New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement

Elected Officials Virtual Meeting Monmouth, Ocean and Burlington Counties 18 May 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District









- NJDEP Shore Protection Role
- Study Overview and Tentatively Selected Plan
- Tiered NEPA Approach and Review Schedule
- Questions and Discussion



# State of New Jersey Shore Protection Program



State of New Jersey Philip Murphy, Governor

#### Department of Environmental Protection Shawn M. LaTourette, Acting Commissioner

#### Climate & Flood Resilience David Rosenblatt, NJ Chief Resilience Officer

#### Division of Coastal Engineering William Dixon, Director

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Coastal Engineering





# **Division of Coastal Engineering**

Purpose



To administer beach nourishment and coastal storm risk management projects throughout the State to:

...Provide for protection of life and property along the coast ...Preserve New Jersey's vital coastal resources ...Maintain safe and navigable waterways

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Coastal Engineering





# Division of Coastal Engineering's Role w/ USACE

- All USACE projects and studies require a non-federal sponsor
- DCE is non-fed sponsor on all major USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) construction projects and feasibility studies in NJ, along with respective partners at the county and municipal level.
- Most USACE projects and studies span multiple municipalities; DCE serves as the liaison between USACE and the municipalities







# Division of Coastal Engineering's Role w/ USACE



#### **FEASIBILITY STUDIES**

- 50/50 Fed/Non-Fed Cost Share
- DCE funds 100% of non-fed share; <u>no cost to</u> <u>municipalities</u>

#### **INITIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

- Typically 65/35 Fed/Non-Fed Cost Share
- DCE contributes 75% of non-fed share; municipalities contribute 25% (8.75 cents for ever dollar)

DCE's non-federal cost share is funded using the state Shore Protection Fund.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Coastal Engineering





# Shore Protection Fund is Dedicated...



"To protect existing development and infrastructure from storm surges, sea-level rise, and shoreline migration, through dune creation and maintenance, beach nourishment projects and construction and repair of shore protection structures."

\$25 million dedicated annually Realty Transfer Tax (N.J.S.A. C. 13:19-16.1)

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Coastal Engineering





US Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District & Marine Design Center Website

#### http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/New-Jersey-Back-Bays-Study/

A / Missions / Civil Works / New Jersey Back Bays Study

#### New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

#### STUDY BACKGROUND

INTERIM	REPORT	(MARCH	
2019)			

STUDY STATUS

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

Historic storms, including Hurricane Sandy, have severely impacted the back bay communities of coastal New Jersey. The New Jersey Back Bay Study developed out of the larger North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study which identified nine high-risk areas on the Atlantic Coast for further in-depth analysis. The study area is located behind the New Jersey barrier islands of Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic and Cape May Counties and includes the set of interconnected water bodies and coastal lakes that are separated from the Atlantic Ocean. The purpose of the study is to investigate Coastal Storm Risk Management strategies and solutions to reduce damages from coastal flooding affecting population, critical infrastructure, critical facilities, property, and ecosystems. The Study will consider the full array of structural, nonstructural, and natural and nature-based measures. Examples are highlighted in the below chart.

The study will consider past, current, and future coastal storm risk management and resilience planning initiatives and projects underway by the USACE and other Federal, State, and local agencies. Three overarching efforts will be performed:

- Assess the study area's problems, opportunities and future without project conditions;
- Assess the feasibility of implementing system-wide coastal storm risk management solutions such as policy/programmatic strategies, storm surge barriers at selected inlet entrances, or tidal gates at selected lagoon entrances;
- Assess the feasibility of implementing site-specific perimeter solutions such as a combination of structural, non-structural, and natural and nature-based features;
- Assess the impacts of back bay strategies and solutions on the Atlantic Coast Coastal Storm Risk Management Program towards developing recommendations within a systems context given likely future scenarios.

