

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

December 1, 2014

The Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience DART (Disaster Awareness Report) summarizes key developments related to resilience planning and design across the US, including the region affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Parsons Brinckerhoff's Resilience Information Center: A website established by Parsons Brinckerhoff allows users to track congressional, regulatory, and federal agency funding developments pertaining to Superstorm Sandy and resilience programs. The site provides links to the final Sandy bill, notices of funding availability and funding allocations, Federal Register notices, fact sheets on agency Emergency Relief programs, testimony from Sandy implementation hearings, etc. The website can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.pbtransportationupdate.com/legislation/resiliency_issues_and_hurricane.aspx

State of Affairs:

Washington, DC/National

- The White House task force on “climate preparedness and resilience” is recommending that climate-related risks and vulnerabilities be addressed in the development and implementation of federal policies, practices, investments, and regulations (link below).

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/17/climate-change-hurting-entire-us-wh-task-force/>

- Galveston, Texas—a vulnerable coastal city—is considering construction of a dike as a resiliency measure to deal with the threat of rising sea levels (link below).

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2847524/Why-metro-Houston-fears-big-storm.html>

- The White House has unveiled a plan to reduce ozone pollution and manage related health issues in some of the country's most vulnerable populations (link below).

- <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/225371-epa-pushes-to-cut-smog-in-new-rule>

- FEMA will be conducting an extensive audit of New York City's flood zones in early 2015, to examine construction during the past five years and test compliance with agency requirements (link below).

http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20141105/REAL_ESTATE/141109955/feds-to-investigate-flood-zone-properties

- A recently released report by the Royal Society argues that adapting infrastructure for resilience is a better strategy than trying to build defenses against extreme weather, and warns about life-threatening heat waves as well as rising water levels by the end of the century (links below).

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/extreme-weather-requires-new-focus-resilience-report-says-n256796>

<http://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2014/11/climate-change-royal-society-report.html>

Regional (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut/Boston)

- Given the likelihood of a shutdown for repairs of severely damaged century-old rail tunnels between New York and New Jersey, the New Jersey Senate President is advocating construction of a new tunnel (link below).
<http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/science-updates/sweeney-calls-for-construction-of-new-rail-tunnel-between-nj-and-nyc>
- The Lower East Side Long Term Recovery Group (the LES LTRG), a coalition of community and groups and institutions, has developed a community-based disaster plan for the future (link below).
<http://www.thelodownny.com/leslog/2014/11/learning-from-hurricane-sandy-les-ready-releases-report.html>
- As winter storms become part of the conversation about extreme weather and resilience, the topic of managing risk along New York's waterfront remains at center stage (link below).
<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/nov/11/stormproofing-the-city-new-york-hurricane-sandy-roland-lewis-metropolitan-waterfront-alliance>
- The Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management has issued a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan that takes a holistic approach to disaster planning for communities (link below).
http://tri.gmnews.com/news/2014-11-13/Front_Page/Sandy_changed_county_local_disaster_planning.html
- A Resilience Finance Symposium recently held in New Jersey focused on financing solutions for increasing the resilience of energy infrastructure, including microgrids, energy storage facilities, and on-site, distributed generation (links below).
<http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2014/11/17/two-years-after-sandy-the-conversation-around-energy-resiliency-still-going-strong/>
<http://www.edf.org/media/new-jersey-symposium-convenes-chief-experts-explore-innovations-financing-resilient-energy>

Contact:

Parsons Brinckerhoff provided immediate support to help clients and communities in the New York metropolitan area recover and rebuild after Superstorm Sandy, and is currently participating in a range of projects to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and build resilience in the region. For information on the firm's activities and capabilities, please contact:

Michael Flood, AICP
National Resilience Lead
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Flood@pbworld.com
410.246.0528 (office)
410.491.9616 (cell)