**Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment**

**Inland and Coastal Flood Resiliency Project; New Haven County, New Haven, CT**

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Wetlands), the National Historic Preservation Act, and Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides notice of its intent to provide funding to the City of New Haven, CT for the Inland and Coastal Flood Resiliency Project. Funding would be provided through FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program.

The project would mitigate inland flooding in Downtown New Haven by adding additional storm sewer capacity underneath the railyard. Coastal erosion along the Long Wharf shoreline would also be addressed with the addition of a living shoreline. The current drainage system is undersized and often backflows during storm events. Intense wave action and higher tides have increased coastal erosion along Long Wharf, making inland and underground infrastructure vulnerable to flooding. Other benefits of the project include water quality improvement, habitat enhancement, and improvement to public health and safety.

Approximately 3,200-ft. of new 10-ft. diameter stormwater pipe would be installed from north of West Water Street (under the parking lot adjacent to the street) to an outfall location in New Haven Harbor. The pipe would be installed 30-40 feet belowground using microtunneling technology. Three shafts would be dug to facilitate installation. At the outfall, tide gates and a 67-ft. by 51-ft. riprap pad would be installed. A 3,400-ft. long by 100-ft. wide fringe marsh living shoreline would be constructed along Long Wharf Park, from Long Wharf Park Pier to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. Work would include removal of invasive species, creation of marsh migration zone and narrow low marsh, and installation of wetland sills.

As required by NEPA and federal regulations, FEMA evaluated the proposed project, a ‘No Action’ alternative, and several other options. Alternatives dismissed included: 1) diverting stormwater to other sewer sheds and waterbodies, 2) increasing subsurface stormwater storage systems, and 3) enhancing the shoreline revetment system. These alternatives, as well as the ‘No Action,’ were dismissed as being cost-prohibitive and/or did not provide the scale or range of benefits as compared to the selected project.

The Draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed electronically at https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository and on the City of New Haven’s website at https://www.newhavenct.gov/government/departments-divisions/engineering/projects. It can also be viewed in hard copy at the City of New Haven’s Engineering Department, 200 Orange St, Room 503.

The comment period for this Draft EA will end 15 days from the date of the legal notice publication, or distribution of print copies, whichever is later. Comments can be emailed to eric.kuns@fema.dhs.gov and karen.vale@fema.dhs.gov, or mailed to Eric Kuns, FEMA R1, 220 Binney St., Cambridge, MA 02142. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final Environmental Assessment and in the FONSI.