#### Submit Comments

Comments are accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the study process. Comments may be submitted via email or in writing:

By email: PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil

In writing:

USACE Philadelphia District Planning Division 100 Penn Square E. Philadelphia, PA 19107

#### Links

Study Area Map Public Mtg Presentation (Sept 13, 2018) Public Mtg Presentation (Sept 12, 2018) Public Comment Form (Sept. 2018) Meeting Welcome Form (Sept. 2018) Public Outreach Summary Study Fact Card Study Overview Factsheet

#### Study Documents

- Presentations
- Sept 2018 Public Meeting Posters
- Study Documents



### NJBB STUDY STATUS



- Extensive area
- Coastal flooding and sea level rise risk management
- Reduce damages that affect population, critical infrastructure and facilities, property and ecosystems
- Reduce risk to human life from coastal flooding and storms
- Funding uncertainty and study extension approval since January 2020 Tentatively Selected Plan



# **STUDY MILESTONES**









Northern Study Area Inundation Map with Sea Level Rise



### SETTING REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS: ADAPTATION PLANNING CATEGORIES



#### Preserve

 Includes low regret measures to address current and future vulnerability

#### Accommodate

- Adaptive capacity of the system
- Avoid
  - Strategic retreat







# NONSTRUCTURAL MEASURES – BUILDING ELEVATION



- Primary Nonstructural measures
  - Building elevation
  - Acquisition and relocation later
- Recommended in combination with structural measures to formulate economically justified hybrid plans







#### Northern Study Area

Nonstructural Measures – Evacuation Routes

2080 – 100 year floodplain + Intermediate SLR

**BUILDING STRONG**<sub>®</sub>



### STRUCTURAL MEASURE – FLOODWALLS & LEVEES



#### **Visual Impacts**

#### Existing



#### With Floodwall







### GREAT EGG HARBOR INLET – PRELIMINARY STORM SURGE BARRIER DESIGN



Auxiliary Flow Area (150' Wide Vertical Lift Gates, 19 Total)

> Navigable Area (320' Wide Sector Gate)







# **North Region**











#### Coastal Lakes and Shark River Regions











#### **ADH MODELING – STORM SURGE BARRIER INDIRECT IMPACTS**



- USACE Engineering Research & Development Center Coastal Hydraulics Lab developed AdH model to evaluate indirect impacts of storm surge barriers:
- TSP tides, velocities, salinity, and residence time
- Final Report navigation, sediment transport, water quality.
- Calibrated to 2019 ADCP field data collected at 3 inlets and long-term tide/salinity stations.
- Investigate sensitivity to storm surge barrier design: alignment, sill elevation, sector gate size, number of vertical lift gates.
- Preliminary Model Results:
  - Tidal Prism decreases 2% to 6% in Barnegat Bay, 3% to 9% in Great Egg Harbor
- Velocities far-field changes < 0.02 ft/s, larger changes at inlets
- Salinity reductions in mean salinity < 0.5 ppt
- Residence Time increases 2% to 10% in Barnegat Bay and Great Egg Harbor





### SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS







US Army Corps of Engineers.



#### **USACE ENGINEERING WITH NATURE REPORTING**



### Engineering With Nature

### Landscape Architecture New Jersey Back Bays

a report identifying design concepts for incorporating Engineering With Nature® and Landscape Architecture approaches into US Army Corps of Engineers project infrastructure

Weitzman

Final Version issued 10 June 2020

Enhanced Modeling in Support of Recommended EWN/NNBF Measures and Efficacy in Providing Flood/Storm Risk Reduction

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June 2020

Prepared for

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# **COMPLEMENTARY/HYBRID NNBFS**



- Primary NNBF measure under consideration is living shorelines. Current criteria for this measure include:
  - Unarmored shorelines adjacent to infrastructure
  - Complementary to structural measures such as floodwalls and levees
- NJBB study is also considering modifications that can be made to structural measures that can increase their habitat value:
  - Habitat benches to restore more natural slope along shorelines
  - Textured concrete to support colonization of algae and invertebrates





Construction of living shoreline in Camp Pecometh, MD



Conceptual diagram of habitat bench



**Textured concrete** 

### AGENCY COORDINATION AND COMPLIANCE



# **COMMENTS & QUESTIONS**

- USACE NJBB Web Portal: <u>http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/</u>
- Reporting, videos of meetings, regular updates
- Detailed comments can be submitted by comment form, email or in writing
  - PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107

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#### **USACE NJBB Webpage**









# **Questions & Answers**







