FEMA, New York State and New York City's Innovative Sandy Recovery Projects Reach $10B

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New York, N.Y. – New York will gain further ground on Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts with the addition of 48 projects the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved for funding in coordination with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and New York City (NYC). These new projects expand FEMA Region II's existing portfolio of Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (PAAP) New York Sandy projects to 129, increasing the total portfolio value to more than $10 billion.

Funding under FEMA's PAAP Pilot Program was authorized through the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 and is based on capped, estimated fixed-cost grants agreed upon by FEMA, the Grantee and Applicants. The result of this innovative model for facilitating Public Assistance is a streamlined recovery process for all stakeholders, enabling project formulation to focus on unified, effective, and resilient solutions that better serve affected communities in the long term.

On October 1, FEMA Region II Administrator Thomas Von Essen signed the final batch of approvals for PAAP projects in New York. Forty of the 48 new Sandy recovery PAAP projects are for NYC agencies, including the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the New York Police Department (NYPD), with the largest share of funding going toward restoring City of New York Parks Department (DPR) facilities.

“This funding will help New York continue its Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts and rebuild facilities to lessen the impacts of severe storms and flooding,” said Roger L. Parrino, Sr., Commissioner of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. “I want to thank FEMA for its ongoing support to help New York continue its rebuilding process.”

"The additional FEMA funding announced today will help to rebuild parks in all five boroughs that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy," said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. "We're very grateful to our partners in the Federal Government for this support, and we are committed to building these facilities stronger and better protected against future storms."

Examples of these projects include a $29.4 million award to support the repair and replacement of piers, docks and administrative facilities at the 79th St. Boat Basin Marina; $18.2 million for the World’s Fair Pavilion, an iconic landmark that sustained extensive electrical damage affecting the facility’s concessions and boathouse; and $8.9 million for the Red Hook Recreation Center, where floodwaters inundated the main facility and supporting structures, including the filter house, comfort station, swimming pool, and underground tunnel.

FEMA’s partnership with NYS and NYC has served as a valuable mechanism for maximizing federal assistance to address recovery needs since the first pilot project was approved at the end of 2013. “As the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy was recently commemorated, we’re looking back and seeing how critical the pilot program has been to not only building back New York infrastructure, but also building and cultivating lasting relationships with the State and City,” said Von Essen.

Von Essen’s official signoff on the final batch of projects this month is a testament to the history of successful collaboration between the agencies, and their commitment to the recovery of the New York communities they serve.

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