



RARITAN BAY AND SANDY HOOK BAY, HIGHLANDS, NJ

Flood Risk Management Study

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

DESCRIPTION

The Highlands study area, about .7 square miles in extent, is located at the eastern limit of the overall Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay study area and is bordered to the north by Sandy Hook Bay, to the west by the corporate limits of Atlantic Highlands, and to the east by the Shrewsbury River and Route 36 bridge. The Borough of Highlands is located in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Highlands is generally about 2,000 feet wide, and its topography is flat for about 1,500 feet onshore from the bay, after which the ground rises rapidly to an elevation of 240 feet NGVD. This is a fully developed community with most year-round residences and commercial establishments located on the low-lying area along the bay. Highlands has a history of devastating flood damages. Approximately 880 residential, trailer home, apartment, and commercial structures are subject to severe flooding with approximately 670 located below 8 feet NGVD. Many low-lying roadways are flooded during severe storm events, cutting off access to large portions of Highlands. This area was devastated by Superstorm Sandy.

AUTHORIZATION:

The current study is authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, U.S. House of Representatives, adopted August 1, 1990.

STATUS:

In response to the flooding from back to back December 1992 Nor'easters, Congress funded the Corps to conduct a reconnaissance study of the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay Communities. In March 1993, the Corps issued a favorable Reconnaissance Study and in May 2000 issued a favorable Pre-Feasibility Report recommending that a feasibility study be conducted. The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection concurred with the Corps recommendations and signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) on August 1, 2001 to cost share the feasibility study. Work completed to date on the feasibility report includes a topographic survey and mapping, initial baseline studies, a structure inventory, and development of an existing conditions hydrology and hydraulics model. Work ongoing includes screening of alternatives, plan formulation and environmental scoping efforts. Expect to take geological borings this winter.

CONTACT:

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: Congressional Districts: NJ-06