



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-NAD

APR 18 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CIVIL WORKS)

SUBJECT: Director's Report for the Passaic River Floodway Buyout, Passaic County, New Jersey

1. Purpose: To request your review of the enclosed Final Decision Document and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Passaic River Floodway Buyout, Passaic County, New Jersey. The report was prepared in response to Section 1148 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986, for the acquisition and removal of homes from the state-defined floodway in the municipalities of Fairfield, Lincoln Park, Wayne, Pompton Lakes, Montville, East Hanover, Pequannock, Little Falls, and Riverdale in New Jersey. I request that you concur with my finding that the recommended plan is feasible, and approve budgeting for this project based on the final decision document.
2. Recommendation: That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approve the voluntary buyout of 18 properties in Hoffman Grove, Wayne Township within the Passaic River Floodway.
3. Background: The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan and would reduce flood risk to Hoffman Grove. The proposed project would produce average annual benefits of \$241,000 Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 price levels and greatly reduce flood risks for the 18 properties under consideration.
4. Discussion: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is the non-federal cost-sharing sponsor for the authorized project. Based on FY 2019 price levels, the estimated total first cost of the recommended plan of buyouts is \$6,380,000, and the fully funded project cost is \$6,569,000. The cost sharing for this project is authorized in Section 1148 of WRDA 1986 as 75% federal (\$4,927,000 federal) and 25% non-federal (\$1,642,000 non-federal). Operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation costs are not anticipated for this project (\$0). Based on a 2.875% discount rate for FY 2019 and a 50-year period of analysis, the average annual costs of the project are estimated to be \$226,000, and average annual benefits are estimated to be \$241,000. The net average annual benefits are approximately \$15,000. The benefit-to-cost ratio is 1.07 to 1.
 - a. As documented in the EA, no significant adverse impacts are expected for the project. As such, no mitigation is required. Because demolition activities will be confined to the footprint of the structure and do not involve any in-channel work, no adverse impacts to the Pompton River or to the two Pompton River tributaries within the

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Hoffman Grove, Wayne Township project area are expected. No adverse impacts to fish and aquatic invertebrate species are expected as a result from project implementation. Impacts to vegetation will be minimized by restricting clearing to the location of the structure to be removed and any associated underground storage tanks, if identified. Wetlands are outside of the location where demolition activities would occur; therefore, no adverse impacts to wetlands will occur as a result of project implementation. In order to avoid adverse impacts to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat that could potentially inhabit the project area, a tree clearing restriction from 1 April through 30 September will be implemented for any trees six inches in diameter or greater at breast height. In summary, coordination with resource agencies has been ongoing throughout the study and no significant issues exist.

b. The goals and objectives included in the Campaign Plan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have been fully integrated into the Passaic Floodway Buyout study process. The proposed plan has been designed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts while maximizing future safety and economic benefits to the community. The study team coordinated with non-federal and local interests to achieve a balance of project goals and public concerns. The study report fully describes flood risk associated with the Passaic Floodway project and the residual risks have been communicated to the State of New Jersey and residents of Hoffman Grove.

c. In accordance with the Engineering Circular 1165-2-217 on review of decision documents, all technical, engineering, and scientific work underwent an open, dynamic and vigorous review process to ensure technical quality, including Agency Technical Review (ATR) and a USACE Headquarters policy and legal review. All concerns of the ATR have been addressed and incorporated in the final report. A Type I Independent External Peer Review Exclusion was approved on 6 March 2019.

5. Conclusion: I have reviewed and concur with the conclusions and recommendations in the Final Decision Document and Environmental Assessment. Based upon this review, I find the recommended plan is technically and environmentally sound, justified based on the monetary and non-monetary benefits it provides, and is socially acceptable. The proposed project complies with applicable USACE planning procedures and regulations. Also, the views of interested parties, including federal, state and local agencies have been considered.



JAMES C. DALTON, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

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