



Making Progress Since Sandy

Rebuilding New Jersey After Sandy For The Long Term

"I've called this experience New Jersey's Katrina because the damage to our state is nothing that we've experienced ever before. ...We have a long way to go to rebuild and restore our communities, but the people of New Jersey have already shown that we are ready to meet the challenge."

—Governor Chris Christie, November 28, 2012

Ensuring New Jersey Has The Necessary Resources For Recovery

Working In A Bipartisan Manner To Secure Federal Disaster Assistance:

Governor Christie has worked closely with the Obama Administration, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York and Governor Dannel Malloy of Connecticut to secure the necessary Federal Disaster Assistance New Jersey will need during the recovery. Governor Christie supported and pushed for the \$60.4 billion Assistance request that President Obama signed after it was passed by Congress.

- New Jersey is setting an example across the country of how to work across party lines in times of real challenge to its people. Governor Christie is committed to working in a bipartisan manner with Senators Menendez and Lautenberg and the entire New Jersey Congressional Delegation to ensure New Jersey gets the aid it needs to rebuild.

Fighting For Greater Federal Reimbursement For Debris Removal Emergency Protective Measures:

Governor Chris Christie has formally requested federal approval of 100% reimbursement for state and local government costs associated with debris removal and emergency protective measures that continue in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy.

- To ensure that priority operations continue in hard-hit communities across New Jersey, the Governor requested that FEMA exercise its broad authority to implement 100% federal assistance for these costs for a period of at least 90 days.

*To date, FEMA has provided over **\$18 million** to New Jersey municipalities for debris removal.*

FEMA Has Provide Crucial Services And Assistance:

- **\$384 million** in FEMA grants approved for individuals and households:
 - **\$331 million** for housing assistance;
 - **\$53 million** for other needs.
- **\$718.9 million** in SBA disaster loans approved for homeowners, renters and businesses;

- **\$245.3 million** approved in FEMA Public Assistance grants to communities and some nonprofit organizations that serve the public;
- **\$3.3 billion** in total National Flood Insurance Program payments made on claims to date;
- **260,049** people contacted FEMA for help or information;
- **125,344** housing inspections completed;
- **87,924** visits to Disaster Recovery Centers made;
- **Nine** centers are open to assist survivors who have recovery questions (survivors can locate their nearest center at FEMA.gov/DRC).

Secured \$20 Million Dollars In Quick Release Emergency Infrastructure Funds:

New Jersey secured \$20 million dollars in quick release emergency funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

- The funds provide key additional resources to repair infrastructure and prepare the shore for next year's tourism season – an economic essential for the region.

Easing Infrastructure Repair Permit Requirements:

The DEP has received requests for more than 50 public infrastructure projects under the Administrative Order allowing emergency exemptions to typical DEP permitting requirements. Projects include roadway and bridge repairs, marina repairs, fishing pier replacements, boardwalk and oceanfront public building replacements, bulkhead and outfall replacements, and shoreline revetment repairs. The DEP is currently reviewing the requests and expects additional requests through the May 1 deadline.

Ensuring Funds Are Spent Wisely

Integrity Monitor Created:

In February 2013, Gov. Christie signed Executive Order 125, which ensures an accountable, transparent process to protect the integrity of the of federal reconstruction resources for New Jersey residents and businesses. The Executive Order:

- Puts in place key review and reporting initiatives;
- Directs the Office of the State Comptroller to conduct an independent, legal review of the procurement process for state contracts using federal reconstruction resources prior to the conclusion of the procurement process;
- Instructs departments to designate an "Accountability Officer" to facilitate work with the Comptroller's Office and interface with the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding on all reconstruction matters;
- Directs that all such approved contracts be made publically accessible on a State website in coordination with the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding and the State Comptroller.

NJ TRANSIT Transparency Website:

On April 10, NJ TRANSIT debuted a new website where taxpayers and customers can track the agency's system recovery, restoration and resiliency process. The site, which is in full compliance of Executive Order 125, is designed to provide a public, transparent window into the agency's post-Sandy efforts. Visitors to the website can obtain background information on the management and oversight of all NJ TRANSIT restoration and resiliency projects, including access to key documents.

Helping Families & Homeowners

Extending Deadline For Disaster Assistance Through FEMA:

At the request of the Christie Administration, the deadline has been extended for New Jersey residents affected by Sandy to register for FEMA disaster assistance until May 1, 2013, well beyond the original 60 day window.

Creating Direct Resident To Government Access With Mobile Cabinet Offices:

To better assist New Jerseyans in Sandy-affected communities, the Christie Administration has held 33 mobile cabinet events with 6 cabinet level departments and agencies to bring state and federal partners directly to 8 counties including: Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties. The Departments of and their staffs have been on the ground helping New Jerseyans with every aspect of their recovery and rebuilding.

Helping Homeowners With Insurance Claims:

As of today, the Department of Banking and Insurance shows that 95% of homeowners insurance claims have been closed.

Comprehensive Temporary Housing Assistance:

Following the storm, thousands remained in need of housing assistance on an intermediate to long-term housing basis. FEMA has identified and presented multiple options to get people the assistance and housing security they need in the short term now, and if necessary in the long term.

- 44,300 New Jersey households have received temporary rental assistance from FEMA. While FEMA is ready to assist any of these households should their circumstances and individual needs change, the majority of New Jerseyans receiving this assistance currently have their immediate housing needs met for the short and long term;
- Immediately after the storm, the State requested that FEMA provide Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA), as short-term lodging assistance for evacuees who are not able to return home for an extended or indeterminate period of time following a disaster:
 - More than 5,000 families have been helped by the TSA program. At the highest point, 2,696 New Jersey residents were provided with TSA. To date 62 households remain in hotels and motels under the TSA program;
 - The TSA program will officially end on April 30, 2013, with final check-out on May 1;
 - As a result of exhaustive casework that includes personal outreach to every family in the program, the NJ Department of Community Affairs is working with FEMA, the NJ Department of Human Services, county welfare agencies and the American Red Cross to ensure that the remaining households currently in TSA have an intermediate- or long-term housing solution in place by May 1;
 - If households haven't solidified a housing plan by the deadline, no one would be turned out onto the streets. State agencies will continue to work with the American Red Cross and other social services organizations to offer assistance while the families continue to look for more permanent housing.
- There are also approximately 192 households that FEMA is providing direct federal housing to either in Fort Monmouth or in mobile units;
- At the Christie Administration's request to help transition Sandy-displaced residents from hotels and motels and into more permanent housing solutions as quickly as possible, FEMA is permitting households receiving FEMA rental assistance to use this funding to pay for security deposits. This allows displaced New Jerseyans, who are residing in a hotel or motel because they do not have money for a security deposit, the opportunity to move into a rental unit;
- To assist New Jerseyans displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Sandy, the New Jersey Housing Resource Center (HRC) is utilizing its online housing locator to help find them affordable transitional or long-term housing. This free service consolidates rental resources identified and provided by the New Jersey Apartment Association, New Jersey Association of Realtors, New Jersey Builders Association, landlords, private organizations, federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the public. Currently, there are more than 5,400 housing opportunities available on the HRC website throughout the state of New Jersey. Of those, 1,200 are temporary rental units with a lease of less than one year.

Special Admissions Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers:

The Christie Administration made 1,000 Housing Choice Vouchers available valued at approximately \$9.84 million to provide safe and affordable housing to families displaced by Super Storm Sandy. As of April 25, 2013, 585 households have been provided a voucher.

Protecting Homeowners From Higher Insurance Deductibles:

Taking action to save homeowners money following Super Storm Sandy, Governor Christie signed Executive Order 107, prohibiting insurance companies from imposing costly deductibles on New Jersey homeowners. An important part of the recovery of New Jersey will be the influx of funds that occurs when insurers settle claims by New Jersey homeowners. This action will increase the total size of the payments made by the insurance industry, helping residents rebuild their homes and speed New Jersey's path to recovery.

Food Assistance For Storm-Impacted Families Enrolled In SNAP:

The Christie Administration announced the approval of federal waivers that will make food assistance available to recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or D-SNAP provided a one-time electronic food benefit of \$200 or more depending on family size to about 9,000 households who could not otherwise afford the food because of other disaster-related expenses.

- Over 1 million pounds of food and nearly 5 million meals and snacks were served through the Community Food Bank of NJ, the Southern Baptists, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross;
- 9,111 households are eligible to receive up to \$200 in federal Disaster Food Assistance (D-SNAP), administered through DHS;
- A total of 28,750 emergency meals were provided to 12,617 seniors post-storm. Additional services were performed such as checking on and visiting seniors with special medical needs and assisting with special transportation needs as they arose.

Continuing Services To New Jersey's Children:

The Central Office staff to Resource Families made 2,500 phone calls to check on the safety and well being of the family and the children in their care in the wake of Super Storm Sandy. Information on services was provided and referrals were made to the Local DCP&P offices for families in need.

\$360,000 was used to create a new Family Success Center in Northern Monmouth County and expand services in Ocean County.

Disaster Crisis Counseling:

Over 200 Disaster Crisis Counselors were deployed to emergency shelters following the storm to work with residents in need. New Jersey Hope and Healing is on the ground in the most impacted counties, helping individuals cope with the emotional impact of recent storms and flooding. To date, more than 130,000 New Jerseyans have been counseled.

- **Behavioral Health Services:** DHS' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has taken action to get disaster counseling to people in need. One novel mechanism is a pilot collaboration with University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) to provide mobile and telephonic clinical treatment to people unable to access the regular systems of care.
- **Case Management Services:** \$8.7 million was awarded to Catholic Charities of Trenton through DHS to make services available to Hurricane Sandy survivors, offering them a single point of contact to coordinate a variety of services to support their disaster-related needs. The program is open to all New Jersey residents, regardless of whether they are registered with FEMA.
- **Reinforcing the Senior Nutrition Program:** DHS' Division of Aging Services received \$75,000 for disaster assistance funding from the Administration on Aging (Administration on Community Living). It is being used to help reimburse the Area Agencies on Aging for the cost of emergency meals distributed to seniors during Sandy.

- **Storm Repairs for People with Home Ramps:** DHS' Division of Disability Services (DDS) applied for and received a grant of \$10,000 from Kessler Institute for the replacement of home ramps for people with mobility disabilities who lost theirs in Hurricane Sandy.

Returning Our School Children To A Sense Of Normalcy:

Governor Christie emphasized from the beginning the need to return to a sense of normalcy, especially for our school children. Schools in New Jersey saw unprecedented damage, totaling approximately \$40 million, causing the Department of Education to seek solutions to get children back in school.

- Within three weeks of the storm, 99 percent of New Jersey's schools were open and every New Jersey student whose school remained closed was receiving services in a temporary location;
- 6 schools out of 2,417 in the state are not serving children, but all are on track to open no later than September 2013;
- For buildings that are open but significantly compromised, DOE is working to restore the State to the status quo as quickly as possible – i.e. no cafeteria/auditorium, limited classroom capacity, combined buildings, split sessions;
- Maintaining the 180 school days requirement for all school districts.

Helping Employees & Businesses

Providing Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):

- Applications received totaled 3,923 week ending April 20, 2013 – Paid a total of 3,391 DUA claims for \$4,505,761.00 in DUA benefits.
 - The DUA program will officially end May 4, 2013.
- **National Emergency Grant (NEG)**
 - 1,168 people enrolled, 756 employed and distributed \$12.9M to the 12 affected Workforce Investment Board (WIB) areas.

Helping Small Businesses Get Back On Their Feet:

Governor Christie announced the implementation of a business impact assessment for small businesses affected by Super Storm Sandy. The survey, created in partnership with statewide business groups, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA), the State Chamber of Commerce, Commerce and Industry Association of NJ (CIANJ) and National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) will help inform the Administration and industry leaders about the most pressing needs of those small businesses affected by Super Storm Sandy.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Christie Administration has worked expeditiously to get programs and direct assistance to small businesses:

- \$718.9 million in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans have been approved and over 5,600 impacted residents and businesses have applied for this type of assistance;
- The U.S. Department of Labor has approved a \$15.6 million National Emergency Grant to fund the Administration's plan to hire unemployed New Jersey residents to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts:
 - To date, we have used those funds to place more than 756 unemployed New Jersey residents into temporary jobs in 16 counties helping towns, counties and state agencies in sorely needed clean-up and repair efforts. Up to 60 additional people are contracted to be hired, particularly unemployed members of the National Guard, to clean and repair military properties.
- The Administration secured federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance, a unique benefit that helped the self-employed in New Jersey who are not normally eligible for unemployment insurance the men and women who lost their businesses and livelihoods in the storm or who were temporarily unable to conduct their normal course of business. About 3,500 people have taken advantage of that assistance;

- The Administration also launched a Hire New Jersey Recovery Plan, making \$26 million available in employer-focused grants designed to help businesses and job-seekers overcome the setbacks brought on by Sandy. More than \$15 million of those funds have been made available, and additional notices of grant opportunities under the plan have just been released. The grants are designed to help employers train and hire people who can help the employers expand their companies, with a focus on companies that were impacted by Sandy and industry clusters that hold greatest promise for New Jersey's economic future.

Recovery Assistance Services For New Jersey Businesses:

To support the recovery of New Jersey's businesses and protect the overall economic interests of New Jersey in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, Governor Christie announced a series of business assistance services for those affected by the storm. These services include:

- Up to \$500,000 for commercial lines of credit to businesses that need access to cash to improve their damaged property while awaiting insurance proceeds, with all related EDA fees waived;
- Grant awards for businesses to assist with on-the-job training costs for new workers hired specifically to assist in disaster-related activities;
- Availability of the Business Resource Centers at any of the currently operational local One-Stop Career Centers across the state as temporary hubs for businesses and for job seekers and displaced workers;
- The availability of Disaster Unemployment Benefits for displaced workers;
- Dispatch of Rapid Response team members to identified Disaster Recovery Centers to assist displaced workers.
- Availability of services through New Jersey Youth Corps to assist non-profit, public and governmental entities in a variety of ways for disaster relief and clean-up;
- In addition, BAC's Business Call Center is also the one-stop resource for more information on how to get businesses back up and running.

The Economic Development Authority And Business Action Center Outreach:

In the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, through its partner, the New Jersey Business Action Center (BAC), proactively reached out to business constituents and organizations throughout the state:

- A series of conference calls were organized in the first month which reached over 1,700 participants. The conference calls were designed to provide stakeholders in New Jersey's business community with real-time direction and assistance, including fact sheets on various topics, such as information on loans and office resources for displaced businesses;
- E-mail blasts with resource updates were sent to 270 economic development stakeholder organizations with up-to-date information on sources for support and aid. Also, the state's business portal was constantly updated to provide links to Sandy-related information;
- BAC staff developed and fully coordinated the Governor's Business Impact Survey, which was distributed statewide in partnership with the New Jersey Business Association (NJBIA), the State Chamber of Commerce, the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and the National Federation of Independent Businesses ((NFIB). The Survey was distributed to businesses in Belmar, Sea Bright, Stafford and North Middleton and garnered 1,754 responses;
- BAC staff manned phones in the early days following the storm and ultimately processed 7,000 intake calls from prospective volunteers from around the state, region and nation. This information was provided to the NJ Office of Volunteerism which then identified potential locations for volunteer service.

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program Enhanced Incentives For Storm Victims:

In January, the New Jersey BPU launched new program enhancements designed to assist residents, businesses, towns and schools to rebuild smarter during the Super Storm Sandy recovery process.

- To date, over 1,230 businesses, residents, municipalities and schools have taken advantage of the enhanced incentives which include replacing appliances and equipment damaged by Sandy with high-efficiency technology;
- In the three months since the storm response program's inception, the NJ Clean Energy Program has processed applications and committed almost \$2.35 million in incentives to help New Jerseyans rebuild their homes and businesses using energy efficient technologies.

Department Of Banking And Insurance Working With Insurance Claims:

- \$4,092,693,678 in total incurred insurance losses (\$7,569,958,786 including flood insurance);
- \$3,232,558,381 in total insurance payouts to date (\$7,465,640,833 including flood insurance);
- \$2,509,030 recovered from insurance companies following consumer inquiries;
- 2,006 open consumer inquiries;
- 1,515 closed consumer inquiries;
- 93% of total insured claims closed. (Including: Homeowners, Commercial Property, Personal Auto, Commercial Auto, and Business Interruption).

Public Education Campaign On Mold/Recovery Worker Safety:

Mold flyers, posters and a consumer-friendly brochure were developed and distributed to affected residents, county health departments, county libraries, restaurants, post offices, code enforcement offices, realtors, construction code officials, DHS Family Success Centers, NJHMFA, municipal clerks, the League of Municipalities and BIA. The brochure contains tips on how to hire contractors and what questions to ask to ensure remediation is done correctly

- More than 4,000 Mold brochures, flyers & posters distributed;
- Radio Public Service Announcements on 101.5 on health concerns of mold and need for recovery workers to wear gloves, goggles, boots and other protective gear;
- Mold training classes ongoing at UMDNJ School of Public Health for 1,000 homeowners and volunteers and 500 public health and building code officials.

Restoring New Jersey Services

Debris Removal On All Fronts:

- **Land-based debris:** The State has overseen the removal of more than 8 million cubic yards of household and vegetative debris and sand from the streets, which is 85% of FEMA's estimate of 9.6 million cubic yards (There is no way to calculate the remaining 1.5 million cubic yards of demolition debris).
 - 291 Temporary Disposal Management Areas (TDMAs) have been approved and set up around the state since the storm, of which more than half (182) have already closed. All but 4 of the still-operating TDMAs in the state contain vegetative debris (tree trunks, limbs, etc.).
- **Debris in Waterways:** The state hired three experienced contractors to remove debris from all of the State's tidal waters. These include tidal rivers, bays and estuaries from Bergen to Cape May and up the Delaware to Cumberland and Salem counties.
 - Approximately 1,400 vessels were sunken or abandoned post-Sandy. The vast majority of these vessels were claimed by private parties and have been removed from our waters and wetlands. Waterway debris removal contractors continue to remove the rest of the boats along with other debris;
 - Contractors are removing everything from pieces of buildings and household debris to boats, docks, boardwalks and trees. This includes a significant amount of sand shoals that must be removed from waterways such as Barnegat Bay.
 - They are working 7 days a week to get the job done;
 - Our goal is to have 75% of waterway debris removed by June 1.

- There will be a boating season! We expect a majority of New Jersey's waterways will be open for boating, fishing and recreation this summer. As always, people just need to use common sense and caution when they're on the water.
- DEP continues to monitor water quality along the entire coastline, with all test results meeting recreational use standards. DEP recently lifted the recreational fishing and boating advisory that had been in place for Raritan Bay since Sandy hit. As a result, all recreational use advisories have now been lifted across the state.

Restoring New Jersey's Water Supply:

DEP oversees 604 water supply facilities statewide. During the storm, 427 community water systems lost power, but all impacted systems have resumed normal operations without water use restrictions.

Assessing and Repairing New Jersey's Wastewater:

During and after the storm, DEP reached out (by phone and on-site inspections) to 369 wastewater treatment facilities to determine impacts and offer assistance. Immediately after the storm, DEP worked closely with OEM and other State and Federal agencies at the ROIC to assess and assist wastewater and drinking water systems.

- 94 wastewater treatment plants in all 21 counties reported impacts due to Sandy. In some cases the damage was very severe, especially Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) and Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA).
 - Only 11 wastewater treatment facilities are not yet fully functional, mostly due to damaged infrastructure.
- DEP has been working with Federal agencies including FEMA, USACE, HUD and EPA to identify available funding sources to repair damaged infrastructure and rebuild more resilient systems;
- DEP is aware of no current discharges of untreated wastewater from Sandy-damaged facilities, and all wastewater treatment systems are meeting their permitted discharge limits with the exception of PVSC, which occasionally has not met limits.

Learning From Power Restoration Situations During Sandy:

The Christie Administration met regularly with the four electricity providers in the state to remove any delays and speed the process of restoring power to New Jersey residents. Governor Christie and the Board of Public Utilities are committed to working with the power companies to figure out better ways to manage power outages during future storms.

- The Board of Public Utilities has also begun holding a series of public hearings in each of the service territories to solicit public comments regarding the state of preparedness and responsiveness of the utility companies prior to, during and after Hurricane Sandy;
- The Board of Public Utilities (Board) is requiring the Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) to take specific action to improve their preparedness and responses to major storms. The Board approved [103 separate measures](#) based on recommendations contained in a report prepared by the Board's consultant Emergency Preparedness Partnerships (EPP); recommendations provided by Board staff in the BPU Hurricane Irene Electric Response Report; and stakeholder comments received by the Board at numerous public hearings.
 - **Bob Hanna, President of the N.J. Board of Public Utilities:** "The Board's action ...is yet another step in the Christie Administration's continuing efforts to address safety and reliability concerns related to the delivery of electric service to New Jersey ratepayers. The Board today directed the regulated electric distribution companies to implement needed improvements within hard deadlines."

Generic Proceeding For Storm Restoration And Mitigation Costs:

In March, 2013 the BPU issued two orders designed to review storm restoration and mitigation costs:

- Order AZ13030196 directed the utilities that experienced major storm costs and seek recovery of those costs in current or future rate cases to file detailed cost reports by July 1, 2013 or sooner. These costs will be reviewed for prudence and rate impacts;
- Order AZ13030197 opened a proceeding to examine all utility storm mitigation plans and file detailed proposals for infrastructure upgrades designed to protect the State's utility infrastructure from future major storm events.

