

**FEMA**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**  
**Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority – Main Pump Station Project**  
**Monmouth County, New Jersey**  
**DR-4488-NJ-0001**

**BACKGROUND**

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused storm damage to several areas across the State of New Jersey. On October 30, 2012, the President of the United States declared Hurricane Sandy a major disaster. Starting on Jan 20, 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic caused a public health emergency across the State of New Jersey. On Mar 25, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 Pandemic a major disaster. These declarations authorized the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide assistance to the State of New Jersey per federal disaster declaration DR-4086-NJ for Sandy and DR-4488-NJ for COVID-19 Pandemic Relief. The Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority (TRWRA) has applied to FEMA for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under DR-4488-NJ and for Public Assistance Program funding under DR-4086-NJ for the TRWRA Main Pump Station project in Monmouth County, New Jersey. TRWRA has applied for funding through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) in accordance with Sections 404 and 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 United States Code [USC] 5170c), as amended, and the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013.

FEMA prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; and the Regulations for Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508); FEMA Directive 108-1; FEMA Instruction 108-1-1; and DHS Instruction Manual 023-1-1. FEMA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce hazards from flooding and storm events that could damage the TRWRA's existing Pleasure Bay Interceptor (PBI) and the existing Main Pump Station (MPS) and to increase sewage conveyance capacity. The project is needed because damage to these critical facilities could disrupt the flow of sewage to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), cutting off service to the local community impacting human health and the natural environment.

**ALTERNATIVES**

FEMA and TRWRA considered alternatives that would fulfill the purpose and need for this proposed project, engineering constraints, environmental impacts, and available property. Budgetary constraints were included but were not the controlling factor. As detailed in the EA, TRWRA initially considered, but ultimately dismissed, three alternatives; these alternatives were dismissed because they were not technically feasible or did not meet the purpose and need for the project. The alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) the No Action alternative, wherein FEMA would not provide federal financial assistance for the construction of a new pump station or new interceptor sewer line; and 2) the Proposed Action,

constructing a new Pleasure Bay Interceptor (PBI) under Pleasure Bay, a new Main Pump Station (MPS), a new Monmouth Beach Interceptor (MBI), and decommissioning the existing MPS.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The primary components of the Proposed Action consist of the following:

- (1) Constructing a new PBI under Pleasure Bay. The new PBI would convey sewage from an intake structure at Sommers Scout Park in the Borough of Oceanport under Pleasure Bay to a new MPS at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
- (2) Constructing a new MPS within the fence line on the southwest corner of the WWTP.
- (3) Constructing a new MBI that would run from the existing MPS to the new MPS.
- (4) Decommissioning and demolishing the existing MPS.

The new MPS would be within the 500-year floodplain, which has an elevation of 8.9 feet. The new MPS and the electrical building would be constructed above elevation 12 feet, or 3 feet above the current 500-year flood elevation. Staging would occur on pavement and previously disturbed land within the WWTP. The new MBI is not part of the FEMA grants and would be funded by TWRWA, however, the new MBI is dependent on the Proposed Action and will be considered a connected action throughout the EA.

The existing PBI would be abandoned in place following the construction of the new PBI. However, the existing PBI would be available to use if issues occur at the new MPS or the new PBI. The line would be flushed thoroughly when taken out of service to remove solids and prevent corrosion.

## **SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION**

The Proposed Action, as described in the EA, would have no impacts on geology, historic properties, or long term land use. There would be no disproportionately high and adverse impacts on environmental justice populations.

The Proposed Action would have short-term negligible to minor adverse impacts on soils, air quality, climate change, water quality, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, vegetation, wildlife and fish (migratory birds), land use and planning, noise, transportation, public services and utilities, public health and safety, and hazardous materials during the construction period. These impacts would only occur during construction and would be minimized through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) like compliance with construction equipment idling restrictions or use of erosion control barriers.

The Proposed Action would have long-term negligible to minor adverse impacts on air quality and climate change..

