



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$19 MILLION IN STORM RESILIENCY PROJECTS TO BEGIN THIS SPRING ON LONG ISLAND

Projects Selected by Local Community Reconstruction Committees Will Allow Streetlights in Long Island Communities to Remain Operational During Major Power Outages, Raise Potable Water Supply, Stabilize Shorelines, and Enhance Drainage Systems

(January 27, 2020) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced that \$19 million in projects on Long Island are set to begin this spring to help flood-prone communities plan and prepare for future extreme weather events. The five projects were identified by NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee members as priorities for their neighborhoods and are among hundreds across the State funded by GOSR's NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program.

"As New York State continues to evolve for the challenges of the 21st Century, it must implement a range of strategies to specifically combat the impacts of climate change, rising seas and increasingly destructive weather," **said GOSR's Executive Director of Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs, Alana Agosto**. "Working with storm-affected localities across the State, the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program is facilitating community-specific improvements that will protect life and property for many years to come. Thank you to our local partners, who are helping to make these critical efforts possible."

Governor Cuomo established the NYRCR Program in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy, which one-by-one stalled over the New York region between 2011 and 2012. Recognizing that New Yorkers are often the true experts on the needs and assets of their own communities, the NYRCR Program was created to balance top-down strategies with bottom-up solutions, while empowering local residents and business owners in the recovery and resiliency process.

The projects announced today for Nassau County are:

North Shore Bulkheading Project – City of Long Beach - \$14,500,000: This project will repair and improve existing bulkheads to better protect the City of Long Beach from future storms. During Superstorm Sandy, as water came from the Atlantic Ocean on one side of the barrier island, it was met by storm inundation from the bayfront. The cumulative effects were devastating. As part of this project, existing bulkheads will be brought to an overall uniform

height designed for storm protection, including on the eastside of the Doyle Street (Sarazen) and Heron (Ouimet) Street Canals and all street ends abutting Reynolds Channel west of New York. The bulkhead located on West Bay Drive between Magnolia and Washington Blvd. will remain, however, the existing cap will be removed and replaced atop the steel bulkhead. The existing rail will be reinstalled on the new cap and the existing steel bulkhead will be scraped, primed, and coated. Through its enhancements and additions, the project will enable the city to protect its shores from future major weather events and reduce risk for its residents.

Southern Nassau Lifeline Corridor – Traffic Signals and Street Lighting - \$2,050,000: Working with the Town of Hempstead to retrofit streetlights and with Nassau County to install transfer switches on traffic signal poles, this initiative will safeguard key evacuation routes in the communities of Baldwin, Bellmore, Freeport, Massapequa, Merrick, Seaford and Wantagh. The upgrades will allow lights and traffic signals to remain operational in the event of a power outage. During Superstorm Sandy, widespread outages affected several Nassau County roadways leaving communities in disarray and in danger on the roads.

The Suffolk County awards announced today are:

Araca Road (Dalton Point) Shoreline Stabilization, Babylon - \$1,245,500: During the NYCR Planning process, members of the program's Babylon committee voiced their concerns over the vulnerability of the town's shoreline at the terminus of Araca Road, which had experienced repeated instances of flooding. This project will address infrastructure needs by replacing existing bulkheads and installing new bulkheads along waterfront areas. American Cape Beach Grass will be planted behind the sections of the bulkhead to the east and west sides of Araca Road.

Penataquit Village Resiliency Improvements, Bay Shore - \$600,000: This project will implement a series of green infrastructure improvements at Penataquit Village, a town of Islip Housing Authority development. Through drainage improvements, the effort will help filter pollutants and reduce flooding, allowing Penataquit Village residents to access evacuation routes, while preserving access into the development for first responders.

Improvements to Potable Water and Fire Protection System – Gilgo and West Gilgo - \$690,700: During Superstorm Sandy, the West Gilgo potable water supply system was in danger of being submerged by flood waters and nearly failed due to the water rising to the existing height of the wellheads and electrical controls. This project will elevate the top of a wellhead and the critical supporting infrastructure above Base Flood Elevation allowing drinking water to continue to reach residences in the surrounding area in the case of major storm events. This project will also improve fire protection within the Gilgo community to minimize the distance between fire wells and residential structures in the event of emergencies. During Superstorm Sandy, residents in the community were endangered by potential fire risks from electrical components permeated by flooding waters. This project will mitigate these hazards by

providing improved access to water for fire suppressing operations allowing the community and the Babylon Fire Department to safely and effectively contain and put out possible fires in case of weather events.

"In light of severe weather that Long Island has faced and to better prepare for future storms, it's important we make substantial investments to ensure our coastal communities are more resilient," **said Senator Todd Kaminsky**. "I'm proud to work with Governor Cuomo and GOSR to deliver real solutions to help protect our shorelines."

"As the destruction caused by Superstorm Sandy looms in our past, it is essential that we continue to make improvements to storm resiliency looking forward," **said Senator John Brooks**. "These projects are a much-needed investment in our preparedness for whatever the future might hold. I thank Governor Cuomo for making these funds available for projects that ultimately protect the lives and wellbeing of Long Island homeowners."

"I am extremely pleased and gratified to know that \$2,536,200 worth of NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Projects will begin this spring in communities located in my Senate District," **said Senator Phil Boyle**. "The NYRCR Committees worked long and hard to identify critically important mitigation projects in their respective areas who suffered significant damages during Superstorm Sandy. The identified projects will greatly help to mitigate future hazards and provide a greater level of safety for thousands of my impacted constituents. I thank Governor Cuomo and the entire NY Rising Team for their steadfast commitment to insure that the NYRCR projects proceeded."

"So many communities are still being devastated by floods, whether it be from storms or high tides," **said Assemblymember Missy Miller**. "Rather than investing money into rebuilding each year, we need to be proactive and take steps to make our communities more resilient. I'm very happy to hear that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery will be allocating \$19 million to ensure the communities that are impacted most by floods, such as Long Beach, are better prepared to face future disasters."

"Retrofitting streetlights in order to ensure that all lights and traffic signals are fully operational in the event of a power outage is incredibly important being that our next Superstorm is just around the corner," **said Assemblymember Judy Griffin, who serves on the New York State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee**. "This is a big step forward in improving our storm response on Long Island to alleviate potential dangers on our roads and permit safe evacuation when necessary. I thank Governor Cuomo for securing this important funding."

"The devastating impacts of Superstorm Sandy are still being felt by homeowners and our communities as a whole," **said Assemblymember Mike LiPetri**. "It is imperative that we continue to make the necessary investments to ensure the long term sustainability of our coastal communities. On behalf of the residents of the South Shore of Long Island, we

appreciate the additional support being provided here today and welcome these much needed shoreline stabilization projects to our communities.”

“This plan addresses critical improvements in Nassau County to protect the city of Long Beach from a repeat of what happened during Superstorm Sandy,” **said Assemblymember David McDonough.** “Also, traffic signal and street light improvements along the South Shore are essential to improving the safety of residents in the event of an evacuation during future storms.”

“Nassau County residents all along the South Shore are looking forward to these critical projects that will further harden electric infrastructure and fortify shorelines that power and protect our communities,” **said Nassau County Executive Laura Curran.** “I thank our New York State partners, especially Governor Cuomo, for helping Long Island build stronger, safer and smarter.”

“In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, we have worked tirelessly with all of our partners to ensure we have the tools and infrastructure in place to withstand these extreme weather events,” **said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.** “I want to thank the Governor for his continued commitment to rebuilding a stronger Long Island and this latest multi-million dollar investment will further strengthen our coastline and protect our communities against flooding.”

“I thank Governor Cuomo and the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery for their continued commitment to helping protect our vulnerable shoreline communities,” **said Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer.** “With this investment through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, these areas will be better prepared, protected and able to withstand the harsh effects of future storms.”

“On behalf of the residents of the Town of Hempstead, I’d like to thank the Governor for all of his efforts to secure funding to enhance resiliency in our communities that were devastated by Superstorm Sandy,” **said Town of Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin.** “By safeguarding our roadways, we’re protecting our neighborhoods in the event of an emergency that results in the loss of power.”

“We are most grateful to Governor Cuomo for providing this integral funding to Penatquait Village in Bay Shore,” **said Town of Islip Supervisor Angie Carpenter.** “This funding will ensure the safety of the community’s residents by providing evacuation and access routes to First Responders, while also preserving the environment with state-of-the-art drainage, filtration and preventative flooding measures.”

NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Program

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GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county and non-profit partners to bring locally-devised proposals to fruition.

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF \$3.5 MILLION REFUSE GARAGE RELOCATION PROJECT IN TOWN OF UNION

Project Will Ensure Critical Municipal Facility Will Operate Consistently and Smoothly During Storm Events

February 13, 2020 — The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery today announced the completion of a \$3.5 million project to relocate the Town of Union's refuse garage to a site outside of the floodplain, thereby increasing the community's resiliency in the face of climate change and increasingly frequent storms. The new 12,500-square foot facility, constructed on a town-owned parcel at 2900 Wayne Street, will provide the town with a more effective and reliable space to house staff, store critical equipment and stage supplies that will enhance the efficiency of future recoveries.

“GOSR is thrilled to cut the ribbon on the town of Union’s new refuse garage, which will promote continuity in essential government operations, while expediting the pace of future emergency response,” **said Alana Agosto, Executive Director of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs at the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery.** “Using the first-hand experiences of the town to inform strategic resiliency upgrades, this important NY Rising Community Reconstruction project marks the start of a new chapter for the town of Union.”

In August and September of 2011, the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused significant damage to homes, roads and infrastructure throughout Broome County. Tropical Storm Lee unleashed approximately 12 inches of rain, causing the Susquehanna River and other larger tributaries, streams and creeks to crest four feet higher than the previous record.

The original town garage — previously located at 627 Scarbrough Drive —was flooded by Tropical Storm Lee, causing interruptions to solid waste services and hindering immediate response and recovery. Employees were unable to access the original garage building, limiting the town’s ability to dispense immediate aid.

