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NEWS RELEASE

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Whitman, Frelinghuysen and Franks Mark Start of Green Brook Flood Control Project

Gov. Christie Whitman was joined by US Reps. Rodney Frelinghuysen and Robert Franks today to celebrate the signing of an agreement between the state and federal government to finance the first stage of the Green Brook flood control project.

Today marks the 26th anniversary of the Green Brook flood which claimed six lives and resulted in the evacuation of more than 1,000 residents. That flood was the most serious of numerous floods that have hit the Green Brook basin this century that have resulted in more than \$2.4 billion in property damage.

"Over the past quarter-century, dedicated citizens throughout this community have made it their mission to prevent another catastrophe. They have devoted countless hours in building support and gaining funding for a plan to stop the worst floods from ruining homes and endangering lives," said Gov. Whitman.

"The work of the citizens, and especially those who served on the Flood Control Commission, speaks volumes about what civic activism can do. Their dedication has been rewarded with the agreement we signed today. The state and federal governments are helping turn all that planning, and all that hard work, into actual construction of the first stage. The project is going to happen," she said.

The agreement, signed on June 24, will allow construction to begin later this year in the hardest hit areas on the Green Brook basin-Bound Brook in Somerset County and Middlesex in Middlesex County. The first phase of construction will include raising a bridge in Bound Brook, flood proofing homes and constructing a levee system around the two communities.

Over the 12 years of the \$331 million project, the state will contribute about 20 percent, or \$62 million of the construction costs.