

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment
Lawrence High School Flood Mitigation
Cedarhurst, Nassau County, New York
FEMA-4085-DR-NY

Notification is hereby given to the public of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency's (DHS-FEMA) intent to provide Federal financial assistance to New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES), as Recipient, and Lawrence Union Free School District, as Subrecipient, to address the tidal surges and flooding damages Lawrence High School (LHS) experienced during Hurricane Sandy; and improve the resiliency of the high school to withstand future flooding and coastal storms.

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused significant damages to New York State. President Barack H. Obama declared Hurricane Sandy a major disaster on October 30, 2012 (FEMA 4085-DR-NY). This declaration made federal disaster assistance available to affected communities and eligible nonprofit organizations in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act; 42 U.S.C. 5172), as amended.

The proposed action at LHS will include the construction of a landward concrete subgrade steel sheet pile perimeter seawall and three pumping stations with stone dissipation aprons. The seawall will be one-foot above the 0.2% (or 500-year) base flood elevation surrounding the entirety of the peninsular school campus. Three passive flood barriers will be located at the LHS entrance driveways and will be closed during flood events. The entire system has been designed to collect stormwater from the property and slowly release it into the adjacent waters via subsurface chambers. If that capacity is exceeded, the underground pumping stations will collect and release the overflow. Vegetated riprap splash pads are proposed at the three outfall locations to prevent erosion in the adjacent waterways. Additionally, tidal wetlands restoration is proposed within the project site.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the EA. The EA is available for public comment (contact information below.) The EA can be viewed in hard copy at Peninsula Public Library 280 Central Avenue, Lawrence, NY 11559. The EA will also be available on the Lawrence Union Free School District website as well as FEMA's website:

<<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>>.

The comment period will end 30 days after the date of this legal notice publication in the *Long Island Herald: Five Towns*. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or e-mailed to the contact information 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: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2, Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1802, New York, NY 10278, or via email at FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov.