaccessible for recreation and even simple scenic benefits. Whatever amenities are included should enhance community-building, help towns and neighborhoods grow in quality of life and create healthier opportunities, not expand buildings, hard infrastructure, and increase population counts and ratables.

Flooding risk has a large impact on the area; although naturally Sandy brought new concerns about devastating huge storms, which we realize are likely to increase in frequency, what is most wearing is the smaller fluvial flooding that has become an ever-more-present problem as there is less open space and more development (some would say overdevelopment). Ensuring that communities can quickly return to normal after those mid-sized floods is particularly crucial to quality of life; current flood-control features are not all well-maintained and in operating condition; the state's ability to pull these local features together under one regional umbrella could be very helpful in a practical sense; also, municipal government would both feel an obligation and have reassurance that costs will be shared, making these efforts and their maintenance easier politically. Real estate values should be stabilized with more assurance that the impact of small/mid-sized floods will be less disruptive.

Commenter 8: [No comment].

2. **Flooding Problem Areas.** Please identify areas (and infrastructure) within your community that are particularly problematic and result in flooding. Please provide (attach) maps and photographs, if possible. Also, do you have any suggestions to address these areas?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Metropolitan Mobile Home Park (Austin Street), Vanguard Mobile Home Community, and Liberty Street; all areas in Little Ferry with the exception of Summit Circle, Redneck Avenue and parts of Franklin Street; avoid levees; focus on smaller-scale flooding; focus on LMI areas; consider integrating better transportation corridors with flood reduction measures.

Commenter 1: See Attachment [at end of this document].

Commenter 2: **Metro Mobile Home Park.**

Commenter 3: **Summit Circle, Redneck Avenue, parts of Franklin Street** were the only areas not inundated by the storm surge this time.

Commenter 4: I can't answer these questions; local people know much more about flooding than I do. My expertise lies more in the biological resources area. However, **dikes and levees are tricky to design and maintain**, and if this option is chosen it will be challenging from all perspectives.

Commenter 5: I would look to input provided by municipal staff, local residents and stakeholders and elected officials for this. My understanding of local needs is not nearly as detailed as what you'll get directly from them!

Commenter 6: [No comment].

Commenter 7: **Liberty Street** is the main, even sole, route for traffic between Routes 46, 80 3. Currently, semi-trucks rumble past schools, where there are crossing guards all day because of the dangers of students crossing such heavy traffic. Better transportation options—not big bus storage—might be considered, with the caveat that that does not simply mean a bigger, higher, disconnected roadway. Carlstadt's flooding was concentrated in an area with 900 businesses, but the residential area was not flooded. **Metropolitan and Vanguard manufactured-home communities** not only had severe flooding, but because of their being privately-owned land (not by homeowners themselves), a large percentage of undocumented residents, pre-existing problems of environmental degradation and poverty effects, and a feeling, accurate or not, of powerlessness and apathy by municipal government, it was and remains hard to get services to residents and participation from them in public meetings and programs. Everyday flooding is on everyone's mind; each storm brings trauma-related reactions to residents.

Commenter 8: I own **Metropolitan (mobile home) Park** and we do have a flooding issue that occurs on **Austin St.**, which is 3' above sea level. The surrounding factories' storm run-off runs through the metropolitan park and due to that, we back up with a rain over 2", especially with a full moon, and have to pump.

3. **Alternatives.** Based on the information provided at the CAG meeting on March 23, 2016 (see provided CAG Meeting Packet), do you concur with the three broad alternatives as presented and discussed? Are there any other broad alternatives we should be considering at this early phase?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Improve and maintain existing flood control infrastructure (less red tape); relocate residences and businesses; increase upstream storage capacity; generally prefer Alternative 2 (or 3), not 1; protect wetlands; seek interagency cooperation/collaboration; examine property values and flood insurance rates; consider setting up a resilience district funded by reduced insurance rates to fund O&M.

Commenter 1: YES

Commenter 2: [No comment]

Commenter 3: Sorry to say if the flood gates, creek cleanings, extra pump stations we allow to be maintained cleared and less red tape before the storm we would have been in better shape. Government red tape kept these preventative measures from occurring.

Commenter 4: Not sure. It may not fall into the three big approaches category, but with regard to fluvial flooding, there should be consideration of increasing the capacity of the Oradell Reservoir and other existing or potential storage areas upstream? "Green infrastructure" is always a good idea, but since most of the study area is only a meter (roughly) above sea level, there isn't much head (elevation difference) for draining water to the estuary, and pumping would be expensive and subject to failure when it's needed most. It might make sense to relocate some of the development out of the flood prone areas, but this is challenging socially and economically, and there isn't a lot of space available nearby. Nonetheless, this needs to be considered because if sea level rise predictions are accurate (e.g., 1 meter or more this century), eventually relocation will probably be necessary unless residences and business can coexist with a high risk of failure of flood defenses.

