

Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for Broad Channel
Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps Relocation
Broad Channel, Queens County, New York
4085-DR-NY**

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, as sub-grantee, for the construction of a new two-story, approximately 10,000 square foot fire station located in the northeastern section of Broad Channel in Queens on higher ground. The proposed project would be funded through the Public Assistance Program.

The Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD) would construct a new two-story, approximately 10,000 square foot fire station located in the northeastern section of Broad Channel in Queens on higher ground. The proposed project would restore the pre-storm capacity and function of the BCVFD and improve resiliency of critical services to the community from future storm and flood related disasters. The project would meet the Broad Channel Community's need to improve emergency response and community services by restoring the facility's services with an additional communications center that would allow the BCVFD to be optimal first responders during an emergency.

The project site is within a FEMA-designated flood zone, as shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 44 CFR Part 9, DHS-FEMA evaluated four practicable alternatives, including a No Action alternative and the proposed alternative; two alternatives (elevating the existing facility and building a floodwall around the facility) were dismissed. The proposed project is defined as a Critical Action pursuant to 44 CFR Part 9, which means that the minimum floodplain of concern is the 500-year Floodplain. DHS-FEMA concluded that relocation of the BCVFD was the Proposed Alternative. The new BCVFD firehouse and emergency response facility will have the first floor placed 36 inches above the maximum storm surge elevation, recorded on-site, from Hurricane Sandy.

In accordance with NEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment. The Draft EA summarizes the project's purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated with the EA.

The Draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from the following website location: <http://www.broadchannelvfd.org/FEMA>

The Draft EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following location:

Queens Library Broad Channel Branch
16-26 Cross Bay Boulevard
Broad Channel, NY 11693

Peninsula Public Library
92-25 Rockaway Beach Boulevard
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693

Seaside Public Library
116-15 Rockaway Beach Boulevard
Rockaway Beach, NY 11694

Queens Borough Hall
120-55 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

The comment period will end on 30 days from the date of this legal notice publication in the New York Post or the final posting of EA, whichever comes later. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or emailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: FEMA NY Sandy Recovery Office, Attn: EHP-Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department Relocation EA Comments, 118-35 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, NY 11375 or via email at FEMA-4085-Comment@fema.dhs.gov.