

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

March 3, 2015

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/International

- Federal disaster policy is slowly moving from recovery to mitigation in light of the human impacts and the financial cost to the federal government, which was approximately \$120 billion for Katrina and \$60 billion for Sandy (link below).

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/fixgov/posts/2015/02/18-fema-barnosky>

- Public comments on the draft *Guidelines for Implementing Federal Flood Risk Management Standard* are due by April 6, and listening sessions to consider input begin on March 3 (link below).

<https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms>

- A recent report by the London School of Economics on Bloomberg Philanthropies' *European Mayors Challenge* highlights key issues facing city governments across Europe, including environmental and climate-related challenges (links below).

<http://lsecities.net/publications/reports/innovation-in-europes-cities/>

http://files.lsecities.net/files/2015/02/Innovation-in-Europes-Cities_Bloomberg-Mayors-Challenge1.pdf

- A debate on how economic development can coexist with environmental protection led to an unexpected outcome in the Queensland state elections in Australia, and provides lessons learned in long-term land use planning generally (link below).

<http://theconversation.com/jobs-versus-the-environment-the-debate-queensland-can-end-37760>

- A panel of experts at an Urban Land Institute conference in Europe emphasized that the forces being shaped by climate change are the new normal – across the globe, losses due to storms, floods, or drought totaled nearly \$400 billion in 2011 compared with about \$50 billion a decade earlier (link below).

<http://urbanland.uli.org/sustainability/flooding-affect-2-billion-people-2050/>

- FEMA has prepared an aggressive launch of *America's PrepareAthon!* – a grassroots campaign to increase community preparedness and resilience across the country (link below).

<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon>

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

- A 2015 report from the New York City Panel on Climate Change has been released; it is estimated that annual temperatures will rise between 4.1 and 5.7 degrees and that sea levels will rise by 11 to 21 inches by the 2050s, while extreme weather may be more common due to climate change (links below).

<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/122-15/mayor-de-blasio-releases-npcc-2015-report-providing-climate-projections-2100-the-first>

<http://www.nyas.org/publications/Annals/Detail.aspx?cid=5c5c2bdd-795f-4904-acd5-e3fe4a5c338a>

- A group of activists is urging New York City to expand its sustainability plan to include expanded economic opportunities, in order to create a more resilient and sustainable city (link below).

<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20150226/BLOGS04/150229904/de-blasios-not-progressive-enough-for-these-folks>

- Allegations that engineering reports of damage after Sandy were altered by insurance companies are under investigation; they prompted action by a federal judge, and a hearing has now been scheduled (link below).

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/17/nyregion/hurricane-sandy-victims-say-damage-reports-were-altered.html?_r=0

- Grants to Connecticut municipalities for restoring and reinforcing infrastructure impacted by Sandy will diminish the impacts of future storms, in addition to supporting the recovery (link below).

<http://stamford.dailyvoice.com/politics/sen-leone-welcomes-storm-resiliency-upgrades-stamford>

- New York State has submitted an action plan for using the third and final installment of nearly \$606 million in federal funds to rebuild after Sandy (link below).

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/new-york-state-submits-action-plan-for-final-superstorm-sandy-recovery-funds-1.9933315>

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:

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