

Foreword¹

The design of the East River Esplanade and Piers Project (the Proposed Action) is being developed by the City of New York and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) would provide a portion of the funding. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was approved and accepted as complete by the LMDC's Board of Directors on October 12, 2006 and published and distributed on January 18, 2007. Publication of the DEIS marked the beginning of public review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) reflects public review and comments, responses to those comments, and ongoing planning efforts.

To begin the public review period, the DEIS was circulated to involved and interested agencies and other parties and posted on LMDC's Web site, and notices of its availability and the public hearings were published in *AM New York*, *The New York Daily News*, *Hoy*, *Sing Tao* and the *Environmental Notice Bulletin* on January 24, 2007. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) posted a notice of availability of the DEIS in the Federal Register on January 26, 2007. LMDC held a public hearing at Pace University in Manhattan to receive comments on the DEIS on March 5, 2007, and the public comment period on the DEIS remained open through March 19, 2007.

This FEIS reflects all substantive comments made during public review, as well as changes to the Proposed Action that were made subsequent to the issuance of the DEIS. Changes to the Proposed Action include the addition of an overwater archipelago between the Battery Maritime Building and Pier 6; the addition and elimination of several potential pavilion locations beneath the FDR Drive; the relocation of the proposed cove from the northern end of Pier 36 to the southern end of Pier 42; and the addition of a small craft launch at the northern end of Pier 42.

The FEIS includes the proposed final Programmatic Agreement pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Appendix A). In addition, the FEIS includes and responds to all comments on the DEIS received during the public review period and provides responses in a new chapter, Chapter 23, "Response to Comments on the DEIS." Written comments on the DEIS are included in Appendix F.

Where appropriate, the text of other chapters of this FEIS has been revised in response to public comments or changes in the Proposed Action. These revisions (other than punctuation and other non-substantive changes) are indicated with double underlined text. *

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¹ This chapter is new to the FEIS.