The Proposed Action would result in long-term minor to moderate beneficial impacts on topography, soils, water quality, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, vegetation, wildlife and fish, threatened and endangered species, EFH, transportation, public health and safety, and hazardous materials. These beneficial impacts would be achieved by reducing the risk of infrastructure failure and accompanying sewage release.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

FEMA issued a public notice in the *Asbury Park Press*, on December 13, 2022, to notify the public of the thirty-day public review and comment period. Accordingly, FEMA posted an electronic version of the EA to the FEMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository> and TRWRA posted an electronic version of the EA to <https://www.trwra.org>. The Subrecipient made hard copies of the EA available for public review at two locations 1) Monmouth Beach Library, 18 Willow Avenue, Monmouth Beach NJ 07750, and 2) Borough of Monmouth Beach City Office, 22 Beach Road, Monmouth Beach NJ 07750.

There were no substantive comments received during the public comment period on the draft EA.

## **PERMITS AND PROJECT CONDITIONS**

TRWRA is responsible for obtaining all applicable federal, state, and local permits and other authorizations for project implementation prior to construction and adherence to all permit conditions. Any substantive change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation by FEMA for compliance with NEPA and other laws and EOs. TRWRA must also adhere to the following conditions during project implementations and consider the following avoidance and minimization measures to reduce potential impacts. Failure to comply with grant conditions may jeopardize federal funds. Any substantive change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation by FEMA for compliance with NEPA and other laws and executive orders.

TRWRA must adhere to the following conditions during project implementation:

1. TRWRA will comply with all conditions within the Department of the Army Nationwide General Permit Number 58 Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances.
2. TRWRA will notify FEMA of all inadvertent discoveries, in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement I.A.III.B (Amendment to Programmatic Agreement Among the FEMA, The New Jersey State Office of Emergency Management, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Participating Tribes as a result of Hurricane Sandy, dated April 20, 2013), and follow the unexpected discoveries protocol outlined therein.
3. Construction would proceed compliant with the “Environmental Assessment Requirements for State Assisted Environmental Infrastructure Facilities” (NJAC 7:22-10).
4. Construction equipment is to comply with New Jersey’s idling restrictions, “Control and Prohibition of Air Pollution From Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicles” (NJAC 7:27-14) and “Control and Prohibition of Air Pollution From Gasoline-Fueled Motor Vehicles” (NJAC 7:27-15).
5. Activities would meet New Jersey’s Air Pollution Control Act of 1954 requirements, including obtaining permits, adhering to idling limitations, and implementing all reasonable measures to mitigate dust and fugitive emissions from demolition and construction (NJSA 26:2C).
6. TRWRA will obtain authorization to discharge stormwater under an NJPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit NJG0088323 (5G3) pursuant to NJAC 7:14-1.2 and follow all conditions therein. Before construction, TRWRA will prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan in accordance with the NJPDES Construction General Permit.
7. TRWRA will comply with the New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act by preparing and obtaining approval of a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. Compliance would include implementation of standards promulgated by the State Soil Conservation Committee and attainment of a Report of Compliance from the Freehold Soil Conservation District.

8. TRWRA will obtain a Transition Area Waiver from NJDEP for work within transitional wetlands and follow all conditions therein.
9. TRWRA will follow all conditions in the NJDEP WFD IP-Commercial/Industrial/Public (Waterward) Permit, issued August 19, 2021, and the accompanying Water Quality Certificate.
10. A seasonal restriction on the use of heavy construction equipment/machinery within 300 meters of any active osprey nest along the project limit of disturbance is to be implemented from April 1 through August 31 of each calendar year.
11. TRWRA will follow all conditions within the NJDEP Environmental Review document.
12. Submit copies of all permits obtained to NJOEM/FEMA at or prior to final closeout of the HMGP grant.
13. Do not initiate construction activities until fifteen (15) days after the date that the FONSI has been signed as “APPROVED.”

**FINDINGS**

In accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, FEMA has determined that the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed. This FONSI serves as the final public notice for the proposed project.

**APPROVED BY:**

**JOHN J MCKEE** Digitally signed by JOHN J MCKEE  
Date: 2023.01.24 20:27:44 -05'00'

---

JOHN J. McKee  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region 2

Date:

**PROGRAM ENDORSEMENT:**

**WILLIAM MCDONNELL** Digitally signed by WILLIAM MCDONNELL  
Date: 2023.01.25 08:57:22 -05'00'

---

WILLIAM McDONNELL  
Acting Federal Insurance & Mitigation Director, Mitigation Division  
FEMA, Region 2

Date: