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September 23, 2019/Calendar No. 1

C 190357 PQM

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**IN THE MATTER OF** an application submitted by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the acquisition of property located at:

1. The northeast corner of Montgomery Street and the FDR Drive, on the block bounded by Water Street, Gouverneur Slip, the FDR Drive, and Montgomery Street (Block 244, p/o Lot 19), Manhattan Community District 3;
2. Approximately the center of the block bound by Delancey Street, the FDR Drive, Grand Street, and Lewis Street (Block 321, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3;
3. The southeast corner of Columbia and East Houston Streets, on the block bound by East Houston Street, the FDR Drive, Delancey Street, and Columbia Street (Block 323, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3; and
4. The west side of the FDR Drive between East 14<sup>th</sup> and East 10<sup>th</sup> Streets (Block 367, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3;
5. The west side of the FDR Drive between East 15<sup>th</sup> and East 14<sup>th</sup> Streets (Block 988, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 6;
6. The west side of the FDR Drive between Avenue C and the FDR Drive (Block 990, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 6;

7. The southwest corner East 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Asser Levy Place, on the block bound East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Asser Levy Place, East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and First Avenue, (Block 995, p/o Lot 5), Manhattan Community District 6; and
8. Part of the east side of the FDR Drive Right of Way between Avenue C and East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Community District 6;

for a flood protection system.

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This application (C 190357 PQM) for an acquisition of property was filed by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) on April 5, 2019. The proposed action, along with the related actions, would facilitate the development of the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) project, a comprehensive flood protection system along the East River in Manhattan Community Districts 3 and 6.

## **RELATED ACTIONS**

In addition to the acquisition that is the subject of this report (C 190357 PQM), the following action is also being sought concurrently with this application:

N 190356 ZRM      Text amendment to Article VI, Chapter 2 (Special Regulations Applying in the Waterfront Area) to satisfy the requirements of Zoning Resolution (ZR) Section 62-50 and Section 62-60.

## **BACKGROUND**

On October 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy made landfall in New York City, causing record tidal flooding and significant damage to housing, businesses, waterfront parkland, and critical

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infrastructure. The storm also caused extensive damage to public and private properties and infrastructure, and underscored the need for the City of New York (City) to design and implement coastal flood protection measures. To provide much-needed protection from future flood impacts, the City is proposing to implement the proposed project.

In June 2013, the City, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched Rebuild by Design (RBD), a competition to solicit proposals for coastal flood protection throughout region, including in lower Manhattan. In June 2014, HUD announced that the “BIG U,” the winner of that competition, was a flood protection system extending from Battery Place on the south to East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on the north. This design consisted of three compartments, one of which contained the ESCR project, which extended along the East River from Montgomery Street on the south to East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on the north. In late 2014, the City entered into a grant agreement with HUD to disburse \$335 million of Community Development Block Grant-Damage Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for the design and construction of the proposed project.

The neighborhoods surrounding the project area include Kips Bay to the north; the Lower East Side, East Village, Alphabet City, Stuyvesant Town, and Peter Cooper Village communities to the west; and the Two Bridges neighborhood to the south. These are primarily residential neighborhoods, comprised of mid- and high-rise residential buildings, including multiple New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)-operated buildings, supported by community facilities, local retail, and several parks and open spaces.

R7-2 and R8 residential zoning districts are the most prevalent districts in these neighborhoods, often containing ground floor retail uses with residential uses on the upper floor. The R7-2 zoning district is a mid-density residential district that allows a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of 4.0 and maximum building heights of 80 feet. This district typically results in tower-in-the-park style developments, which include multiple buildings distributed across a large block surrounded by open space. The R8 zoning district, found north of East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, allows higher FARs than in the R7-2 zoning district, with a maximum FAR of 6.02 (and up to a 7.02 on a wide street) and height

of 120 feet. R8 districts also have maximum base height and setback requirements. R7B and R8B zoning districts are also mapped throughout the East Village, with commercial overlays along the avenues. R7B is a contextual residential zoning district that allows a maximum FAR of 3.0 and maximum building heights of 75 feet, with setback requirements between 40 and 60 feet. R8B is also a contextual residential, allowing a maximum FAR of 4.0 and a maximum building height of 75 feet with a setback requirement between 55 to 60 feet.

Major thoroughfares in the area include the FDR Drive that runs along the waterfront, Delancey Street, East Houston Street, East 14th Street, and East 23rd Street in an east/west orientation. First Avenue, and Avenues A, B, C, and D provide north/south access. Mass transit availability in the area includes the J, M, and Z subway lines with stops along Delancey Street, and the L subway line with stops along East 14th Street. M15 and M23 buses provide Select Bus Service to the area, in addition to several local bus lines.

The project area consists of two distinct geographies. Project Area One, which extends from Montgomery Street on the south to approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, consists mainly of East River Park. Project Area Two extends from approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street to East 25<sup>th</sup> Street. East River Park includes four existing pedestrian bridges across the FDR Drive that provide access to the Park (Corlears Hook, Delancey Street, East 6th Street, and East 10th Street bridges), in addition to the East Houston Street overpass. The proposed project's southern boundary is in the street right-of-way at the intersection of Montgomery and South streets, including a portion underneath the elevated FDR Drive.

Project Area One land uses include residential, highway (FDR Drive, both elevated and at-grade sections), and open space, including Pier 42 and East River Park.

Project Area Two land uses are primarily highway or street right-of-way, utility (Con Edison), parks and open space, and community facility. To the south, uses include East River Park and the FDR Drive. To the north, Project Area Two contains the Con Edison East River Generating Station and the FDR Drive right-of-way, which extends to Murphy Brothers Park. Avenue C and land

beneath the elevated portion of the FDR Drive contain the eastern portion of Project Area Two, while the waterfront open space at Stuyvesant Cove Park comprises the western portion. Further north, Project Area Two contains parkland at Asser Levy Playground and across the park, the existing VA Medical Center.

The proposed interior drainage management systems are located within the accessory parking lot at East River Houses and the corner yard at Baruch House houses.

Most of the project area is within built streets or parkland where zoning would not apply. The few locations outside of streets or parks where acquisitions are proposed to operate, inspect, and maintain the ESCR project are zoned R7-2, M3-2, and R8.

## **PROPOSED PROJECT**

The proposed ESCR project is a flood protection system comprised of a combination of floodwalls, closure structures (i.e., gates), and supporting infrastructure improvements, the combination of which would reduce the risk of coastal storm flooding in the area upland of the proposed project (the protected area). The flood elevation used in the design of the proposed project is 16.5 feet National Vertical Datum, which is generally eight to nine feet above the existing surface grade, but diminishes in height above grade as the project moves inland and the topography rises. This design elevation was developed assuming the 100-year Federal Emergency Management Agency flood elevation, incorporating storm wave assumptions, and the 90th percentile sea level rise through the 2050s (30 inches).

A key element of the proposed project would be elevating and reconstructing East River Park to make it more resilient to coastal storms. The proposed project would also include flood protection and open space improvements at other parks, including Murphy Brothers Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Asser Levy Playground. It would also include an improved shared use path (bikeway/walkway) through the entire length of the project, including a new flyover bridge to replace the existing narrow public access in the portion near the Con Edison facility. Except for

Stuyvesant Cove Park, these elements and related park improvement do not require approval from the City Planning Commission.

The proposed project also includes the reconstruction of the Corlears Hook Bridge, the replacement of the Delancey and East 10th Street bridges, and the construction of the flyover bridge to better connect the surrounding neighborhoods with the waterfront and surrounding open spaces. These proposed improvements would create more inviting and accessible crossings over the FDR Drive to the reconstructed East River Park and East River waterfront, including the waterfront shared-use path. With the proposed project, the reconstructed bridges at Delancey and East 10th streets have been designed to support and encourage public access to the waterfront with gentler grades. Within the Park, the bridge landings would provide a wider and more inviting gateway with elevated and expanded views of the Park and the river. The reconstruction of existing bridges and construction of new bridges would require future land use actions for changes to the City Map.

#### *Proposed Drainage System Modifications*

In addition to the project elements proposed to prevent tidal surge flooding, modifications to the City's drainage system are also proposed to prevent tidal flooding through the sewer system and minimize inland flooding associated with an event that would affect tide and rain levels. These measures include installing parallel conveyance pipes and two interceptor gates; floodproofing the regulators, manholes, and other combined sewer infrastructure; installing tide gates on the combined sewer outfalls and rerouting storm drainage; and installing one isolation gate valve in the regulator below Asser Levy Playground.

#### *Interceptor Gates*

The installation of two interceptor gates is proposed. The southern interceptor gate (proposed in Project Area One) would be located in the existing sidewalk and lawn along the western edge of the FDR Drive right-of-way at a location south of the Corlears Hook Bridge. The northern interceptor gate (proposed in Project Area Two) would be located in the median of East 20th Street, west of the intersection with Avenue C. During a storm event, these gates would deploy into the

interceptor pipe to prevent combined flow or storm surge floodwaters from entering the protected area through the sewer system. While mostly below grade, the above-grade elements of these sewer systems would include the equipment necessary to operate the interceptor gates, which would be housed in a one-story structure.

### *Parallel Conveyance Pipes*

The existing interceptors and outfalls are the primary components of the infrastructure system in the project area. During a storm event, as the East River tide rises, the tide gates at the ends of the outfalls would deploy, preventing outflow and backups in the sewer system. Parallel conveyance pipes are also proposed to augment the conveyance capacity of the system. These pipes are proposed to be below grade and located in the street right-of-way, except for two locations where in-street locations would not be feasible and limited private property acquisitions would be required.

## **REQUESTED ACTIONS**

The proposed project would be developed primarily on City-owned land, including City parkland and street rights-of-way. However, some acquisition of private land and non-City-owned public land would be necessary to allow the City to operate, inspect, and maintain the proposed flood protection system, including the parallel conveyance elements. The properties where these acquisitions are proposed are described below.

### Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation (Manhattan Block 244, Lot 19)

This lot is within an R7-2 zoning district and developed with a 21-story residential building. The area proposed for acquisition includes a fence at the property line, as well as the side yard lawn and seven trees.

Within this portion of the project, the proposed flood protection system would be located within the Montgomery Street mapped bed-of-street and the South Street mapped bed-of street. The proposed acquisition of a portion of Block 244, Lot 19 would enable the City to have access to the

property to operate, inspect, and maintain the proposed flood protection system. This segment of the proposed floodwall is proposed at the northern mapped right-of-way line of Montgomery Street and the western mapped right of way line along South Street. This proposed alignment would minimize impacts on street use, including pedestrian circulation.

The area of the proposed acquisition is located in the lot's southern and eastern yards, but would not include the structure. Other than an existing fence that would be removed, the acquisition area is a landscaped yard and there are no accessory structures in the proposed acquisition area. In addition to the right to operate, inspect and maintain the proposed floodwall, the proposed acquisition would also prohibit the planting of deep-rooted trees and the installation of permanent structures within the easement area.

#### East River Housing Corporation (Manhattan Block 321, Lot 1)

This lot is located within an R7-2 zoning district and developed with two multi-story residential buildings. The proposed acquisition of a portion of Block 321, Lot 1 would enable the City to have access to the property to operate, inspect, and maintain the parallel conveyance system proposed to be sited on this lot. The proposed acquisition area is located within the accessory parking lot. There are no structures within the proposed acquisition area.

#### NYCHA Baruch Houses (Manhattan Block 323, Lot 1)

This lot is located within an R7-2 zoning district and developed with several multi-story residential buildings. The proposed acquisition of a portion of Block 323, Lot 1 would enable the City to have access to the property to operate, inspect, and maintain the parallel conveyance system proposed at this lot. The proposed acquisition area includes a side yard lawn that has a fence and a sign for the housing complex. There are no structures within this proposed acquisition area and it is primarily occupied by side yard lawn.

#### NYCHA Jacob Riis Houses (Manhattan Block 367, Lot 1)

This lot is located within an R7-2 zoning district and developed with several multi-story residential buildings. The proposed acquisition of a portion of Block 367, Lot 1 would enable the City to



have access to the property to operate, inspect, and maintain the proposed floodwall. While the proposed floodwall would not be located on the property, it is proposed to be aligned along the westerly edge of the FDR Drive right-of-way, and periodic access onto this property would be necessary to perform inspections, maintenance, and repair of the floodwall. The proposed acquisition area includes portions of the rear yard containing lawn areas, fences, a tree, and a section of sidewalk. The proposed acquisition area does not include any structures or special landscaping features. Other than existing fences and one tree that would need to be removed, there are no structures within the proposed acquisition area and it is primarily occupied by lawn and sidewalks.

Con Edison (Manhattan Block 988, Lot 1)

This lot is located within an M3-2 zoning district and is occupied by the Con Edison East River Generating Station. Two portions of this lot are proposed to be acquired. The first portion is located on the south side of the lot along the frontage with East 14th Street and would apply to the watertight connection to the Con Edison structure. The other acquisition would provide access to the interior of the structure and would allow the City to inspect, maintain, and repair, as needed, the Con Edison flood protection system within the East River Generating Station. The proposed acquisitions would affect only a small portion of the lot.

At this location, the flood protection system would cross East 14th Street and would connect the Con Edison East River Generating Station to its recently completed flood protection system. The proposed connection to the generating station structure must be sealed and watertight. The proposed acquisition would allow the City to install the watertight connection and to operate, inspect, and maintain both this connection and, as needed, the Con Edison flood protection system on this block that is proposed internal to the power generating structure, since this would be a contributing element in the proposed flood protection system.

Con Edison (Manhattan Block 990, Lot 1)

This lot is located within an M3-2 zoning district and is occupied by a Con Edison office building, adjacent parking lot, and an equipment and materials storage area. The Con Edison property is

bounded to the south by East 15th Street. Adjacent and to the east of this property is a ramp that provides egress from the FDR Drive. The proposed acquisition of a portion of Block 990, Lot 1 would allow the City to operate, inspect, and maintain the flood protection system proposed along the FDR Drive. In addition to the rights to operate, inspect, and maintain the structure, the proposed acquisition would also prohibit the planting of any deep-rooted trees or installing permanent structures within 15 feet of the proposed flood protection system.

The proposed acquisition would also allow the City access to operate, inspect, and maintain a flood protection tide gate proposed to be installed in an existing City outfall that extends beneath this property. The proposed tide gate would prevent tidal flow from entering the protected area through the sewer system during a storm event. This proposed acquisition area is occupied by surface parking that is accessory to the Con Edison operations.

#### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Manhattan Block 955, Lot 5)

This lot is located within an R8 zoning district and is occupied by the VA Medical Center complex. The proposed acquisition of a portion of Block 995, Lot 5 would allow a watertight connection to the VA Medical Center flood protection system and would allow the City access to operate, inspect, and maintain both that connection and the segment of the VA Medical Center existing flood wall. The flood wall would continue west from Asser Levy Place to the end of the flood protection system at First Avenue. The proposed acquisition area includes the area adjacent to the existing floodwall that protects the VA Medical Center against flooding.

#### New York State Department of Transportation, portion of the mapped FDR Drive

This area is within the mapped bed-of-street of FDR Drive and is owned by the New York State Department of Transportation. The area contains Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk and the East River Greenway, which is a shared pedestrian bike way that connects East River Park with Stuyvesant Cove Park. This area contains some bench seating and tree plantings. It extends from approximately East 15<sup>th</sup> Street on the south to Avenue C on the north. The proposed flyover bridge would connect the northern end of East River Park and is proposed to land within Captain Patrick

J. Brown Walk. The proposed acquisition would allow the City to construct, maintain, and inspect the footings that would support the bridge.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This application (C 190357 PQM), in conjunction with the application for the related action (N 190356 ZRM), was reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the SEQRA regulations set forth in Volume 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 617.00 *et seq.* and the City Environmental Quality Review Rules of Procedure of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The designated CEQR number is 15DPR013M. The lead agency is the Department of Parks and Recreation.

After a study of the environmental impacts of the proposed action, a Positive Declaration was issued on October 28, 2015. Together with a Positive Declaration, a Draft Scope of Work for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued on October 30, 2015. A public scoping meeting was held on December 3, 2015.

A DEIS was prepared and a Notice of Completion for the DEIS was issued on April 5, 2019. On July 31, 2019, a public hearing was held on the DEIS pursuant to SEQRA and other relevant statutes. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) reflecting comments made during scoping and the public hearing on the DEIS was completed and a Notice of Completion for the FEIS was issued on September 12, 2019.

The proposed project as analyzed in the FEIS identified the potential for significant adverse impacts with respect to construction (open space, transportation, noise) and urban design and visual resources (views).

### **UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW**

This application (C 190357 PQM), in conjunction with the related action (N 190356 ZRM) was certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on April 22, 2019, and was duly referred

to Manhattan Community Boards 3 and 6, and Manhattan Borough President in accordance with Title 62 of the Rules of the City of New York, Section 2-02(b).

### **Community Board Public Hearing**

Community Board 3 held a public hearing on this application (C 190357 PQM) on June 11, 2019, and adopted a resolution recommending approval of this application on June 25, 2019 by a vote of 33 in favor, three against and one abstaining with the following conditions:

“Where the DEIS states that "the City is working with other entities with open space resources to identify recreational resources that may be opened to the community during construction," (8.0-4) these other entities have since been identified as NYCHA, the Department of Education, and the Department of Transportation, and these agencies must come together in consultation with the Community Board to identify and disclose all locations and capacity of these other resources, particularly because many existing local area parks and open space resources are primarily turf and hard surfaces; and

Where the DEIS states that "the City is assessing opportunities to open parts of East River Park as work is completed," (8.0-4) the exact construction phasing and re-opening proposal should be disclosed and the final plan decided on through engagement with the community and consultation with the Community Board;

Where the DEIS states that the impact of the ESCR Preferred Alternative on the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH Assessment) has not been studied adequately, and the NOAA is requiring a revised assessment with alternatives that will minimize the effects on certain species like herring and striped bass (Appendix G), including the possibility that seasonal work restrictions will be one of the ways to address these effects. If such seasonal restrictions are likely to [be] imposed, a situation which would adversely affect the construction schedule, the City must inform and consult the community about the likely effects of these restrictions as soon as possible and discuss at the earliest possible opportunity their plan to locate additional funds for mitigation, especially for solutions that provide recreation options in the immediate vicinity, such as barges and special play

features; and

Where the DEIS states that "NYC Parks is exploring providing alternative recreational opportunities throughout the Lower East Side neighborhoods through programs like Shape-Up classes, walking clubs, Arts, greening programs, etc.," (8.0-4) the locations and funding for such programs should be disclosed and discussed with the nearby residents of those proposals prior to enacting them to ensure their feasibility and value to the community;

Where the DEIS states that "DOT is investigating supporting bicycle infrastructure upgrades along the alternate route, including new markings and signage," (8.0-5) it should specify where this rerouting and signage would be located and consider this plan as well as additional solutions including more dedicated bicycle lanes on additional routes in consultation with the Community Board. NYC Parks should also consult the Community Board on viable solutions for the needs of joggers and walkers;

Where the DEIS states that "NYC Parks is exploring a Lower East Side Greening program with the opportunity to plant up to 1,000 trees in parks and streets, and create up to 40 bioswales," (8.0-5), Parks should also work with local community organizations to spearhead such a program, as was suggested in a February 2019 Community Board 3 resolution supporting a proposed LES Community Tree Canopy Initiative. We understand the tree planting will start in Fall 2019 but the Parks Department must update the Community Board as soon as possible regarding the proposed schedule and locations. In addition, tree guards and concrete plans for the care of the trees (such as watering) should be included as part of the tree planting operation;

Where the DEIS states that "the City is exploring purchasing lighting to be used at several Lower East Side parks to extend playing time at fields for permitted use during construction of the proposed project," (8.0-5), and the City has confirmed they will bring the solar lights to Columbus Park, Coleman Field, Sara D., Baruch Playground, Corlears Hook and Chelsea Park, adding an additional four to five hours of field time at some parks during the Fall, it must disclose all parks and fields these improvements would be located at, guarantee that the lighting would be funded,

identify whether the improvements would remain at the end of the ESCR construction period, and evaluate the impact of new lighting and playing on any surrounding residential buildings and consult with those local communities and guarantee field priority for local youth leagues;

Where the DEIS states that "the City is assessing opportunities for improvements to parks and playgrounds in the vicinity," (8.0-5), and the City has identified Columbus Park, Coleman, Al Smith Playground, Al Smith Rec Center, Little Flower Playground, Tanahey Playground, Cherry Clinton, Hamilton Fish, Corlears Hook, Baruch Playground, Tompkins Square, Dry Dock, First Park, St. Vartan, Robert Moses Playground, and John Jay as locations for improvements, it must explicitly identify all parks and playgrounds are under consideration, which projects are new and not necessarily already in the capital projects pipeline, what the improvements would be, guarantee that the improvements would be funded and disclose the timeline for said improvements;

Where the DEIS states that "The City is also assessing the feasibility of utilizing quieter construction methods (i.e., press in pile)" (8.0-5) and considering "selecting quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts may result in up to a 10 dBA reduction in noise levels from construction," (8.0-8) it must guarantee the equipment would be actually be available for the duration of the construction period prior to application approvals, and make these methods a condition of any bid or RFP for ESCR construction;

Where the DEIS states that mitigations are "under consideration" in order to achieve "cost effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction of the proposed project" (6.11-16), it should be committed to prior to project approvals that when the construction contracts are put out for bid and/or RFPs are issued, they should require the use of biodiesel fuel on-site, require targets be met for the volume of recycled steel and aluminum generated on-site, and commit contractors to divert as much construction waste as possible for recycling; and

The City must explore immediate and temporary mitigation measures for present and future threats of destructive storms to protect local neighborhoods during the time the park is vulnerable; and

To ensure neighborhood future protection and storm resilience, the Preferred Alternative plan for the ESCR should also include the ability to add protection for the predicted surge and sea level rise for 2100; and

The City must provide a more comprehensive and robust explanation of the schedule advantages of the Preferred Alternative over Alternative 3 given that the possible seasonal construction restrictions were not factored into the timeline advantages stated in the rationale of choosing the Preferred Alternative, a solution that is more costly than Alternative 3 which was developed in consultation with the community; and

As the ULURP, Environmental Review and permitting processes continue, the City should work with CB3 and concerned community organizations to identify a panel of 3 to 5 mutually agreed upon environmentalists to expeditiously review and evaluate the alternatives in the DEIS and describe reasonable interim measures that could be taken to minimize any adverse impacts that the community might confront until the project is implemented and such review and the DEIS should not be finalized until such recommendations and review is presented; and

The City must commit to seek Envision certification, a rating system for infrastructure, to help assess how the ESCR plan will meet or exceed sustainability goals across a range of social, economic, and environmental indicators. And such certification should be provided before the DEIS is finalized; and

Temporary measures for immediate storm protection need to be implemented given that the hurricane season is on the horizon and the damages of a potential storm on a community that is still recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy would be disastrous and further delay the ESCR project; and

The City must include social resiliency and community preparedness in its planning and funding including schools, community programming and local long-term recovery groups such as LES Ready and CERT, which is recognized by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and

provide a weekly update email on construction process, alternative spaces and recreation opportunities; and

The City must agree to regular updates with the Community Board, hold timely community engagement meetings such as town halls, large group presentations, community open houses and other similar events that offer more opportunities for Q&A, information on progress, setbacks and any changes to agreements or Park plans; and

The City must establish a Community Advisory Group of community and institutional stakeholders of the affected project area that will meet frequently with agencies both during design and construction until project completion with regular reports and meetings made available to community at large; and

Alternative routes deemed safe for all, including pedestrians, micro mobility users, runners, commuting and recreational cyclists of all ages, must be developed in collaboration with the community and instituted before the Greenway is closed; and

Every effort must be made to minimize raising dust both in disturbing the soil currently in East River Park and the laying in of imported soil to reduce the drift into residences, schools and public spaces; and

Topsoil and salt resistant indigenous plants should be considered for reuse to re-establish natural passive areas in park; and

The City must provide the community a finalized design and timeline for completion of the flyover bridge; and

[DPR] must ensure ADA compliant access to and within the park including braille signage, adequate water fountains and adequate lighting for safety and accessibility; and



[DPR] must commit to prioritizing permits for local neighborhood youth groups both during construction (except where that would conflict with other local park youth groups) and into the future of the East River Park; and

[DPR] should consider sport facilities such as Basketball City, as sites for open space for children and sports leagues; and

[DPR] must look at other open space sites in CD3 that have yet to be identified including the Allen Street Malls (CB3's #2 Parks priority), the vacant Allen Street building and the underused lots underneath the Williamsburg Bridge; and

[DPR] must work with park stewards to identify and protect biodiversity including identifying alternative habitat areas and transfer usable park materials and plants rescued from East River Park to other alternative open spaces and create new open green spaces near East River Park to help offset the loss of carbon sinks in CB3; and

The City must undertake the immediate creation of bioswales, tree canopy plantings, and permeable pavers in CB3; and

[DPR] must use mature trees as replacements for lost trees in East River Park in areas where they are appropriate; and

The City must provide temporary space for the LES Ecology Center to continue all environmental education and composting programming during construction and integrate the Ecology Center's long-delayed Compost Yard upgrades into the ESCR project and plan and create a sustainable, resilient building in East River Park so that the LES Ecology Center can continue to offer education and stewardship programming; and

The City must make available temporary water parks or water play features that are available before the first summer season of the Park's closure.

The City must continue to work with the Amphitheater Task Force to create a design that is consistent with local needs;

The City must continue discussions in good faith with Gouvernuer Gardens and provide timely updates to the Community Board about any resolutions; and

[DPR] The New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and all involved agencies must agree to regular updates with the Community Board to report on progress, setbacks and any changes to agreements or park plans; and

The City must make a definitive commitment to ensure the phased construction and park reopening for the ESCR project, in a manner that does not impact the overall timetable for park closure and project completion, and the City must provide a complete timetable for the phased construction and park reopening plan, and outline any changes this would create for construction impacts; and

Local residents should be provided assistance to access to other open areas, sports fields and city parks, in the form of Metrocards, shuttle buses, free ferry service or other types of transportation or financial support. As the current Preferred Alternative plan prioritizes access to the new ferry facilities that will remain open throughout the construction period, these especially should be made available at a reduced price or no cost to local residents

There must be a protocol established before work begins to allow City agency oversight over decision making for contractors during the construction period, with clear avenues for community input established, in order to mitigate against contractor decision making that disregards the quality of life of area residents, and this must be a condition of any bid or RFP for ESCR construction.”

The full recommendation is attached to this report.

Community Board 6 held a public hearing on this application (C 190357 PQM) on May 28, 2019, and adopted a resolution recommending approval of this application on June 12, 2019 by a vote of 43 in favor, zero against and one abstaining with the following conditions:

“A detailed plan for noise and dust mitigation all along the construction area, which abuts Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village, and Waterside Plaza, home to tens of thousands of CD 6 residents;

Presentation of an operational plan for ambulance access to the First Avenue “hospital row” corridor when barriers are deployed and water runs around the protected Asser Levy Bathhouse and west along East 25th Street and floods First Avenue as it did in 2012;

A DOT plan addressing the recently narrowed lanes of traffic on East 20th Street that allows for passage along East 20th street during the construction of the interceptor gate house;

A comprehensive plan on emergent and non-emergent access to Waterside Plaza and adjacent schools when ESCR barriers are fully deployed;

The ESCR Project must institute a phased construction timeline for the good of all waterfront users, to prevent unexpected access delays such as those that occurred during the West Street Overpass;

In addition to a phased construction schedule, the ESCR project team should develop additional mitigation strategies that focus on providing access to amenities at existing locations in the district that should include both active uses like exercise or game areas, free for activity spaces for children, and passive elements like landscaping and places to sit and relax;

Improved activation of Waterside Pier with active and passive recreational spaces; activating the parking area under the FDR from East 18th Street to East 23rd Street in ways similar to the current setup at Two Bridges; exploration of the creation of a temporary space on the top level of the Waterside Pier parking garage; the possible use of temporary barges, anchored off existing park

areas like Slivka Park and Pier 36, to provide additional active or passive use space;

Since the current waterfront is a major pathway for both pedestrians, runners and cyclists alike, and CB6's independent usage counts showed higher usage counts than what was listed in the [DEIS], any route detours should accommodate adequate space on the streets to ensure safe movement for the additional multimodality uses with the current sidewalk pedestrians;

Traffic studies regarding expansion of the NYC Summer Streets program to explore the possible use of any underutilized streets during summer weekends when waterfront usage peaks;

As the securing of funding for a flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for its construction are now guaranteed, the protraction of its schedule which isn't to begin until the other parts of the ESCR are in place is an unnecessary disruption to the use of the waterfront and we expect the ESCR revisit the staging plan and look at ways to begin the flyover bridge construction contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;

Design consideration should be made for expanded capacity along Captain Patrick J. Brown walk to accommodate for increased walkway usage;

CB6 strongly recommends that a feasibility study of "decking" portions of the FDR to provide added parkland for the area be included in the design review to better inform possible future projects;

The installation of a comfort station at Murphy's Brother's Playground rather than simply laying the groundwork for installation at a later date by exploring low cost design options implemented in other cities, such as the Portland Loo, which would allow for a faster implementation and provide immediate upgrades for the users of the park;

CB6 supports the provision of a new crosswalk at the intersection of Avenue C and the north side of FDR Drive Exit 7 creating a more direct pedestrian access pathway across Avenue C to the

waterfront and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Landing, and that the exit ramp be modified to provide a legal left turn onto Avenue C at the East 18th Street traffic signal; with appropriate signage and signaling to improve alignment with the flood barrier, improve pedestrian safety, and allow for a less circuitous route for westbound and southbound exiting traffic;

CB6 recommends a comprehensive redesign of the East 20th St bike lane, which was originally designed around a now-obsolete L train mitigation plan, to facilitate faster construction of the interceptor gate house there, unless an alternative gate house site is found;

That the East 20th Street interceptor gate house be designed with contextually appropriate materials to reflect the historical significance of Peter Cooper Village/Stuyvesant Town and the previous Gas House District;

That the ESCR Project team should provide supporting data on the cost-benefit analysis done for the proposed Project Area 2 construction plan that would, as was presented, provide a more expedient construction completion than one that includes a partial closure of the FDR Drive;

As the ESCR plan indicates the flood barrier is west of Stuyvesant Cove Park, sufficient funding should be put aside to rebuild the park after any subsequent destruction from flooding, further diminishing the very limited park space available in CD 6;

Preservation of the East River Park Fire Boat House should be included so that the Lower East Side Ecology Center is able to continue its important initiatives on the very germane topic of environmental awareness;

[That] interpretive signage and public art installations be incorporated at various points to provide differentiation, historical context and maintain neighborhood identity along the waterfront;

The inclusion of a robust social media strategy should also be implemented to communicate ongoing park closures and project status updates.”