Getting New Jersey Moving Again:

As of January 14, NJ Transit has restored 100 percent of service levels into New York. In addition, 100 percent of all NJ TRANSIT bus, light rail and Access Link paratransit services have been restored, as well as 100 percent of all NJ TRANSIT terminals and rail stations.

- 97% of pre-Sandy scheduled NJ TRANSIT's rail service has been restored.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation and its contractors:

- Removed over 4,400 truckloads of debris from state and local roads from Sea Bright to Seaside Heights;
- Cleaned 4,330 dump truck loads of sand for municipalities to recycle and replenish their beaches;
- Installed 600 feet of metal sheeting to reinforce the ocean side of the Mantoloking breach;
- Route 35 at the breach has been rebuilt and NJDOT is now working to re-establish the connection between County Route 528 and Route 35 at the site of the breach;
- Replaced 1,100 traffic signs such as "Stop, One Way or speed limit signs).

Repairing And Rebuilding Route 35:

Taking action to repair and restore the Jersey shore's transportation system, Governor Christie announced an aggressive schedule to completely rebuild a 12.5-mile storm-damaged stretch of Route 35 along the Barnegat Peninsula in Ocean County. The reconstruction project will rebuild this span of Route 35 in a stronger, more resilient manner, while also providing better drainage, a smoother driving surface, improved accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists, and more economical repair and upkeep costs.

Protecting New Jersey's Shore & Flood-Prone Areas

Beach Restoration and Improvements:

Up and down the coast, engineered and maintained beaches—especially those with robust dune systems—withstood the force of Sandy significantly better. Engineered and maintained beaches better protected the homes and businesses and communities behind them than beaches that were not engineered.

- After Sandy, DEP worked closely with towns to truck in or move around sand on their beaches to help replenish berms and create temporary dunes to provide protection from winter storms;
- Over \$1 billion has been set aside for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shore protection projects for New Jersey;
- Governor Christie has been very clear that he wants to rebuild the entire New Jersey coast with engineered beaches, creating a statewide coastal protection system. DEP is working closely with towns to secure the private property easements needed to achieve this.

DEP and has been working closely with USACE on the priorities and timeline for beach and dune restoration projects.

- It is New Jersey's expectation that USACE will construct all of our beaches to what is called "design template". This means the beaches would be restored to how USACE believes they should be engineered, not just returned to pre-Sandy condition.

Blue Acres Program:

The State, through DEP's Blue Acres program, is pursuing a buyout program in areas where it makes sense to buy properties rather than repair or rebuild, when the homeowner is willing.

- To date, the Governor has said publicly that the State will spend at least \$250 million to purchase Sandy-damaged properties.

Reopening Shellfish Beds:

Commissioner Martin signed an Administrative Order on April 11 for the final remaining shellfish bed reopenings (in the southern portion of Barnegat Bay and Raritan Bay), and by April 15, all shellfish beds were returned to the same levels as before the storm.

Establishing Common Sense Flood Maps:

On January 24, Governor Christie announced the adoption of an emergency Flood Hazard Area rule to allow residents to rebuild faster, stronger and safer.

- The rule adopted FEMA's Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps as the State standard for rebuilding and new construction;
- Existing structures do not have to elevate now, but if they don't, they may see significantly higher federal flood insurance premiums when FEMA officially adopts the maps;
- The rule created new Permits-by-Rule so that many projects can rebuild without spending the time and money to come to DEP for a permit;
- Important for highly developed areas, the rule allows "wet floodproofing" for non-residential buildings in areas where it's not feasible or cost-effective to elevate.

Emergency Coastal Rule Established To Make Rebuilding Easier:

On April 16, DEP filed an Emergency Coastal Rule that became effective upon filing.

- Expediting the rebuilding of residential and commercial structures that makes it easier for residents and small businesses to rebuild more quickly by eliminating or streamlining the process for a DEP permit for certain activities.
- Improving shore protection that modifies rule requirements to encourage municipalities to maximize their coastal protection.
- Common-sense simplification of dredging provisions to expedite dredging after a storm event for which the Governor declared a State of Emergency and changes Individual Permits to General Permits.