State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Engineering and Construction
Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

July 19, 2016

To Whom in May Concern,

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is implementing the beginning phases of the Rebuild by Design, New Meadowlands Project. The Project's objective is to control or eliminate flooding in the Meadowlands District. NJDEP has contracted with AECOM, an environmental and engineering firm, to implement the first phases of this project in the municipalities of Moonachie, Teterboro, South Hackensack, Little Ferry and Carlstadt.

During the investigative phase of this project, members of the AECOM team – which include representatives of staff from the firms of AECOM, HDR, and Robinson Aerial Survey – will be working in your neighborhood to collect data for various studies. They will be obtaining physical characteristics of buildings and other built and natural features within the Project Area to assist evaluation of potential flood mitigation actions. As part of this effort they will be using GPS-enabled tablets and dSLR cameras to record and photograph the exterior of buildings, street frontages, pedestrian facilities, parks and public open spaces, and trails in the Project Area. This work will take place most commonly from the public right of way, however; in specific instances, access to commercial or industrial parking lots may be necessary. For a small number of industrial properties, owners will be contacted to complete an on-site survey which will enable AECOM to better predict potential flood losses.

Staff will also evaluate the existing storm water drainage systems including survey of drainage areas and pipe elevations, which requires opening manhole covers. As part of this effort, staff will be surveying drainage ditches, waterways, and the extents of some existing berms. These surveys will be performed using standard surveying equipment, and while following drainage features, it is possible that staff may be taken in close proximity to buildings and/or onto private property. If required, survey staff will attempt to contact property owners before entering the property, however; if unable to make contact, the survey will be expeditiously completed and the property vacated. Staff will be taking soil samples along the existing berms using tripod boring equipment, hand augers, and where accessible, truck mounted boring equipment.

Finally, the AECOM team will be collecting environmental data including the extent of wetland habitat, land use, recreation, and other subjects of concern in support of the Project's Environmental Impact Statement detailed during the Public Scoping Meeting on July 6, 2016. While most of this work is anticipated to take place on public lands or from public rights-of-way, staff may require access to the exterior of private property in some instances. As a direct beneficiary of this project, please extend the AECOM Representative the courtesy of your cooperation so they can obtain the necessary information to complete this important task.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 609-984-0556 or by email dennis.reinknecht@dep.nj.gov If you would like to learn more about our proposed project please visit our website at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dennis Reinknecht
Program Manager