

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Rahway River Basin, New Jersey Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study**

**by Agency: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

**Locations: NJ**

**Date Submitted: 09/09/2015**

**Confirmation Number: c03751ec-0be4-4c45-8484-d55088400e87**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
NJ Rahway letter of support.pdf	09/09/2015
NJ Rahway letter of support.pdf	09/09/2015
NJDEP letter of support.pdf	09/09/2015
NJ Rahway letter of support.pdf	09/09/2015

*2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.*

Sponsor	Letter of Support
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Primary)	NJDEP supports the Rahway River Basin, New Jersey Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study
Local support	Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control letter in support representing Millburn, Maplewood, Union, Springfield, Kenilworth, Cranford, and Rahway, and Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

*3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.*

Feasibility Study

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

The purpose of the proposed project is to prevent/mitigate future losses from flooding in the basin, which have caused extensive damages to property, including over \$100M in damages in 2011. Preventing loss of life/property from flooding is consistent with USACE mission; advancing the project will yield tremendous benefits in both regards.

To address significant flooding in the Rahway River Basin, Congress funded USACE to conduct a reconnaissance study. In July 1999, USACE issued a favorable reconnaissance report recommending a feasibility study to develop flood risk management alternatives in the Basin. NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) concurred with the USACE reconnaissance study recommendations and signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement on March 14, 2002 for the study. Initial screening conducted in 2006 determined that Cranford and City of Rahway (Robinson's Branch) may have the greatest potential for Federal Interest.

In 2011, Hurricane Irene caused over \$100M of damages in the basin, renewing study focus and interest in Congressional funding. Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control, consisting of the Mayors of 7 of the affected communities, has participated and cooperatively worked towards solutions.

9 alternatives were evaluated including structural (levee, floodwalls, channel improvement, and detention basin improvements) and non-structures (dry and wet flood proofing, elevation and buyouts) to reduce the likelihood of/impact from flooding. The benefit to cost analysis was completed in 2014. \$1M in funding has been allocated/is pending in the FY15/FY16 USACE work plans. The Rahway River Basin, NJ Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study has a March 2016 timetable for a Tentatively Selected Alternative and would then be on track for a Chief's Report to Congress thereafter. Authorization for construction (all activities beyond the investigation phase) is needed to advance the project further after a Chief's report is issued.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
<b>Study</b>	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$49,800,000	\$26,800,000	\$76,600,000

Explanation (if necessary)

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

The Rahway River Basin, New Jersey Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study alternatives that remain to refined as the tentatively selected plan have a BCR ratio that exceeds 1.00 times. The estimated annual damages without the project are estimated to be \$9,459,920 but final revisions to the cost estimates are still ongoing.

Cranford had 1600 homes that were damaged by Hurricane Irene and a significant number will be protected from the worst effects of a future storm.

**7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

The Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control, is an organization made up of the Mayors representing the affected communities of Millburn, Union, Maplewood, Springfield, Kenilworth, Cranford and Rahway. The Town of Garwood too has expressed support.

Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders have expressed its support for the Rahway River Flood Mitigation plan.

The City of Orange and the Essex County Executive have been cooperative in its support for the utilization of the Orange Reservoir for temporary storage prior to major storms.

**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

**NJ Rahway letter of support.pdf**

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Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control

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Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick

Commanding General and Chief of Engineers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

441 G Street, NW

Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Bostick:

On behalf of the Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control, we are pleased to submit these comments as part of the Section 7001 process strongly supporting our ongoing work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and other local stakeholders to mitigate flooding along the Rahway River Basin. This submission is pursuant to the May 26, 2015 notice in the Federal Register by USACE on "Proposals by Non-Federal Interests for Feasibility Studies and for Modifications to an Authorized Water Resources Development Project, or Feasibility Study for Inclusion in the Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development."

As you may be aware, this project is currently under investigation by the USACE and we are working diligently and collaboratively towards a Tentatively Selected Plan and a Chief's Report. We are pleased with the partnership that we have developed with NJDEP and the USACE's New York District Office and are encouraged by the work we have completed to date on the ongoing feasibility study.

The significant and adverse effects of flooding in the region have made this project a top-priority for all of our communities and require a federal-state-local partnership to address a challenge of this scope and magnitude. The Rahway River Basin has a drainage area of approximately 82 square miles and encompasses Essex, Union, and Middlesex counties. Several of the towns along the river have experienced numerous floods over the decades and most recently Tropical Storm Floyd in September 1999, the April 2007 Nor'easter, and Hurricane Irene in August 2011 have caused significant damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure. It is estimated that Hurricane Irene alone caused an estimated \$100 million in damages.

The Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control was formed in October 2011 to keep the region's mayors engaged to work with state and federal officials to arrive at solutions to the flooding, and has been the principal point of contact for the USACE during the ongoing feasibility study. The

participating communities have been: Millburn, Springfield, Maplewood, Union, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Winfield, Orange and Westfield.

While the USACE New York District Office continues to narrow its assessment of nine alternatives, all of which have our full support, the final project will contain some combination of more storage upstream, downstream channel improvements and storage basins. We are pleased that the project also enjoys the strong support of the relevant Members of our Congressional Delegation, including Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., Congressman Leonard Lance, Senator Cory Booker and Senator Robert Menendez.

We are grateful for the opportunity to endorse the Section 7001 proposal being submitted by NJDEP for your consideration and look forward to continuing to work with the USACE to expedite the ongoing feasibility study as much as possible in order to protect the lives and property of our shared constituency.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Robert Tillotson, Millburn**

**Mayor , Manuel Figueirido, Union**

**Mayor , David Barnett, Springfield**

**Mayor Andis Kalnins, Cranford**

**Mayor Victor DeLuca, Maplewood**

**Mayor, Fred Pugliese, Kenilworth**

**Mayor Samson Steinman , Rahway**

**Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq, Orange**

# Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

**NJDEP letter of support.pdf**



*State of New Jersey*

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION  
BUREAU OF DAM SAFETY & FLOOD CONTROL  
Mail Code 501-01A

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
Telephone: 609-984-0859 Fax: 609-984-1908

September 9, 2015

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Bostick:

On behalf of the NJDEP, we are pleased to submit these comments as part of the Section 7001 process strongly supporting our ongoing work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and other local stakeholders to mitigate flooding along the Rahway River Basin. This submission is pursuant to the May 26, 2015 notice in the Federal Register by USACE on "Proposals by Non-Federal Interests for Feasibility Studies and for Modifications to an Authorized Water Resources Development Project, or Feasibility Study for Inclusion in the Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development."

As you may be aware, this project is currently under investigation by the USACE and preparing a Tentatively Selected Plan and a Chief's Report. We are pleased with the partnership that we have developed USACE's New York District Office and are encouraged by the work we have completed to date on the ongoing feasibility study.

We are grateful for the opportunity to endorse the Section 7001 proposal being submitted by NJDEP for your consideration and look forward to continuing to work with the USACE to expedite the ongoing feasibility study as much as possible in order to protect the lives and property of our shared constituency.

If you should have any further questions, please contact me at 609-984-0859.

Sincerely,

John H. Moyle, P.E.  
Manager  
Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control