

## **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 Mount Vernon under 24 CFR Part 58** 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 and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the **Economic Development Initiative, Community Project Funding** under **grant B-22-CP-NY-0662**

The proposed activity has two parts. The first part includes cleaning and inspecting the sanitary and storm sewer throughout the Mt. Vernon drainage area, which includes approximately 189 miles of storm and sanitary sewers. The work will include tracking illicit discharges and eliminating them through sampling, manhole inspections, CCTV sewer investigations, dye testing, and smoke testing. The second part of the project includes rehabilitation services for stormwater and sanitary sewer mains, sewer connections, and manholes and catch basins throughout the city. Rehabilitation work may include cured-in-place pipe lining, testing and sealing of service connections and joints, rehabilitation of manholes and catch basins, cementitious lining of manholes and catch basins, excavation pipeline joint repairs, raising manhole to grade, and other associated work. The activities will improve water quality, reduce sanitary sewer overflows and backups, and improve infrastructure. The activities will be funded by a Community Project Funding Grant for \$1,500,000.

Most of the proposed project area does not include floodplains, but they are present in certain portions of the target areas. Floodplains provide a number of valuable services to the community. This includes floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater discharge or recharge, erosion control, water quality maintenance, and habitat for flora and fauna. They also contribute to the City's recreational, educational, historic, scientific, and cultural values. An estimated 75 acres of floodplains could be impacted by this project. Actions occur throughout the city and the floodplain is located in the southeast corner of Mount Vernon, Westchester County between South Columbus Avenue/South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Hutchinson River. A detailed map of the project area can be obtained by contacting the City of Mount Vernon at the contact information listed below.

The City of Mount Vernon 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. **Locate project in a different location** – This alternative was not possible due to the static nature of the infrastructure that requires improvement and rehabilitation
2. **Use funds on a different project** – Due to the nature of the approved grant funds cannot be shifted to a different project.
3. **No action alternative** – The city considered the impact of choosing not to complete the project and determined that the potential harm from abstaining from action is greater than the risk of damage to the floodplain.

The project was designed to minimize any impact on floodplains and no additional mitigation is required. The project will comply with all federal, state, and local floodplain protection procedures.

**The City of Mt. Vernon** has reevaluated the alternatives to building 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 delineated 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the **floodplain**, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. 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 must be received by the City of Mt. Vernon by October 16, 2023. The public comment period will begin on October 8, 2023 and end on October 16, 2023.

Written comments can be emailed by October 16, 2023 to: [Slawrence@cmvny.com](mailto:Slawrence@cmvny.com)

Or mailed to:

**City of Mt. Vernon**

**1 Roosevelt Square North**

**Mount Vernon, NY 10550**

**914-840-4011**

**Attention: Steve Lawrence, Grants Administrator**