



JULY 2018 | ISSUE NO. 3

SURGE WATCH



A Note From the Chairman

So what are the key issues surrounding human life & safety, infrastructure protection, oceanography, meteorology, climate change, environmental health, marine ecology and fisheries, social justice issues, engineering, permitting, design, construction, funding and economics of a regional storm surge barrier system? A

system designed to not just reduce the risk, but to actually protect the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey for at least the next 100 years?

That is the task the Metropolitan NY-NJ Storm Surge Working Group has set itself. We build on the experiences of the great European cities, the communities of Stamford CT, Providence RI, New Bedford MA and New Orleans LA. The SSWG brings together the expertise of estuarine and coastal marine scientists, engineers, marine ecologists, former and current elected officials and commissioners, government professionals, academics, media experts, research students, attorneys and community advocates.

We promote a responsible path forward investigating all possibilities, the pros and cons of effective and affordable regional solutions in order to save the region and nation from another catastrophic Sandy-scale flooding disaster.

We believe that only a thoroughly studied and designed regional approach will be effective. A patchwork quilt of attempting to increase resilience in those most vulnerable areas of the 1,000 miles coastline of the Lower and Upper Bays of New York Harbor, its tributaries, the East River and the lower Hudson River will never suffice to protect against the twin threats of extreme storm surges and rising sea levels in the decades and even centuries ahead.

Public information/scoping meetings for the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NY-NJ Harbor & Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study \(NYNJ HATS Study\)](#) are scheduled for Monday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 11.

We urge you all to attend the upcoming public meetings being held by the US Army Corps of Engineers to address these issues, to speak up and to listen to our various community hopes, aspirations and concerns.

Malcolm Bowman,
Chair, Metropolitan NY-NJ Storm Surge Working Group.

[CLICK HERE for Study Summary & Initial Alternatives \(Oct 2017\)](#)

[CLICK HERE for July 2018 Meeting Information.](#)

These meetings will also have webinar capability for remote participation at <https://usace.webex.com/join/ArmyCorpsNYDistrict>

Contrasting Voices!



Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Borough President of New York

Storm surge barriers are sorely needed along the city's coastline to protect against major storms but they should be done right. Input from experts and the public is key to making this necessary project a success. Attend an upcoming hearing:

Hudson Riverkeeper: URGENT: Please attend a meeting July 9, 10 or 11 on NY storm surge barriers – Riverkeeper. Fast-tracked Army Corps proposals threaten the future life of the Hudson.

[U.S. Army Corps NYNJ HATS Study - Public Information Meetings](#)

NYC Sessions. (duplicate sessions)

Mon, July 9, 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

Boro of Manhattan Community College.
199 Chambers St, between Greenwich St and West Side Hwy. Conference Room-Richard Harris Terrace, Main Flr.

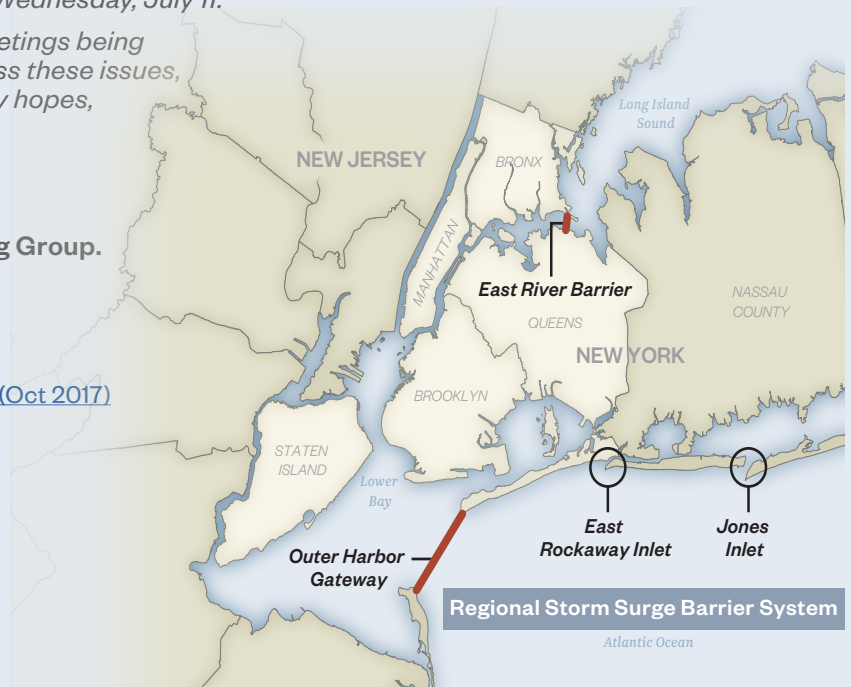
Newark Sessions. (duplicate sessions)

