



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

NOV - 2 2008

Rochelle Trager Grossman, Mayor
Village of Hewlett Harbor
449 Pepperidge Road
Hewlett Harbor, New York 11557

Dear Mayor Grossman:

This is in response to a request by the Village of Hewlett Harbor, New York, for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for its Local Street Flood Mitigation Project.

The City is receiving Special Appropriation Act grant funding for the project, which involves minor rehabilitation and improvement of various portions of the Village's existing roadways and drainage systems to alleviate tidal flooding.

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address. Please note that this CATEX will be posted on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan J. Steinberg".

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Antonio Oliverio, Chairperson
Storm Drain/Flood Mitigation Committee

ENCLOSURE

Village of Hewlett Harbor Nassau County, New York Local Street Flood Mitigation Plan Special Appropriation Act Grant Project

Background

The Village of Hewlett Harbor is a coastal community with existing storm water drains. However, Village roadways are subject to flooding during seasonal high tides, tides associated with coastal storms, and intense rainfall in conjunction with normal high tides. Flooding occurs at the low points on the roadway system, because the storm drainage piping and roadway collection structures at these locations cannot handle the tidal influx.

Flooding subsides after the tide goes out and/or the storm subsides. During flooding, however, vehicular traffic is severely affected. Access to residents by emergency vehicles is restricted, and response times are longer due to the re-routing that is required.

Proposed Action

The proposed project is intended to address the locations in the Village that flood most frequently. It utilizes a combination of road raising, tide valve installation, and new drainage facilities to alleviate flooding in these areas. The project includes the following components:

1. Albon Road - Flooding occurs at existing stormwater catch basins where the roadway elevation is only +4.5 feet. The proposed project would raise the roadway surface to an elevation of +7.0 feet for a distance of 400 linear feet.
2. Heather Lane - The proposed project would replace the non-functional collapsed and plugged stormwater drain pipe that serves this area with a new 24" diameter stormwater pipe connected to the existing drain in Pepperidge Road.
3. Pepperidge Road west of Azure Place - The proposed project would demolish the existing catch basins, install four new catch basins, install a tide valve and chamber on the existing 24" diameter storm drain, and raise the elevation of approximately 200 feet of roadway by up to 1.1 feet.
4. Intersection of Pepperidge Road and Auerbach Ave. - The proposed project would install a tide valve and chamber at this location, to prevent tidal water from backing up onto this intersection.

All of the project's components will be installed in areas that were previously disturbed by construction of roads, water lines, storm sewers, and other utilities.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, "No Action" was considered. This alternative would result in continued frequent flooding of the subject areas during high tides and storm events, restricting emergency vehicle access and resulting in increased response times. Consequently, "No Action" is not a viable option.

Criteria for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving “minor rehabilitation of existing facilities,” and “actions which are solely directed toward...construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.”

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.505(c)(1), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.