PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for
Highlands and Monmouth Hills Flood Mitigation and Green Infrastructure Project
Borough of Highlands, Monmouth County, New Jersey
EMN-2022-BR-002-0033

Notification is hereby given to the public of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency's (DHS-FEMA) intent to provide federal financial assistance through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program, to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES), as Applicant, and the Borough of Highlands, as Subapplicant, to address downgradient stormwater flooding and coastal flooding within the borough and in the neighboring community of Monmouth Hills, in Middletown Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The BRIC Grant Program is authorized under Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 United States Code 5133, as amended by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. Under the BRIC Grant Program, FEMA provides technical and financial assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to support the implementation of hazard mitigation measures that are cost-effective and designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, which includes damage to critical services and facilities resulting from natural disasters.

The proposed action consists of implementing flood mitigation activities to install a new pump station at Snug Harbor (40.40523, -73.99436), repair the existing pump station at the end of Valley Street (40.40406, -73.98618), install a drainage system of basins and bioswales in Monmouth Hills (40.40249, -73.99728), and repair and enhance the drainage capacity at the existing North Street pump station (40.40306, -73.98419). The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce coastal flooding and inland flooding associated with stormwater runoff in Highlands and Monmouth Hills. The need for this project is warranted by the area's historical flooding and slope erosion, which have damaged property and caused road closures. Floodwaters and associated sediments repeatedly overwhelm the stormwater system, causing flooding that impacts access to buildings, emergency services, and utilities.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the EA. The EA is available for public comment for 30-days from the latest posting date on the following webpage(s): Borough of Highlands Legal Notices (https://highlandsnj.gov/legal-notices) and FEMA's NEPA Repository (https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/ environmental-historic/nepa-repository).

The EA can be viewed in hard copy at the Borough of Highlands Municipal Office, 151 Navesink Ave, Highlands, NJ 07732.

FEMA will accept comments sent by email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov or by mail addressed to:

Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 2
Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1802
New York, NY 10278
Attn: Highlands & Monmouth Flood Mitigation Project EA Comments

If FEMA receives no substantive comments from the public and/or agency reviewers, FEMA will adopt the EA as final and will issue a Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSI). If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will determine whether to revise and issue a Final EA, address comments in a FONSI, or to select the no action alternative.