Tue, July 10, 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

Rutgers-Newark Campus, Paul Robeson Campus Center. 350 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Essex Room, 2nd Flr.

Poughkeepsie Session. Wed, July 11, 6-8 pm

Hudson Valley Community Center, 110 Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY. Auditorium.



NYNJ HATS Feasibility Study

An official scoping comment period is currently scheduled to run for 30 days following the public meetings scheduled for July 9, 10 and 11.

[CLICK HERE for Project Fact Sheet](#)

[CLICK HERE for July 2018 Meeting Posters](#)

Comments may be submitted to:

Nancy J. Brighton, Chief, Watershed Section, Environmental Analysis Branch, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, Room 2151, NY 10279-0090, or via email to:

NYNJHarbor.TribStudy@usace.army.mil.



Manhattan Waterfront

Image Credit: Manhattan Cityscape New York, USA

WaterWire: NYC Takes First Step to Establish Office of the Waterfront

On June 7, 2018, New York City Council Member Rose (Staten Island) introduced a bill to establish a Mayor's Office of the Waterfront "which would be responsible for coordinating among the various city agencies that handle matters related to waterfront use, supporting the Waterfront Management Advisory Board [a forum of expert waterfront stakeholders to advise city agencies on harbor-related policies being reconstituted as per a bill passed by the Council and signed by Mayor de Blasio in 2016], and implementing the [New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan](#), issue permits, and disseminate information about the waterfront to the public. [Continue Reading...](#)

Thank you for keeping up with the SSWG. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or www.nichiusa.org

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The Hurricanes Are Coming

June is the start of hurricane season in the Atlantic, and the only certainty for East Coast residents is the uncertainty 2018 will bring. In NYC alone, more than 726,000 homes are at risk of flooding damage from a storm surge, making it the second most at-risk city in the nation behind Miami, Florida. Forecasters are predicting 10 to 16 named storms this hurricane season, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), of which five to nine could become hurricanes with winds of 74 miles per hour or higher. [Continue Reading...](#)



Satellite Image of Hurricane Matthew Approaching Florida

Image Credit: Elements of this image furnished by NASA

Sea Level Rise: Jersey Shore Town Flooding Predictions; \$10B at Risk

Some 25,000 New Jersey homes will be endangered within 20 years by regular tidal flooding powered by rising sea levels, according to a new analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists. About 5,300 of those homes are in Ocean County, NJ as both the county's barrier islands are among the most imperiled locations in the US. The threat is global in scope: more than \$1 trillion in American real estate, including parts of Miami, Long Island, and the San Francisco Bay area will be in jeopardy by 2100. New Jersey is among the most vulnerable, data from the UCS "US Coastal Property at Risk from Rising Seas" report shows. [Continue Reading...](#)

Other Flooding and Climate Change News

FEMA National Flood Conference – Federally Supported, State Managed, Locally Executed. [Continue Reading...](#)
FEMA | June 2018

Zurich Insurance Group found that every \$1 spent on 'disaster resilience' saves \$5. [Continue Reading...](#)
Zurich Insurance Group | June 2018

Flood insurance program could lapse July 31, 2018 in midst of hurricane season. [Continue Reading...](#)
CNBC | June 11, 2018