In response, the new facility has been equipped with a standby generator. All discharged waste water from the facility will be passed through an oil/water separator prior to entering the municipal sewer system. Stormwater infiltration/retention practices were constructed on-site with each practice measuring 3,000-4,000 square-feet in size.

A driveway, leading to the parking lot adjacent to the garage, was also constructed— now providing adequate space for the facility to function as an assembly area for refuse trucks and employees. These comprehensive enhancements will enable service providers to more seamlessly deploy personnel for a faster and more efficient cleanup.

GOSR contributed \$2.6 million to the project, with the Town of Union providing the rest.

“The town is very appreciative to have this project completed,” **said Town of Union Supervisor Richard Materese**. “This project will benefit our residents and refuse workers. It allows us to leave our former building which has flooded many times particularly in 2011, where the Susquehanna rose four feet over its limit causing great devastation to many parts of the town. Our equipment will be safer and more able to respond in times of crisis. We would like to thank all parties that came together to complete this project, including DPW Commissioner, Lou Caforio, our planning department led by Sara Zibulsky-Pier and Paul Nelson and New York State Storm Recovery for their partnership on this project— without whom we would not have been able to accomplish this goal.”

“This new facility makes the Town of Union better prepared for future weather events and more efficient in its day-to-day operations,” **said Assemblymember Donna Lupardo**. “The Town had some of the hardest hit neighborhoods during Tropical Storm Lee, but also some of the most resilient residents; I appreciate the Governor’s commitment to ensuring that we have the resources needed for future recovery efforts.”

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW \$7 MILLION CONSOLIDATED FIRE STATION IN VILLAGE OF WATERFORD

Project Will Construct More Resilient 15,150-Square Foot Facility to Support Emergency Efforts to Respond During Future Storm Events

February 14, 2020— The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery today broke ground on a \$7 million project to construct a new Consolidated Fire Station Project in the Village of Waterford. Once constructed, the larger and more-resilient facility will consolidate the village's three firehouses and serve as a centralized command post during future emergencies, while maximizing the efficiency of department operations on a more routine basis. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Village of Waterford.

“Once complete, the Consolidated Fire Station will serve as a critical lifeline for those who live and work in the village, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year,” **said Alana Agosto, Executive Director of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs at the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery.** “Using the experiences of local fire departments to inform specific resiliency strategies, this important NY Rising Community Reconstruction project will support New York’s dedicated first responders at moments when it matters most.”

During Hurricane Irene in August 2011, the Mohawk River rose to one of the highest levels recorded in the last 100 years. More than 90 homes were damaged by the storm, which greatly affected a significant portion of the Village of Waterford’s 2,000 residents. Although none of the existing fire stations— all of which are within a quarter-mile of each other— were flooded, two of the three are located in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, placing them at continued risk. Additionally, the physical separation between the three buildings complicated the delivery, and slowed the pace, of emergency services.

The consolidation of the three distinct buildings into one facility will streamline department response while additionally eliminating the need for costly custom-built fire apparatuses, which were previously required due to the conditions and limitations of the buildings.

Being built on land previously used as a New York State Department of Transportation and Canal Corporation maintenance facility, the new Consolidated Fire Station will accommodate modern equipment and provide a secure facility for storage. The center will also have the

capacity to serve as a temporary emergency shelter for residents during a flood or other major event.

With 15,150 square-feet, the consolidated facility will feature four double deep equipment bays, a command center, a first responder staging area, office space, training and exercise rooms, on-site kitchen and laundry, restrooms and a bunk room.

The Village of Waterford bonded for \$1.8 million, with GOSR contributing the remaining \$5.91 million to the project.

“We are thankful that the NY Rising Program has provided funding to enable the village to build this new firehouse,” **said Village of Waterford Mayor J. Bert Mahoney**. “It replaces our three present firehouses which were built in 1867, 1900 and 1963. We will now be able to buy modern fire equipment that does not have to be specially designed and built to fit in our present stations. This will enable the village to save funds while providing the best modern equipment for our firefighters.”

“The days of building our apparatus to fit our buildings, calling a station to send man power to different stations, keeping aging buildings up and running, will be over,” **said Waterford Fire Department Chief Donald Baldwin**. “We will be able to manage our resources, our manpower, equipment, and apparatus from one station we will be able to respond to alarms faster and more efficiently to save lives and property.”

“The construction of this new consolidated fire station shows the Village of Waterford’s commitment to improving public safety infrastructure,” **said Assemblymember John T. McDonald III**. “This has been a community involved process that I have participated in through the years and I commend the local officials and community volunteers who built consensus for this new location as well as bring all three districts under one roof to streamline delivery of services. Thank you to the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery for not only their assistance throughout this multi-year process but also the funding which makes this project a reality for the generations to follow.”

“Today is a great day for the Village of Waterford as this new Consolidated Fire Station facility will result in a streamlined departmental response in the event of a local emergency,” **said Senator Daphne Jordan**. “This \$7 million project will also provide temporary emergency shelter for Waterford families during the event of a flood or other major emergency. I congratulate the Village of Waterford on this ground-breaking, and thank the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, which successfully partnered with the Village in providing financing to bring this project to fruition.”

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