

REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS

RBD Meadowlands

The Rebuild By Design (RBD) Meadowlands Flood Protection Project (the Proposed Project) originated with the RBD competition - a design competition sponsored by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to find effective ways to protect people, homes, businesses, and infrastructure, and to increase resilience in Hurricane Sandy-affected regions.

At the conclusion of the RBD competition, HUD awarded funding to winning projects with designs that would help densely populated communities address repetitive flooding challenges. Through the use of HUD funds, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is overseeing the design and planning of the Proposed Project.

How can I participate?

Final EIS Public Comment Period OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Electronic copies of the Final EIS are available for public review at <http://www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov>. Paper copies and CDs of the Final EIS will also be available for review during regular business hours at the locations specified in the Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *Federal Register* and local newspapers on October 26, 2018.

Comments can be submitted in these ways:

Email: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

Mail: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
c/o Dennis Reinknecht, Program Manager
Bureau of Flood Resilience
501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A
P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0420

**Comments on the Final EIS will be accepted until
November 26, 2018**

NEWS

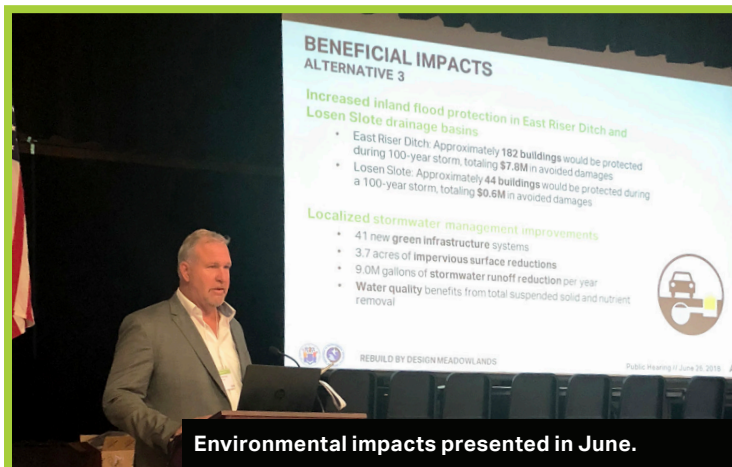
October 2018

What's New?

Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The NJDEP hosted a public hearing for the Draft EIS on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at Robert L. Craig Elementary School in Moonachie. At this hearing, the NJDEP gave a detailed presentation of the Proposed Project's alternatives and potential impacts, and identified the Preferred Alternative. Following the presentation, attendees were invited to provide oral comments during the open comment session, fill out a comment card, or submit comments via email or mail for consideration during the preparation of the Final EIS.

A full video of the Draft EIS Public Hearing is available on YouTube at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ya3prpcl> or search "NJDEP Meadowlands DEIS"



Environmental impacts presented in June.



Public comments received during Public Hearing.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Next Steps

Preparation of the Final EIS

Following the Draft EIS Public Comment Period, the EIS was revised to incorporate substantive comments received from Federal, state, and local agencies; local organizations; and members of the public. A total of 88 comments were received from 27 commenters; each of these comments is included and responded to individually in Appendix P of the Final EIS. Section 11.2 of the EIS was also updated to summarize the changes made to the EIS as a result of comments received.

Publication of Record of Decision (ROD)

At the conclusion of the Final EIS Public Comment Period, the NJDEP will prepare a ROD that explains its final decision regarding which Build Alternative (or the No Action Alternative) of the Proposed Project will be selected for final design and construction. The ROD will also summarize the environmental impact analysis, including mitigation measures. During this process, the NJDEP will evaluate all substantive comments received on the Final EIS, group them according to topic/concern, and provide an overall response for each topic/concern. The ROD will be published in the *Federal Register*, and a NOA for the ROD will be published in local newspapers. Publication of the ROD represents the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Request for Release of Funds

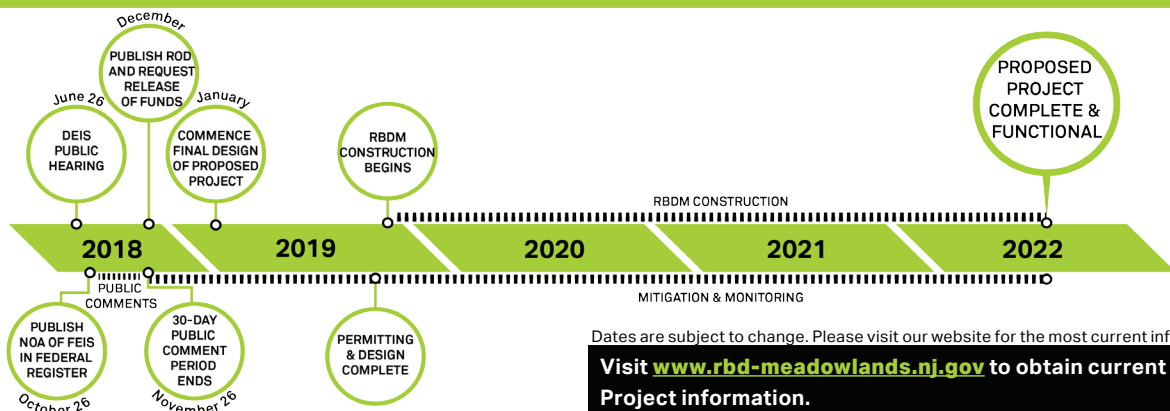
Concurrent with publication of the ROD, the NJDEP will submit to HUD a Request for Release of Funds in order to receive the remainder of the \$150 million dollars allocated for the project. Release of funds will enable the NJDEP to continue the final design and construction of the Proposed Project.

Final Design of Proposed Project

Preliminary design of each of the three Build Alternatives was completed for the Feasibility Study Report and EIS. This preliminary design was sufficient for the purposes of analyzing potential impacts, modeling benefits, and estimating cost. However, the Build Alternative selected for implementation would need to undergo further design to finalize construction plans. The final design process would not substantially change the construction footprint or the components included in the Build Alternative from the description in the Final EIS.

Get Involved!

- If you would like to become a member of the Citizen Advisory Group, please contact Alexis Taylor at: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov NJDEP welcomes your participation and input into this process!
- Share information from this newsletter with friends and neighbors.
- Educate your friends and colleagues on the Proposed Project and NEPA process.
- Continue to build interest in the Proposed Project.
- Subscribe to receive email updates on the Proposed Project at: www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov



Dates are subject to change. Please visit our website for the most current information.

Visit www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov to obtain current Proposed Project information.



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