

Strengthening Communities Against Flooding

Today Governor Christie announced that Spring Lake will receive \$3.85 million in federal funds for a flood hazard project that will control Wreck Pond water levels prior to impending storms.

- The grant will allow funding for a new flood gate and outfall culvert from Wreck Pond.
- The project will also increase water storage as well as create a berm and a living shoreline.

As part of the long-term recovery strategy, the Christie Administration is committed to rebuilding stronger and smarter, and ensuring New Jersey's communities and infrastructure are more prepared to withstand future storms.

Beach Restoration and Dunes: Since Superstorm Sandy, the State has been working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a massive undertaking to repair and improve beaches, and to build the most comprehensive and continuous coastal protection system it has ever had.

- The Army Corps completed the repair and restoration of 21 miles of previously constructed beaches along the Monmouth County coastline at a cost of \$345 million. Approximately 8 million cubic yards of sand was replaced to restore beaches from Sandy Hook to Manasquan to their original design standard.
- DEP is working with the Army Corps to build 11 new coastal and flood protection projects statewide. These projects, which will cost more than \$1 billion, will help create an engineered, comprehensive shore protection system along the Atlantic coast, while also bolstering protections on the Delaware Bay coast, Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay and tidal portions of the South River and the Passaic River. Recent projects underway include:
 - \$128 million beach and dune project in Long Beach Island;
 - \$57.6 million beach and dune project in southern Ocean City, the Strathmere section of Upper Township and Sea Isle City in Cape May County;
 - \$38.2 million project to construct beaches and improve infrastructure in the area of Loch Arbour, Allenhurst and Deal in Monmouth County
- The Army Corps and DEP also are advancing studies of other flood-prone areas throughout the State, including South River, Leonardo, Shrewsbury River and the Highlands.

Easement Acquisitions: Through an aggressive easement acquisition strategy, the State has now obtained more than 90 percent of the property easements needed to enable construction of shore protection and flood mitigation projects along the State's 127 miles of shoreline. The State announced last week that it has filed the first eminent domain actions against holdouts and will continue to take all necessary steps to construct dunes that will protect families, businesses and infrastructure.

Flood Hazard Risk Reduction: The Flood Hazard Risk Reduction program is funded by a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program to help municipalities pay for critical storm resiliency projects. In addition to the \$3.85 million announced for the Wreck Pond project, DEP continues to review additional applications and work with potential applicants. To date, projects include:

- \$6.5 million to Atlantic City, for the second phase of a project to store storm water, alleviate flooding, and to improve evacuation and traffic flow, during storm events;
- \$6.2 million to Belmar, to construct a discharge piping system for Lake Como, which floods

regularly during storms;

- \$1.4 million to Brigantine, to construct three pump stations to protect roadways that are part of evacuation routes;
- \$653,000 to Little Ferry, for upgrades to a tide gate and pump station

Completed and ongoing projects across the State include:

- [Sea Bright Sea Wall](#)
- [Mantoloking and Brick Steel Sheet Piling](#)
- [Coastal Resiliency Projects](#)
 - Reusing Dredged Material to Restore Salt Marshes and Protect Communities
 - Building Ecological Solutions to Coastal Community Hazards
 - Enhancing Liberty State Park's Marshes and Upland Habitats
- [Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Projects Along The Hackensack & Hudson Rivers](#)
- [Local Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program](#)

Long Term Flood Relief: In April 2015, Governor Christie announced a \$202 million resiliency project that will bolster storm protection for Union Beach, which is located along the Raritan Bay, and was one of the communities hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy.

- The flood control project – funded by federal, state and local contributions – will consist of construction of levees, floodwalls, tide gates and pump stations.
- The project will also rebuild beaches, dunes, and groins, which are jetty-like structures that are designed to slow loss of sand from beaches.
- In addition, more than 25 acres of degraded wetlands will be restored to help better absorb flood waters.

FEMA Public Assistance: FEMA's Public Assistance program primarily funds repairs for storm-damaged property and assets owned or controlled by public entities, including municipalities, counties and the State. In addition to costs of repair, the program also allows an applicant to seek funding to incorporate mitigation measures. The State has successfully incorporated mitigation funding into 87 percent of all large Public Assistance projects (i.e., projects over \$500,000) -- an unprecedented figure.

New Jersey Energy Resilience Bank: As part of the Christie Administration's continuing efforts to minimize the impact of future major power outages and increase energy resiliency, the State established New Jersey Energy Resilience Bank (ERB), the first public infrastructure bank in the nation to focus on energy resiliency. Using \$200 million of CDBG funds, the ERB will support the development of distributed energy resources at critical facilities throughout the State so they can continue to serve communities even when the electrical grid is compromised by severe weather events. This program builds on other initiatives the State launched after Sandy to enhance energy resiliency at critical facilities.

Giving Homeowners The Option To Move From Harm's Way: Through New Jersey's existing Blue Acres Program, the Christie Administration is giving homeowners the option of selling their properties damaged by Superstorm Sandy in tidal areas of New Jersey, at pre-storm value. The program is designed to give homeowners the ability to choose the best option for their individual situation.

- **678** voluntary buyout offers have been made, and 499 willing sellers have accepted.
- The State has been evaluating more than 1,000 homes in repetitive flooding communities and over **719** applicants have already been approved in 10 municipalities across six counties.
 - ***So far, 349 homes have been purchased.***
 - 207 homes have been demolished.
- The Christie Administration has dedicated \$300 million in federal and state funding for the Blue

Acres program and is working to aggressively identify and reach out to additional eligible residents to inform them of buyout opportunities and assist them with the application process.