Commenter 5: Yes, agreed. Particularly interested to review solutions proposed to address both coastal and fluvial/precipitation-based flood hazards.

Commenter 6: Would concur with the three alternatives, in particular Alternative 2 and 3 appear to have the greatest potential for achieving the goals of the project within the specified timeframe as well as potentially realizing the co-benefits described above.

Commenter 7: Without more details that we can bring to our constituents, we really cannot answer this question accurately.

We believe that it is crucial to ensure that wetlands are protected. Most residents do not want a complete, large-scale Alternative 1 with tall infrastructure/walls along the river; most are looking at more of the Alternative 2 smaller projects, yet even small projects can have huge impacts that need to be considered to avoid unintended consequences. There is a great deal of concern about water being

trapped inside a high berm; despite assurances, nobody believes that a wall will not flood the other side of the Hackensack River, e.g., Ridgefield Park, etc.

Will there be a CAG chairperson/cochairperson, and if so, what process will be used and how will that affect the process?

When cleaning waterways is discussed, does that mean removing debris or cleaning up toxics, i.e., working with EPA and superfund money? Various projects and programs need to be connected, rather than working in silos: RREM, EPA, this project, etc., all need to be connected. Spending millions of dollars to raise houses when others are not and are presumably to be protected by this project is a disconnect. Flood-mitigation projects should be talking to each other and be looking for efficiency by each agency/project taking a part of a larger solution.

In our work at the Long-term recovery Committee, we have met people who missed the RREM deadline because of circumstances beyond their control, such as a late substantial damage letter, who have spent all of their insurance money, and only now are they being asked to raise their house. In one case, this would cost of \$200,000, yet the current value of house is \$180,000—and if they do not raise the house, they will lose their CO on Oct. 29, 2016. If the New Meadowlands project will protect that house, a moratorium until we connect those dots and determine the real need is needed. Whereas it is always **important to have interagency cooperation in recovery projects**, in a situation such as this, the lack of coordination that we have seen could be devastating to a family's financial future—and we are sure that there are others in similar situations.

We also ask that you consider how the New Meadowlands project affects **future value of land and homes, and consider whether future reductions in flood insurance or other contributions by building owners can provide additional sources of funding for the specific pieces of the current project**. An example of this concept was raised in Hoboken; they considered **creating a resilience district to use future discounts on flood insurance for businesses as a source of income for collective flood-protection** costs. Any such effort would obviously require a great deal of creativity and investment, and would need a lot of public thought and discussion, but it could be worthwhile to consider for the Meadowlands.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

B. CAG COMPOSITION AND LOGISTICS QUESTIONS.

4. **Locations of CAG and Public Meetings.** Please suggest a location for future CAG and Public Meetings. Would it be preferable to rotate meetings within each involved town?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Meeting locations should be consistent and accessible by public transportation; public documents should be in English, Spanish, Korean, and Italian.

Commenter 1: I agree.

Commenter 2: Moonachie or Little Ferry is fine. Better to be consistent with locations.

Commenter 3: Town Halls/ Civic Centers/ Senior Centers.

Commenter 4: Doesn't matter to me as long as the meetings are in the general area of the project.

Commenter 5: I defer to needs of community-based CAG members on all things related to ideal mtg logistics.

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Yes, I think meeting locations should be rotated. Public meetings especially need to be accessible by public transportation [note that buses on Liberty St. toward Hackensack stop by 7 p.m.]. This is also true for CAG meetings; I would hate to see someone not join the CAG because of transportation issues, so if those meetings are not transit-accessible, easy carpooling systems should be considered to ensure equal access—perhaps we could set up a page on sharetribe.com, or another such site; how to reach out to those who might be interested but have not signed up because of transportation issues is unclear—maybe an inquiry to the NJDEP list (full list, not CAG) would be helpful? Certainly all are welcome to post such requests on our New Meadowlands Coalition Facebook page—and to check there for folks needing rides. Public meetings should have a Spanish-language interpreter and materials provided in Spanish, Korean, and Italian as well as English.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

5. **Next CAG Meeting and Format.** Would you be interested in/support another CAG meeting (perhaps in mid-April) in advance of the mid-May Public Scoping Meeting (and CAG Meeting) to discuss and further develop alternatives and purpose/need? If so, please identify the best date, time, and location. Also, please specify the preferred format of that next meeting - presentation, round table, work groups, etc.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Yes to another CAG meeting in April (various dates); Round Table; more interactive; better organized; more collaborative.

Commenter 1: Yes, anytime is good for me at the present time.

Commenter 2: Tuesdays or Thursday or Friday nights work. **I think the first meeting was very disorganized.** Who are CAG members? Who are just from public [illegible] working groups? **Round table.**

Commenter 3: First there was a **lack of introduction of the members** in attendance as [sic] may inform the public when we get a more clear picture working together.

Commenter 4: It seems there is a lot of discussion that was not fully supported at the first meeting. If there are enough people who want an April meeting I'm available the evenings of 13, 15, 18, 20 April. I suggest using a Doodle poll to set a date.

Commenter 5: See response to #4 [aka defer to needs of community]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Yes, **though I am planning a meeting for residents on April 13th to educate community residents as requested,** so that date would not work. Best for me personally would be evenings of April 12th, 15th, 21st, or 22nd, though I might be able to make certain other evenings. Late afternoon/early evenings on Sundays (other than the 17th) are also generally good. **It would be good to bring whatever information we get from our meeting back to the CAG and to discuss reactions to COP and scoping documents.**

I would like to see a very interactive format; a chance to **get to know fellow CAG members, plan coordinated communications strategies**—my constituents overlap with those of other CAG members—how can I avoid duplicating efforts and yet ensure that all are reached? Working with other CAG members to plan **public meetings such as the one that the New Meadowlands Coalition (NMC) is planning for the 13th would be easier and reach a greater number than the NMC alone.**

Will there be community members acting as chairperson and cochairperson of the CAG?

Commenter 8: [No comment]

6. **Stakeholders.** Please suggest other stakeholders (by name, e-mail, and area of interest/expertise) within your communities that we should contact directly as part of the public outreach process.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Include BCUA representative; Meadowlands hydrology experts; USACE; ELM Group; NJ Audubon; Bergen County's Flood Management Coordinator; MERI; Sustainable Bergen; Bergen Grassroots (see named individuals and contact data below).

Commenter 1: Most likely a representative of the Bergen County Utilities Authority, as they are right on the Hackensack River. A member of the **BCUA is George Zilocchi who lives in Little Ferry. His e-mail address is: gsp538@aol.com**

Commenter 2: [No comment]

Commenter 3: [No comment]

Commenter 4: There are few people who have worked on Meadowlands hydrology. **Kerry Donohue (ACOE) and Franco Montalto (eDesign Dynamics) come to mind. "Franco Montalto" <fmontalto@edesigndynamics.com>; I don't have Kerry's contact info. ELM Group, who is working on the Berry's Creek mercury situation, should be represented ("Michael Firth" mfirm@elminc.com). I was surprised that MERI didn't have a presence at the CAG meeting. Does NJ Audubon** have a representative on the CAG?

Commenter 5: I recommend you invite the following individuals (or representatives/delegates) to participate: **Bergen County's Flood Management Coordinator**, Betsy Stagg (based out of OEM)
<http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=70&ARC=95>

Elizabeth (Betsy) Stagg PE, PP, CFM
Bergen County Flood Management Coordinator
Bergen County Office of Emergency Management
285 Campgaw Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-785-5748
stagg@bcoem.org

Dr. Francisco Artigas of the **Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute**
<http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/francisco-artigas/biography/> - bio
<http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/francisco-artigas/> - contact info

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: We have found that Facebook works well to get messages out. E-mail is useful but limited; door-to-door flyering, Little Ferry town hall light board, etc., are also helpful. Although I cannot give names of L-TRC clients, I can give them your name to contact. Also, I would suggest including Jaklin Girgis of **Sustainable Bergen** (Jaklin.girgis@yahoo.com) and Chuck Powers of **Bergen Grassroots** (chuck@bergengrassroots.org).

Commenter 8: [No comment]

C. PUBLIC OUTREACH QUESTIONS.

7. **Best Local Newspapers.** Please identify the best local, general circulation newspapers that would reach the most members of the project area communities, including English, Spanish, and Korean newspapers. Please identify each newspaper's name and language. Please identify any additional languages you think should be addressed to capture all community members.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Record, Northjersey.com, North Jersey Media, The Gazette (Moonachie), Hackensack Chronicle, Little Ferry Local, South Bergenite, Ridgefield Park Patriot, Teaneck Suburbanite*), Patch. INCLUDE ITALIAN LANGUAGE.

Commenter 1: North jersey media Group. The Record Newspaper, NorthJersey.com

Commenter 2: The Record.

Commenter 3: Record

Commenter 4: No opinion.

Commenter 5: [No comment]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: The Record, North Jersey Media (Hackensack, countywide); North Jersey Media weekly shoppers (contact information for many of the local papers may be found here:

http://www.njpa.org/njpa/member_newspapers/njmg_community_newspapers.htm; particular recommendations include The Gazette (Moonachie), Hackensack Chronicle, Little Ferry Local, South Bergenite, Ridgefield Park Patriot, Teaneck Suburbanite*), Patch.

