PUBLIC NOTICE

October 15, 2012

BYRAM RIVER BASIN
CONNECTICUT & NEW YORK
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090
CENAN-PL-F

TOWN OF GREENWICH, DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
GREENWICH TOWN HALL
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GREENWICH, CT 06830

This notice announces the initiation of a cost shared Feasibility level study between the Town of Greenwich and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if flood risk management opportunities are advisable for the Byram River Basin, Connecticut and New York. The study is authorized by House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution dated May 02, 2007, Docket Number 2779.

In response to local and state requests, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps) performed a Reconnaissance Study and issued a report in September 2008 that demonstrated a Federal interest and the need for a more detailed Feasibility Study of the Byram River Basin. The purpose of the feasibility study is to develop and evaluate alternatives for implementing long-term solutions to flooding and other water resources problems in the Byram River Basin. Flood risk management measures that meet Federal criteria will either be recommended for Corps construction or, if additional analysis is required, will be recommended for further study. Flood risk management measures that do not meet Federal criteria may be recommended to other agencies or local stakeholders.

Flooding on the Bryam River primarily affects the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut, just south of the constructed project of levees at Pemberwick. The Byram River and its tributaries were the subject of a General Design Memorandum by the Corps in 1958, which recommended levees on the Byram River mainstem at Pemberwick, Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Only part of the project at Pemberwick was constructed in the 1960s. The recommendation for flood risk management was reinforced in the 1977 Westchester County Streams Feasibility Report, titled "Feasibility Report for Flood Control, Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers Basins, and Byram River Basin," which recommended channel excavation and the construction of floodwalls and levees at Port Chester, NY and the Town of Greenwich, CT. Although the recommended plan, which included continuation of the levee features to the south, was subsequently authorized by Congress, it was not implemented due to local concerns about the negative aesthetic effects of the levees.

Based on recent discussions with residents in the area, flooding is a much greater concern now than aesthetics. This study will focus on flood risk management measures in the Byram River Basin primarily within the Pemberwick area south of the previously constructed levee, as well as the area around Bailiwick Bridge to the north. At a minimum, the potential flood risk management measures that may be examined in the feasibility study include channel modification, levees, floodwalls, as well as non-structural measures and the "no action"

alternative. Non-structural measures such as "buyouts" and preservation and/or creation of open space in the floodplain will also be considered.

A key component of the study is the Study Initiation Meeting (January 2013), to facilitate input from public and private communities early in the planning process to identify significant issues and concerns. The study team is proposing to discuss the types of alternatives that are typically evaluated, for the public to have a clear understanding of the structural and non-structural solutions commonly considered in this type of study. In the past 1977 study, there was a communication gap with the public on potential flooding solutions, resulting in weak public support for the result of the alternatives analysis. At a minimum, the study team is seeking input on which structural or non-structural measures would be unacceptable to the local community.

You are respectfully requested to provide any pertinent information about the project area that would assist in the study and evaluation of alternatives. In particular, we request information on the type and amount of damages that have occurred from storms in recent years. The information provided will be used to the greatest extent possible to calibrate hydrologic modeling efforts to assess economic damages to determine Federal interest in providing flood risk management measures. We also request any information on natural resources including plants, animals, and particularly wetland habitats. Any assistance or suggestions pertaining to the conduct of this study is encouraged. All comments may be directed to Mr. Eugene Brickman, P.G., Deputy Chief, Planning Division, Eugene.Brickman@usace.army.mil, (917) 790-8701; Mr. Jason Shea, Watershed Section Chief, Jason.A.Shea@usace.army.mil, (917) 790-8727; Ms. Rifat Salim, the Corps Project Manager, Rifat.Salim@usace.army.mil, (917) 790-8215; or Mr. James Michel, P.E, Greenwich Chief Engineer, James.Michel@greenwichct.org, (203) 622-7767.

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