

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
In accordance with 44 CFR §9.8 for Executive Orders 11988 and 11990
Cornelius Creek CSO Backwater Gate Flooding Mitigation Project
Buffalo, Erie County, New York

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Buffalo Sewer Authority as subrecipient for the installation of two new motorized gate valves to the exterior of the existing structure at the Cornelius Creek Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO 055) to prevent untreated waste from flowing in the Niagara River in Erie County, New York through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The purpose of HMGP is for communities to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses. This notification is given in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), EO 11990 (Wetland Protection), 44 CFR Part 9, regulations for implementing EOs 11988 and 11990, and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The project is to be located at CSO 055 Cornelius Creek, Buffalo, Erie County New York (42.945026, -78.910254). The proposed scope of work consists of installing two new motorized gates and constructing gate valves to the exterior of the existing structure at CSO 055, re-enforcing concrete and eroding portions, installing micro piles, grade beam replacement, installation of riprap for a crib wall, and medium stone for the grade beam, new electrical line trenching, and the temporary installation of a cofferdam to conduct the water work. The purpose of this work is to alleviate capacity constraints of an existing combined sewer outfall (CSO), involving overflows from both seiche events from the Niagara River to the west and storm sewer runoff during wet weather events from Cornelius Creek to the east.

This action would take place within the 100-year floodplain and mapped wetlands. Alternatives considered include: 1) no action, 2) the proposed alternative to install new flood gates, or 3) the installation of a static flap gate, spillway gates, rubber dam, and tide flex check valve. FEMA has determined that installing two new motorized gate valves and subsequent modifications to the existing CSO 055 is the best alternative to allow for the continuity of operations for this critical facility. Potential floodplain and wetland impacts are anticipated to be temporary during construction and minimized through best management practices and conservation measures incorporated from resource agency recommendations and required regulatory permits.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain/wetland impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to: FEMA Region 2, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY, 10278 or via email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental documentation for this project.