Italian is the most important additional language. (There are many people who speak Italian only or predominantly Italian, as exemplified by an incident at the RIC when one Italian-speaker at the Recovery Information Center came for assistance and someone who spoke Italian coincidentally walked in; otherwise, not sure how we could have assisted unless that person could return with a translator.)

*There are a number of papers listed on that page with which I am not familiar; please check them ALL for relevance, remembering that this project will affect not only the towns formally included, but also up- and downstream neighbors and those across the river.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

8. **Newsletter Location.** Please identify location(s) within your community where hard copies of newsletters should be distributed in bulk. We are looking for those select locations that would reach the most citizens.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Little Ferry 7/11; Hackensack Shoprite; Andy's Deli; Town Hall(s); Post office, library, grocery stores (particularly Korean-language materials at the local HMart), school backpacks; Family Success Center in Little Ferry, doctor's offices, manufactured-home communities' offices/laundry rooms (both Metropolitan and Vanguard, English and Spanish), convenience stores, Recovery Information Center (St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 31 Chamberlain Ave, Little Ferry).

Commenter 1: Little Ferry 7-11 & Hackensack Shoprite

Commenter 2: Andy's Deli

Commenter 3: Town Hall

Commenter 4: I don't know.

Commenter 5: [No comment]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Post office, library, grocery stores (particularly Korean-language materials at the local HMart), school backpacks (local school systems send materials home via folders in students' backpacks and they have included Sandy-recovery materials in this system; these materials need to be multilingual, whether the backpacks are real or electronic), borough hall, Family Success Center in Little Ferry, doctor's offices, manufactured-home communities' offices/laundry rooms (both Metropolitan and Vanguard, English and Spanish), convenience stores, Recovery Information Center (St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 31 Chamberlain Ave, Little Ferry). Spot checks should be made to ensure that the materials are actually distributed as planned and replenished as needed.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

D. OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

9. **Other Suggestions.** Based on what you have heard so far, do you have any other initial thoughts, concepts, concerns, issues, or ideas you would like to discuss/explore further?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Lots of work, little \$\$; protect and avoid wetlands (anticipate large impacts to biodiversity due to levees); levees/dikes can fail; projects should be well-integrated; the planned revocation of Certificates of Occupancy on 10.29.16 should be revisited.

Commenter 1: Please refer back to Question 1.

Commenter 2: [No comment]

Commenter 3: My concern is lots of work and lack of funding to do the project after the plans are pulled together.

Commenter 4: Everyone should read this paper by van Baars on historical dike failures in the Netherlands: http://www.ewa-online.eu/tl_files/_media/content/documents_pdf/Publications/E-Water/documents/8_Historical_Dike_Failures.pdf. The analysis of causes of failure is important. Also, I am particularly interested in the positive and negative effects of the proposed dike/levee system on biodiversity, which need in-depth data collection and planning, with a broad taxonomic approach and a focus on species that are Meadowlands specialties, rare, habitat specialists, or of other particular value. The issue Bill Sheehan raised at the CAG meeting about wetland mitigation is a very important one, inasmuch as mitigation projects are not only difficult to find space for but projects at other sites in the Meadowlands have not had good long-term success for a variety of reasons. Biodiversity and mitigation issues have not been met head-on in the Meadowlands, and the proposed New Meadowlands project, however it's implemented, will have very large impacts on biodiversity. Simply reflexively killing nonnative plants and planting native plants, or creating habitat for common animals, is not enough, especially if wetland is being filled or otherwise compromised for the dike. I'm prepared to discuss the biological issues in detail, as well as the problems associated with wetland mitigation, "enhancement," and "restoration."

Commenter 5: [No comment]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Different projects should connect/interact to ensure consistency. There should be follow-through so that requirements do not conflict and so that extensive construction/mitigation efforts are not made obsolete by this project or others.

We call for a moratorium on the scheduled revocation of Certificates of Occupancy from unraised properties on Oct. 29 2016. As mentioned in my reply to Question 3, above, we have seen situations in which homeowners acted early and are faced with an unexpected need to raise their homes need; if informed of such a requirement in a more timely fashion, they would likely have made different choices. In addition, just what protection the New Meadowlands project will provide remains unclear; until that is known, floodplain determination is subject to change, and consequent CO requirements are equally

indeterminate. Until the long-term requirements are clear, it is premature to enforce the revocation of these certificates; we ask that the various agencies work together to consider the complete picture of protection and requirements before any such enforcement actions are taken.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

Note to CAG Members: Public Scoping Document. Please be prepared to receive, review, and comment on the Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document. This Document should be made available to you in early April, with comments due in two weeks from receipt.

Attachment

From Commenter 1, regarding Question 2 about problem flooding areas: 6 Photos

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

[illegible]

