

## **Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of New Haven has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The project under consideration is the Brewery Square Bulkhead Reconstruction Project to be funded with Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) funds provided to the City through the State of Connecticut Department of Housing as part of its federal HUD funding allocation.

The proposed project is located along the shore of the Quinnipiac River in the vicinity of 2-18 River Street, New Haven, CT. The site is located in an AE flood zone according to Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel 09009C0442J. The Brewery Square Bulkhead Reconstruction Infrastructure project will rebuild 300 feet of bulkhead and sidewalks destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. The project will provide embankment stabilization along the north side of the Quinnipiac River. The project will also protect adjoining park land and a parking lot used by residents of the adjacent Brewery Square Condominium Complex; prevent future erosion into the Ferry Street Drawbridge Channel; and protect the very busy river channel.

The City of New Haven has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: 1) A no action alternative; 2) constructing in another location; 3) implementing the project with design modifications; and 4) implementing the project “as proposed”. Implementation of the project “as proposed” is the most beneficial and cost effective measure because it reconstructs the damaged bulkhead in the same basic configuration, stabilizes the river embankment and provides safe access along the riverfront with minimal site disturbance. The project and site plan has been reviewed and approved by the City of New Haven Engineering and City Plan Departments and has State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Coastal Site Plan Approval.

The City of New Haven has reevaluated alternatives to working in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location noted in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments in regards to this proposed project must be received by the City of New Haven at the following address on or before October 31, 2014: City of New Haven, 165 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510. Attention: Susmitha Attota, Environmental Compliance Officer, City Plan Department, RE: Environmental Review CDBG-DR – Brewery Square.

The Environmental Review Record (ERR) for this project, which includes a full description of the project and supporting project documentation, is available in the City/Town Clerk's office during the normal business hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The City Plan Department is the repository for all ERRs for federal funding. Comments may also be submitted via email to [SAttota@newhavenct.net](mailto:SAttota@newhavenct.net) .

**Date Published: October 23, 2014**