The full recommendation is attached to this report.

### **Borough Board Recommendation**

The Manhattan Borough Board considered the application (C 190357 PQM) and issued a recommendation to approve the application with the following conditions on July 23, 2019:

“Where the City is working with other entities to identify recreational resources that may be opened to the community during construction, these entities must disclose all locations and capacities of these other resources;

The City must inform and consult the community about the likely effects of seasonal work restrictions and the approval timeline of permits by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the New York City Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and communicate these permit's impacts upon the construction timeline and mitigate accordingly;

Where the impact of the ESCR Preferred Alternative 4 on wildlife has not been studied adequately, the City must release further impact construction studies upon marine ecology and wildlife in consultation with USACE, NOAA, and NYC DEC standards and mitigate for the return of birds, insects, and fish that would lose their habitat in the park during construction as well as mitigate the migration of rodents into residential areas during the period of construction;

Where [DPR] is exploring providing alternative recreational opportunities throughout the Lower East Side neighborhoods, the locations and funding for such programs must be disclosed and discussed with the nearby residents prior to enacting them;

Where the City is assessing opportunities for improvements to parks and playgrounds in the

vicinity, it must explicitly identify which projects are new and not necessarily already in the capital projects pipeline, and disclose the timeline for said improvements;

The City must improve activation of Waterside Pier with active and passive recreational spaces and explore the creation of temporary spaces for active uses in CB3 and CB6 such as: Basketball City, a temporary space on the top level of the Skyport Marina parking garage, the possible use of temporary barges, anchored off existing park areas, or green decking underused lots such as the Allen Street Malls, the vacant Allen Street building and the space underneath the Williamsburg Bridge;

Provide local residents with access to other open areas, sports fields and city parks, in the form of Metrocards, shuttle buses, free ferry service or other types of transportation or financial support;

Commit to prioritizing permits for local neighborhood youth groups both during construction (except where that would conflict with other local park youth groups) and into the future of the East River Park;

Where [DPR] has committed to a Lower East Side Greening program and the separate opportunity to plant up to 1,000 trees beginning in Fall 2019 and create up to 40 bioswales, it must work with local community organizations to spearhead such a program and update CB3 and CB6 as soon as possible regarding the proposed schedule and locations. In addition, tree guards and plans for the care of the trees must be included as part of the tree planting operation;

Where the City is exploring purchasing lighting to be used at several Lower East Side parks to extend playing time at fields for permitted use during construction of the proposed project, the City must evaluate the impact of new lighting and playing on any surrounding residential buildings and consult with those local communities, and guarantee field priority for local youth leagues;

Where the funding for the flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for its construction are now guaranteed, the protraction of its schedule which isn't to begin until the other parts of the

ESCR are in place is an unnecessary disruption to the use of the waterfront and that the ESCR revisits the staging plan and look at ways to begin the flyover bridge construction contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;

Where the City is also assessing the feasibility of utilizing quieter construction methods and considering selecting quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts, it must guarantee the equipment would be available for the duration of the construction period prior to application approvals, make these methods a condition of any bids or Request for Proposals (RFPs) for ESCR construction, and work towards not necessitating night time construction; and

Where mitigations are "under consideration" in order to achieve "cost effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction of the proposed project, it must be committed to prior to project approvals that when the construction contracts are put out for bid and/or RFPs are issued, they must require the use of biodiesel fuel on-site, require targets be met for the volume of recycled steel and aluminum generated on-site, meet sustainability requirements by seeking an Envision certification, and commit contractors to divert as much construction waste as possible for recycling;

The City must present a comprehensive plan on emergent and non-emergent access to Waterside Plaza and adjacent schools when ESCR barriers are fully deployed;

The City must conduct additional traffic studies regarding expansion of the NYC Summer Streets program;

Where DOT is investigating supporting bicycle infrastructure upgrades along the alternate route, including new markings and signage, it must specify where this re-rerouting and signage would be located and consider additional solutions including more dedicated bicycle lanes on additional routes in consultation with CB3 and CB6;

The City must develop alternative routes deemed safe for all, including pedestrians, runners, and



recreational cyclists of all ages by curbing or prohibiting micro mobility (i.e. electric scooters) usage in the East River Park, in collaboration with CB3 and CB6 and institute them before the Greenway is closed;

A comprehensive redesign of the East 20th Street bike lane, which was originally designed around a now-obsolete L train mitigation plan, to facilitate faster construction of the interceptor gate house there, unless an alternative site is found;

The City must provide a legal left turn onto Avenue C at the East 18th Street traffic signal; with appropriate signage and signaling to improve alignment with the flood barrier and allow for a less circuitous route for westbound and southbound exiting traffic;

DOT must develop a plan addressing the recently narrowed traffic lanes on East 20th Street that allows for passage along East 20th Street during the construction of the interceptor gate house and an operational plan for ambulance access to the First Avenue "hospital row" corridor when barriers are deployed;

Design the East 20th Street interceptor gate house with contextually appropriate materials to reflect the historical significance of Peter Cooper Village/Stuyvesant Town, and the previous Gas House District;

An installation of a comfort station at Murphy's Brothers' Playground;

Ensure that all existing art pieces in the project area that would be affected by ESCR's construction will not be demolished and will be included as permanent installations in ESCR's new landscaping. Should their work not be included, they must be returned to each artist and the artist must be generously compensated for the removal of their invaluable pieces. All artists must be immediately contacted about the future of their work related to the construction of ESCR;

Incorporate public art installations and signage with multiple language translations at various

points to provide differentiation, historical context and maintain neighborhood identity along the waterfront;

Provide a more comprehensive and robust explanation of the schedule advantages of the Preferred Alternative 4 over Alternative 3 given that the possible seasonal construction restrictions were not factored into the timeline advantages and provide a cost-benefit analysis for the Preferred Alternative 4 construction plan with the aim of expedient construction that does not include a full closure of the East River Park;

Minimize dust and noise throughout the construction area;

Consider topsoil and salt resistant indigenous plants for reuse to re-establish natural passive areas in park;

Ensure ADA compliant access to and within the park including braille signage, adequate water fountains and adequate lighting for safety and accessibility;

Work with park stewards to identify and protect biodiversity, identify alternative habitat areas, transfer usable park materials and plants rescued from East River Park to other alternative open spaces, and create new open green spaces near East River Park to help offset the loss of carbon sinks in CB3;

Make available temporary water parks or water play features that are available before the first summer season of the Park's closure;

Continue to work with the Amphitheater Task Force to create a design that is consistent with local needs such as materials that fulfill noise mitigation for the surrounding community;

Provide timely updates to CB3 about any resolutions and continue discussions with Gouverneur Gardens;

Immediately inform individual residents whose views to the waterfront would be blocked in certain upland locations;

Include social resiliency and community preparedness programming and funding in schools and community groups and provide a weekly update email on construction process, alternative spaces and recreation opportunities;

A construction hotline must be created and operated 24/7 during demolition and construction in order for community members to report unsafe conditions, activities, or other concerns. The hotline should be staffed during all hours of construction. The number for this hotline should be posted prominently on the construction site and on social media on the websites of all involved agencies;

[DPR, DDC] and all involved agencies must agree to issue social media updates and regular updates with CB3 and CB6 to report on progress, setbacks and any changes to agreements or park plans;

Establish a Community Advisory Group of stakeholders in the affected project area that will meet regularly with agencies from design and construction until project completion, with regular reports and meetings made available to community at-large; and

Establish a protocol before work begins to allow City agency oversight over decision making for contractors during the construction period, with clear avenues for community input established, in order to mitigate against contractor decision making that disregards the quality of life of area residents, and this must be a condition of any bids or RFPs for ESCR construction.”

The full recommendation is attached to this report.

### **Borough President Recommendation**

The Manhattan Borough President considered the application (C 190357 PQM) and issued a recommendation to approve the application with the following conditions on July 30, 2019:

“The construction timeline for the different sections of the East River Park must be phased in tandem with Murphy Brothers Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Asser Levy Playground to allow continued access and usage by the public during its construction. The timeline must include expected dates for permit approvals, information on the time it takes for the fill to settle, and be approved by CB3 and CB6. Since funding for the flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for it are now guaranteed, the ESCR project must revisit the staging plan and look at ways that the construction of the flyover bridge can occur contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;

A community task force group must be created that is comprised of non-profit leaders, residents and business owners in CB3 and CB6. The applicant must develop an expedited mechanism for an independent, non-New York City-based consultant to review the ESCR project and consider other alternatives through a study that is based upon an agreed upon scope by the CBs and this community task force group;

The applicant must regularly consult with CB3 and CB6 in a more timely process and incorporate public feedback to the project’s construction and design. Communication through social media, community meetings, open houses and information sessions must include materials in several languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish. More emphasis must be placed upon conducting outreach to residents of the involved NYCHA campuses. Road closures and area closures must be promptly communicated and the deployment of extra law enforcement to secure the construction premises or traffic control is discouraged;

The applicant must conduct outreach to all property owners with detailed information concerning the proposed acquisitions for easement and respond to the questions and concerns of these owners. Any and all businesses within the East River Park that are displaced by the construction of ESCR

must have relocation assistance by the applicant;

The applicant must communicate with all local youth sports leagues about alternative facilities for playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, and other sports arenas during the construction of ESCR and accommodate for youth transportation to the alternative sites. At the completion of the project, the applicant are to consult and guarantee field priority for these local youth leagues and all waterfront pier areas must be publicly accessible.;

The applicant must explore alternative recreational opportunities through programming and the activation of underutilized spaces. The location and funding for these alternative, recreational opportunities and programs, including green decking, must be disclosed and discussed with the CBs and the community prior to their installation and activation;

Before the first summer season of the Park's closure, temporary water parks or water play features must be made available and any cooling centers and comfort stations throughout the project's area, more specifically at Murphy Brother's Playground, must be added to the final design plan as opposed to laying groundwork for later installation;

Beautification of the temporary construction walls as well as sections of the final floodwalls must be made with painting and mural work that suitably represents and are chosen by the communities affected by the building of the construction walls or floodwalls;

A study of all existing art pieces in the project area that would be affected by ESCR's construction must be completed and its artists must be immediately contacted about the future of their works. NYC Parks, NYC DDC, and all related agencies must strive to include these permanent installations as part of ESCR's new landscaping and design. Should their work be excluded from the ESCR design, each artist must either be commissioned for new work and/or generously compensated for the removal of their invaluable pieces. None of these art pieces are to be demolished during construction;

The East River Park Fireboat House that is home to the LES Ecology Center must be lifted out of the 2050 floodplain or be completely rebuilt and made resilient to provide new spaces for programming;

A study of the ESCR project's impact upon wildlife and plant species and the mitigation of animal migrations during and after construction must be completed while working in tandem with park stewards from the LES Ecology Center or the Solar One Center;

NYC Park's LES Greening program must immediately work with local community organizations to conduct planting and guard installations for trees and bioswales. Trees that will be added to the new landscaped park must be mature trees where appropriate;

The applicant must apply and qualify for an Envision Certification from the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure to ensure sustainable construction and project standards;

A series of MGP-related recovery wells are to be installed prior to project construction and all VOCs, petroleum storage tanks, and other hazardous materials must be removed from affected sites in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. Flood protection must be provided for existing auto repair shops, gas stations, and the Con Ed Station located in and near the project area. Any construction and occupancy permits would only be issued once DEP receives and approves a Remedial Closure Report that is certified by a New York licensed professional engineer;

Further investigations in the form of an asbestos survey, Site Management Plans, a Mitigation Work Plan, a Remedial Action Plan and a Construction Health and Safety Plan must be included in the FEIS. Construction, excavation measures, and the placement of fill and soil must aim to minimize vibration in order to not disrupt any underground energy, water, and electric infrastructure that serves the surrounding community. All agreements, RFPs and bids with contractors must include regulations that require the use of biodiesel, recycled steel, aluminum, and efforts toward construction waste reduction, heightened care during material extraction and production, and the reduction of emissions from engines and idling vehicle use;

The City must guarantee that quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts would be available for the duration of the construction period prior to application approvals, and that these models are a condition of any bids, RFPs for construction. The applicant must communicate in a timely manner any future permits and dates for night work construction with the CBs. Limited after hour work variances are to be requested from the NYC DOB as they are a community nuisance and all construction-related and scaffolding-related permits must be obtained by the NYC DOB and CBs in a timely manner. Before the start of construction, a noise impact study of the newly designed amphitheater must be disclosed;

All water and sewer infrastructure constructions are to comply with the necessary federal, state and city regulations and have routine checks;

The applicant must agree to renovate and rehabilitate the unprotected playing fields at Asser Levy Park in the event of a disaster since they are excluded from the benefits of the ESCR project. Temporary flood protection measures must be installed during construction to mitigate storm impacts that would delay the construction timeline as the waterfront would be the most vulnerable to disaster while under construction;

Timing changes must be installed at East 23rd Street/First Avenue and East 23rd Street/Second Avenue. A DOT plan addressing the narrow lanes of traffic on East 20th Street and its passage during the construction of the interceptor gate house must be submitted for CB6 approval. A protected bike path must be implemented on Avenues A, B, C, or D by the DOT in order to compensate for the years-long loss of a major bike facility as a result of this project. A new crosswalk must be added at the intersection of Avenue C and the north side of FDR Drive Exit 7 to create a more direct pedestrian access pathway across Avenue C to the waterfront and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Landing. All new transportation signage must be clearly marked;

All parking for construction must occur off-street and construction workers must be given the option of subsidized funds for public transit, thereby lowering single vehicle ridership and the

demand for residential parking spaces. Pedestrian access to the Corlears Hook Ferry Station and the Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Station must be maintained during construction. A study of traffic scenarios during a storm event must be immediately conveyed to and approved by the CBs before the completion of the ESCR project that includes mapped road closures, public transit, parking, and evacuation scenarios for residents and businesses in the vicinity;

The Community Construction Liaisons that are managed and staffed by a Borough Outreach Coordinator must be available 24/7 from pre-construction through the project's completion to serve as direct community contacts through a hotline and email address that are posted prominently on the construction site, on social media, and on the websites of all involved agencies; and

A written guide and employee training manual must be created to convey technical and safety instructions to all workers whom maintain and repair the floodwall infrastructure and parallel conveyance system.”

The full recommendation is attached to this report.

### **City Planning Commission Public Hearing**

On July 10, 2019 (Calendar No. 4), the City Planning Commission scheduled July 31, 2019 for a public hearing on this application (C 190357 PQM). The hearing was duly held on July 31, 2019 (Calendar No. 42), in conjunction with the public hearing on the related application (N 190356 ZRM).

There were 13 speakers in favor of the proposal and 30 speakers in opposition.

Speakers in favor of the proposal included the applicant; the Manhattan Borough President; a representative from the City Council Member for District 2; a representative from the United States Representative from New York District 7; a representative for the State Senator from District 27 and New York Assembly Member from District 74; a representative from Veteran's Affairs New



York Harbor Healthcare; New Yorkers for Parks; the Lower East Side Power Partnership; NYCHA Vladeck Houses Tenants Association; NYCHA Baruch Houses Tenants Association.

Speakers in opposition included representatives from the East River Housing Corporation, the East River Alliance, the Lower East Side Ecology Center, Loisaída United Neighborhood Gardens, Sixth Street Community Center, the United Athletic Association, East Village Community Coalition, and residents in the community.

The prevailing themes of speakers in favor were: the need for flood protection to protect residents, including those in NYCHA campuses, from future flood events; the need for flood protection to protect critical infrastructure such as the VA Medical Center, nursing homes, and Con Ed generating station; the need for flood protection to prevent economic loss that would result from flood events; the need to make New York more resilient to future storms that will be more frequent and intense with climate change; and the desire to revitalize East River Park as both a vibrant open space and flood protection system.

The prevailing themes of speakers in opposition were: the multi-year loss of open space resulting from construction in East River Park; the temporary loss of the East River Greenway and current plan to re-route cyclists and pedestrian traffic to First and Second avenues; the lack of transparency surrounding the design change from Alternative 3 to Alternative 4 (the proposed plan); the need for continued community engagement; the desire for the project to undergo independent evaluation; construction impacts, including noise and air quality; loss of biodiversity, including the removal of trees and habitat loss; alleged inaccuracies in the DEIS; and the extension of federal funding.

The applicant highlighted that the project would be the first major effort by the City to provide flood protection for the neighborhoods and residents along the East River that are within the flood plain impacted by Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The applicant noted that the primary goal of the project is to protect the community from 2050 sea level rise projections with a 100-year flood by hurricane season 2023. They noted that to implement this project, the City seeks the acquisition of

property to ensure the access necessary to maintain the portions of the flood protection system located beyond the street bed and parkland.

The applicant also discussed construction phasing, stating that, while the City is still exploring options to safely open portions of East River Park during construction, the current plan would include closing East River Park during the three-and-a-half-year construction period. The applicant noted that DPR is coordinating with local sports leagues to provide field space and improve neighborhood parks to mitigate the temporary loss of East River Park.

The applicant responded to questions from the Commission regarding the project. The applicant explained that parallel conveyance sewers would be added to the combined sewer system to avoid inland flooding caused by overburdened storm water sewers. The parallel conveyance sewers would add additional capacity to the combined sewer system as water is directed to the Manhattan Pump Station. The applicant clarified that the design flood elevation projections were created by the New York City Panel on Climate Change and are the most conservative estimates for sea level rise for 2050.

Regarding constructability that brought about changes in the project's design, the applicant stated that the Alternative 3 would require driving piles adjacent to and affecting traffic on the FDR Drive, including four years of night-time lane closures, creating significantly more noise for the adjacent residents. The applicant noted that passive flood protection is more reliable than active flood protection and by raising East River Park, the project would become more reliable. Finally, they mentioned that while some open spaces are designed to flood during a storm event, this approach for parks with active recreation is not ideal as they are more difficult to quickly repair and reopen if they are flooded. With respect to constructability and the change in design, the applicant acknowledged that the City's past community engagement was lacking, but since the design change from Alternative 3 to the Alternative 4, the applicant team has actively been working with the community as the project has advanced.

With respect to maintenance and operation of the active flood protection system, the applicant noted that DOT would be responsible for the flood walls and flood gates, DEP would be

responsible for the associated drainage and sewer improvements, and the City would coordinate a maintenance and operation plan with the Office of Emergency Management, the Fire Department of New York, and the New York Police Department.

Regarding impacts on existing transportation infrastructure, the applicant stated that ferry stops are proposed to remain open during the entirety of construction and that DOT was actively looking to reroute bicycle traffic that uses the East River Greenway to existing bike lanes, namely those on First and Second avenues.

A representative from DOT spoke in favor of the project, stating that DOT is assessing alternative bike routes along First and Second avenues during the reconstruction of the East River Greenway. The representative also noted that DOT is upgrading several intersections to provide a better experience for cyclists. Finally, the representative explained that DOT is evaluating the potential for expanding the bicycle network throughout Manhattan, noting that this exploration is on-going.

The Manhattan Borough President testified in support of the proposed project, noting the need to protect Lower Manhattan from the devastation caused by storms like Superstorm Sandy. She emphasized the importance of continuing public engagement as the project's design is finalized, phasing construction so that portions of East River Park could remain open during construction, and requiring an independent review of the project.

A representative for the State Assembly Member from District 74 and the State Senator from District 27 spoke in favor of the project, noting that they supported the project's intent. However, they emphasized that a multi-year closure of East River Park would eliminate green space, waterfront access, and bicycle paths. They also noted that the project's process created distrust in the community, which the applicant should seek to rebuild moving forward by providing regular updates to the affected Community Boards. The representative also stated that the project is vulnerable to legal challenges due to the City not subjecting East River Park to alienation.

A representative for the City Council Member from District 2 spoke in favor of the project, noting the devastation that can occur from rising sea levels and storms like Superstorm Sandy. However,

the representative expressed concerns related to the impacts of construction, including the possibility of phasing East River Park's closure, providing a temporary space for the Lower East Side Ecology Center, re-routing cyclist and pedestrian traffic to mitigate the loss of the East River Greenway, and continued engagement with community members and property owners subject to the acquisitions requested as part of this application. The representative, as well as a representative from the Lower East Side Ecology Center, the representative from the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center, and other residents, also encouraged the applicant and the City to consider a re-envisioning of the FDR Drive, including the potential to reduce the number of lanes and provide more open space.

A representative for the Representative from New York District 7 spoke in favor of the project, noting that this project represents a unique opportunity to protect communities against future floods and sea level rise. The representative recognized that the community has expressed concerns regarding the project's timeline, community engagement, independent evaluation, and the impact of construction on access to open spaces. The representative encouraged the applicant to address these concerns as the project moves forward. The representative responded to a question regarding the possibility of extending the federal funding deadline, stating that they did not believe the City had reached out to the Congresswoman about an extension.

Residents of NYCHA's Vladeck Houses and Baruch Houses spoke in favor of the project, noting the importance of providing flood protection for the NYCHA campuses immediately adjacent to East River Park. The resident of Vladeck Houses also noted that prolonging construction would prolong potential air quality impacts.

A representative from the Department of Veteran Affairs, New York Harbor Healthcare System spoke in favor of the project and flood protection, noting that the Veteran Affairs (VA) Hospital was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012, causing the hospital to remain closed for approximately six months. He also discussed the potential for byproducts of manufactured gas plants to contaminate the air, noting that during construction of the floodwall at the VA Medical

Center, mitigation of these contaminants was necessary. He encouraged the applicant to consider this mitigation in the Remedial Action Plan mentioned in the DEIS.

Speakers in favor of the project, including representatives from New Yorkers for Parks and the Lower East Side Power Partnership, emphasized the need to provide flood protection to protect residents and open spaces from future flooding. They also emphasized that phased construction would be ideal and that the applicant should continue to work with other organizations and agencies to identify alternative open spaces to mitigate the closure of East River Park.

A representative from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Operations spoke in favor of the project. She noted that the change from Alternative 3 to the proposed project (Alternative 4) was a result of a review conducted by the City that determined that Alternative 3, which included lane closures of the FDR Drive and excavation that would expose existing Con Edison infrastructure, would likely hinder the timeline of the project. She noted that it would also jeopardize the deadline to access federal funding.

Numerous residents, community organizations, and elected officials, speaking both in opposition and in favor, expressed a desire for an independent evaluation of the project's design, engineering feasibility, and environmental review.

Representatives from the East River Housing Cooperative spoke in opposition to the project, expressing concerns about the subterranean parallel conveyance system that would temporarily affect private parking spaces in the Cooperative's parking lot, and temporarily inhibit access to garbage collection, recycling, snow removal equipment and a maintenance garage.

Representatives from the Lower East Side Ecology Center spoke in opposition to the project, stating that the DEIS excludes potential impacts to their programming, including the loss of a composting yard. They also expressed concerns regarding the flood vulnerability of the former Marine Engine Company, No. 66, or Fireboat House in the current plan.

Several residents of NYCHA's Baruch and Smith Houses and a representative from the Lower East Side Ecology Center spoke in opposition to the project, stating concern that construction of the project would result in biodiversity loss, including loss of trees and habitats, resulting in environmental impacts such as diminished air quality and increased heat island effect.

Similarly, a professor of biology at City College of New York spoke in opposition to the project, stating that the DEIS was incorrect regarding the potential for impacts on biodiversity and habitat loss that would result from reconstruction of East River Park. She noted that the DEIS analysis noted 18 bird and insect species, while citizen scientists have documented more than 180 bird and insect species, including critically-imperiled species.

Speaking in opposition, the professor, along with a representative from the Lower East Side Ecology Center and several neighborhood residents spoke in favor of Alternative 2, which would consist of building a wall along the FDR Drive. Similarly, numerous residents and representatives from various organizations speaking in opposition expressed concern about the lack of transparency surrounding the project's design change (from Alternative 3 to Alternative 4). They noted that previous versions of the design had received extensive community input and expressed concern that the new plan disregarded this feedback.

Another resident, as well as a representative from the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center, spoke in opposition to the project, expressing concern over the removal of recently improved and existing amenities within East River Park. The representative also expressed concern that the project would not adequately address the root causes of climate change, but rather responds to its effects.

Numerous residents and representatives of community organizations who spoke in opposition to the project stated that the construction of the project would result in the complete closure of East River Park, eliminating the largest and one of the most actively used parks in Lower Manhattan. A resident of NYCHA's Baruch Houses noted that East River Park is heavily used by low-income, minority, senior, and disabled users. Many of these speakers encouraged the applicant to phase construction so that parts of the Park could remain open.

A representative from the United Athletic Association and other residents spoke in opposition to the project and were concerned that the closure of East River Park would impact youth and adult athletic leagues, suggesting that the applicant phase construction.

An East Village resident speaking in opposition to the project stated the current construction phasing for park improvements at East River Park, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Murphy Brothers Playground would result in the closure of several open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

Several residents speaking in opposition to the project were concerned about the impacts of construction in East River Park, including increased noise levels from pile driving and the potential for reduced air quality because of particulate matter that would be unsettled by excavating and raising the park.

Representatives from the East River Alliance spoke in opposition to the project, noting concerns that included a lack of: independent review, interim flood protection measures, clear plan for the Lower East Side Ecology Center and a sustainable plan for the re-rerouting of the East River Greenway. The representatives also believed that the DEIS is inaccurate and incomplete, highlighting its assessment of impacts on biodiversity and potential for residential displacement due to rising land values.

Two residents, representing skateboarders in Tompkins Square Park, spoke in opposition to the project as it relates to DPR's consideration of installing turf at the northwest corner of Tompkins Square Park. One resident stated that the current asphalt area is heavily used by both skateboarders and hockey players and that losing this space would displace these users of the Park. They both noted that a petition to keep the asphalt at Tompkins Square Park had generated nearly 28,000 signatures.

A resident spoke in opposition to the project, stating that the flood elevation on which the design of the project is based is uncertain.

## **WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM CONSISTENCY REVIEW**

This application (C 190357 PQM) was reviewed by the Department of City Planning for consistency with the policies of the New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP), as amended, approved by the New York City Council on October 30, 2013 and the New York State Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act of 1981 (New York State Executive Law, Section 910, *et seq.*). The designated WRP number is 15-067.

This action was determined to be consistent with the policies of the New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program.

## **CONSIDERATION**

The Commission believes that the proposal for the East Side Coastal Resiliency project (C 190357 PQM and N 190356 ZRM), is appropriate.

The Commission recognizes the urgent need for flood protection, made evident by the devastation of Superstorm Sandy in 2012, and believes that the proposed project is a significant step forward in protecting residents and employees in Lower Manhattan from future flood events. The Commission notes the importance of providing flood protection as climate change projections for sea level rise, combined with the increased frequency and intensity of coastal storms, continue to threaten the City's coastline. The Commission also notes that the topography of Lower Manhattan makes it particularly vulnerable to these threats.

The Commission also strongly believes that parks and open spaces are essential to the vibrancy of a community and its residents. As it relates to this application, East River Park is a highly active park that serves as a gathering place for a variety of users, including youth sports leagues, cyclists, residents with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and many others. While the Commission recognizes a flood protection system is needed to ensure the safety of New Yorkers, the Commission also knows that the closure of East River Park and the temporary loss of the community's open space imposes a burden on the community. The Commission appreciates the hundreds of residents, community groups, tenant associations, park



users, and business owners who testified throughout the public review process, and understands the importance of balancing the temporary loss of East River Park with the expeditious implementation of a vital new flood protection system.

The Commission notes the uniqueness of this application as it relates to the actions before it. The land use actions subject to this application (C 190357 PQM and N 190356 ZRM) relate to very small portions of a much larger project, most of which are in mapped beds of street and parkland and are therefore not subject to zoning. Nonetheless, in considering the merits of the project, the Commission contemplates the implications for the areas, property owners, and residents directly affected by the land use actions and the impacts of the entire project as a whole.

The Commission heard dozens of concerns regarding the closure of East River Park and the desire to phase construction. While the Commission understands that a phased construction plan would be highly desirable, it also notes the complexities of constructing and completing the project by hurricane season 2023.

The Commission notes that the main factors driving the project's schedule include sewer work and landfill settlement. The applicant has stated that reconstructing and adding new sewer lines, while providing uninterrupted service, requires the longest lead time during construction of the project. The Commission notes that the sewers beneath East River Park were constructed out of brick between 1930 and 1960, and must be replaced once exposed. Moreover, the existing sewers would not be able to withstand the weight of the landfill and must be replaced and decommissioned before adding the landfill needed to raise East River Park to the proposed elevation. The improvements to the sewer system encompass the majority of East River Park and must be done simultaneously to meet the project timeline while this work is underway. The applicant has stated that work on the cutoff wall, which would hold the landfill, and the work to repair and reconstruct the bulkhead would have to be done simultaneously. All of this work must be completed before adding the landfill, limiting the ability to keep East River Park open while completing the project before hurricane season 2023.

The Commission notes that the timing of landfill settlement also contributes to the difficulty of a phased construction plan. It notes that settlement of the landfill to reach the design elevation must precede the placement and settlement of horticulture fill. It further notes that timing this settlement with viable planting seasons is paramount to the survival of the trees, shrubs, and other plantings necessary in a thriving open space. The Commission recognizes that the long lead times required for the extensive sewer improvements, combined with coordination of fill settlement and completing construction of the park, make a phased construction approach difficult. While the Commission understands these practical considerations, it is encouraged by the applicant's commitment to continuing to study the possibility of phasing construction, and urges the applicant to continue to explore opportunities for phased construction.

The Commission heard many concerns related to the loss of open space during the temporary closure of East River Park, and the suggested improvements to alternative open spaces to mitigate this loss. The Commission understands that there are many users of parks throughout the surrounding community that would be affected by the temporary closure of East River park. The Commission welcomes the fact that DPR is assessing how to provide viable alternatives. The Commission is encouraged that the City has committed to funding: \$1 million for solar field lights that would extend play time for sports leagues; \$10 million for the demolition of the LaGuardia Bathhouse and related site improvements; over \$600,000 for improvements such as sports coating; playground painting; and improvements at parks and NYCHA open spaces; and \$257,000 allocated for additional parks playground workers.

The Commission has given serious consideration to testimony from individuals who skateboard at Tompkins Square Park, as well as from representative of youth sports leagues. These testimonies made clear the competition for space that exists within parks and the need to balance these uses. The Commission is encouraged by DPR's engagement in targeted outreach to these various users, and DPR's commitment to continue to identify and implement alternative open spaces to better mitigate the temporary closure of East River Park.

The Commission also heard requests for an independent review of the project's engineering and

design merits. It recognizes that the Manhattan Borough President and the City Council Member for District 2 have hired a consulting firm to review the project and submit a report detailing its findings. The Commission urges the applicants to review this report and incorporate all appropriate recommendations into the project.

The Commission is encouraged by the applicant's commitments to both continuing to study the possibility of phasing construction and engaging with the community with respect to alternative open spaces. At the same time, the Commission recognizes that these commitments cannot fully mitigate the complete closure of East River Park. Vibrant, active, and abundant open spaces contribute to thriving communities, and even the temporary removal of these spaces can have an impact on the surrounding community. Nonetheless, the Commission believes that the temporary closing of East River Park to equip it with a flood protection system that will protect approximately 200,000 New Yorkers, many of them NYCHA residents, from future flood vulnerability is both valuable and necessary.

The Commission also understands the concerns about the distance that cyclists along the East River Greenway would be re-routed. The Commission notes that existing bicycle infrastructure exists along some of the avenues east of First Avenue, albeit not in protected bike lanes like those along First and Second avenues: Avenue A has conventional bike lanes and Avenue C has a combination of conventional bike lanes and sharrows, or marked roadways that indicate where cyclists and motorists share the street. The Commission is encouraged that DOT has expressed that, while the current plan is to re-route cyclists to First and Second avenues, it is actively studying alternative routes from Avenue A through Avenue D, including potential improvements that would add protected bike lanes. The Commission is further encouraged that DOT, in making decisions about these potential improvements, plans to engage in extensive community engagement.

The Commission notes the many concerns regarding community engagement and transparency during the design process. It appreciates the public testimonies that expressed preference for other alternatives identified in the FEIS. Nonetheless, the Commission believes that Alternative 4, or the project as proposed, most adequately addresses the goals of the project by providing more certainty

for the timeline of the project. The Commission notes that the constructability and timeliness of other alternatives is less certain than those in the current proposal. The other alternatives, which would place a floodwall adjacent to the FDR Drive, would require excavation and exposure of critical Con Edison infrastructure. The Commission believes that the additional construction coordination required to incorporate this Con Edison infrastructure in the design while providing uninterrupted electric service is uncertain and could delay the project, jeopardizing flood protection for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

The Commission also notes that raising East River Park will prevent flooding during future flood events, allowing the Park to reopen while avoiding costly damage to the amenities within the space. Nonetheless, the Commission agrees with the public testimony as well as the applicant that community engagement surrounding the design change from Alternative 3 to Alternative 4 needs to be enhanced. The Commission is encouraged by the extensive community engagement that the applicant has initiated since announcing the design change, and believes that this improved level of community engagement will continue moving forward.

### **Acquisitions**

The Commission believes that the acquisitions needed to maintain various components of the flood protection system (C 190357 PQM) are appropriate. The commission notes that, while there are eight separate acquisitions that are part of this application, all are required to ensure that the entire flood protection system is operational. The Commission also notes that none of the acquisitions will place a permanent physical structure on the property to be acquired, but rather that the acquisitions are necessary to allow the City access to construct, maintain, operate and repair the flood protection system. Each of these acquisitions are considered below.

#### *Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation (Manhattan Block 244, Lot 19)*

The Commission notes that the acquisition at Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation (Block 244, Lot 19) would allow the access to maintain and inspect the floodwall tieback at the southern end of the flood protection system on the corner of Montgomery and South Streets. The Commission notes that the floodwall is located on the sidewalk, but that the City requires access to the rear of the floodwall on the lot to inspect and maintain the floodwall. The Commission

believes that ensuring that this floodwall remains functional is essential to the effectiveness of the entire flood protection system and that the system will continue to provide flood protection for the areas upland of the East River. The Commission acknowledges that the applicant has reached out to Gouverneur Gardens and recognizes that negotiations for the easement will be finalized after the approval of this application. The Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*East River Housing Corporation (Manhattan Block 321, Lot 1)*

The Commission notes that the acquisition at East River Housing Corporation (Block 321, Lot 1) will allow the City to have access to the property to operate, inspect, and maintain the parallel conveyance system proposed on the site. It further acknowledges that the proposed acquisition area is within the parking lot that is accessory to the housing complex and that there are no structures within the proposed acquisition area. The Commission notes that it is essential to the effectiveness of the flood protection system that the City ensure that the parallel conveyance sewer pipe remains functional in order to provide flood protection for the areas upland of the East River. The Commission acknowledges that representatives from East River Housing Cooperation testified in opposition to the easement, mainly due to concerns that construction of the pipes would affect private parking and might inhibit access to maintenance equipment. While the Commission recognizes that residents at East River Housing Corporation will be temporarily affected by construction of the sewer pipes, the Commission believes that this temporary construction is essential to the flood protection system, and is essential to preventing the ‘bath tub effect,’ or flooding from within the flood protection system. The Commission is encouraged that the applicant has reached out to East River Housing Corporation, and recognizes that negotiations for the easement will be finalized after the approval of this application. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*NYCHA Baruch Houses (Manhattan Block 323, Lot 1)*

The Commission notes that the acquisition at NYCHA’s Baruch Houses (Block 323, Lot 1) will enable the City to have access to the property to operate, inspect, and maintain the parallel conveyance system proposed at this lot. It further notes that the proposed acquisition area includes a side yard lawn that contains only a fence and a sign for the housing complex, and that there are

no structures within this area. The Commission further notes that there would be no structures on the property as the sewer improvements will be completely below grade. Like the acquisition at East River Housing Corporation, the Commission believes that this acquisition is essential to the functioning of the overall flood protection system, adding capacity to the existing sewer system and helping to prevent the bath tub effect. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*NYCHA Jacob Riis Houses (Manhattan Block 367, Lot 1)*

The Commission notes that the acquisition at NYCHA's Riis Houses (Block 367, Lot 1) will enable the City to have access to the property to inspect and maintain the proposed floodwall. It further notes that the proposed floodwall will not be located on the property, but rather on the sidewalk and within the FDR Drive right-of-way. However, the City requires periodic access onto this property to perform inspect and maintain the floodwall. The Commission notes that the proposed acquisition area includes portions of the rear yard containing lawn areas, fences, a tree, and a section of sidewalk, and recognizes that the existing fence and one tree will need to be removed. The Commission believes that ensuring that this floodwall remains functional is essential to the effectiveness of the entire flood protection system, providing flood protection for the areas upland of the East River, including residents at Riis Houses. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*Con Edison (Manhattan Block 988, Lot 1)*

The Commission notes that there are two acquisitions proposed for a portion of Con Edison's property (Block 988, Lot 1) which is occupied by the Con Edison East River Power Generating Station. The first acquisition is located on the south side of the lot along the frontage with East 14th Street and will contain the watertight connection to the Con Edison building. The other acquisition will address access to the interior of the Con Edison building and will allow the City to inspect and maintain the Con Edison flood protection system within the East River Power Generating Station.

The Commission further notes that the Con Edison East River Power Generating Station recently installed flood protection measures within the building, and that this project proposes a watertight connection to this building, and that the building would be a contributing element in the ESCR comprehensive flood protection system. The Commission believes that it is essential to not only protect the Con Edison Power Generating Station and critical electrical infrastructure, but also to maintain continuity of the floodwall along the project's alignment to ensure that the entire flood protection system is functional. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*Con Edison (Manhattan Block 990, Lot 1)*

The Commission notes that the acquisition of a portion of Con Edison's property (Block 990, Lot 1) serves two purposes. The first is to allow the City to operate, inspect, and maintain the floodwalls and gates proposed along the FDR Drive. Related to this purpose, the Commission notes that the proposed acquisition will also prohibit the planting of any deep-rooted trees or the installing of permanent structures within 15 feet of the proposed flood protection system as these could jeopardize the structural elements of the proposed flood protection system.

The Commission notes that the second purpose is to allow the City access to operate, inspect, and maintain a flood protection tide gate proposed to be installed in an existing City outfall that extends beneath this property. The proposed gate will prevent tidal flow from entering the protected area through the sewer system during a storm event. This proposed acquisition area is occupied by surface parking that is accessory to the Con Edison operations. The Commission believes that both access to the flood protection system at this property, including floodwalls, floodgates, and tide gates, is essential to ensure that the entire flood protection system remains operational. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Manhattan Block 955, Lot 5)*

The Commission notes that the proposed acquisition of a portion of the VA Medical Center's property (Block 995, Lot 5) serves two purposes. The first is to allow the newly proposed floodwall and floodgate in Asser Levy Park to provide a watertight connection to the VA Medical Center's existing flood protection system.

The second purpose is to allow the City access to operate, inspect, and maintain both that connection and the segment of the VA Medical Center's existing floodwall that extends from Asser Levy Place, along East 25th Street to First Avenue. The Commission further notes that the flood protection system at this property is the northernmost section of the system. Like the acquisition at the Con Edison Power Generating Station, the Commission notes that a portion of the VA Medical Center's existing floodwall will become part of the comprehensive ESCR flood protection system. The Commission believes that it is essential for the functioning of the flood protection system that the City be allowed access to maintain and inspect this floodwall. It is also essential for the functioning of the flood protection system that the City be allowed access to main and inspect the portion of the system that connects the floodwall and gate in Asser Levy Park with the existing VA Medical Center's floodwall. This access will ensure that the entire flood protection system remains operational and protects the areas upland of the East River. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

*New York State Department of Transportation, portion of the mapped FDR Drive*

The Commission notes that the proposed acquisition of a portion of the mapped FDR Drive, owned by the New York State Department of Transportation, is for the proposed flyover bridge. The Commission further notes that this acquisition is not to ensure the functionality of the flood protection system, but rather to remedy a long-existing circulation hindrance along the East River Greenway. The Commission notes that, in this area, the Greenway's width is 30 inches at its narrowest. The proposed acquisition will allow the City access to construct, maintain, and inspect the footings for a proposed flyover bridge that will widen this pathway from Captain Patrick Brown Walk to the newly constructed East River Park. The Commission believes that this flyover bridge will alleviate the circulation constraints at this portion of the East River Greenway, helping to provide continuous access to the waterfront and connection to the newly reconstructed East River park. As such, the Commission believes that this acquisition is appropriate.

**Text Amendment**

The Commission notes that the proposed text amendment to section 62-59 (Special Regulations



for Zoning Lots that Include Parks) would satisfy the requirements of 62-50 (GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VISUAL CORRIDORS AND WATERFRONT PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS) and 62-60 (DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR WATERFRONT PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS). The Commission further notes that Stuyvesant Cove Park is located within a Marginal Street, Wharf, or Place, and is therefore subject to zoning regulations for waterfront lots. It also notes that the Department has been involved in the design of this space. The Commission recognizes that the applicant seeks this waiver to implement flood protection measures at Stuyvesant Cove Park that may not otherwise be permitted under existing zoning.

The Commission believes that by allowing design flexibility within Stuyvesant Cove Park, the proposed project would be able to meet the goals of the project to provide essential flood protection. Similarly, the Commission believes that if the project were subject to these regulations, it could compromise the effectiveness of the entire flood protection system. The Commission also believes that the intent of these regulations in the zoning resolution is to provide access to and promote the use and enjoyment of the waterfront, not to preclude the development of flood protection measures. Therefore, the Commission believes that this text amendment is appropriate.

## **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that having considered the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for which a Notice of Completion was issued on September 13, 2019, with respect to this application (CEQR No. 15DPR013M), the City Planning Commission finds that the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and Regulations have been met and that:

1. Consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable; and
2. The adverse environmental impacts identified in the FEIS will be minimized or avoided to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the approval, those project components related to the environment and mitigation measures that were identified as practicable.

The report of the City Planning Commission, together with the FEIS, constitutes the written

statement of facts, and of social, economic and other factors and standards that form the basis of the decision, pursuant to Section 617.11(d) of the SEQRA regulations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City Planning Commission, in its capacity as the City Coastal Commission, has reviewed the waterfront aspects of this application and finds that the proposed action will not substantially hinder the achievement of the Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP) policy and hereby determines that this proposed action is consistent with WRP policies; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, by the City Planning Commission that an application submitted by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the acquisition of property located at:

1. The northeast corner of Montgomery Street and the FDR Drive, on the block bounded by Water Street, Gouverneur Slip, the FDR Drive, and Montgomery Street (Block 244, p/o Lot 19), Manhattan Community District 3;
2. Approximately the center of the block bound by Delancey Street, the FDR Drive, Grand Street, and Lewis Street (Block 321, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3;
3. The southeast corner of Columbia and East Houston Streets, on the block bound by East Houston Street, the FDR Drive, Delancey Street, and Columbia Street (Block 323, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3; and
4. The west side of the FDR Drive between East 14<sup>th</sup> and East 10<sup>th</sup> Streets (Block 367, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3;
5. The west side of the FDR Drive between East 15<sup>th</sup> and East 14<sup>th</sup> Streets (Block 988, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 6;

6. The west side of the FDR Drive between Avenue C and the FDR Drive (Block 990, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 6;
7. The southwest corner East 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Asser Levy Place, on the block bound East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Asser Levy Place, East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and First Avenue, (Block 995, p/o Lot 5), Manhattan Community District 6; and
8. Part of the east side of the FDR Drive Right of Way between Avenue C and East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Community District 6; for a flood protection system is approved.

The above resolution (C 190357 PQM), in conjunction with the related action (N 190356 ZRM) duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on September 23, 2019 (Calendar No. 1), is filed with the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the Borough President together with a copy of the plans of the development, in accordance with the requirements of Section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

**MARISA LAGO**, *Chair*

**KENNETH J. KNUCKLES**, *Esq., Vice-Chairman*

**ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, JOSEPH I. DOUEK, RICHARD W. EADDY, HOPE KNIGHT, ANNA HAYES LEVIN, ORLANDO MARIN, LARISA ORTIZ, RAJ RAMPERSHAD**, *Commissioners*

**MICHELLE DE LA UZ**, *Commissioner*, ABSTAINING

**ALLEN P. CAPPELLI**, *Esq., Commissioner*, VOTING NO



# Community/Borough Board Recommendation

Pursuant to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure

Application #:

Project Name:

CEQR Number:

Borough(s):

Community District Number(s):

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Complete this form and return to the Department of City Planning by one of the following options:
  - EMAIL (recommended):** Send email to [CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov) and include the following subject line: (CB or BP) Recommendation + (6-digit application number), e.g., "CB Recommendation #C10000ZSQ" ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
  - MAIL:** Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, 120 Broadway, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10271
  - FAX:** to (212) 720-3488 and note "Attention of the Calendar Office"
- Send one copy of the completed form with any attachments to the applicant's representative at the address listed below, one copy to the Borough President, and one copy to the Borough Board, when applicable.

Docket Description:

Applicant(s):	Applicant's Representative:	
Recommendation submitted by:		
Date of public hearing:	Location:	
Was a quorum present? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but in no event fewer than seven such members.</i>	
Date of Vote:	Location:	
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions</span>		
<b><u>Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.</u></b>		
<b>Voting</b> # In Favor:            # Against:            # Abstaining:            Total members appointed to the board:		
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form	Title	Date



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

June 28, 2019

Marisa Lago, Director  
Department of City Planning  
120 Broadway, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10271

Dear Director Lago,

At its June 2019 monthly meeting, Community Board 3 passed the following resolution:

**TITLE: To Approve With Conditions ULURP #C190357PQM to Facilitate the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project**

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2019 ULURP application #C190357PQM, for an acquisition of real property to facilitate the development of the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR), was referred to Community Board 3 Manhattan for review; and

**WHEREAS**, the ESCR project is a multi-agency initiative that was selected by HUD to receive disaster recovery grant funding through the Rebuild By Design competition, which was organized in response to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy in order to promote enhanced resiliency in impacted communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the ESCR project would create a comprehensive flood protection system intended to reduce flood risk for the East Side of lower Manhattan, while also providing improved access to the waterfront and enhancing the waterfront parkland from East 25th Street to Montgomery Street; and

**WHEREAS**, these flood protection systems would consist of a combination of floodwalls, 18 closure structures, additional parallel conveyance infrastructure to assist with drainage and flood mitigation at upland locations, and other supporting infrastructure to reduce the risk of coastal storm flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, in Community District 3, the ESCR project includes the significant redevelopment of John V. Lindsay East River Park (East River Park) as well as a portion of Corlears Hook Park; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2015, the City has regularly engaged the Community Board on design proposals for the ESCR; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2018, CB 3 voted to not support the ESCR design that emerged from this process, which is identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as "Alternative 3,"; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2018, the City unveiled a significantly redesigned proposal for the ESCR project, identified in the DEIS as the "Preferred Alternative,"; and

**WHEREAS**, for many in the community, the ESCR process since Fall 2018 has frayed trust in government and public agencies because of the drastic change in plan design done without community consultation, despite the needs of the community who look to their government to supply desperately needed protection of their lives and homes, (and often both); and

**WHEREAS**, many members of the community stated a preference for the previous design iteration because it utilized a method of resiliency well-established in modern environmental thinking of using parkland as a natural buffer for protection of upland regions, and replicated a system of floodplains and floodwalls as a defense to protect the neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, many members of the community have also requested a study by outside experts of the feasibility of all approaches that have been discussed including the original plan, Alternative 3, the Preferred Plan as well as one that includes the decking over of the FDR to evaluate the feasibility of achieving the following goals: not permanently and negatively impacting the residents of the lower floors of the NYCHA residents and other waterfront homes, that meets the federal spending deadline, and considers the impact on the health and well-being of community residents; and

**WHEREAS**, there has not been consensus among the NYC Administration, City Council and State Legislature on whether the Preferred Alternative triggers the necessity of the public trust doctrine on dedicated parkland approval via alienation for this preferred park plan, although on June 11, 2019, Parks provided the Community Board with a letter clarifying their position on alienation, noting that the current plan, including construction within the park, will "further park purposes" and be consistent with New York State's public trust doctrine because it provides flood protection and integral infrastructure upgrades to the park itself, and therefore does not require alienation legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, the ULURP for the ESCR Preferred Alternative only authorizes the city to acquire property and does not preclude or limit any negotiations with any property owner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preferred Alternative moved the line of flood protection from the west side of East River Park, abutting Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive, further east toward the East River and located wholly within East River Park, in order to adhere, to the City's primary objective to protect both the residential neighborhood, people, and the park itself. The new plan intends to avoid needing to repair the new park after flooding and storm events, as well as to account for the likelihood of increased tidal inundation from anticipated sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the City, a major reason for abandoning the original plan, Alternative 3, was that the Preferred Alternative could be more expeditiously constructed because it's construction was not adjacent to the FDR Drive and therefore there would be far less disruption to traffic and this would reduce the construction schedule from five to three and a half years.

**WHEREAS**, the Preferred Alternative would raise the majority of East River Park 8-9 feet above its current elevation and would locate the flood protection systems below grade, essentially raising the entire park above the current 100-year floodplain and the predicted year 2050 100-year floodplain; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preferred Alternative includes a full reconstruction and reconfiguration of East River Park's underground sewer and water infrastructure, some of which is reaching the end of its serviceable life, including outfalls, associated pipes, and tide gates within the park, as well as the addition of new parallel conveyance to assist with drainage and flood mitigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preferred Alternative has not had outside review by scientists, a blue ribbon-type panel nor an assessment process like Envision (which has been used on other large-scale NYC projects); and

**WHEREAS**, the Preferred Alternative features a number of new design elements in East River Park that differ from the previous design iteration, including:

- The reconstruction of an additional overpass bridge at Corlears Hook Park
- An additional connecting bridge to provide access at the northern end of East River Park
- The full reconstruction of the East River esplanade, including the aging bulkhead, which would include the addition of direct waterfront access and step-downs to the East River
- The rebuilding of all of the comfort stations
- The renovation and expansion of the 10th Street playground
- The location of basketball courts above Houston at 10th Street and south of Houston at Delancey
- The reconstruction of the East River Park amphitheater, which is a cultural institution for the Lower East Side
- The removal of approximately 200 more trees, including many mature trees, to be replaced by 1,442 new trees; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Preferred Alternative, pile driving related to floodwall construction is now proposed to happen within the park and closer to the waterfront, further away from residential units than in the previous design iteration; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Preferred Alternative, barge delivery and water-side construction will be necessary, and drainage and sewer construction is now proposed to happen largely within East River Park, limiting construction traffic on the residential side of the Park and minimizing the drainage repair work that would have to be done on active roadways that the previous design iteration would have required; and

**WHEREAS**, such water-based construction greatly increases the degree of scrutiny the project will be subject to from permitting agencies such as the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), given the impact that such construction will have on the marine ecology; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will be subject to a rigorous permitting process that will involve consultation with many federal and state agencies and the project must secure permits from USACE and NYS DEC, and the City has not fully discussed this process with the community or adequately advised them of steps and timeline involved in obtaining those permits and being able to commence construction because of them or the possible seasonal restrictions that the permits will place on the construction because of concerns about aquatic life; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these changes, during the construction period for the proposed project there will be the potential for significant adverse impacts in the immediate area and on the residents of the surrounding neighborhood as well as on the environment, including:

- Urban Design and Visual Resources, as the proposed project would block existing waterfront views from certain upland locations;
- Natural Resources, as the proposed project would destroy trees, plantings, insect habitats and adversely affect littoral zone tidal wetlands which will require compensatory mitigation and likely have an adverse impact on several vulnerable aquatic species including winter herring and striped bass as noted by NOAA;
- Hazardous Materials, as the proposed project would disturb the subsurface of hazardous materials, including at historical Manufactured Gas Plant sites, where contaminants could be disturbed during excavation;
- Transportation, as during construction of the proposed project, East 10th Street between the traffic circle and the FDR Drive service road would be converted from two-way to one-way eastbound and the service road in front of the BP Gas Station would be closed to vehicular traffic at East 23rd Street;
- Noise and Vibration, as the proposed project construction would generate noise and air pollutant emissions that could affect open public space and community member health;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, as total fossil fuel use in all forms associated with construction under the Preferred Alternative would result in up to approximately 48,889 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions; and
- Open Space, as the proposed project construction would displace the open space resources at East River Park for at least 3 and a half years; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of the new park may generate significant pollutants as the park is razed, rebuilt and filled with imported soil that may affect the health of local residents; and

**WHEREAS**, many years of stewardship and composting have ensured that native plants and habitat for birds, insects and fish were thriving in the park they may now require moving the habitats that are able to be 'moved' in certain seasons; and



**WHEREAS**, East River Park is the largest park in the Community District and at the peak of construction, over 45 acres of open space would be temporarily lost; and

**WHEREAS**, this park is used extensively by elders, disabled persons, including sight and hearing impaired; and

**WHEREAS**, this loss will be disproportionately felt by lower-income communities of color living in the 1/2-mile area adjacent to the proposed project, including:

- Approximately 28,000 residents living in NYCHA developments<sup>1</sup>;
- Approximately 101,000 minority residents (51% of all residents in the study area)<sup>2</sup>;
- Approximately 20% of all residents in the study area are living in poverty<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, these impacts will also be felt by all nearby residents, nearby CB3 members (including children, parents, elders), youth sports groups, all other sports groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the youth of the Lower East Side and their parents rely on East River Park for activities to keep children safe and active; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 1 schools do not have buses to move children to other parts of the city to access open space resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEIS cites the introduction of new publicly accessible ADA open space at Pier 42, Pier 35, and Phase IV of the East River Waterfront Esplanade project, and recreation improvements at the site of the to-be demolished LaGuardia Bathhouse as mitigating factors to offset the temporary loss of open space. While the LaGuardia Bathhouse site was targeted for active recreation as a direct response to the loss of open space incurred by the East River Park closure, the other projects were set to be completed regardless of the final design and construction plan for ESCR; and

**WHEREAS**, Parks has also promised a number of improvements to local parks for district wide mitigations and all of which taken together still do not provide full compensation for the tremendous loss of open space that the community will suffer, many of which are already in the pipeline, including:

- **Planting up to 1,000 trees and approximately 40 rain gardens throughout CB3 and CB6** – First plantings to begin this fall
- **Improving turf at seven locations**
  - o **Installing new synthetic turf at five sites by Spring 2020** – La Guardia Bathhouse/Little Flower Playground, St. Vartans, Tompkins Square, Tanahey, Robert Moses

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<sup>1</sup> East Side Coastal Resiliency Project DEIS, pg. 5.11-7.

<sup>2</sup> East Side Coastal Resiliency Project DEIS, *Table 5.11-1*, pg. 5.11-6.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

- o **Turf improvements at two sites** -Coleman (resod field), Baruch field (underway)
- **Installing new sports coating at seven sites by Spring 2020** – Tanahey, Sara D. Roosevelt, Al Smith Rec Center , St. Vartans, Columbus Park, Coleman, Al Smith Playground
- **Increasing play time at six fields through solar field lights by Spring 2020** - Columbus Park, Coleman Field, Sara D., Baruch Playground, Corlears Hook and Chelsea Park. These lights will extend field play in the spring and fall seasons
- **Prioritizing and accommodating youth league permittees** – Parks will accommodate all youth softball, baseball and soccer leagues in our existing system of fields. Parks will also accommodate as many adults as possible. Parks has reached out to all ballfield permit holders from last year
- **Painting playgrounds and park equipment at approximately 16 sites by Spring 2020** - Columbus Park, Coleman, Al Smith Playground, Al Smith Rec Center, Little Flower Playground, Tanahey Playground, Cherry Clinton, Hamilton Fish, Corlears Hook, Baruch Playground, Tompkins Square, Dry Dock, First Park, St. Vartan, Robert Moses Playground, John Jay.
- **Increasing barbecues sites by Spring 2020** – New grills and picnic tables at Coleman and replacements at Al Smith Recreation Center
- **Transforming Dry Dock Pool into a Cool Pool by Summer 2019**
- **Identifying alternative tennis locations**
  - o John Jay Park courts will be re-striped to formalize the tennis area by Spring 2020
  - o Queensboro Oval (in Manhattan) will be open to NYC Parks tennis permit holders Summer 2019, and for even more weeks (22) per summer starting 2020
  - o Randall's Island is opening a new facility with courts open to NYC Parks tennis permit holders
- **Increasing staffing for recreation, maintenance and operations by Summer 2020**
  - o New playground associates (9 new staff lines) will provide new programming and help organize events and activities for park users
  - o All existing M&O staff for East River Park will remain on the east side of Manhattan, below 34th Street
- **Providing new open spaces and recreational opportunities**
  - o LaGuardia Bathhouse asphalt-to-turf as noted in #2a)
  - o Baruch Bathhouse is the current focus of a community taskforce to transform this long-abandoned building into a community space. The taskforce is reviewing proposals and will discuss recommendations this summer
  - o Pier 42 Phase 1 Upland Park is anticipated to open in 2021 and will include a playground, passive landscapes, a picnic knoll, and a comfort station upland of Pier 42

o EDC is currently inspecting the Pier 42 deck to identify near term recreation feasibility and opportunities and EDC recently completed Pier 35

- **Solving the pinchpoint with the Flyover Bridge** –The project to improve connections between East River Park and Stuyvesant Cove Park has been funded with \$56M; and

**WHEREAS**, one mitigation that has been disclosed is the addition of BBQ pits at Coleman Playground, and the Knickerbocker Village Tenants Association has indicted that they do not think this is an appropriate area for these pits; and

**WHEREAS**, in the DEIS, a number of proposals for additional mitigations are currently described as being "explored," "investigated," or "assessed," by the City, it is clear that concrete plans for many of these impacts have not been fully identified and committed to at this time; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City must work with the community and Community Board 3 to clearly and specifically identify these mitigations as they are identified, including clarifying the following:

- Where the DEIS states that "the City is working with other entities with open space resources to identify recreational resources that may be opened to the community during construction," (8.0-4) these other entities have since been identified as NYCHA, the Department of Education, and the Department of Transportation, and these agencies must come together in consultation with the Community Board to identify and disclose all locations and capacity of these other resources, particularly because many existing local area parks and open space resources are primarily turf and hard surfaces; and

- Where the DEIS states that "the City is assessing opportunities to open parts of East River Park as work is completed," (8.0-4) the exact construction phasing and re-opening proposal should be disclosed and the final plan decided on through engagement with the community and consultation with the Community Board;

- Where the DEIS states that the impact of the ESCR Preferred Alternative on the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH Assessment) has not been studied adequately, and the NOAA is requiring a revised assessment with alternatives that will minimize the effects on certain species like herring and striped bass (Appendix G), including the possibility that seasonal work restrictions will be one of the ways to address these effects. If such seasonal restrictions are likely to imposed, a situation which would adversely affect the construction schedule, the City must inform and consult the community about the likely effects of these restrictions as soon as possible and discuss at the earliest possible opportunity their plan to locate additional funds for mitigation, especially for solutions that provide recreation options in the immediate vicinity, such as barges and special play features; and

- Where the DEIS states that "NYC Parks is exploring providing alternative recreational opportunities throughout the Lower East Side neighborhoods through programs like Shape-Up classes, walking clubs, Arts, greening programs, etc.," (8.0-4) the locations and funding for such programs should be disclosed and discussed with the nearby residents of those proposals prior to enacting them to ensure their feasibility and value to the community;

- Where the DEIS states that "NYDOT is investigating supporting bicycle infrastructure upgrades along the alternate route, including new markings and signage," (8.0-5) it should specify where this re-rerouting and signage would be located and consider this plan as well as additional solutions including more dedicated bicycle lanes on additional routes in consultation with the Community Board. NYC Parks should also consult the Community board on viable solutions for the needs of joggers and walkers;

- Where the DEIS states that "NYC Parks is exploring a Lower East Side Greening program with the opportunity to plant up to 1,000 trees in parks and streets, and create up to 40 bioswales," (8.0-5), Parks should also work with local community organizations to spearhead such a program, as was suggested in a February 2019 Community Board 3 resolution supporting a proposed LES Community Tree Canopy Initiative. We understand the tree planting will start in Fall 2019 but the Parks Department must update the Community Board as soon as possible regarding the proposed schedule and locations. In addition, tree guards and concrete plans for the care of the trees (such as watering) should be included as part of the tree planting operation;

- Where the DEIS states that "the City is exploring purchasing lighting to be used at several Lower East Side parks to extend playing time at fields for permitted use during construction of the proposed project," (8.0-5), and the City has confirmed they will bring the solar lights to Columbus Park, Coleman Field, Sara D., Baruch Playground, Corlears Hook and Chelsea Park, adding an additional four to five hours of field time at some parks during the Fall, it must disclose *all* parks and fields these improvements would be located at, guarantee that the lighting would be funded, identify whether the improvements would remain at the end of the ESCR construction period, and evaluate the impact of new lighting and playing on any surrounding residential buildings and consult with those local communities and guarantee field priority for local youth leagues;

- Where the DEIS states that "the City is assessing opportunities for improvements to parks and playgrounds in the vicinity," (8.0-5), and the City has identified Columbus Park, Coleman, Al Smith Playground, Al Smith Rec Center, Little Flower Playground, Tanahey Playground, Cherry Clinton, Hamilton Fish, Corlears Hook, Baruch Playground, Tompkins Square, Dry Dock, First Park, St. Vartan, Robert Moses Playground, and John Jay as locations for improvements, it must explicitly identify *all* parks and playgrounds are under consideration, which projects are new and not necessarily already in the capital projects pipeline, what the improvements would be, guarantee that the improvements would be funded and disclose the timeline for said improvements;

- Where the DEIS states that "The City is also assessing the feasibility of utilizing quieter construction methods (i.e., press in pile)" (8.0-5) and considering "selecting quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts may result in up to a 10 dBA reduction in noise levels from construction," (8.0-8) it must guarantee the equipment would be actually be available for the duration of the construction period prior to application approvals, and make these methods a condition of any bid or RFP for ESCR construction;

- Where the DEIS states that mitigations are "under consideration" in order to achieve "cost effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction of the proposed project" (6.11-16), it should be committed to prior to project approvals that when the construction contracts are put out for bid and/or RFPs are issued, they should require the use of biodiesel fuel

on-site, require targets be met for the volume of recycled steel and aluminum generated on-site, and commit contractors to divert as much construction waste as possible for recycling; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the following additional mitigations must be included in the East Side Coastal Resiliency project:

- The City must explore immediate and temporary mitigation measures for present and future threats of destructive storms to protect local neighborhoods during the time the park is vulnerable; and
- To ensure neighborhood future protection and storm resilience, the Preferred Alternative plan for the ESCR should also include the ability to add protection for the predicted surge and sea level rise for 2100; and
- The City must provide a more comprehensive and robust explanation of the schedule advantages of the Preferred Alternative over Alternative 3 given that the possible seasonal construction restrictions were not factored into the timeline advantages stated in the rationale of choosing the Preferred Alternative, a solution that is more costly than Alternative 3 which was developed in consultation with the community; and
- As the ULURP, Environmental Review and permitting processes continue the City should work with CB3 and concerned community organizations to identify a panel of 3 to 5 mutually agreed upon environmentalists to expeditiously review and evaluate the alternatives in the DEIS and describe reasonable interim measures that could be taken to minimize any adverse impacts that the community might confront until the project is implemented and such review and the DEIS should not be finalized until such recommendations and review is presented; and
- The City must commit to seek Envision certification, a rating system for infrastructure, to help assess how the ESCR plan will meet or exceed sustainability goals across a range of social, economic, and environmental indicators. And such certification should be provided before the DEIS is finalized; and
- Temporary measures for immediate storm protection need to be implemented given that the hurricane season is on the horizon and the damages of a potential storm on a community that is still recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy would be disastrous and further delay the ESCR project; and
- The City must include social resiliency and community preparedness in its planning and funding including schools, community programming and local long term recovery groups such as LES Ready and CERT, which is recognized by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM)and provide a weekly update email on construction process, alternative spaces and recreation opportunities; and
- The City must agree to regular updates with the Community Board, hold timely community engagement meetings such as town halls, large group presentations, community open houses and other similar events that offer more opportunities for Q&A, information on progress, setbacks and any changes to agreements or Park plans; and

- The City must establish a Community Advisory Group of community and institutional stakeholders of the affected project area that will meet frequently with agencies both during design and construction until project completion with regular reports and meetings made available to community at large; and
- Alternative routes deemed safe for all, including pedestrians, micro mobility users, runners, commuting and recreational cyclists of all ages, must be developed in collaboration with the community and instituted before the Greenway is closed; and
- Every effort must be made to minimize raising dust both in disturbing the soil currently in East River Park and the laying in of imported soil to reduce the drift into residences, schools and public spaces; and
- Topsoil and salt resistant indigenous plants should be considered for reuse to re-establish natural passive areas in park; and
- The City must provide the community a finalized design and timeline for completion of the flyover bridge; and
- The Parks Department must ensure ADA compliant access to and within the park including braille signage, adequate water fountains and adequate lighting for safety and accessibility; and
- The Parks Department must commit to prioritizing permits for local neighborhood youth groups both during construction (except where that would conflict with other local park youth groups) and into the future of the East River Park; and
- The Parks Department should consider sport facilities such as Basketball City, as sites for open space for children and sports leagues; and
- The Parks Department must look at other open space sites in CD3 that have yet to be identified including the Allen Street Malls (CB3's #2 Parks priority), the vacant Allen Street building and the underused lots underneath the Williamsburg Bridge; and
- The Parks Department must work with park stewards to identify and protect biodiversity including identifying alternative habitat areas and transfer usable park materials and plants rescued from East River Park to other alternative open spaces and create new open green spaces near East River Park to help offset the loss of carbon sinks in CB3; and
- The City must undertake the immediate creation of bioswales, tree canopy plantings, and permeable pavers in CB3; and
- The Parks Department must use mature trees as replacements for lost trees in East River Park in areas where they are appropriate; and
- The City must provide temporary space for the LES Ecology Center to continue all environmental education and composting programming during construction and integrate the Ecology Center's

long-delayed Compost Yard upgrades into the ESCR project and plan and create a sustainable, resilient building in East River Park so that the LES Ecology Center can continue to offer education and stewardship programming; and

- The City must make available temporary water parks or water play features that are available before the first summer season of the Park's closure.
- The City must continue to work with the Amphitheater Task Force to create a design that is consistent with local needs;
- The City must continue discussions in good faith with Gouverneur Gardens and provide timely updates to the Community Board about any resolutions; and
- The Parks Department, DDC and all involved agencies must agree to regular updates with the Community Board to report on progress, setbacks and any changes to agreements or park plans; and
- The City must make a definitive commitment to ensure the phased construction and park reopening for the ESCR project, in a manner that does not impact the overall timetable for park closure and project completion, and the City must provide a complete timetable for the phased construction and park reopening plan, and outline any changes this would create for construction impacts; and
- Local residents should be provided assistance to access to other open areas, sports fields and city parks, in the form of Metrocards, shuttle buses, free ferry service or other types of transportation or financial support. As the current Preferred Alternative plan prioritizes access to the new ferry facilities that will remain open throughout the construction period, these especially should be made available at a reduced price or no cost to local residents
- There must be a protocol established before work begins to allow City agency oversight over decision making for contractors during the construction period, with clear avenues for community input established, in order to mitigate against contractor decision making that disregards the quality of life of area residents, and this must be a condition of any bid or RFP for ESCR construction; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Community Board 3 approves with conditions ULURP #C190357PQM to facilitate the East Side Coastal Resiliency project.

Please contact the community board office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chair  
Community Board 3



Trever Holland, Chair  
Parks, Recreations, Waterfront,  
& Resiliency Committee

cc: Jamie Torres Springer, Department of Design and Construction  
Jeffrey Margolies, Department of Design and Construction  
Fay Lee, Department of Design and Construction  
Steve Simon, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Carrie Grassi, Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency  
Gaby Dann-Allel, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit  
Matthew Pietrus, Department of City Planning  
Office of Councilmember Carlina Rivera  
Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
Office of NYS Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou  
Office of NYS Assemblymember Harvey Epstein  
Office of NYS Senator Brian Kavanagh  
Office of NYS Senator Brad Hoylman



Application #: **C190357 PQM**

Project Name: **East Side Coastal Resilience ACQs**

CEQR Number: 15DPR013M

Borough(s): Manhattan

Community District Number(s): 3, 6

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

- Complete this form and return to the Department of City Planning by one of the following options:
  - EMAIL (recommended):** Send email to [CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov) and include the following subject line: (CB or BP) Recommendation + (6-digit application number), e.g., "CB Recommendation #C100000ZSQ"
  - MAIL:** Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, 120 Broadway, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10271
  - FAX:** to (212) 720-3488 and note "Attention of the Calendar Office"
- Send one copy of the completed form with any attachments to the applicant's representative at the address listed below, one copy to the Borough President, and one copy to the Borough Board, when applicable.

*Docket Description:*

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application submitted by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the acquisition of property located at:

- The northeast corner of Montgomery Street and the FDR Drive, on the block bounded by Water Street, Gouverneur Slip, the FDR Drive, and Montgomery Street (Block 244, p/o Lot 19), Manhattan Community District 3;
- Approximately the center of the block bounded by Delancey Street, the FDR Drive, Grand Street, and Lewis Street (Block 321, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3;
- The southeast corner of Columbia and East Houston Streets, on the block bounded by East Houston Street, the FDR Drive, Delancey Street, and Columbia Street (Block 323, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3; and
- The west side of the FDR Drive between East 14<sup>th</sup> and East 10<sup>th</sup> Streets (Block 367, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 3;
- The west side of the FDR Drive between East 15<sup>th</sup> and East 14<sup>th</sup> Streets (Block 988, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 6;
- The west side of the FDR Drive between Avenue C and the FDR Drive (Block 990, p/o Lot 1), Manhattan Community District 6;
- The southwest corner East 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Asser Levy Place, on the block bounded by East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Asser Levy Place, East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and First Avenue (Block 995, p/o Lot 5), Manhattan Community District 6; and
- Part of the east side of the FDR Drive Right of Way between Avenue C and East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Community District 6; for a flood protection system.

<b>Applicant(s):</b> Dept. of Transportation: 55 Water Street, 9th Floor, NY, NY 10041 Dept. of Environmental Protection: 96-05 Horace Harding Blvd., Corona, NY 11368 Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services: 1 Centre Street, 20th floor, NY, NY 10007		<b>Applicant's Representative:</b> Jean M. Jean-Louis, Asst. Commissioner NYC Department of Design & Construction 30-30 Thomson Avenue Long Island City, NY 11101 (718) 391-3134
<b>Recommendation submitted by:</b> Manhattan Community Board 6		
<b>Date of public hearing:</b> 05/28/2014	<b>Location:</b> 433 1st Avenue, (NYU College of Dentistry)	
<b>Was a quorum present?</b> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <p><small>A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but in no event fewer than seven such members.</small></p>		
<b>Date of Vote:</b> 06/12/19	<b>Location:</b> 433 1st Avenue (NYU College of Dentistry)	
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions		
<b>Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.</b>		
<b>Voting</b> # In Favor: 43      # Against: 0      # Abstaining: 1      Total members appointed to the board: 50		
<b>Name of CB/BB officer completing this form:</b> Cody Osterman	<b>Title:</b> Assistant District Manager	<b>Date:</b> 06/26/19

MOLLY HOLLISTER  
CHAIR

CLAUDE L. WINFIELD, FIRST VICE CHAIR  
AHSIA BADI, SECOND VICE CHAIR



JESÚS PÉREZ  
DISTRICT MANAGER

BRIAN VAN NIEUWENHOVEN, TREASURER  
BEATRICE DISMAN, ASST. TREASURER  
AMELIA ACOSTA, SECRETARY  
SEEMA SHAH, ASST. SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**VIA E-MAIL**

June 26, 2019

Marisa Lago, Chair  
City Planning Commission  
120 Broadway, 31st Floor  
New York, NY 10271

**Resolution on ULURP applications N 190356 ZRM & N 190357 PQM by the City of New York for the necessary land acquisitions and zoning changes required for the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project in Community District Six**

At the June 12, 2019 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, in late October of 2012 Superstorm Sandy caused widespread damage to the City of New York, disrupting service to critical transportation, power, communications and medical infrastructure which adversely affected tens of thousands of residents of Manhattan Community District 6 (CD 6);

**WHEREAS**, the City of New York was awarded \$335 million to evaluate and develop an integrated coastal protection for the 2.2 mile stretch from Montgomery Street to East 25th Street along the East River, which correspond to the 100 year floodplain boundaries through the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR);

**WHEREAS**, the ESCR scope was divided into two separate project areas, with Project Area 2 extending from East 13th Street to East 23rd Street, which was later expanded to East 25th street after detailed analysis of the site conditions around Asser Levy Recreation Center;

**WHEREAS**, Superstorm Sandy's East River surge flooded or disabled power and services in a large area of CD 6 south of East 33rd Street and east of 3rd Avenue;

**WHEREAS**, studies and designs for remediating such "hundred-year" storms began soon after, with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) providing \$335 million in seed money for a finished flood barrier between Montgomery Street and East 25th Street;

**WHEREAS**, Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) recognizes that flood control is a paramount issue, and commends the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) for developing flood-mitigation designs that seem largely capable of addressing the problem;

**WHEREAS**, DDC plans to protect against future superstorms and flooding by; building a flood barrier along the entire length of the ESCR project areas, taking the form of raised open space, flood walls or deployable gates;

**WHEREAS**, DDC’s plans for construction and mitigation around the construction, now projected to take as long as five years, include restricting access to the waterfront in CD 6 in stages, except for the NYC Ferry landing at Stuyvesant Cove, for the duration of construction;

**WHEREAS**, CD 6 has the lowest amount of open space per capita of any community district in the City of New York, and of that open space a large portion—including Stuyvesant Cove Park, Murphy’s Brother’s Playground, and Asser Levy Park—will be affected and closed by construction lasting between two and five years;

**WHEREAS**, the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway (Greenway) from East 34th St south to Montgomery Street has become a major bicycle transit corridor, as well as a source of exercise and recreation for thousands of users;

**WHEREAS**, DDC improvements slated for the Greenway, after considerable feedback from the Board and the public at large, now includes a flyover bridge to address the perennially dangerous conditions at the Consolidated Edison (ConEd) plant’s waterfront “pinch point” between East 15th and East 13th Streets;

**WHEREAS**, remediating the perilous narrowing of the open space alongside the ConEd plant has been a top priority of CB6’s for over 20 years;

**WHEREAS**, members of CB6 have frequently and explicitly expressed concerns around preliminary construction staging plans for total closure to Stuyvesant Cove Park during construction of the surge barriers and the flyover bridge because of a reluctance of DDC to close any portion of the FDR Drive for any significant length of time;

**WHEREAS**, DDC plans to bisect Asser Levy Park with a flood-control wall and sliding gate, protecting the landmarked bath house but leaving the playing fields unprotected and East 25th Street susceptible to tidal surging and flooding;

**WHEREAS**, where the planned permanent and rolling flood barriers are aligned to cross the FDR Drive Exit 7 ramp connecting to the fixed flood barriers, is a perilous, multi-leg pedestrian pathway with inadequate signage to get from Avenue C to Stuyvesant Cove Park and the ferry landing;

**WHEREAS**, on the East 20th St median between the easternmost end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Loop into Stuyvesant Town and Avenue C, DDC plans to build a 10’ x 60’ x 10’ interceptor gate house, which will close storm drain pipes to reroute incoming waters during flooding into deeper culverts and thereby avoid turning areas behind the coastal protections into “bathtubs”;

**WHEREAS**, after months of negotiations, the ESCR design team has stated that this project’s large scope and long timeline requires that construction be phased to ensure that people can still access portions of the waterfront park throughout the duration of the project;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six, recognizing the overwhelming dangers posed by superstorm flooding, generally supports the ESCR Project plan for flood mitigation, but has serious concerns which are detailed below that should be fully addressed during the ongoing Uniform Land Use Review Procedure process:

- A detailed plan for noise and dust mitigation all along the construction area, which abuts Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village, and Waterside Plaza, home to tens of thousands of CD 6 residents;
- Presentation of an operational plan for ambulance access to the First Avenue “hospital row” corridor when barriers are deployed and water runs around the protected Asser Levy Bathhouse and west along East 25th Street and floods First Avenue as it did in 2012;

- A DOT plan addressing the recently narrowed lanes of traffic on East 20th Street that allows for passage along East 20th street during the construction of the interceptor gate house;
- A comprehensive plan on emergent and non-emergent access to Waterside Plaza and adjacent schools when ESCR barriers are fully deployed;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board, after years of discussions on the evolving ESCR plan and based on community comment at our public hearing, has further design commentary that would improve the quality of life for waterfront users during and after the projected construction timeline, including:

- The ESCR Project must institute a phased construction timeline for the good of all waterfront users, to prevent unexpected access delays such as those that occurred during the West Street Overpass;
- In addition to a phased construction schedule, the ESCR Project team should develop additional mitigation strategies that focus on providing access to amenities at existing locations in the district that should include both active uses like exercise or game areas, free for activity spaces for children, and passive elements like landscaping and places to sit and relax;
- Improved activation of Waterside Pier with active and passive recreational spaces; activating the parking area under the FDR from East 18th Street to East 23rd Street in ways similar to the current setup at Two Bridges; exploration of the creation of a temporary space on the top level of the Waterside Pier parking garage; the possible use of temporary barges, anchored off existing park areas like Slivka Park and Pier 36, to provide additional active or passive use space;
- Since the current waterfront is a major pathway for both pedestrians, runners and cyclists alike, and CB6's independent usage counts showed higher usage counts than what was listed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, any route detours should accommodate adequate space on the streets to ensure safe movement for the additional multimodality uses with the current sidewalk pedestrians;
- Traffic studies regarding expansion of the NYC Summer Streets program to explore the possible use of any underutilized streets, during summer weekends, when waterfront usage peaks;
- As the securing of funding for a flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for its construction are now guaranteed, the protraction of its schedule which isn't to begin until the other parts of the ESCR are in place is an unnecessary disruption to the use of the waterfront and we expect the ESCR revisit the staging plan and look at ways to begin the flyover bridge construction contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;
- Design consideration should be made for expanded capacity along Captain Patrick J. Brown walk to accommodate for increased walkway usage;
- CB6 strongly recommends that a feasibility study of "decking" portions of the FDR to provide added parkland for the area be included in the design review to better inform possible future projects;
- The installation of a comfort station at Murphy's Brothers's Playground rather than simply laying the groundwork for installation at a later date by exploring low cost design options implemented in other cities, such as the Portland Loo, which would allow for a faster implementation and provide immediate upgrades for the users of the park;
- CB6 supports the provision of a new crosswalk at the intersection of Avenue C and the north side of FDR Drive Exit 7 creating a more direct pedestrian access pathway across Avenue C to the waterfront and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Landing, and that the exit ramp be modified to

provide a legal left turn onto Avenue C at the East 18th Street traffic signal; with appropriate signage and signaling to improve alignment with the flood barrier, improve pedestrian safety, and allow for a less circuitous route for westbound and southbound exiting traffic;

- CB6 recommends a comprehensive redesign of the East 20th St bike lane, which was originally designed around a now-obsolete L train mitigation plan, to facilitate faster construction of the interceptor gate house there, unless an alternative gate house site is found;
- That the East 20th Street interceptor gate house be designed with contextually appropriate materials to reflect the historical significance of Peter Cooper Village/Stuyvesant Town and the previous Gas House District;
- That the ESCR Project team should provide supporting data on the cost-benefit analysis done for the proposed Project Area 2 construction plan that would, as was presented, provide a more expedient construction completion than one that includes a partial closure of the FDR Drive;
- As the ESCR plan indicates the flood barrier is west of Stuyvesant Cove Park, sufficient funding should be put aside to rebuild the park after any subsequent destruction from flooding, further diminishing the very limited park space available in CD 6;
- Preservation of the East River Park Fire Boat House should be included so that the Lower East Side Ecology Center is able to continue its important initiatives on the very germane topic of environmental awareness;
- CB6 recommends that interpretive signage and public art installations be incorporated at various points to provide differentiation, historical context and maintain neighborhood identity along the waterfront;
- The inclusion of a robust social media strategy should also be implemented to communicate ongoing park closures and project status updates.

**VOTE: 43 in Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstention 0 Not Entitled**

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez  
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member  
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member  
Sandro Sherrod, Chair, CB6 Land Use & Waterfront Committee  
Bob Tuttle, City Planner, New York City Department of City Planning  
Scott Williamson, City Planner, New York City Department of City Planning  
Fay Lee, Borough Outreach Coordinator, NYC Department of Design and Construction  
Gabrielle Dann-Allel, Manhattan Borough Director, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

**MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD  
RESOLUTION APPROVING WITH CONDITIONS  
ULURP Nos. C190357PQM and N190356ZRM**

**FOR ACQUISITIONS OF REAL PROPERTY AND A ZONING RESOLUTION TEXT  
AMENDMENT TO FACILITATE THE EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY  
PROJECT IN COMMUNITY BOARDS 3 AND 6**

WHEREAS, On June 26, 2019 ULURP applications #C190357PQM and N190356ZRM were referred to the Manhattan Borough Board for review;

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project is a multi-agency initiative that was selected by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive disaster recovery grant funding through the Rebuild By Design competition, which was organized in response to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy in order to promote enhanced resiliency in impacted communities;

WHEREAS, The New York City Departments of Transportation (DOT), Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Environmental Protection (DEP), and Small Business Services (SBS) (collectively the "Applicants") are seeking two ULURP approvals for (1) the acquisition of real property and (2) a text amendment to the New York City Zoning Resolution ("ZR") § 62-50 "General Requirements for Visual Corridors and Waterfront Public Access Areas" and § 62-60 "Design Requirements for Waterfront Public Access Areas" to facilitate the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project (the "Proposed Project");

WHEREAS, The Proposed Project aims to address coastal flooding vulnerability in lower Manhattan by implementing a system that reduces flood risk, improves access to the waterfront, and enhances waterfront parkland;

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project is bounded by Montgomery Street on the south and continues north along parcels of Montgomery and South Streets, Avenue C, East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt East River Drive (the FDR Drive) right-of-way. The Proposed Project is also aligned with City parkland that includes John V. Lindsay East River Park, Murphy Brothers Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Asser Levy Playground, including a segment with the Consolidated Edison Company of New York (Con Edison) East River Generating Station. In the north, the Proposed Project will connect to the existing U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center flood protection system. In total, the Proposed Project extends through the Lower East Side, East Village, Alphabet City, Stuyvesant Town, Peter

Cooper Village, and Kips Bay neighborhoods and is within the areas overseen by Manhattan Community Boards 3 and 6 (CB3 and CB6);

WHEREAS, Project Area One of the Proposed Project extends from Montgomery Street on the south to the north end of East River Park at approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The primary land use in Project Area One is the East River Park. This area contains existing pedestrian bridges across the FDR Drive to the East River Park including: the Corlears Hook, Delancey Street, East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and the East Houston Street overpass. On the south end of this area, the Proposed Project is in the street right of way of Montgomery and South Streets including land under an elevated segment of the FDR Drive. Project Area One includes residential and highway uses with Pier 42 to the east and along the East River. The proposed acquisitions are located within the residential areas of the Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation, the East River Housing Corporation, and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)'s Baruch and Riis Houses;

WHEREAS, Project Area Two of the Proposed Project extends from approximately East 13th Street to East 25th Street, with uses that are primarily highway, street right of way, utility, parks and open space, and community facility. This area includes the Con Edison East River Generating Station (Con Edison Acquisitions) and the FDR Drive between East 13th Street and Murphy Brothers Playground. Inclusive of park use, land uses further north along the alignment include street right of way (Avenue C and land beneath the elevated FDR Drive) through to the waterfront open space at Stuyvesant Cove Park. North of this park, the Project Area Two alignment includes street right of way (e.g. East 23rd Street), parkland at Asser Levy Playground, and a community facility at the existing VA Medical Center;

WHEREAS, since January 5, 2015, the City has regularly engaged CB3 and CB6 on design proposals for the ESCR project;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2018, CB3's Full Board voted to not support the ESCR project design that emerged from this process without revisions;

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2018, CB6's Full Board voted to not support the ESCR project design that emerged from this process without revisions;

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the City unveiled a significantly redesigned proposal for the ESCR project, identified in the DEIS as "Alternative 4" or the "Preferred Alternative";

WHEREAS, according to the City, a major reason for abandoning the original plan was that the Preferred Alternative 4's construction would not have to be staged, thus reducing the construction schedule from five to three and a half years;

WHEREAS, the Preferred Alternative features a number of new design elements in East River Park that differ from the previous design iteration, including:

- The raising of the majority of East River Park 8-9 feet above its current elevation and locating the flood protection systems below grade;

- The reconstruction of an additional overpass bridge at Corlears Hook Park;
- A flyover bridge to address the perennially dangerous conditions at the Consolidated Edison (ConEd) plant’s waterfront “pinch point” between East 15<sup>th</sup> and East 13th Streets;
- The full reconstruction of the East River Esplanade, including the aging bulkhead, which would include the addition of direct waterfront access and step-downs to the East River;
- The rebuilding of all of the comfort stations;
- The renovation and expansion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Playground;
- The reconstruction of the East River Park amphitheater, which is a cultural institution for the Lower East Side;
- The re-introduction of basketball courts at the north end of East River Park that were lost in the previous design;
- The addition of a “nature play area” in East River Park near Delancey Street;
- The inclusion of additional barbecue pits at the south end of East River Park;
- The removal of approximately 981 trees, to be replaced by 1,442 new trees that are mature trees wherever feasible;
- Pile driving for the floodwall construction within the park and closer to the waterfront, and therefore further away from residential units than in the previous design iteration;
- The moving of the line of flood protection from the west side of East River Park, abutting the FDR Drive, further east toward the East River, located wholly within East River Park, in order to adhere to the City’s primary objective to protect both the residential neighborhood, people, and the park itself to avoid having to repair the new park after flooding and storm events, as well as to account for the likelihood of increased tidal inundation from anticipated sea level rise; and
- Providing for barge delivery, water-side construction, and drainage and sewer construction to occur largely within East River Park, limiting construction traffic on the residential side of the park and minimizing the drainage repair work that would have to be done on active roadways that the previous design iteration would have required.

WHEREAS, many members of the community stated a preference for the previous design iteration with additional revisions, because it utilized a system of floodwalls and berms (where feasible) as defenses to protect neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, for many in the community, the ESCR process since Fall 2018 has frayed trust in



government and public agencies because of the drastic change in plan design done without community consultation;

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2019, CB3's Full Board voted in a revised resolution (with the original vote held on June 25, 2019) to support with conditions the ESCR project design that emerged from this process as the Preferred Alternative 4;

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2019, CB6's Full Board voted to support with conditions the ESCR project design that emerged from this process as the Preferred Alternative 4;

WHEREAS, many members of the community have also requested a study by outside, independent experts of the feasibility of all the alternatives that have been proposed, including the "Preferred Alternative" as well as recommendations to ensure that construction does not negatively impact the residents of NYCHA and the environment while meeting the federal spending deadline;

WHEREAS, there has not been consensus among the City, City Council and State Legislature on whether the Preferred Alternative triggers the necessity of the public trust doctrine on dedicated parkland approval via alienation for this preferred park plan, although on June 11, 2019, Parks provided CB3 with a letter clarifying their position on alienation, noting that the current plan, including construction within the park, will "further park purposes" and be consistent with New York State's public trust doctrine because it provides flood protection and integral infrastructure upgrades to the park itself, and therefore does not require alienation legislation. However, some view this lack of a consensus is an additional risk;

WHEREAS, ULURP #C190357PQM for the ESCR Project Preferred Alternative 4 only authorizes the City to acquire property and does not preclude or limit any negotiations with any specified property owner as stated in the CB3 resolution;

WHEREAS, this project will be subject to a rigorous permitting process that will involve consultation with many federal and state agencies and the project must secure permits from the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) given the impact that such construction may have on the marine ecology, and the City has not fully discussed this process with the community or adequately advised them of steps and timeline involved in obtaining those permits and being able to commence construction or the possible seasonal restrictions that the permits will place on construction because of aquatic life;

WHEREAS, many years of stewardship and composting have ensured that native plants and habitat for birds, insects and fish were thriving in the park, habitats for wildlife will be lost during the duration of the closure and may now have to be moved in certain seasons, thereby affecting the homes and migration patterns for wildlife;

WHEREAS, members of CB3 and CB6 have expressed concerns around preliminary construction staging plans, what DDC refers to as 'sequencing,' of sections of the East River Park, the Asser Levy Playground, the Murphy Brothers Playground, and Stuyvesant Cove Park

that has yet to be finalized in the Preferred Alternative;

WHEREAS, CB6 has the lowest amount of open space per capita of any community district in the City of New York, and of that open space a large portion, including Stuyvesant Cove Park, Murphy's Brother's Playground, and Asser Levy Park, will be closed by construction lasting between 6 months to 2 years;

WHEREAS, DDC plans to bisect Asser Levy Park with a flood-control wall and sliding gate, protecting the landmarked bath house, but leaving the playing fields and East 25th Street susceptible to tidal surging and flooding;

WHEREAS, on the East 20<sup>th</sup> Street median, between the easternmost end of the 20th Street Loop into Stuyvesant Town and Avenue C, DDC plans to build a 10' x 60' x 10' interceptor gate house, which will close storm drain pipes to reroute incoming waters during flooding into deeper culverts, and thereby mitigate flooding in areas behind the coastal protections; and

WHEREAS, the following are potential significant adverse impacts on the environment and residents of the surrounding neighborhood during the construction period for the Preferred Alternative 4:

- Urban Design and Visual Resources, as existing waterfront views from certain upland locations would be blocked;
- Natural Resources, as noted by the NOAA, the proposed project would destroy trees, plantings, insect habitats and adversely affect tidal wetlands which will have an adverse impact on several vulnerable aquatic species including winter herring and striped bass as well as birds' habitats and migrations;
- Hazardous Materials, contaminants could be disturbed during excavation as the proposed project would disturb the subsurface of hazardous materials, including at historical Manufactured Gas Plant sites;
- Transportation, as East 10<sup>th</sup> Street between the traffic circle and the FDR Drive service road would be converted from a two-way to a one-way eastbound road and the service road in front of the BP Gas Station would be closed to vehicular traffic at East 23rd Street;
- Noise and Vibration, noise and air pollutant emissions by the construction site could affect open public space and public health;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Preferred Alternative 4 would result in up to approximately 48,889 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions; and
- Open Space, as over 51 acres of combined open space of East River Park, Murphy Brothers Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Asser Levy Playground would be temporarily lost and displaced for 6 months to 2 years;

WHEREAS, these impacts will also be felt by all nearby CB3 and CB6 residents (including children, parents, elders, disabled persons, including sight and hearing impaired), youth sports groups, and all other sports groups;

WHEREAS, the youth of the Lower East Side and their parents rely on East River Park for activities to keep children safe and active and that Title 1 schools require additional resources to move children to other parts of the city to access open space resources;

WHEREAS, the adverse effects resulting from construction will be disproportionately felt by lower-income communities of color living in the 1/2-mile area adjacent to the proposed project, including:

- Approximately 28,000 residents living in neighboring NYCHA developments;
- Approximately 20% of all residents in the study area who live in poverty; and
- Approximately 51% of all residents that live in the study area who are minority residents (about 101,000 persons).

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project will create publicly accessible Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) open spaces at Pier 42, Pier 35, and Phase IV of the East River Waterfront Esplanade project as mitigating factors to offset the temporary loss of open space;

WHEREAS, Parks has also promised a number of improvements to local parks and also proposes plans to mitigate temporary losses to open space assets and public facilities, all of which taken together still do not provide full compensation for the tremendous loss of open space; and

WHEREAS, a number of proposals for additional mitigation are currently described as being "explored," "investigated," or "assessed," by the City; concrete plans for many of these impacts have not been fully identified and committed to at this time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City must to commit to the following before final approval:

- The City must work with concerned community organizations to identify a mutually agreed upon independent non-City based environmental consultant to expeditiously review and evaluate the alternatives in the DEIS and describe reasonable interim measures that could be taken to minimize any adverse impacts on the community until the project is implemented. As such, the DEIS must not be finalized until such recommendations and review are presented;
- The City must make a definitive commitment to a phased timetable of construction within the East River Park, as well as completion of Asser Levy Playground, the Murphy Brothers Playground, and Stuyvesant Cove Park, in a manner that does not impact the

overall timeline for project competition with necessary permit applications. This phased timetable shall be disclosed and the final plan decided on through engagement consultation with the community, CB3 and CB6;

- The City must commit to and release a new plan to replace the inadequate and dangerous re-routing of bike and pedestrian lanes on East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, First and Second Avenue; and
- The City must provide temporary space for the LES Ecology Center to continue all environmental education and composting programming during construction, integrate the LES Ecology Center's long-delayed Compost Yard upgrades into the ESCR project and create a sustainable, resilient building in East River Park so that the Ecology Center can continue to offer education and stewardship programming.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following additional mitigations must be included in the East Side Coastal Resiliency project:

- Where the City is working with other entities to identify recreational resources that may be opened to the community during construction, these entities must disclose all locations and capacities of these other resources;
- The City must inform and consult the community about the likely effects of seasonal work restrictions and the approval timeline of permits by USACE, NOAA, and NYC DEC, and communicate these permit's impacts upon the construction timeline and mitigate accordingly;
- Where the impact of the ESCR Preferred Alternative 4 on wildlife has not been studied adequately, the City must release further impact construction studies upon marine ecology and wildlife in consultation with USACE, NOAA, and NYC DEC standards and mitigate for the return of birds, insects, and fish that would lose their habitat in the park during construction as well as mitigate the migration of rodents into residential areas during the period of construction;
- Where NYC Parks is exploring providing alternative recreational opportunities throughout the Lower East Side neighborhoods, the locations and funding for such programs must be disclosed and discussed with the nearby residents prior to enacting them;
- Where the City is assessing opportunities for improvements to parks and playgrounds in the vicinity, it must explicitly identify which projects are new and not necessarily already in the capital projects pipeline, and disclose the timeline for said improvements;
- The City must improve activation of Waterside Pier with active and passive recreational spaces and explore the creation of temporary spaces for active uses in CB3 and CB6 such as: Basketball City, a temporary space on the top level of the Skyport Marina parking garage, the possible use of temporary barges, anchored off existing park areas, or green decking underused lots such as the Allen Street Malls, the vacant Allen Street building

and the space underneath the Williamsburg Bridge;

- Provide local residents with access to other open areas, sports fields and city parks, in the form of Metrocards, shuttle buses, free ferry service or other types of transportation or financial support;
- Commit to prioritizing permits for local neighborhood youth groups both during construction (except where that would conflict with other local park youth groups) and into the future of the East River Park;
- Where Parks has committed to a Lower East Side Greening program and the separate opportunity to plant up to 1,000 trees beginning in Fall 2019 and create up to 40 bioswales, it must work with local community organizations to spearhead such a program and update CB3 and CB6 as soon as possible regarding the proposed schedule and locations. In addition, tree guards and plans for the care of the trees must be included as part of the tree planting operation;
- Where the City is exploring purchasing lighting to be used at several Lower East Side parks to extend playing time at fields for permitted use during construction of the proposed project, the City must evaluate the impact of new lighting and playing on any surrounding residential buildings and consult with those local communities, and guarantee field priority for local youth leagues;
- Where the funding for the flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for its construction are now guaranteed, the protraction of its schedule which isn't to begin until the other parts of the ESCR are in place is an unnecessary disruption to the use of the waterfront and that the ESCR revisits the staging plan and look at ways to begin the flyover bridge construction contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;
- Where the City is also assessing the feasibility of utilizing quieter construction methods and considering selecting quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts, it must guarantee the equipment would be available for the duration of the construction period prior to application approvals, make these methods a condition of any bids or Request for Proposals (RFPs) for ESCR construction, and work towards not necessitating night time construction; and
- Where mitigations are "under consideration" in order to achieve "cost effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction of the proposed project, it must be committed to prior to project approvals that when the construction contracts are put out for bid and/or RFPs are issued, they must require the use of biodiesel fuel on-site, require targets be met for the volume of recycled steel and aluminum generated on-site, meet sustainability requirements by seeking an Envision certification, and commit contractors to divert as much construction waste as possible for recycling;
- The City must present a comprehensive plan on emergent and non-emergent access to Waterside Plaza and adjacent schools when ESCR barriers are fully deployed;

- The City must conduct additional traffic studies regarding expansion of the NYC Summer Streets program;
- Where NYC DOT is investigating supporting bicycle infrastructure upgrades along the alternate route, including new markings and signage, it must specify where this rerouting and signage would be located and consider additional solutions including more dedicated bicycle lanes on additional routes in consultation with CB3 and CB6;
- The City must develop alternative routes deemed safe for all, including pedestrians, runners, and recreational cyclists of all ages by curbing or prohibiting micro mobility (i.e. electric scooters) usage in the East River Park, in collaboration with CB3 and CB6 and institute them before the Greenway is closed;
- A comprehensive redesign of the East 20th Street bike lane, which was originally designed around a now-obsolete L train mitigation plan, to facilitate faster construction of the interceptor gate house there, unless an alternative site is found;
- The City must provide a legal left turn onto Avenue C at the East 18th Street traffic signal; with appropriate signage and signaling to improve alignment with the flood barrier and allow for a less circuitous route for westbound and southbound exiting traffic;
- DOT must develop a plan addressing the recently narrowed traffic lanes on East 20th Street that allows for passage along East 20th Street during the construction of the interceptor gate house and an operational plan for ambulance access to the First Avenue “hospital row” corridor when barriers are deployed;
- Design the East 20th Street interceptor gate house with contextually appropriate materials to reflect the historical significance of Peter Cooper Village/Stuyvesant Town, and the previous Gas House District;
- An installation of a comfort station at Murphy’s Brothers’ Playground;
- Ensure that all existing art pieces in the project area that would be affected by ESCR’s construction will not be demolished and will be included as permanent installations in ESCR’s new landscaping. Should their work not be included, they must be returned to each artist and the artist must be generously compensated for the removal of their invaluable pieces. All artists must be immediately contacted about the future of their work related to the construction of ESCR;
- Incorporate public art installations and signage with multiple language translations at various points to provide differentiation, historical context and maintain neighborhood identity along the waterfront;

- Provide a more comprehensive and robust explanation of the schedule advantages of the Preferred Alternative 4 over Alternative 3 given that the possible seasonal construction restrictions were not factored into the timeline advantages and provide a cost-benefit analysis for the Preferred Alternative 4 construction plan with the aim of expedient construction that does not include a full closure of the East River Park;
- Minimize dust and noise throughout the construction area;
- Consider topsoil and salt resistant indigenous plants for reuse to re-establish natural passive areas in park;
- Ensure ADA compliant access to and within the park including braille signage, adequate water fountains and adequate lighting for safety and accessibility;
- Work with park stewards to identify and protect biodiversity, identify alternative habitat areas, transfer usable park materials and plants rescued from East River Park to other alternative open spaces, and create new open green spaces near East River Park to help offset the loss of carbon sinks in CB3;
- Make available temporary water parks or water play features that are available before the first summer season of the Park's closure;
- Continue to work with the Amphitheater Task Force to create a design that is consistent with local needs such as materials that further noise mitigation for the surrounding community;
- Provide timely updates to CB3 about any resolutions and continue discussions with Gouvernuer Gardens;
- Immediately inform individual residents whose views to the waterfront would be blocked in certain upland locations;
- Include social resiliency and community preparedness programming and funding in schools and community groups and provide a weekly update email on construction process, alternative spaces and recreation opportunities;
- A construction hotline must be created and operated 24/7 during demolition and construction in order for community members to report unsafe conditions, activities, or other concerns. The hotline should be staffed during all hours of construction. The number for this hotline should be posted prominently on the construction site and on social media on the websites of all involved agencies;
- The Parks Department, DDC and all involved agencies must agree to issue social media updates and regular updates with CB3 and CB6 to report on progress, setbacks and any changes to agreements or park plans;

- Establish a Community Advisory Group of stakeholders in the affected project area that will meet regularly with agencies from design and construction until project completion, with regular reports and meetings made available to community at-large; and
- Establish a protocol before work begins to allow City agency oversight over decision making for contractors during the construction period, with clear avenues for community input established, in order to mitigate against contractor decision making that disregards the quality of life of area residents, and this must be a condition of any bids or RFPs for ESCR construction.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Manhattan Borough Board approves with conditions ULURP #N190357PQM, and #N190356ZRM for the Acquisitions of Real Property and a Zoning Resolution Text Amendment to Waterfront Regulations to Facilitate the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project in Community Boards Three and Six.

Adopted by the Manhattan Borough Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2019.



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Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President  
Chair of the Manhattan Borough Board





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

30 July 2019

**Recommendation on  
ULURP Applications C190357PQM and N190356ZRM  
East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project by Applicants:  
New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)  
New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)  
New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS)**

## **I. PROPOSED ACTIONS**

The New York City Departments of Transportation (DOT), Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Environmental Protection (DEP), and Small Business Services (SBS) (collectively the “Applicants” or the “City”) are seeking two Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) approvals for (1) eight acquisitions of easements on non-City owned property and (2) a text amendment to the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) § 62-50 (“General Requirements for Visual Corridors and Waterfront Public Access Areas”) and § 62-60 (“Design Requirements for Waterfront Public Access Areas”) to facilitate the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project (the Proposed Project) in Manhattan Community Board 3 and 6 (CB3 and CB6). The Proposed Project is bounded by Montgomery Street on the south and continues north along parcels of Montgomery and South Streets, Avenue C, East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt East River Drive (the FDR Drive) right-of-way. In total, the Proposed Project extends through the Lower East Side, East Village, Alphabet City, Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village, and Kips Bay neighborhoods.

The Proposed Project aims to address coastal flooding vulnerability in lower Manhattan by implementing a system that includes floodwalls, underground sewer upgrades, an improved shared use path (bikeway/walkway), a new flyover bridge, open space improvements at nearby parks, and the raising of the John V. Lindsay East River Park (East River Park) out of the 100-year floodplain between Montgomery Street to approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The systematic and architectural elements coupled with the related park improvements do not require any ULURP approvals.

In addition to the floodwalls located along and under the elevated FDR Drive, the flood protection system includes closure structures (i.e. roller gates and swing gates) which would be recessed except under storm conditions when they are deployed to provide flood protection. The flood protection system also includes drainage system modifications through the installation of an underground parallel conveyance system that would prevent tidal flooding and minimize inland flooding associated with simultaneous tide and rain events. These measures consist of flood proofing regulators and manholes, installing parallel conveyance pipes and interceptors that reroute storm drainage and combined sewer outfalls, and placing an isolation gate valve in the regulator below Asser Levy Playground.

### ***Action 1: Proposed Acquisitions of Easements on Non-City-Owned Property (C190357PQM)***

According to the Department of Design and Construction (NYC DDC), these flood protection measures would require acquisition of easements by the City on eight parcels of non-City owned properties which constitute the first ULURP action. Acquisitions of interests in property of the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) Baruch Houses and the East River Housing Corporation would be for the access to and maintenance of parallel conveyance drainage systems. Acquisitions of interests in property of

Consolidated Edison and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would be for watertight connections between the new ESCR floodwalls and existing floodwalls at the East River Generating Station and VA Medical Center, and allow the access to inspect, repair, and maintain these floodwalls. Acquisitions of interests in property of the Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation and NYCHA’s Riis Houses would be for access to operate, inspect, and maintain the ESCR flood protection system and floodwall. Finally, acquisitions of interests in property of New York State Department of Transportation that is a part of the FDR Drive would allow the City to site the north landing of a flyover bridge and allow the access to operate, inspect, and maintain the proposed bridge. The City does not plan to build structures on the sites on which these easements are acquired. The applications for easements are shown below in *Table 1: Proposed Acquisitions of Easements on Non-City-Owned Property* and are also shown in *Appendix Map 1: Area Aerial Map with Proposed Actions* on page 27.

**Table 1: Proposed Acquisitions of Easements on Non-City-Owned Property**

<b>Tax Block</b>	<b>Tax Lot(s)</b>	<b>Property Owner</b>	<b>Bounding Streets or Cross Streets</b>	<b>Community Board (CB) and Project Area (PA)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
244	19	Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation	Montgomery Street, Water Street, Gouverneur Slip West, FDR Drive	CB3 PA1	Access to operate, inspect, and maintain the ESCR flood protection system and floodwall.
321	1	East River Housing Corporation	Lewis Street, Grand Street, Delancey Street, FDR Drive	CB3 PA1	Access to operate, inspect, and maintain the regulator M-29 parallel conveyance (drainage) system.
323	1	NYCHA (Baruch Houses)	Columbia Street, East Houston Street, Delancey Street, FDR Drive	CB3 PA1	Access to operate, inspect, and maintain the regulator M-31 parallel conveyance (drainage) system.
367	1	NYCHA (Riis Houses)	East 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, East 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, Avenue D, FDR Drive	CB3 PA1	Access to operate, inspect, and maintain the ESCR flood protection system and floodwall.
988	1	Con Edison Power Station	East 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, East 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, Avenue C, FDR Drive	CB6 PA2	Allow a watertight connection to the Con Edison Station and access to inspect, maintain, and repair the Con Ed flood protection system within the East River Generating Station.
990	1	Con Edison Office and Parking Lot	East 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, East 17 <sup>th</sup> Street, Avenue C, FDR Drive	CB6 PA2	Allow access to inspect, maintain, and repair the ESCR flood protection system and tide gate, and allow access to inspect, maintain, and repair the Con Ed flood protection system within the East River Generating Station.

955	5	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	East 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, East 25 <sup>th</sup> Street, 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Asser Levy Place	CB6 PA2	Allow a watertight connection to the VA Medical Center’s existing floodwall and the access to inspect, maintain, and repair the ESCR flood protection system.
FDR Drive		New York State Department of Transportation	Part of FDR Drive right-of-way from East 15 <sup>th</sup> Street to Avenue C	CB6 PA2	Allow the City to site the north landing for the proposed flyover bridge and allow the access to operate, inspect, and maintain the proposed bridge.

Action 2: Text Amendment to the Zoning Resolution (N190356ZRM)

The second ULURP action necessary for the project is a text amendment to the City's ZR outlined in Article VI, Chapter 2 (“Special Regulations Applying in Waterfront Areas”). These regulations encourage active water dependent uses and ensure physical and visual access to the City’s waterfront. Stuyvesant Cove Park is subject to these regulations and the proposed flood protection design elements slated for the park such as the floodwalls, the raising of the interior grade of the park and public paths do not comply with these regulations. Therefore, the regulations would be amended to deem these elements to be compliant with zoning.

Specifically, the Applicants seek a zoning text amendment to § 62-50 (“General Requirements for Visual Corridors and Waterfront Public Access Areas” and § 62-60 (“Design Requirements for Waterfront Public Access Areas”) on a segment of Stuyvesant Cove Park mapped as a “Marginal Street, Wharf, or Place”) that is under the jurisdiction of SBS and managed by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). The segment is bounded by the FDR Drive, the East River, East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk (see *Appendix Figure 9: Photographs of Stuyvesant Cove Park (Mapped “Marginal Street, Wharf, or Place”* on page 39). The proposed zoning text amendment allows for the regulations detailed in § 62-50 and § 62-60 to be considered satisfied as long as: (1) the park remains open and accessible to the public at a minimum from dawn to dusk, and (2) the maintenance and operation of the park is conducted by a City or State entity or its designee.

These elements that are currently not compliant with zoning are shown below and at *Appendix Map 4: Proposed Waterfront Access Connections* on page 30:

- ZR § 62-511 (“Location of Visual Corridors”): requiring that upland streets that terminate at a waterfront block shall be prolonged as visual corridors to the water if the prolonged street intersects the shoreline at an angle of 45 degrees or more and there are no existing obstructions blocking 50% or more of the width of the visual corridor.
  - The street grid along this waterfront segment is unusual with three wide mapped and built streets upland of the subject property that if prolonged would intersect the waterfront from different and less than right angles, where these upland streets include: Avenue C on the south (approximately 120 feet wide), East 20<sup>th</sup> Street (approximately 135 feet wide), and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (approximately 130 feet wide);
- ZR § 62-512 (“Dimensions of Visual Corridors”): requiring that visual corridors be no less than 50 feet in width:
  - Where the distance between Avenue C and East 20<sup>th</sup> Street is approximately 575 feet and the distance from East 20<sup>th</sup> to East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street is 850 feet;
- ZR § 62-53 (“Requirements for Shore Public Walkways”): requiring that waterfront walkways have a minimum width of 30 feet:
  - Where the paved walkway along the water’s edge at Stuyvesant Cove Park averages a width of 30 feet but is proposed to be narrowed due to the grading on the waterside of the

proposed flood protection system which will also include a raised landscape with a public path;

- ZR § 62-56 (“Requirements for Upland Connections”): requiring that the distance between upland connections do not exceed 600 feet with specific minimum widths of these connections:
  - Where there will be connections to the upland at Avenue C and East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, with an additional connection provide adjacent to the proposed Solar One Environmental Education Center (Solar One Center). The connections include a 45-foot-wide access at Avenue C, a 30-foot-wide access at East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, and a 35-foot-wide connection adjacent to the Solar One Center with a floodgate installed at each of these connections; and
- ZR § 62-651 (“Requirements for Guardrails, Gates, and Other Protective Barriers”): requiring specific design dimensions for fences and walls such as a maximum height of 36 inches and 21 inches, respectively:
  - Where the proposed floodwalls and gates would be solid structures about 8 feet above grade and would not meet the design requirements as defined.

## II. PROJECT AREAS AND LAND USE

The Proposed Project consists of two Project Areas illustrated in *Appendix Map 1: Area Aerial Map with Proposed Actions* on page 27:

Project Area One extends from Montgomery Street on the south to the north end of East River Park at approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. From the south, the proposed flood protection system begins inland at Montgomery Street, about 130 feet west of South Street. At the intersection with South Street, the system turns north for about 40 linear feet and then heads east again, crossing under the FDR Drive to the east side of the highway. Once on the east side of the highway, the system turns north running along East River Park and parallel to the FDR Drive. At approximately the existing Corlears Hook Bridge landing and the amphitheater, the system turns east towards the East River, and from this location continues further north to align with the East River Park bulkhead.

The primary land use in Project Area One is the East River Park. This area contains existing pedestrian bridges across the FDR Drive to the East River Park including Corlears Hook, Delancey Street, East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and the East Houston Street Overpasses, as well as the street right-of-way at Montgomery and South Streets under an elevated segment of the FDR Drive. Project Area One also includes transit and residential uses at Pier 42, the Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation, the East River Housing Corporation, the NYCHA Bernard M. Baruch (Baruch Houses) and Jacob Riis Houses (Riis Houses).

Project Area Two extends from approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street to East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, with uses that are primarily highway, street right-of-way, utility, parks, open space, and community facility. This area includes the Consolidated Edison Company of New York East River Generating Station (ConEd Station) and the FDR Drive between East 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Murphy Brothers Playground. Inclusive of park use, land uses further north along the alignment include street right-of-way (Avenue C and the land beneath the elevated FDR Drive) to the waterfront open space at Stuyvesant Cove Park. North of this park, Project Area Two includes a community facility at the existing VA Medical Center, street-right-of-way and parkland at Asser Levy Playground, Murphy Brother’s Playground and Stuyvesant Cove Park.

## III. PROJECT BACKGROUND

ESCR is one of several, identified projects released by the City in April 2015 under “*One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City*,” (OneNYC) for a more resilient New York City that is prepared for the impacts of climate change. OneNYC emerged as a response to the aftermath of October 29, 2012’s Hurricane Sandy that flooded coastal neighborhoods. Along with record tidal flooding and damages to housing, businesses, waterfront parkland, transportation, energy, water supply, and drainage

infrastructure, the storm also caused multiple deaths and underscored the need for the City to design and implement coastal flood protection measures. The neighborhoods within the Proposed Project area have one of the largest concentrations of low- and moderate-income households in the City, with over 12,707 NYCHA housing units.

After Hurricane Sandy, the City formed the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency team to examine the hurricane's impact on the City's buildings, infrastructure, and people, assess climate change risks in the near term (2020s) and long term (2050s), and outline strategies for increasing resiliency citywide. The report that was generated from this initiative, *PlaNYC – A Stronger, More Resilient New York* (June 2013), contains *Community Rebuilding and Resiliency Plans* (CRRP) for five particularly vulnerable neighborhoods throughout the city. The CRRP recommendations considered various coastal hazards and their likelihood of occurrence, their potential impacts on the built environment and critical infrastructure, and proposed protection measures to address coastal storm impacts. The CRRP recommendations were greatly influenced by the Department of City Planning's (DCP) *Urban Waterfront Adaptive Strategies* study from June 2013 which examined the underlying geomorphology of various stretches of the city's shoreline, categorized each coastal reach by geomorphic type, and provided an evaluation of coastal resiliency measures that would be appropriate for each reach. These reach areas of the Proposed Project are listed in *Appendix Map 2: Potential Night Work Construction Areas* on page 28.

In June 2013, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in conjunction with the Rockefeller Foundation and other supporting organizations, launched the Rebuild by Design (RBD) global competition with the objective of developing more efficient and effective coastal flood protections in the New York City region. This competition solicited proposals from around the world with innovative coastal flood protection solutions that would respond to devastations equal to that of Hurricane Sandy through proposed mitigation measures for urban and coastal resiliency. In June 2014, HUD announced six winning RBD projects located in Long Island, New Jersey, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Manhattan. The winning proposal in Manhattan was the "BIG U," a flood protection system extending from Battery Place on the south to East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on the north, and divided into three sub-areas or "compartments." HUD then allocated Community Development Block Grant-Damage Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to advance the preliminary and final design and construction of Compartment 1 of the "BIG U," an area that covers the ESCR project area from Montgomery Street to East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. As design for this compartment advanced, the project area was extended north to East 25<sup>th</sup> Street to include the historic Asser Levy Recreational Center, concluding to an approximately 2.2 mile stretch of area. This area corresponds to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 100-year Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) floodplain and includes areas projected to be within the 100-year SFHA floodplain in the 2050s, taking into account the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile projection for sea level rise. In addition, the area houses critical city infrastructure such as the ConEd Station, subway stations, the Manhattan Pump Station (sewage pump station), and a stretch of the FDR Drive (a major regional arterial highway).

In late 2014, the City entered a grant agreement with HUD to disburse \$338 million of CDBG-DR funds through the New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the design and construction of a coastal flood protection system. Since January 5, 2015, the City regularly engaged both CB3 and CB6 on multiple proposals for ESCR. The formal public review process for the proposed project was initiated with the release of the Draft Scope of Work (DSOW) on October 30, 2015, a public scoping meeting that was held on December 3, 2015 and its comment period that remained open until December 21, 2015. At the closure of the comment period, NYC Parks and OMB reviewed and considered the comments received and prepared the Final Scope of Work (FSOW). During this early engagement process, the City put forth a design proposal identified as "Design Alternative 3" which was brought to CB3 and a CB6 for ULURP approval. On March 27, 2018, CB3's Full Board voted to disapprove with revisions the Design Alternative 3 proposal. Likewise, on April 11, 2018, CB6's Full Board voted to disapprove with revisions the Design Alternative 3 proposal.

In October 2018, the City unveiled a significantly redesigned proposal for ESCR, the Proposed Project, which is identified in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released on April 5, 2019 as the “Design Alternative 4” or the “Preferred Alternative”. According to the City, a major reason for abandoning the original plan was that the Proposed Project’s construction would not have to be staged, thus reducing the construction schedule from 5 to 3.5 years. During this time, the City and its federal partners committed approximately \$1.45 billion in funding for the implementation of the Proposed Project which includes the original \$338 million CDBG-DR grant.

The principal objectives of the Proposed Project are as follows:

- Provide a reliable coastal flood protection system against a storm event for the protected area;
- Improve access to and enhance open space resources along the waterfront;
- Respond quickly to the urgent need for increased flood protection and resiliency, particularly for communities that have a large concentration of residents in affordable and public housing units along the proposed project area; and
- Achieve implementation milestones and comply with the conditions attached to funding allocations as established by HUD, including scheduling milestones.

Additionally, design considerations for the proposed project include:

- Installing a reliable coastal flood protection system;
- Ensuring urban design compatibility, enhancements, constructability, operational needs, and maintenance needs;
- Improving the ecology and long-term resiliency of the East River Park;
- Minimizing environmental effects, including construction-related effects, disruptions to public right-of-way, and the use of pre-storm event deployable structures;
- Ensuring FEMA accreditation; and
- Scheduling that meets HUD milestones and maximizes cost effectiveness.

#### **IV. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The Proposed Project includes a number of design elements such as floodwalls, levees, 18 closure structures (i.e. swing gates and roller gates), underground drainage isolation and management systems. Additionally, the Proposed Project will reconstruct East River Park 8 to 9 feet above its current elevation with open space improvements detailed below. The estimated capital cost is approximately \$1.45 billion. The proposed floodwalls and floodgates are shown in *Appendix Map 3: Proposed Floodwall and Floodgates* on page 29.

##### Project Area One: Proposed Flood Protection System and Park Improvements

Project Area One includes the following key design elements:

- Elevating the East River Park approximately 8 feet to be completed in 2023, beginning at the existing amphitheater and continuing northward to approximately East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, excluding the Fireboat House. East River Park is anticipated to be closed for the entire 3.5 year construction period with continued public access to the Corlears Hook and Stuyvesant Cove Park ferry landings;
- Installing a below-grade protection system (i.e., floodwall) running parallel to the existing East River Park bulkhead to soften the visual effects of the flood protection system;
- Reconstructing the Tennis House, Track and Field House, and all comfort stations;
- Reconstructing the East River Esplanade elevation to match the raised park and protect it from storms and sea level rise;
- Incorporating resilient landscaping and substantial tree replanting for a more diverse, resilient, and ecologically robust habitat;

- Constructing a new shared-use flyover bridge that connects the north end of East River Park with Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk to improve north/south access along the waterfront;
- Reconstructing Corlears Hook Bridge over the FDR Drive and replacing the existing Delancey Street and East 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges to be universally accessible;
- Creating an expanded and reconfigured, park-side East Houston Street landing and entryway to the waterfront;
- Filling the two existing embayments in the East River Park for recreational programming and relocating two new embayments to provide a net gain in water area;
- Relocating and reconstructing the amphitheater as an outdoor theater space; and
- Reconstructing all water and sewer infrastructure in the park, some of which is reaching the end of its serviceable life, including the outfalls and associated pipes that cross the East River Park to the East River bulkhead.

#### Project Area Two: Proposed Flood Protection System and Park Improvements

Project Area Two includes the following key design elements:

- The reconstruction of ball fields and active recreational spaces, new grading and landscaping, and a new maintenance area in the south corner;
- Floodwalls and two swing gate closure structures proposed under the elevated FDR Drive into Stuyvesant Cove at the southerly entrance (from Avenue C) and at the East 20<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to allow public access to the waterfront esplanade;
- The installation of floodwalls and closure structures (roller and swing gates) at the intersection under the FDR Drive at East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street that include vehicular ramp access and service roads to the FDR Drive, a shared-use path, a service station, Waterside Pier and the Skyport Marina parking garage. The closure structures would be recessed except under storm conditions when they are deployed to provide flood protection;
- Reconstruction of Stuyvesant Cove with new raised grades and landscaping. Design in this segment will be coordinated with the reconstruction of the Solar One Center. The waterfront walkway along the water's edge as well as the interior shared access path will be preserved;
- The installation of a floodwall at Murphy Brothers Playground;
- Placement of a roller floodgate at Asser Levy Playground (between the Asser Levy Recreation Center and the outdoor recreational space). Under non-storm conditions, access to these facilities will be maintained. When deployed, the roller floodgate would tie into the existing VA Medical Center flood protection system that runs north and then west along East 25<sup>th</sup> Street to First Avenue; and
- Construction of a pre-fabricated, shared-use flyover bridge to address the narrow waterfront public access near the ConEd Station (on the east side of the FDR Drive between East 13<sup>th</sup> and East 15<sup>th</sup> Streets) known as the "pinch point." The flyover bridge's foundations are to be completed in 2023 and its prefabricated bridge span to be installed and completed in 2025.

#### Drainage System Modifications

Modifications to the City's drainage system are proposed to prevent tidal flooding from entering the protected area through the sewer system and to minimize inland flooding associated with a simultaneous tide and rain event. These measures include flood proofing regulators and manholes, and installing tide gates, parallel conveyance pipes and interceptors that reroute storm drainage and combined sewer outfalls, and placing an isolation gate valve in the regulator below Asser Levy Playground.

- Interceptor Gates

The southern gate in Project Area One is proposed to be located on the existing sidewalk and lawn along the western edge of the FDR Drive right-of-way at a location south of the Corlears Hook Bridge. The northern gate in Project Area Two is proposed to be located in the median of East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, west of the intersection with Avenue C. During a storm event, these gates would

be manually deployed to prevent combined flow or storm surge floodwaters from entering the protected area through the sewer system. While mostly below grade, the above-grade elements of these systems include the equipment necessary to operate the interceptor gates which would be housed in a one-story “maintenance area” with designated parking for NYC Park employees.

- Parallel Conveyance Pipes

Parallel conveyance pipes will be installed at 9 locations to convey excess combined sewer flows to an interceptor and would require no above ground features. These pipes are located below grade and located in-street except for two locations where private acquisitions of easements on private property are needed (at the East River Houses Drainage Acquisition and the NYCHA Baruch Houses Drainage Acquisition). During a storm event, tide gates at the end of outfalls will deploy and would prevent outflow, potentially resulting in sewer system backups. Parallel conveyance pipes would enlarge the conveyance capacity of the system.

Operation and Maintenance of the System

An operations and maintenance manual will be prepared for the flood protection system and will identify procedures for deploying, inspecting, testing, and maintaining each element of the system to ensure that the floodwalls and closure structures remain in proper working order and are ready to perform in advance of a critical storm. Operation and maintenance of the proposed parallel conveyance and interceptor gates would require periodic inspection and maintenance of the piping and mechanical equipment.

Improvements to Existing Facilities, Amenities and Infrastructure

Several existing facilities, amenities, and infrastructure will be upgraded or improved by 2025:

- The reconstruction of Pier 42 as a publicly accessible open space by 2020:
  - Demolishing the pier shed and redeveloping the upland park with an entry garden, a playground, a comfort station, a grassy knoll, solar powered safety lighting throughout the park, and access from the shared use path along the FDR Drive or Montgomery Street that would introduce approximately 2.62 acres of new passive open space;
- The creation of the Lower East Side Ecology Center (LES Ecology Center) Compost Facility by 2023:
  - Improving the composting site by formalizing and containing the composting components and providing educational and public access opportunities;
- The renovation of the Fireboat House that houses the LES Ecology Center by 2019:
  - Adding an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) entrance ramp and installing solar panels to the building; and
- The reconstruction of new Solar One Center by 2019.

## V. PROPOSED ULURP ACTIONS

### **Action 1: Acquisition by the City of Easements on Non-City Properties (C190357PQM)**

While the Proposed Project would be developed primarily on City-owned property, its design includes the need to access infrastructure on non-City-owned property. Thus, the Applicants are seeking ULURP approval for eight easements. Otherwise stated, these acquisitions of easements will permit the access to operation, inspection, and maintenance of the proposed flood protection system as well as the construction of a new flyover bridge. The City does not intend to build structures upon these properties. The proposed easements are shown in *Appendix Map 1: Area Aerial Map with Proposed Actions* on page 27 and the proposed floodwalls and floodgates are shown in *Appendix Map 3: Proposed Floodwall and Floodgates* on page 29.



1. Gouverneur Gardens Access Acquisition of Easement

Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation, Manhattan Block 244, Lot 19 (CB3, PA1)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 1: Gouverneur Gardens Access Acquisition* on page 31. This lot is zoned R7-2 and is occupied by a multi-story residential building. The proposed acquisition of easement is over the south and east yards of the lot. The area includes a fence at the property line, a side yard lawn and seven trees. The existing fence would have to be removed, however the acquisition area is a landscaped yard and the easement would prohibit the planting of any deep-rooted trees or the installation of permanent structures in the acquisition area. The proposed flood protection system is to be located within the northern mapped bed-of-street of Montgomery Street and western mapped bed-of-street of South Street. The acquisition would be used to allow the access to operate, inspect, and maintain the ESCR flood protection system and floodwall.

2. East River Houses Drainage Acquisition of Easement

East River Housing Corporation, Manhattan Block 321, Lot 1 (CB3, PA1)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 2: East River Houses Drainage Acquisition* on page 32. This lot is occupied by two multi-story residential buildings and is zoned R7-2. There are no structures within the proposed acquisition area. The proposed easement is within a parking lot that is an accessory to the housing complex. The acquisition would allow the access to maintain the regulator M-29 parallel conveyance (drainage) system.

3. NYCHA Baruch Houses Drainage Acquisition of Easement

NYCHA Baruch Houses, Manhattan Block 323, Lot 1 (CB3, PA1)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 3: NYCHA Baruch Houses Drainage Acquisition* on page 33. This lot is occupied by several multi-story residential buildings and is zoned R7-2. There are no structures within the proposed area and is primarily occupied by a side yard lawn that includes a fence and a sign for the housing complex. The acquisition would allow the access to maintain the regulator M-31 parallel conveyance (drainage) system.

4. NYCHA Riis Houses Access Acquisition of Easement

NYCHA Jacob Riis Houses, Manhattan Block 367, Lot 1 (CB3, PA1)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 4: Riis Houses Access Acquisition* on page 34. This lot is occupied by several multi-story residential buildings and is zoned R7-2. The proposed acquisition area does not include any structures or special landscaping features and the proposed acquisition area includes portions of the rear yard containing lawn areas, fences, a tree, and a section of sidewalk. There is an existing fence and one tree that would need to be removed. The proposed floodwalls would not be on the property but would be aligned along the westerly edge of the FDR Drive right-of-way. The acquisition would allow the access to operate, inspect, and maintain the ESCR flood protection system and floodwall.

5. Con Edison Power Station Acquisition of Easement

Con Edison, Manhattan Block 988, Lot 1 (CB6, PA2)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 5: Con Edison Power Station Acquisition* on page 35. This lot is occupied by the Con Ed Station and is zoned M3-2, a heavy manufacturing zoning district. The acquisition is located on the south side of the lot along the frontage of East 14<sup>th</sup> Street that would allow the watertight connection to the Con Ed Station and access to inspect, maintain, and repair, as needed, both the Con Ed and ESCR flood protection system and floodwalls.

6. Con Edison Office and Parking Lot Acquisition of Easement

Con Edison, Manhattan Block 990, Lot 1 (CB6, PA2)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 6: Con Edison Office and Parking Lot Acquisition* on page 36. This lot is occupied by a Con Ed office building, is adjacent to a parking lot, and is used for storing equipment and materials. The property is zoned M3-2,

a heavy manufacturing zoning district. The Con Ed property is bounded to the south by East 15<sup>th</sup> Street and is adjacent to the FDR Drive off-ramp to its east. The proposed easement would prohibit the planting of any deep-rooted trees or the installation of permanent structures within 15 feet of the area. The acquisition would allow access to inspect, maintain, and repair, as needed, the Con Ed flood protection system and floodwall.

7. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Acquisition of Easement  
Manhattan Block 955, Lot 5 (CB6, PA2)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 7: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center Acquisition* on page 37. This lot is zoned R8 and is occupied by the VA Medical Center complex. The proposed easement will allow a watertight connection to the existing VA Medical Center flood protection system and access to inspect, maintain, and operate both the ESCR and the VA Medical Center flood protection system and floodwall.

8. Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk Acquisition of Easement

New York State Department of Transportation, portion of the mapped FDR Drive (CB6, PA2)

Photographs and aerial views of this acquisition of easement can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 8: Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk Acquisition* on page 38. The proposed acquisition of easement area is owned by the New York State Department of Transportation and is currently part of the Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk, which is the public walkway situated between the FDR Drive and the East River. An easement for this portion of the mapped FDR Drive must be acquired to allow for the construction of the proposed flyover bridge.

**Action 2: Text Amendment to the Zoning Resolution (N190356ZRM)**

Photographs and aerial views of the Proposed Project segment of Stuyvesant Cove Park requiring a ZR text amendment can be viewed at *Appendix Figure 9: Photographs of Stuyvesant Cove Park (Mapped “Marginal Street, Wharf, or Place”)* on page 39. While a majority of the waterfront area within the study area consists of park space under the jurisdiction of NYC Parks, the proposed acquisition of Stuyvesant Cove Park is mapped “Marginal Street, Wharf, or Place,” and is located within the bounding streets of Montgomery Street (south), East 25<sup>th</sup> Street (north), and the FDR Drive/East River Park (east). This segment is a City-owned property under the jurisdiction of SBS and managed by NYCEDC. Under the Proposed Project, the property would remain a public open space.

The ZR includes special regulations applying to areas located along the waterfront, outlined in Article VI, Chapter 2 (“Special Regulations Applying in Waterfront Areas”). These regulations encourage active water dependent uses and ensure physical and visual access to the City’s waterfront. The proposed segment is subject to the waterfront regulations of ZR § 62-50 (“General Requirements for Visual Corridors and Waterfront Public Access Areas”) and ZR § 62-60 (“Design Requirements and Waterfront Public Access Areas”) and thus a zoning amendment is necessary to acknowledge compliance with the City’s waterfront zoning restrictions. Specifically, the proposed design elements of this segment such as floodwalls, raising the interior grade of Stuyvesant Cove Park, and public paths will not comply with the provisions shown below and on *Appendix Map 4: Proposed Waterfront Access Connections* on page 30:

- ZR § 62-511 (“Location of Visual Corridors”): requiring that upland streets that terminate at a waterfront block shall be prolonged as visual corridors to the water if the prolonged street would intersect the shoreline at an angle of 45 degrees or more and there are no existing obstructions blocking 50% or more of the width of the visual corridor.
  - The street grid along this waterfront segment is unusual with three wide mapped and built streets upland of the subject property that if prolonged would also intersect the waterfront from different and less than right angles, where these upland streets include: Avenue C on the south (approximately 120 feet wide), East 20<sup>th</sup> Street (approximately 135 feet wide), and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (approximately 130 feet wide);

- ZR § 62-512 (“Dimensions of Visual Corridors”): requiring that visual corridors be no less than 50 feet in width:
  - Where the distance between Avenue C and East 20<sup>th</sup> Street is approximately 575 feet and the distance from East 20<sup>th</sup> to East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street is 850 feet;
- ZR § 62-53 (“Requirements for Shore Public Walkways”): requiring that waterfront walkways have a minimum width of 30 feet:
  - Where the paved walkway along the water’s edge at Stuyvesant Cove Park averages a width of 30 feet but is proposed to be narrowed due to the grading on the waterside of the proposed flood protection system which will also include a raised landscape with a public path;
- ZR § 62-56 (“Requirements for Upland Connections”): requiring that the distance between upland connections do not exceed 600 feet with specific minimum widths of these connections:
  - Where there will be connections to the upland at Avenue C and East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, with an additional connection provide adjacent to the proposed Solar One Center. The connections include a 45-foot-wide access at Avenue C, a 30-foot-wide access at East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, and a 35-foot-wide connection adjacent to the Solar One Center with a floodgate installed at each of these connections; and
- ZR § 62-651 (“Requirements for Guardrails, Gates, and Other Protective Barriers”): requiring specific design dimensions for fences and walls such as a maximum height of 36 inches and 21 inches, respectively:
  - Where the proposed floodwalls and gates would be solid structures about 8 feet above grade and would not meet the design requirements as defined.

The proposed zoning text amendment allows the regulations detailed in ZR § 62-50 and ZR § 62-60 above to be considered satisfied as long as: (1) the park remains open and accessible to the public at a minimum from dawn to dusk, and (2) the maintenance and operation of the park is conducted by a City or State entity or its designee.

## VI. FUTURE APPROVALS AND ACTIONS

According to the Applicants, future approvals and actions of the Federal, State, and City entities, and the City Planning Commission will be required and are listed in the *Appendix 1: “Future Approvals and Actions Required”* on page 26.

## VII. AREA CONTEXT

The flood elevation used in the design of the Proposed Project is 16.5 feet North American Vertical Datum, which is generally 8 to 9 feet above the existing surface grade, but diminishes in above grade height as the system moves inland and the topography rises. This area corresponds to FEMA’s 100-year SFHA floodplain and includes areas projected to be within the 100-year SFHA floodplain in the 2050s, taking into account the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile projection for sea level rise.

East of the Proposed Project is the East River, north is the Kips Bay neighborhood, west are the neighborhoods of Lower East Side, East Village, Alphabet City, Stuyvesant Town, and Peter Cooper Village, and south is the Two Bridges neighborhood. These are primarily residential neighborhoods comprised of mid- and high-rise residential buildings, including multiple NYCHA-operated buildings, community facilities, local retail, and neighborhood parks. The majority of the project area is within built streets or parkland where zoning would not apply. The few locations outside of streets or parks where acquisitions are proposed are zoned R7-2, R8, and M3-2.

The major thoroughfares and principal streets provide access to the project area include the FDR Drive along the waterfront, Delancey Street, East Houston Street, East 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in the east and west orientation, First Avenue, and Avenues A, B, C, and D in a north and south orientation. Mass transit in the area includes the J, M, and Z subway lines with stops along Delancey Street, the L train

subway with stops along East 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and the M15 and M23 Select Bus Service with a number of other local bus lines.

### **VIII. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Pursuant to City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR), the rules of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process, a DEIS was prepared for the Proposed Project. On October 28, 2015 and October 30, 2015, a Positive Declaration and DSOW were issued, respectively. The Positive Declaration determined that the proposed project may potentially have a significant impact on the environment in the following areas:

- Land use zoning and public policy: due to land disturbances and adherence to the New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program requirements;
- Open space resources: as the proposed project area encompasses both the East River Park and Stuyvesant Cove Park, and requires modifications of existing recreational facilities and street trees;
- Historical and cultural resources: due to the introduction of new structures and subsurface disturbances that could affect archaeological and architectural resources;
- Urban design and visual resources: due to the introduction of new structures that could affect the urban design setting of the project and waterfront view corridors;
- Natural resources: as there may be significant adverse impacts upon aquatic resources and water quality of the East River with regards to site disturbances and the modification of the project area's storm water management system;
- Hazardous materials: due to subsurface disturbances and the potential for new pathways of human exposure to contaminated materials; and
- Water and sewer infrastructure: due to potential effects upon the City's water supply infrastructure and sanitary sewage conveyance.

The DSOW was further refined following a public scoping meeting held on December 3, 2015, with written comments accepted until December 21, 2015. The DSOW, DEIS, and the Notice of Completion, issued on April 5, 2019, included the following areas for review:

- Land use, Zoning, and Public Policy;
- Socioeconomic Conditions;
- Open Space;
- Historical and Cultural Resources;
- Urban Design and Visual Resources;
- Natural Resources;
- Hazardous Materials;
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure;
- Transportation;
- Neighborhood Character; and
- Environmental Justice.

Furthermore, the analysis of construction related effects included the following technical areas for review:

- Construction – Socioeconomic Conditions;
- Construction – Open Space;
- Construction – Historic and Cultural Resources;
- Construction – Urban Design and Visual Resources;
- Construction – Natural Resources;
- Construction – Hazardous Materials;
- Construction – Water and Sewer Infrastructure;
- Construction – Energy;

- Construction – Transportation;
- Construction – Air Quality
- Construction – Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Construction – Noise and Vibration; and
- Construction – Public Health.

The DEIS concluded that there were four major areas of significant adverse effects:

1) Urban Design and Visual Resources: Views of the East River would be blocked on Grand Street in Project Area 1, CB3. These blockages of waterfront views are unavoidable.

2) Construction – Open Space: Over the 3.5-year construction period, there would be a temporary displacement of recreational facilities and open space amenities. Mitigation measures include identifying alternative recreational resources that can be available to the community, providing transportation to these new alternative areas, exploring options for activating underutilized spaces, implementing improvements (e.g. lighting) to parks and playgrounds in and near the study area, rerouting greenway users to alternative routes and supporting bicycle projects in and near the study area. In addition, the City is assessing opportunities to open parts of East River Park through a phased construction schedule.

3) Construction – Transportation: There will be significant adverse traffic effects in Project Area 2 at the intersections of East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/First Avenue and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/Avenue C, as well as temporary significant adverse effects for users of the East River Park bikeway/walkway during the period of construction. Mitigation measures include standard traffic mitigation measures (e.g., signal timing changes) and pedestrian and bicyclist rerouting plans. Signs will be installed at points of the bike network to inform cyclists of the closure during the construction of East River Park. Signs on and off the greenway will direct cyclists and pedestrians to use 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue C during the construction of the flyover bridge.

4) Construction – Noise and Vibration: There will be significant adverse noise effects near the flood protection alignment and the reconstructed pedestrian bridges. In Project Area 2, the construction at 20<sup>th</sup> Street/Gate House is anticipated to last for 1 year. Approximately 11 parking spaces could be lost on East 20<sup>th</sup> Street during the construction of the interceptor gate house. Mitigations include the usage of quieter hydraulic press-in pile installation methods, noise barriers around the pile driving head, enclosures on concrete operations, barges instead of trucks for material deliveries, and the selection of quieter equipment models. According to the DEIS, there are no significant adverse vibration effects.

## **IX. COMMUNITY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS (CB3 and CB6)**

### Manhattan Community Board 3

On March 27, 2018, CB3's Full Board voted to not support the ESCR project with Design Alternative 3.

At its Full Board meeting on June 25, 2019, CB3 voted 33 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstaining, for a resolution to approve with conditions, the proposed ESCR project with Design Alternative 4. The resolution was revised on June 28, 2019 with additional conditions that include:

- The immediate installation of temporary measures for storm protection, especially during the time of construction when the park is most vulnerable;
- Social resiliency and community preparedness training at schools and local long term recovery groups, and regular updates and community engagement meetings at town halls, open houses, and other similar events;
- Establishing a Community Advisory Group that works with Gouvernuer Gardens and the CBs to receive updates from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) and the NYC DDC;

- The identification of a panel of 3 to 5 mutually agreed upon environmentalists by CB3, CB6, and the Community Advisory Group to review and evaluate the DEIS and the ESCR project’s alternatives to describe reasonable interim measures and methods to minimize any adverse impacts that the community might face before and during the construction of the project. The DEIS must not be finalized until such recommendations and review are presented to the CBs;
- A commitment to obtain Envision Certification, a rating system developed by the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure, that would discern whether the ESCR project would succeed in either meeting or exceeding sustainability goals across a range of social, economic, and environmental indicators;
- The protection of biodiversity, the immediate creation of bioswales, new tree canopy plantings and new permeable planters, the planting of mature trees where appropriate, the minimization of dust emissions, and the use of topsoil and salt-resistant, indigenous plants to re-establish natural passive areas in the park;
- Permits must be issued to local neighborhood youth groups both for the duration of the construction of East River and for the redeveloped East River Park;
- Open spaces for children and sports leagues must be identified and made available during the construction phase;
- All temporary water parks and play features must be made available for children to use before the first summer period of the East River Park’s construction;
- A robust explanation must be released regarding the advantages of the Preferred Alternative over Alternative 3, particularly considering seasonal and weather-based limitations on construction and permit approvals;
- A temporary space for the LES Ecology Center and its composting program must be provided so that they can continue all of its environmental education and composting programming for the duration of construction or reconstruction;
- The Fireboat House must be raised above the 2050 floodplain to enable the LES Ecology Center to continue providing educational and environmental stewardship programming;
- Consultation with community stakeholders to identify alternative routes for pedestrians, micro-mobility users, runners, and commuting and recreational cyclists of all ages must be made well in advance of the East River Park’s closure;
- Assistance must be provided for community members to access nearby city parks, open spaces, sports fields, and new alternative spaces in the form of Metrocards, shuttle buses, free ferry service or other types of transportation or financial support;
- A commitment to ensure a phased construction plan that does not impact the overall timetable for park closure and project completion while allowing public access to sections of the East River Park; and
- An established protocol before work begins that has clear avenues for community input in order to mitigate against contractor decision making and oversight that may disregard the quality of life for area residents, including any bids or Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the project’s construction.

#### Manhattan Community Board 6

On April 11, 2018, CB6’s Full Board voted to not support the ESCR Project with Design Alternative 3.

At its Full Board meeting on June 12, 2019, CB6 voted 43 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining for a resolution to approve with conditions, the proposed ESCR Project with Design Alternative 4. The specified conditions to be met are:

- The implementation of a phased construction timeline for the good of all waterfront users and to prevent unexpected access delays;
- The development of additional mitigation strategies that focus on providing access to amenities or activating existing locations in the district with both active uses and passive elements;

- The exploration of improving Waterside Pier with active and passive recreational spaces such as: Basketball City, a temporary space on the top level of the Skyport Marina parking garage, the possible use of temporary barges that are anchored off existing park areas, and green decking underused lots such as those at the Allen Street Malls, the vacant Allen Street building and the space underneath the Williamsburg Bridge;
- A feasibility study of “decking over” portions of the FDR Drive must be included in the design review since it would better inform future projects that could provide additional space for recreation;
- The DEIS must show higher usage counts of the East River’s bikeway/walkway and any route detours must accommodate multi-modality uses;
- Since funding for the flyover bridge at the pinch point are now guaranteed, the ESCR Project must revisit the staging plan and look at ways that the construction of the flyover bridge can occur contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;
- Design considerations must be made for an expanded capacity along Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk to accommodate for increased walkway usage;
- The installation of a comfort station at Murphy’s Brothers’ Playground must be considered as part of the ESCR Project itself instead of as a separate project to be commenced in the future;
- Construction of a new crosswalk at the intersection of Avenue C and the north side of the FDR Drive’s Exit 7 to create a more direct pedestrian access pathway across Avenue C to the waterfront and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Landing. The exit ramp would be modified to provide a legal left turn onto Avenue C at the East 18<sup>th</sup> Street traffic signal with appropriate signage to improve alignment with the flood barrier;
- A comprehensive redesign of the East 20<sup>th</sup> Street bike lane (which was originally designed around a now-obsolete L train mitigation plan) must be carried out to enable more expedient construction of the interceptor gate house;
- The East 20<sup>th</sup> Street interceptor gate house must be designed with contextually appropriate materials to reflect the historical significance of Peter Cooper Village, Stuyvesant Town, and the previous Gas House District;
- The ESCR project team must provide supporting data from the cost benefit analysis that was performed for the proposed Design Alternative 4 plan and compare it to the Design Alternative 3 plan that included a partial closure of the FDR Drive;
- Sufficient funding must be put aside to rebuild Stuyvesant Cove Park after any subsequent destruction from flooding;
- The East River Park Fireboat House must be preserved so that the LES Ecology Center is able to continue its important initiatives to develop environmental awareness; and
- Interpretive signage and public art installations are to provide historical context and maintain neighborhood identity along the waterfront and a robust social media strategy is necessary to communicate ongoing park closures and project status updates.

#### **X. MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD RESOLUTION**

The Manhattan Borough Board meeting on the ESCR project occurred on June 18, 2019 and was recessed on June 23, 2019, when the Manhattan Borough Board adopted a resolution by a vote of 10 in the affirmative and 0 in the negative recommending approval of the ULURP applications with conditions.

#### **XI. MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT HEARING**

The Manhattan Borough President’s public hearing to discuss the ESCR project occurred on July 17, 2019 at Beth Israel Mt. Sinai from 6 to 9 PM. There were approximately 150 public attendees, but even more residents were outside because the room was at capacity. The public hearing began with the NYC Park’s and NYC DDC’s presentation of the proposed ULURP actions and project scope. The presentation was followed by public testimony by 63 people. The Manhattan Borough President’s public comment period concluded on July 19, 2019. The overwhelming majority of those who testified spoke out in opposition to the ESCR project. Most called for wholesale rejection of the plan, in favor of temporary flood protection measures or a return to Design Alternative 3. Several people commented on the

deficiency of the DEIS and gaps of knowledge in the construction timeline and management, the lack of construction staging, and the need for an independent consultant review of the project. Residents of nearby NYCHA developments, some of whom could not access the hearing, have expressed support for the project because they want flood protection.

## **XII. MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

After careful review, the application in its current form does not answer the many key concerns that I and members of the community share. While I support the goal of coastal flood risk reduction and resiliency the application needs improvement. The devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy in 2012 cannot be ignored. Forty-three lives were lost in New York City, 6,500 patients were evacuated from hospitals and nursing homes, 1.1 million New York City children were unable to attend school for a week, and close to 2 million people went without power. Subway tunnels, streets, and basements were flooded. The storm caused over \$19 billion in economic losses in the city and the effects are still being felt in hard-hit neighborhoods.

Lower Manhattan was especially affected by Sandy. The storm surge overtopped bulkheads with the greatest extent of inland flooding experienced on the Lower East Side. Floodwaters extended 2,000 feet, nearly to Avenue B and reaching a depth of two feet at Avenue C. It has been reported that most of the damage caused by inland flooding was to critical systems located in basements or sub-basements. Even in areas where floodwaters reached only one to two feet, elevators, water pumps, fire- and life-safety systems, heating and cooling systems, and lighting were compromised, making conditions dangerous for residents, and requiring lengthy and expensive repairs.

The risk of extreme weather driven by global climate change requires swift and bold action. The New York City Panel on Climate Change projects that the frequency of intense storms will increase by the 2050s with Lower Manhattan’s east side at the most risk. In addition to the 200,000 Lower Manhattan residents, critical infrastructure, health facilities, and businesses are located within the floodplain. These include two Con Ed substations at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street complex; several hospitals such as the Bellevue Hospital (just north of the project’s boundaries) with the only State-designated regional trauma center in Lower Manhattan; the Veteran’s Affairs New York Harbor Hospital; and the New York Downtown Hospital which is the only hospital south of Canal Street. In addition, the area is home to approximately 21,000 businesses and nonprofits that employ nearly 300,000 people.

A plan developed to fit the 2050 floodplain will last us only the next 30 years. We must project into the future to ensure that all projects related to resiliency will last for future decades. I believe that resilient infrastructure projects must also improve the quality of life. I have serious concerns about the sudden transformation of the project in September 2018 from a plan that incorporated over four years of community input to a new plan unilaterally put forth by the City, known as the Preferred Alternative or the Design Alternative 4.

### Open Space, Access and Phased Construction

The construction schedule for the different sections of the East River Park, which will be closed for 3.5 years, including the nearby parks of Murphy Brothers Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Asser Levy Playground, which will be closed for 6 months to 2 years, should be phased to allow continuous access during the ESCR project. The loss of park access is among my foremost concerns. For example, children in Title 1 schools do not have buses to move them to other parts of the city to access open space resources, and many community members in the city use the amphitheater, picnic areas, soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts and water play areas. CB6 has the lowest amount of open space per capita of any community district in the city. Removing these vital open spaces to thousands of families and children will significantly reduce their quality of life; and the many schools that depend on the park’s infrastructure for afterschool activities and recreation will also be impacted.

Instead, the Preferred Alternative design accelerates construction, but phased access to park and



recreational space is essential. To this end, the Applicants should work closely with the CBs and a community task force to plan and manage access for almost 30,000 residents. The task force should include residents, non-profits and business operators in addition to the CBs, and serve as a forum for community input through all phases of the project. The timing of the permit approvals, the time needed for the fill to settle, and the coordination with CB6 for construction of the flyover bridge to be simultaneous with work at adjacent areas must be closely monitored. At the end of the project's completion, all waterfront pier areas must be publicly accessible.

#### Independent Environmental Review

The ESCR team must work on an outreach plan for the surrounding community and communicate with residents prior to construction about the timeline related to the demolition and rebuilding of the park. Because the Preferred Alternative would be more expeditiously constructed even though there are drastic design changes, I recommend the hiring of an independent non-New York City based environmental consultant to be chosen by the task force group. The consultant's scope of work will include recommendations of design alternatives for improved coordination, timeline management and expert review of all matters pertaining to the project, including demolition, environmental protections, and structural standards. The task force and the consultants must work closely with the Applicants to incorporate the findings and recommendations from this study.

#### Process, Coordination and Public Participation

According to the Applicants, the agencies representing ESCR have reached out to the public and stakeholders through 45 community engagement meetings since 2015. They have used flyers, e-communications, open houses and websites to communicate with the public, and opened a 52-day comment period in 2015 to receive oral and written testimony that was then made available on the project website. Details of the proposed project were made available in 4 languages and representatives of NYC Parks and NYC DDC attended various CB3 and CB6 meetings to present changes to the project.

After the Design Alternative 3 was rejected by CB3 and CB6 in 2018, the Applicants and the City went ahead to make major design changes without community input, resulting in the Preferred Alternative or Design Alternative 4. I quote CB3's recommendation where, "for many in the community, the ESCR process since Fall 2018 has frayed trust in government and public agencies because of the drastic change in plan design done without community consultation, despite the needs of the community who look to their government to supply desperately needed protection of their lives and homes, (and often both)."

Residents and community members must be fully informed and active participants in oversight of the project. It is imperative that as this project moves forward, the ESCR team regularly consults with CB3 and CB6 in more collaborative processes that incorporate public feedback and recommendations on the project's construction and design. The Applicants must be transparent in their decision making processes and communicate about design and timeline changes through social media, community meetings, open houses and information sessions in several languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese. The public has entrusted the ESCR partners to create a project that will improve the safety and quality of life.

There must be a strong emphasis on outreach to residents of the involved NYCHA campuses. There are approximately 28,000 residents living in NYCHA developments in the ½ mile area adjacent to the proposed project. There is an estimated total population of 198,549 persons in the study area of which 20.26% are designated low-income and 51.2% identify as people of color. The goal of the ESCR resiliency project is to benefit all members of the community. The project scope declares that no communities of color or low-income communities would be disproportionately affected. However, with huge active construction sites in view of the community, parents are worried that children will access them. I urge the Applicants to ensure that the construction areas are secure and that neighbors are given adequate notice about road and area closures.

The application does not mention specific negotiations with any property owners who would be affected

by the proposed acquisitions of easements. It is imperative that the Applicants conduct outreach to all property owners with detailed information concerning the proposed easements and respond to the questions, concerns, and rights of these owners. Furthermore, any and all businesses within the East River Park that are directly impacted or displaced by the construction of the ESCR project must be offered relocation assistance by the Applicants.

#### Alternative Locations for Active and Passive Uses

My office met with a number of local youth leagues that utilize East River Park sports facilities. Removing these facilities would create a financial and physical hardship for sports teams that will have to commute to sports fields outside of their neighborhood during the 3.5 years. The Applicants must work with all local youth sports leagues to identify alternative facilities and provide transportation to these sites. At the completion of the project, the Applicants are to guarantee field priority for local youth leagues.

The DEIS states that "NYC Parks is exploring providing alternative recreational opportunities throughout the Lower East Side neighborhood through programs like Shape-Up classes, walking clubs, Arts, greening programs, etc." (8.0-4). It is vital that the location and funding for these programs are disclosed and discussed with the CBs and the task force to ensure that their financial feasibility and value to residents. Suggestions for alternative public open space includes Basketball City; expanding the NYC Summer Streets program; activating the underutilized spaces of Waterside Pier; a temporary space on the top level of the Skyport Marina parking garage; the use of temporary barges anchored off of the existing park; and potentially "green decking" underused spaces such as the Allen Street Malls, the vacant Allen Street building, and beneath Williamsburg Bridge.

I support further research into options for "green decking," the installation of temporary, synthetic turf that can provide for more active and passive recreation, particularly at LaGuardia Bath House/Little Flower Playground; portions of the FDR Drive; St. Vartans; Tompkins Square; Tanahey; and Robert Moses Playground. I also support further research for renovations proposed by the Applicants at a number of alternative sites, such as installing new sports coating at Tanahey; Sara D. Roosevelt; Al Smith Recreational Center and Playground; St. Vartans; Columbus Park; and Coleman Playground; converting the Baruch Bathhouse to a community space; and painting playgrounds and park equipment at approximately 16 sites by Spring 2020. However, it is imperative that the installation of turf and other renovations be brought to their respective CBs for community input and approval. Recently, the replacement of an asphalt lot with synthetic turf in Tompkins Square Park's northwest corner ignited a dispute between NYC Parks and the skateboarders that regularly use that patch of asphalt. I ask that 1) the Applicants conduct robust community outreach to mitigate such disputes before finalizing design decisions for temporary, alternative spaces, and 2) that a finalized proposal, map, and timeline for the closure and opening of all proposed, alternative spaces be published for public comment.

Before the first summer season of the East River Park's closure, temporary water parks or water play features must be made available. Cooling centers and comfort stations in the project area- specifically, at Murphy Brother's Playground- must be included in the final design and not deferred to a later time.

#### Urban Design and Visual Resources

According to the Applicants, the raised East River Park and Stuyvesant Cove Park will potentially block existing views of the East River from multiple locations, including at Grand Street, Bernard Baruch, Lillian Ward, and Jacob Riis Houses. There are no mitigations for these blocked views to the water due to the raising of the East River Park by 8 feet and the installation of floodwalls. The application does not mention specific negotiations with any property owners who would be affected by the construction and raising of the East River Park; the flood gates; tie-backs; the north and south interceptor gate chambers; and other structures that would block sightlines to the water. It is imperative that the Applicants complete a study of all affected property owners who would lose their views or access to the water, and conduct outreach to those affected. In addition, the temporary construction walls and sections of the final

floodwalls should be beautified with paintings and mural work that is chosen by and is representative of the affected communities.

NYC Parks manages an “Art in the Parks” program that collaborates with a diverse group of arts organizations and artists to bring temporary installations to many park locations, including the East River Park. While I am confident that NYC Parks will maintain the same if not a similar program after final construction, I am concerned that art works not included in the “Art in the Parks” program will be demolished and excluded in the final plans for ESCR. One such example is the 27 animal sculptures in the John V. Lindsay Playground in the East River Park along the FDR Drive at Grand Street. The sculptures were commissioned in 2002 and include 18 larger-than-life size seals and 9 turtles and crabs that have brought visitors enjoyment for over 17 years. Up until June 20, 2019, the sculptor was unaware and was not notified by the Applicants that his sculptures were excluded from the new design of East River Park and would therefore be demolished.

I urge that NYC Parks, the NYC DDC, and the Applicants conduct a study of all existing art pieces in the project area that would be affected by ESCR’s construction and immediately contact all artists about the future of their works. NYC Parks, NYC DDC, and the Applicants must strive to include these permanent installations as part of ESCR’s new landscaping and design. Should an artists’ work be excluded from the ESCR design, each artist should either be commissioned for new work and/or generously compensated for the removal of their invaluable pieces. No pre-existing artworks are to be demolished during construction and instead must be moved off-site through consultation with the artist.

#### Historic and Cultural Resources

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, I sent a letter to NYC Parks and NYC DDC regarding the East River Park Fireboat House, which serves as the headquarters for the LES Ecology Center. The LES Ecology Center has played an invaluable social and educational role in East River Park, the surrounding neighborhoods, and the Borough of Manhattan as a whole. Since 1998, when their headquarters moved to the Fireboat House, they have acted as key stewards for the park. Since our letter, there have been no commitments on the part of the City to reconstruct and raise the Fireboat House out of the 2050 floodplain. The City has cited that the age of the building’s pilings prevent re-construction above the floodplain. However, there has been no detailed rationale to the public for how the project team came to that conclusion.

By comparison, the Solar One Center is being completely rebuilt above the 2050 floodplain. I believe that the same could be done for the Fireboat House. The scale of construction for the rebuilding of East River Park must not exclude the opportunity to preserve the Fireboat House and the LES Ecology Center while providing new spaces for programming and sorely needed public restrooms. This new construction would also provide the opportunity to expand the existing NYC Parks’ storage space. NYC Parks and the NYC DDC must make commitments to provide displacement and relocation support to the LES Ecology Center in the run-up to and during the closure of East River Park.

#### Natural Resources

The Preferred Alternative has the potential to result in 650 square feet of permanent disturbance within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation tidal wetlands due to the installation of support shafts and footings. In-water work and construction delivery barges would affect surface water resources as well as several aquatic species including winter herring and striped bass. The removal of as many as 981 trees (784 of which are located within East River Park) during construction represents a loss of habitat for insects and migratory birds. It is estimated that 600,000 cubic yards of fill will be required for the construction at an average of 3 barge trips per day throughout the construction period, and the excavation and grading of soils would disturb 82 acres of the existing landscape.

A more in-depth review should be conducted of the ESCR project’s impact upon wildlife and plant species, as well as bird and insect migration during and after construction; we cannot rely on the notion that species will naturally return to East River Park when the project is completed. The Applicants must

work with park stewards such as those from the LES Ecology Center and Solar One Center to identify and protect biodiversity during the time of construction, and include biodiversity within the scope of study conducted by the independent environmental consultant(s) chosen by the community task force group.

NYC Parks "is exploring a LES Greening program with the opportunity to plant up to 1,000 trees in parks and streets, and create up to 40 bioswales" (8.0-5). Through this program, NYC Parks must work with local community organizations, CB3 and CB6 to conduct tree planting and tree guard installation operations, including the creation of concrete plans for the care of the trees. In February 2019, CB3 passed a resolution to support the proposal of a LES Community Tree Canopy Initiative that would communicate with NYC Parks when and where the proposed trees will be installed and how they will be maintained. The Applicants must immediately create these additional bioswales, tree canopy plantings, and permeable pavers as temporary mitigations against dust and adverse weather conditions during construction.

While 981 trees will be temporarily removed during the project's construction, 1,442 new trees will be added into the new landscaped park for a net change of an additional 461 trees, all of which must be mature trees where appropriate. The use of a variety of topsoil and salt resistant indigenous plants in the re-establishment of passive areas in the park must be included in the project's mitigation efforts.

#### Construction

The Applicants must apply and qualify for an Envision Certification from the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure to ensure sustainable construction standards, in addition to the following suggested mitigations:

- Hazardous Materials

The DEIS confirms that subsurface contamination and sources of petroleum waste consistent with historical Manufactured Gas Plants (MGPs) were found in the soil and the groundwater in the project area. Other hazardous materials found include asbestos and lead-based paint, byproducts of gas production (i.e. coal tar, fuel, and gasoline, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides, and metals) from the auto repair shops, gas stations, and the Con Ed Station located in and near the project area. Flood protection must be provided for these existing facilities in and near the project area that may be impacted by storms.

In an effort to reduce the potential of MGP-related contamination, a series of MGP-related recovery wells are to be installed prior to the project's construction. Structural construction of the Pier 42 project, the flood protection system on the west and east side of the FDR Drive, and the reconstruction of the Solar One Center would involve demolition and excavation activities that have the potential to disturb the subsurface containing hazardous materials.

All VOCs, petroleum storage tanks, and other hazardous materials must be removed from affected sites in accordance with federal, state and local regulations prior to project construction. Further investigations in the form of an asbestos survey, Site Management Plans, a Mitigation Work Plan, a Remedial Action Plan and a Construction Health and Safety Plan shall be included in the FEIS. The subsurface investigation shall be conducted in conjunction with the DEP and any construction and occupancy permits would only be issued once DEP receives and approves a Remedial Closure Report that is certified by a New York licensed professional engineer and approved through DEP reviews.

- Energy

The Preferred Alternative will conduct excavation, pile driving, and other disruptive construction activities in and around existing energy transmission and generation infrastructural sites, such as the Con Ed Station. To avoid significant damages and service disruptions, construction plans must fully protect the existing water, electrical and high voltage electrical transmission lines that

extend beneath the entire length of East River Park. Construction must aim to minimize vibration and control excavation measures including the placement of fill and soil in order to not disrupt any vital infrastructure that serves the surrounding community.

- Air Quality

Construction equipment must use ultra-low-sulfur diesel exclusively for all diesel engines, and a dust control plan (including a watering program). Restrictions must be placed upon trucks' idling time to 3 minutes except for those vehicles not using their engines to load, unload, or process materials, and electrical equipment must be used in place of diesel equipment whenever possible. These regulations for the reduction of emissions from engines and idling vehicle use, as well the required use of recycled steel, aluminum, and efforts toward construction waste reduction, and heightened care during material extraction and production must be written into all agreements with contractors, bids, and RFPs.

- Noise

Where the DEIS states that "The City is also assessing the feasibility of utilizing quieter construction methods (i.e., press in pile)" (8.0-5) and is considering "selecting quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts [that] may result in up to a 10 decibels (dBA) reduction in noise levels from construction," (8.0-8) it must guarantee that prior to the start of work that the equipment would be available for the duration of the construction period, and that these models be a condition of any bids or RFPs for project construction. This includes the use of a hydraulic press in pile installation method, hanging noise barriers or curtains made from mass loaded vinyl around the pile driving to shield receptors from noise impacts, enclosing the concrete pump and mixer trucks whenever the mixer barrels are spinning in a shed or tunnel (including 2 or 3 walls and a roof with the opening or openings facing away from receptors) and using barging instead of trucks for deliveries of construction materials.

According to the Applicants, night work construction is potentially expected to take place in the areas of "Reach A, B, C, E, I, J, K L, M, N, O and Q (see *Appendix Map 2: Potential Night Work Construction Areas* on page 28). The Applicants must inform the effected communities and CBs well in advance of the dates of all night work, and must obtain the proper after-hour work variances from the New York City Department of Buildings (NYC DOB). All construction-related and scaffolding-related permits must be obtained from the NYC DOB and the CBs notified in a timely manner.

Before the start of construction, a noise impact study of the newly designed amphitheater must be disclosed and any significant noise levels from the amphitheater, especially at night time, must be mitigated. The FEIS must also include a further impact study of the noise levels of the opening and closing of the rolling gates during the event of a storm impact.

- Water and Sewage Infrastructure

All water and sewer infrastructure construction is to comply with all federal, state and city regulations such as the Clean Water Act and combined sewer overflow regulations. While the DEIS states that, "if a storm is forecast, the sewer system would be inspected and cleaned as needed," it is imperative that there be routine checks on the operating systems, not only when the risk of flooding is imminent.

While the new parallel conveyance system works to prevent flooding by coastal surge waters within the study area, the construction and design must seek to ensure that there is no increased flooding outside of the protected area ("bath tubs"), in particular at East 25<sup>th</sup> Street above where the proposed flood barrier ends. This includes the area of Asser Levy Park, where NYC DDC plans to build a flood-control wall and a sliding gate that would protect the landmarked Asser Levy Recreation Center, but would leave the playing fields unprotected, and East 25<sup>th</sup> Street

susceptible to tidal surge and flooding. Due to these design considerations, it is imperative that the Applicants agree to renovate and rehabilitate the unprotected playing fields at Asser Levy Park in the event of a disaster, since they have been excluded from benefits of the ESCR project.

Furthermore, temporary flood protection measures must be installed during construction to mitigate storm impacts that would damage the project.

### Transportation

During the construction phase, East 10<sup>th</sup> Street between the traffic circle and the FDR Drive service road would be converted from a two-way to a one-way eastbound road, and the service road in front of the BP Gas Station east of East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/Avenue C would be closed to vehicular traffic. The project would require a rerouting of the bikeway/walkway to inland routes, resulting in temporary significant adverse effects for bikers and pedestrians that frequently use the East River bikeway/walkway. According to the DOT, the East River bikeway/walkway “carried 2,077 cyclists on weekdays and 1,974 cyclists on weekends during daylight hours in 2018, numbers that were expected to rise by 5% annually.”<sup>1</sup> DOT and the Applicants must ensure that the closure of the bikeway/walkway will be replaced by equally safe passage for commuters.

Signal timing changes must be installed at the intersections of East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/First Avenue and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/Second Avenue to mitigate any significant adverse traffic effects. A DOT plan addressing the narrow lanes of traffic on East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and its passage during the construction of the interceptor gate house must be submitted for CB6 approval. Alternate routes must be prominently marked by signage. In addition, a protected bike path must be implemented on Avenues A, B, C, or D by DOT in order to compensate for the years-long loss of major bike routes. A new crosswalk must be added at the intersection of Avenue C and the north side of the FDR Drive’s Exit 7 to create a more direct, pedestrian access pathway across Avenue C to the waterfront and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Landing. Lastly, an exit ramp shall be modified to provide a legal left turn onto Avenue C at the East 8<sup>th</sup> street traffic signal, with appropriate signage for improved pedestrian safety.

Based on the latest available U.S. Census data (2000) for workers in the construction and excavation industries, it is expected that 48% of construction workers commute to their project sites by private vehicles at an average occupancy of approximately 1.30 persons per vehicle. The DEIS estimates the presence of a maximum of 250 average daily construction workers for Project Area One and a maximum of 140 average daily construction workers in Project Area Two. The additional demand of parking generated by construction workers and delivery trucks must remain as inconspicuous as possible to the surrounding residential community by opening up spaces within unused areas of the construction site or other off-street parking sites. Similarly, the 2000 Census states that approximately 46% of construction workers commute to work via mass transit. As the project area is well served by mass transit, including 6 subway lines (No. 6, and F, J, M, Z, and L) and numerous local and express bus routes, the Applicants must offer project workers a reduced transit fare on work days to limit car travel and the demand for parking spaces.

NYC DDC’s versions of their presentations state that pedestrian access to Corlears Hook Ferry Station in CB3 and the Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Station in CB6 will be maintained during the period of construction. However, this has not been confirmed. According to the NYC Ferry Quarterly Update (2019) for the first quarter, average weekday ridership for the Lower East Side route which stops at both the Corlears Hook and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Stations include 748 persons and 326 persons on weekends.<sup>2</sup> NYC DDC and related agencies must verify that safe and convenient pedestrian access to both ferry stations is maintained during construction. If disruptions prove unavoidable, the CBs and ferry users must be notified well in advance.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/cycling-in-the-city.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ferry.nyc/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NYC-Ferry-2019-Q1-Quarterly-Update.pdf>

A study of traffic scenarios during a storm event must be approved by the CBs before the completion of the ESCR project. This study must include information on road closures, public transit, parking, and evacuation scenarios for residents and businesses in the vicinity.

#### Public Health and Safety

The Community Construction Liaisons managed and staffed by a Borough Outreach Coordinator from pre-construction through the project's completion are intended to serve as direct community contacts. They must be available 24/7 through a dedicated hotline and email to report unsafe conditions and log complaints and concerns. The information for this hotline and email must be posted prominently on the construction sites, on social media, the CBs, local elected officials, and on the websites of all involved agencies.

All workers who maintain and repair the floodwall infrastructure and parallel conveyance system must receive thorough training and be provided with a safety manual. As flood gates will be closed manually before storm events, I urge the Applicants to conduct a study on ways to ensure the proper training and safety of all workers involved in storm preparation and the operation of the flood control systems.

### **XIII. BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Therefore, the Manhattan Borough President recommends approval with the following conditions of ULURP Applications N190356ZRM and N190357PQM:**

- The construction timeline for the different sections of the East River Park must be phased in tandem with Murphy Brothers Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, and Asser Levy Playground to allow continued access and usage by the public during its construction. The timeline must include expected dates for permit approvals, information on the time it takes for the fill to settle, and be approved by CB3 and CB6. Since funding for the flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for it are now guaranteed, the ESCR Project must revisit the staging plan and look at ways that the construction of the flyover bridge can occur contemporaneously with its north and south improvements;
- A community task force group must be created that is comprised of non-profit leaders, residents and business owners in CB3 and CB6. The Applicants must develop an expedited mechanism for an independent, non-New York City-based consultant to review the ESCR project and consider other alternatives through a study that is based upon an agreed upon scope by the CBs and this community task force group;
- The Applicants must regularly consult with CB3 and CB6 in a more timely process and incorporate public feedback to the project's construction and design. Communication through social media, community meetings, open houses and information sessions must include materials in several languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish. More emphasis must be placed upon conducting outreach to residents of the involved NYCHA campuses. Road closures and area closures must be promptly communicated and the deployment of extra law enforcement to secure the construction premises or traffic control is discouraged;
- The Applicants must conduct outreach to all property owners with detailed information concerning the proposed acquisitions for easement and respond to the questions and concerns of these owners. Any and all businesses within the East River Park that are displaced by the construction of ESCR must have relocation assistance by the Applicants;
- The Applicants must communicate with all local youth sports leagues about alternative facilities for playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, and other sports arenas during the construction of ESCR and accommodate for youth transportation to the alternative sites. At the completion of the project, the Applicants are to consult and guarantee field priority for these local youth leagues and all waterfront pier areas must be publicly accessible.;

- The Applicants must explore alternative recreational opportunities through programming and the activation of underutilized spaces. The location and funding for these alternative, recreational opportunities and programs, including green decking, must be disclosed and discussed with the CBs and the community prior to their installation and activation;
- Before the first summer season of the Park's closure, temporary water parks or water play features must be made available and any cooling centers and comfort stations throughout the project's area, more specifically at Murphy Brother's Playground, must be added to the final design plan as opposed to laying groundwork for later installation;
- Beautification of the temporary construction walls as well as sections of the final floodwalls must be made with painting and mural work that suitably represents and are chosen by the communities affected by the building of the construction walls or floodwalls;
- A study of all existing art pieces in the project area that would be affected by ESCR's construction must be completed and its artists must be immediately contacted about the future of their works. NYC Parks, NYC DDC, and all related agencies must strive to include these permanent installations as part of ESCR's new landscaping and design. Should their work be excluded from the ESCR design, each artist must either be commissioned for new work and/or generously compensated for the removal of their invaluable pieces. None of these art pieces are to be demolished during construction;
- The East River Park Fireboat House that is home to the LES Ecology Center must be lifted out of the 2050 floodplain or be completely rebuilt and made resilient to provide new spaces for programming;
- A study of the ESCR project's impact upon wildlife and plant species and the mitigation of animal migrations during and after construction must be completed while working in tandem with park stewards from the LES Ecology Center or the Solar One Center;
- NYC Park's LES Greening program must immediately work with local community organizations to conduct planting and guard installations for trees and bioswales. Trees that will be added to the new landscaped park must be mature trees where appropriate;
- The Applicants must apply and qualify for an Envision Certification from the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure to ensure sustainable construction and project standards;
- A series of MGP-related recovery wells are to be installed prior to project construction and all VOCs, petroleum storage tanks, and other hazardous materials must be removed from affected sites in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. Flood protection must be provided for existing auto repair shops, gas stations, and the Con Ed Station located in and near the project area. Any construction and occupancy permits would only be issued once DEP receives and approves a Remedial Closure Report that is certified by a New York licensed professional engineer;
- Further investigations in the form of an asbestos survey, Site Management Plans, a Mitigation Work Plan, a Remedial Action Plan and a Construction Health and Safety Plan must be included in the FEIS. Construction, excavation measures, and the placement of fill and soil must aim to minimize vibration in order to not disrupt any underground energy, water, and electric infrastructure that serves the surrounding community. All agreements, RFPs and bids with contractors must include regulations that require the use of biodiesel, recycled steel, aluminum, and efforts toward construction waste reduction, heightened care during material extraction and production, and the reduction of emissions from engines and idling vehicle use;
- The City must guarantee that quieter equipment models for cranes, generators, compressors, and lifts would be available for the duration of the construction period prior to application approvals, and that these models are a condition of any bids, RFPs for construction. The Applicants must communicate in a timely manner any future permits and dates for night work construction with the CBs. Limited after hour work variances are to be requested from the NYC DOB as they are a community nuisance and all construction-related and scaffolding-related permits must be obtained by the NYC DOB and CBs in a timely manner. Before the start of construction, a noise impact study of the newly designed amphitheater must be disclosed;



- All water and sewer infrastructure constructions are to comply with the necessary federal, state and city regulations and have routine checks;
- The Applicants must agree to renovate and rehabilitate the unprotected playing fields at Asser Levy Park in the event of a disaster since they are excluded from the benefits of the ESCR project. Temporary flood protection measures must be installed during construction to mitigate storm impacts that would delay the construction timeline as the waterfront would be the most vulnerable to disaster while under construction;
- Timing changes must be installed at East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/First Avenue and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/Second Avenue. A DOT plan addressing the narrow lanes of traffic on East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and its passage during the construction of the interceptor gate house must be submitted for CB6 approval. A protected bike path must be implemented on Avenues A, B, C, or D by the DOT in order to compensate for the years-long loss of a major bike facility as a result of this project. A new crosswalk must be added at the intersection of Avenue C and the north side of FDR Drive Exit 7 to create a more direct pedestrian access pathway across Avenue C to the waterfront and Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Landing. All new transportation signage must be clearly marked;
- All parking for construction must occur off-street and construction workers must be given the option of subsidized funds for public transit, thereby lowering single vehicle ridership and the demand for residential parking spaces. Pedestrian access to the Corlears Hook Ferry Station and the Stuyvesant Cove Ferry Station must be maintained during construction. A study of traffic scenarios during a storm event must be immediately conveyed to and approved by the CBs before the completion of the ESCR project that includes mapped road closures, public transit, parking, and evacuation scenarios for residents and businesses in the vicinity;
- The Community Construction Liaisons that are managed and staffed by a Borough Outreach Coordinator must be available 24/7 from pre-construction through the project's completion to serve as direct community contacts through a hotline and email address that are posted prominently on the construction site, on social media, and on the websites of all involved agencies; and
- A written guide and employee training manual must be created to convey technical and safety instructions to all workers whom maintain and repair the floodwall infrastructure and parallel conveyance system.



Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner, NYC Parks  
William T. Castro, Manhattan Commissioner, NYC Parks  
Alyssa Cobb Konon, Deputy Commissioner, Planning and Development, NYC Parks  
Lorraine Grillo, Commissioner, NYC DDC  
Jamie Torres Springer, First Deputy Commissioner, NYC DDC  
Andrew Hollweck, Deputy Commissioner, NYC DDC

## **Appendix 1: Future Approval and Actions Required**

According to the Applicant, the following Federal, State, City, Authority and Commission approvals and actions are necessary to implement the proposed project in the future:

### FEDERAL

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Disbursement of Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to the City of New York; review of the Action Plan Amendments; and, review of acquisition agreements on NYCHA property;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Permits or authorizations for activities in waters of the United States (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) or structures within navigable waters (Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act);
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-Advisory agencies to the environmental review process for activities that affect wetlands, water quality, protected plant and wildlife species, and essential fish habitat; and
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-Review of flood protection design and potential changes to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

### STATE OF NEW YORK

- Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)-Permits related to activities in tidal wetlands or adjacent areas (Article 25) or protection of waters (Article 15), Water Quality Certification (Section 401); endangered species protection; discharges to State waters pursuant to the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) program; approvals related to the handling and transport of hazardous materials and soils;
- Department of State (NYSDOS)-Coastal Zone Consistency determination for federal permits;
- Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)-Advisory role as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in federal review process pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) with respect to designated and protected properties on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and properties determined eligible for such listing; and
- Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)-Review of flood protection and flyover bridge designs and related approvals to construction along and adjacent to segments of FDR Drive under NYSDOT jurisdiction.

### CITY OF NEW YORK

- Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks)-Review and issuance of permits and approvals for project design and construction in City parkland;
- Department of City Planning (DCP)-Amendments to the City map for changes related to existing and proposed pedestrian bridges;
- Public Design Commission (PDC)-Review and approval of art, architecture, and landscape features proposed for City property and capital projects; and
- Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD)-Review and approval for easements at NYCHA and Gouverneur Gardens.

### AUTHORITIES

- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)-Approval for acquisitions and activities on NYCHA property; and
- New York Power Authority (NYPA)-Approval for activities within NYPA easements.

### COMMISSION

- New York Public Service Commission (PSC)-Approval for disposition involving public utility properties (Con Edison property).

### Appendix Map 1: Area Aerial Map with Proposed Actions



Map 1  
Area Aerial Map with Proposed Actions

Appendix Map 2: Potential Night Work Construction Areas

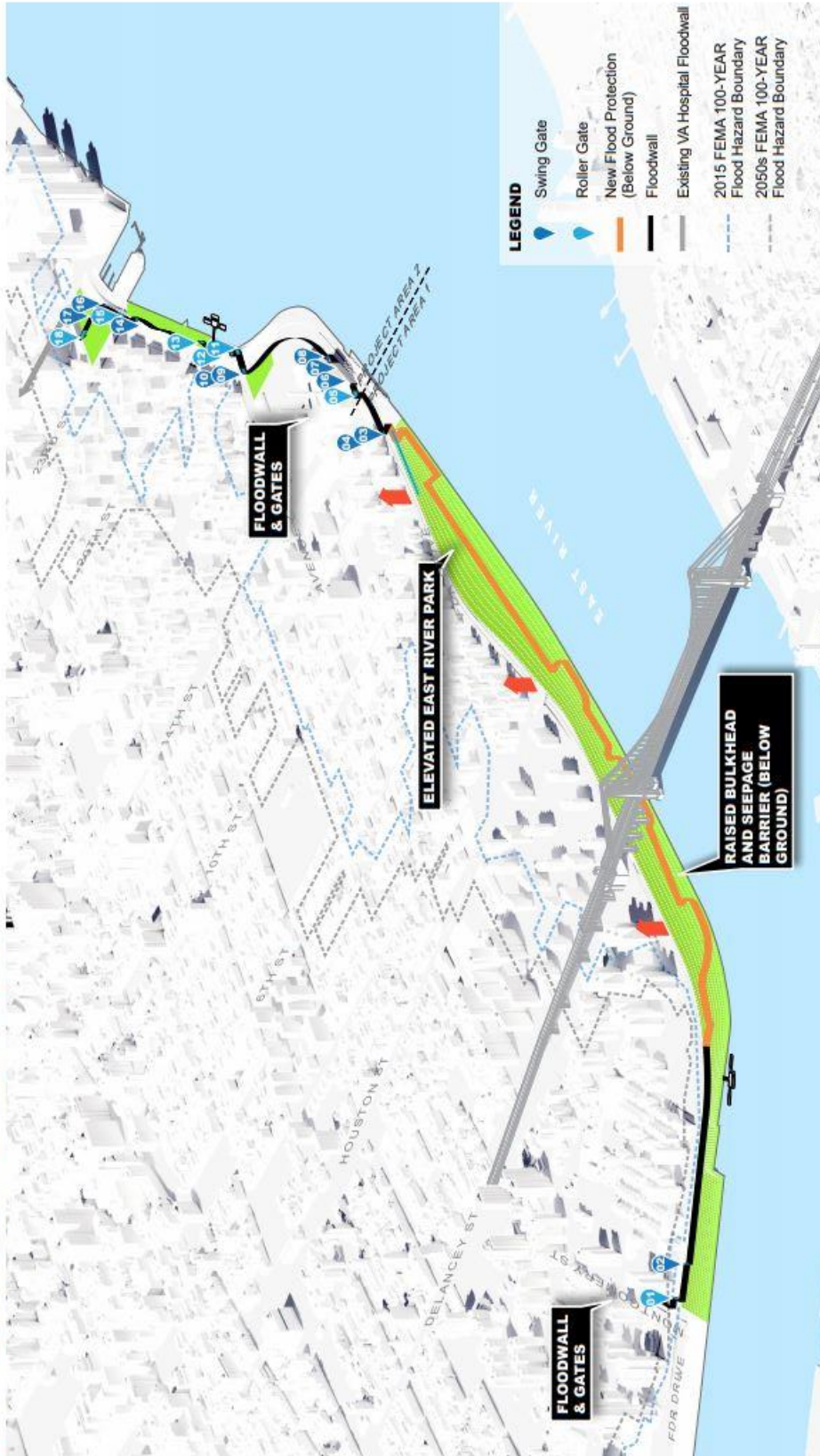
**NIGHT WORK CONSTRUCTION**



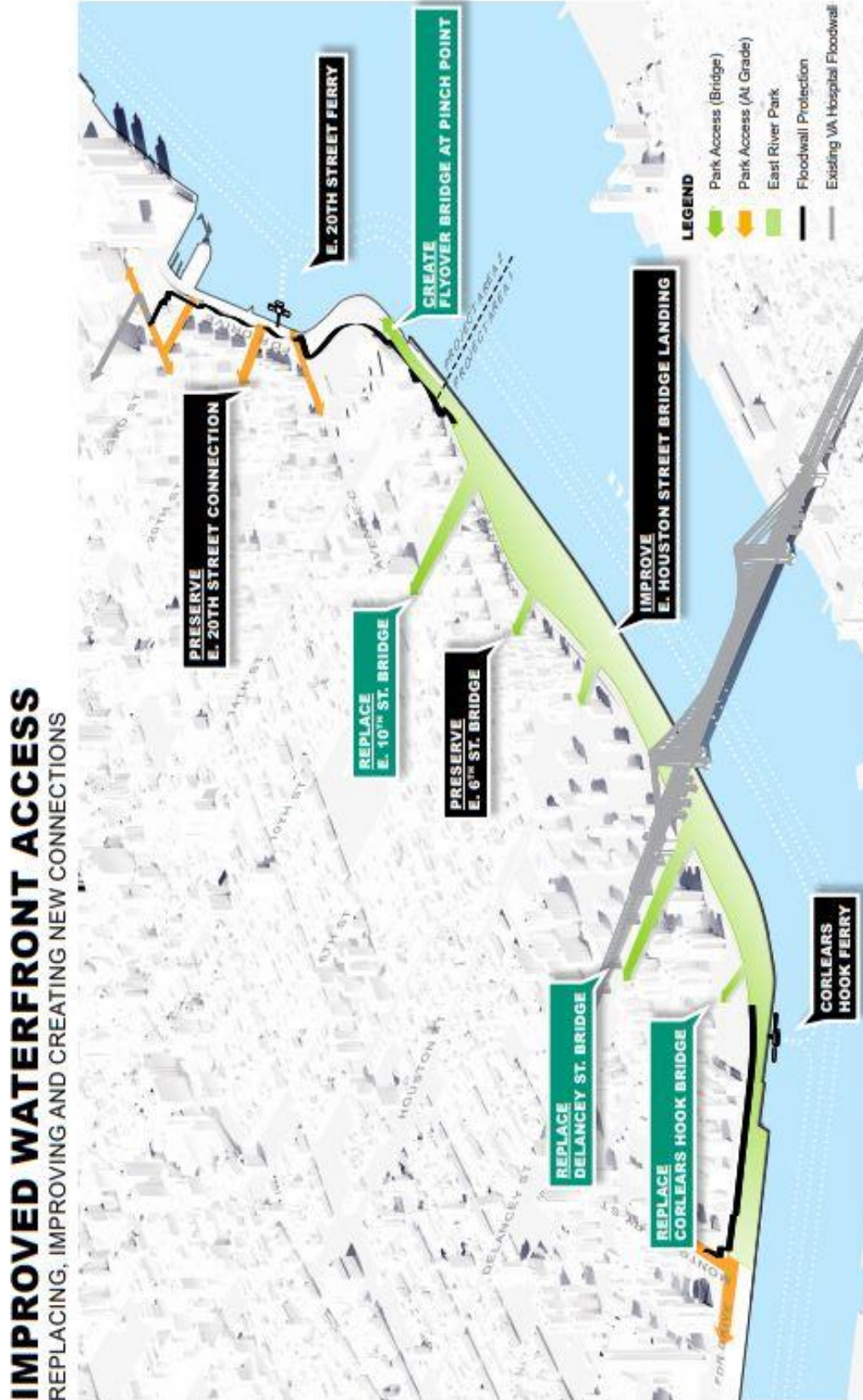
**NOTE: PRELIMINARY/IN-PROCESS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Appendix Map 3: Proposed Floodwall and Floodgates

**IMPROVED RESILIENCY FOR COMMUNITY**  
INTEGRATED FLOOD PROTECTION SYSTEM



Appendix Map 4: Proposed Waterfront Access Connections



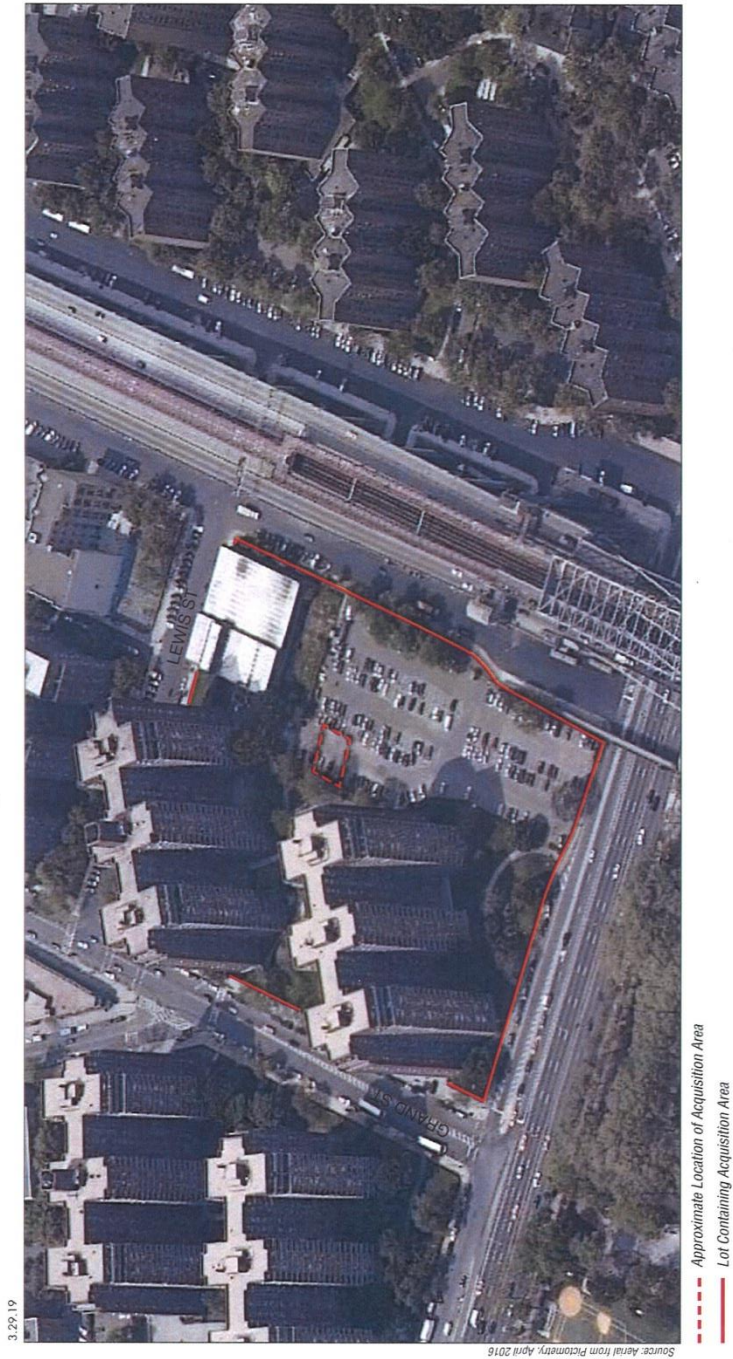
**Appendix Figure 1: Gouverneur Gardens Access Acquisition of Easement  
Gouverneur Gardens Housing Corporation, Manhattan Block 244, Lot 19 (CB3)**



Aerial View: Gouverneur Gardens  
Block 244, Lot 19  
Figure 1

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**

**Appendix Figure 2: East River Houses Drainage Acquisition of Easement  
East River Housing Corporation, Manhattan Block 321, Lot 1 (CB3)**



3.29.19

Source: Aerial from Pictometry, April 2016

Aerial View: East River Housing Corp  
Block 321, Lot 1  
Figure 2

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**



**Appendix Figure 3: NYCHA Baruch Houses Drainage Acquisition of Easement  
New York City Housing Authority (Baruch Houses), Manhattan Block 323, Lot 1 (CB3)**



Aerial View: Baruch Houses  
Block 323, Lot 1  
Figure 3

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**

**Appendix Figure 4: NYCHA Riis Houses Access Acquisition of Easement  
New York City Housing Authority (Jacob Riis Houses), Manhattan Block 367, Lot 1 (CB3)**



Aerial View: Riis Houses  
Block 367, Lot 1  
Figure 4

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**

**Appendix Figure 5: Con Edison Power Station Acquisition of Easement  
Con Edison, Manhattan Block 988, Lot 1 (CB6)**

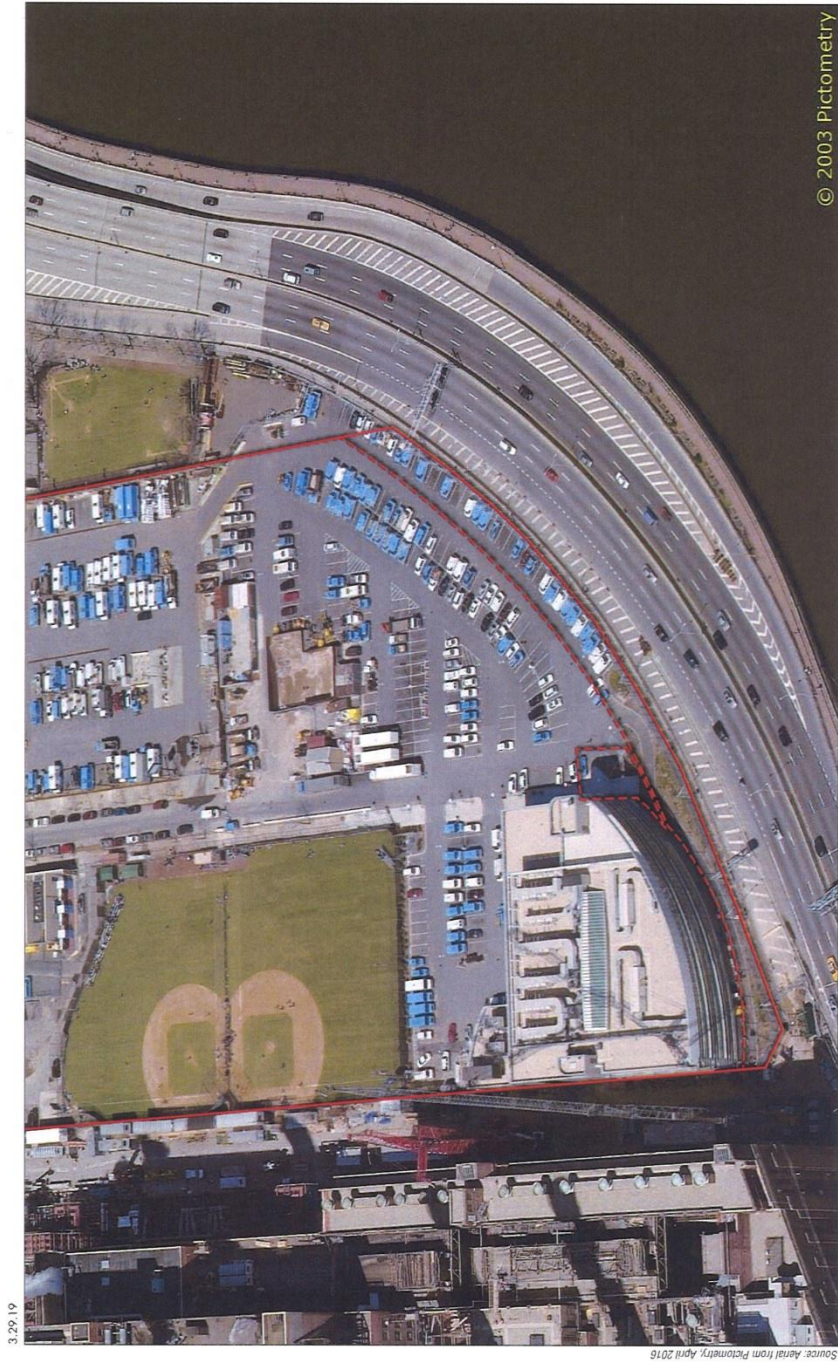
3.22.19



--- Approximate Location of Acquisition Area  
— Lot Containing Acquisition Area

Aerial View: Con Edison Power Station  
Block 988, Lot 1  
Figure 5

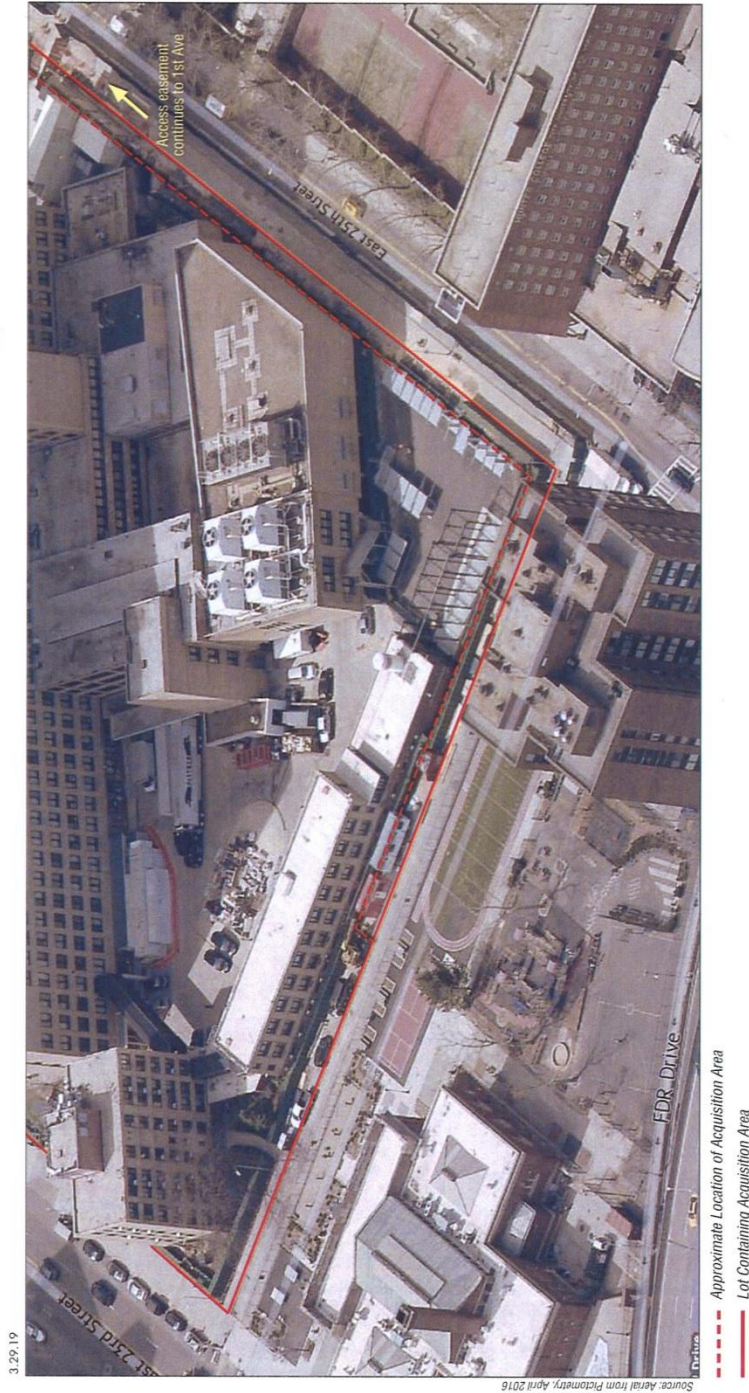
**Appendix Figure 6: Con Edison Office and Parking Lot Acquisition of Easement  
Con Edison, Manhattan Block 990, Lot 1 (CB6)**



Aerial View: Con Edison Office and Parking Lot  
Block 990, Lot 1  
Figure 6

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**

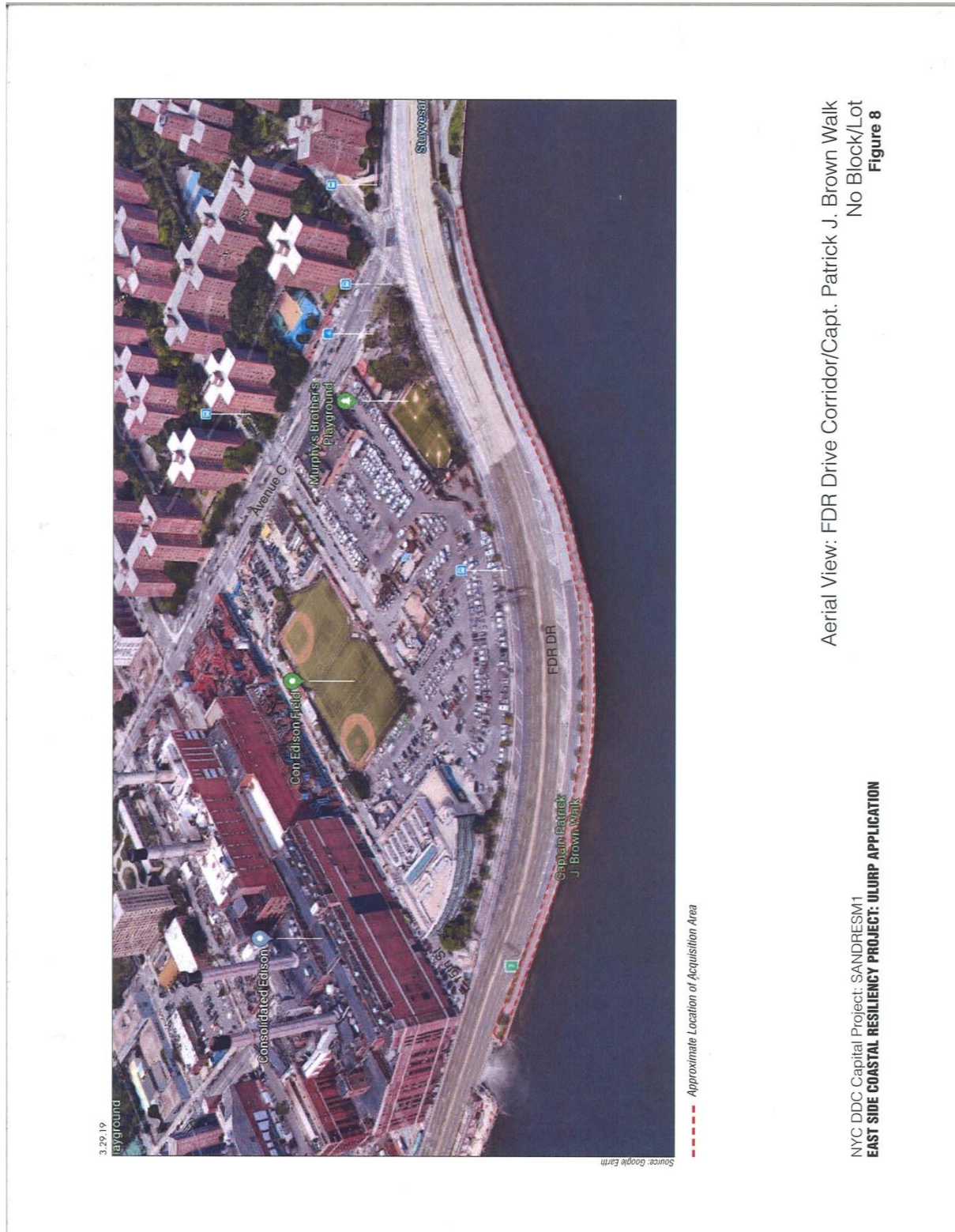
Appendix Figure 7: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center Acquisition of Easement | Manhattan Block 955, Lot 5 (CB6)



Aerial View: VA Hospital  
Block 955, Lot 5  
Figure 7

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**

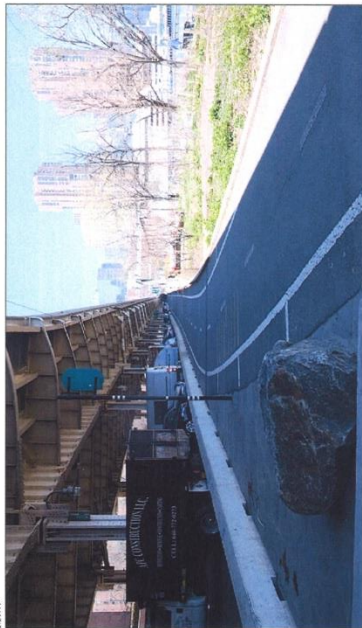
**Appendix Figure 8: Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk Acquisition of Easement  
New York State Department of Transportation, portion of the mapped FDR Drive (CB6)**



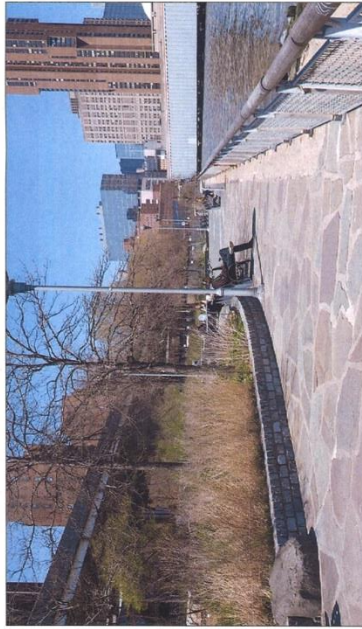
Aerial View: FDR Drive Corridor/Capt. Patrick J. Brown Walk  
No Block/Lot  
Figure 8

NYC DDC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
**EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULURP APPLICATION**

**Appendix Figure 9:**  
**Photographs of Stuyvesant Cove Park (Mapped “Marginal Street, Wharf, or Place”)**  
Re: Text Amendment to the Zoning Resolution (N190356ZRM)



Stuyvesant Cove Park bikeway, view north



Stuyvesant Cove Park esplanade, view north



Northern end of Stuyvesant Cove Park, view north



Photograph Key Map

Photographs:  
Stuyvesant Cove Park  
Figure 9

Photographs Taken on April 23, 2018

NYC DDIC Capital Project: SANDRESM1  
EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT: ULIRP APPLICATION

Prepared by AKRF