

**Lower Passaic River
Restoration Project &
Newark Bay Study**

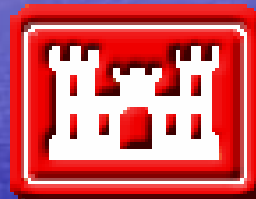
Public Forums
September 2005

Why Are We Here?

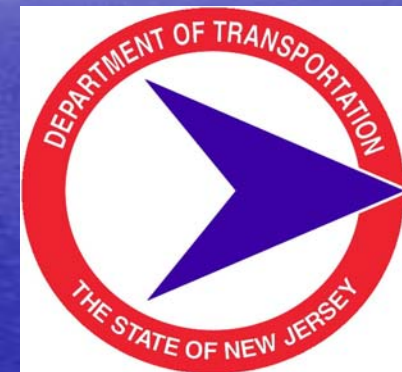
To Discuss:

- **Upcoming Sampling Work**
- **Upcoming Dredging Pilot**
- **Draft Community Involvement Plan**
- **How You Can Be Involved**

Who Are We?



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



**NJ Dept of
Environmental
Protection**

On the Newark Bay Study

On the Passaic River Project

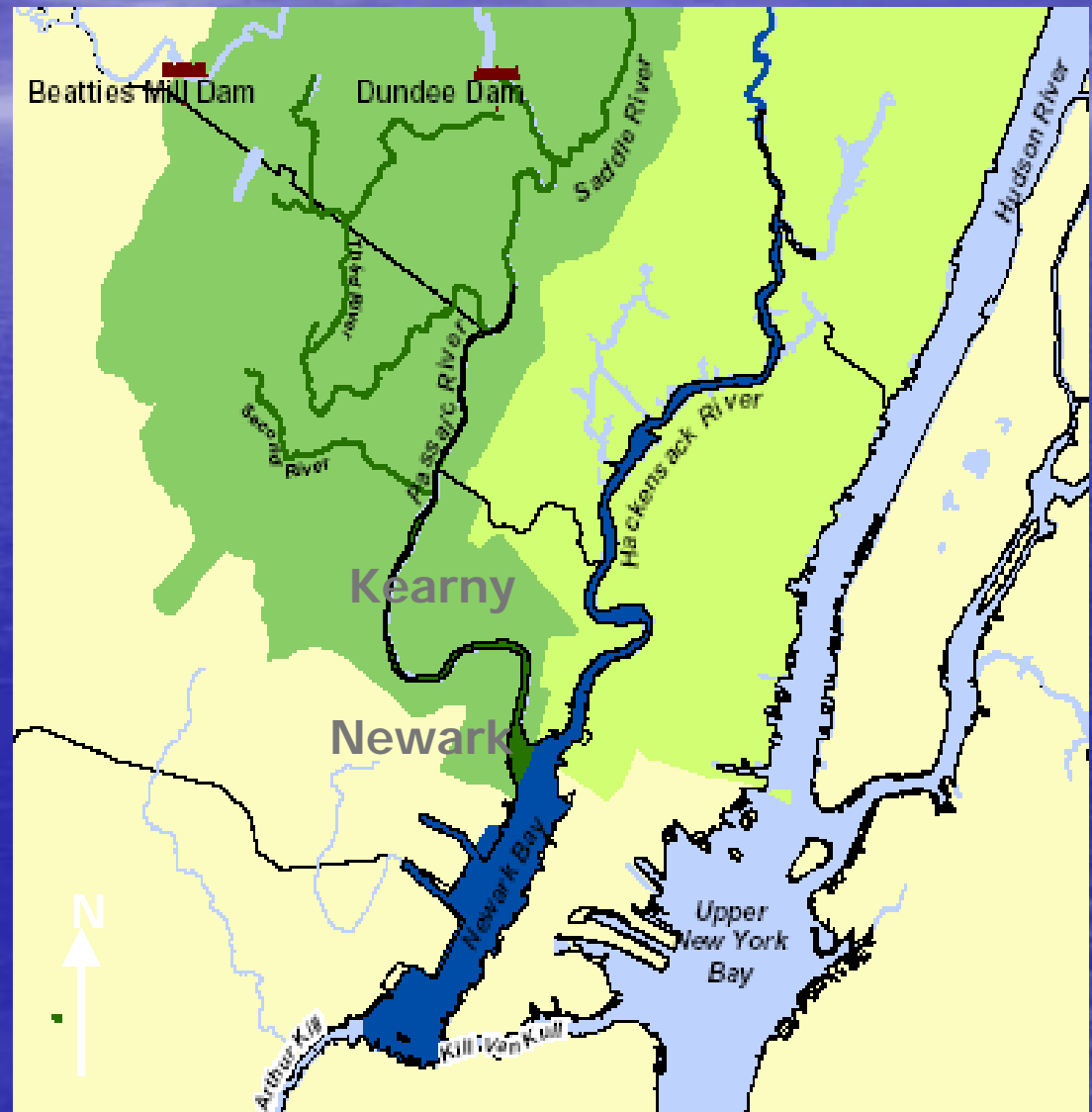
Features of the Lower Passaic & Newark Bay

Lower Passaic River:

- 17-miles, tidal
- Dundee Dam to Newark Bay
- Tributaries
- 173 Sq. Mile Watershed

Newark Bay:

- Six Miles Long; One Mile Wide
- Tributaries include Hackensack, Kill van Kull, Arthur Kill



The Problems

Sediment & Water Contamination

- PCBs, Dioxin
- Mercury & Other Metals
- Pesticides & PAHs
- Fish/Shellfish Advisories
- Continuing Sources
- Combined Sewer Overflows

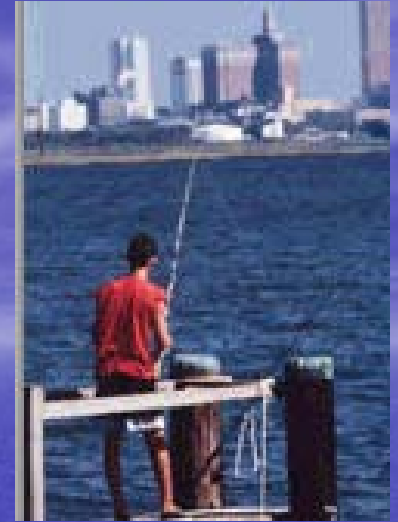
Degraded Habitat

- Lost Wetlands
- Injured Bird & Fish Habitats



Project Goals

- ✓ Clean Up Contaminated Sediments
- ✓ Reduce Human & Ecological Risk
- ✓ Improve Water Quality
- ✓ Restore Degraded Shorelines
- ✓ Restore & Create New Habitats
- ✓ Enhanced Public Access & Use of River & Bay



Additional Potential Benefits

Cost Savings:

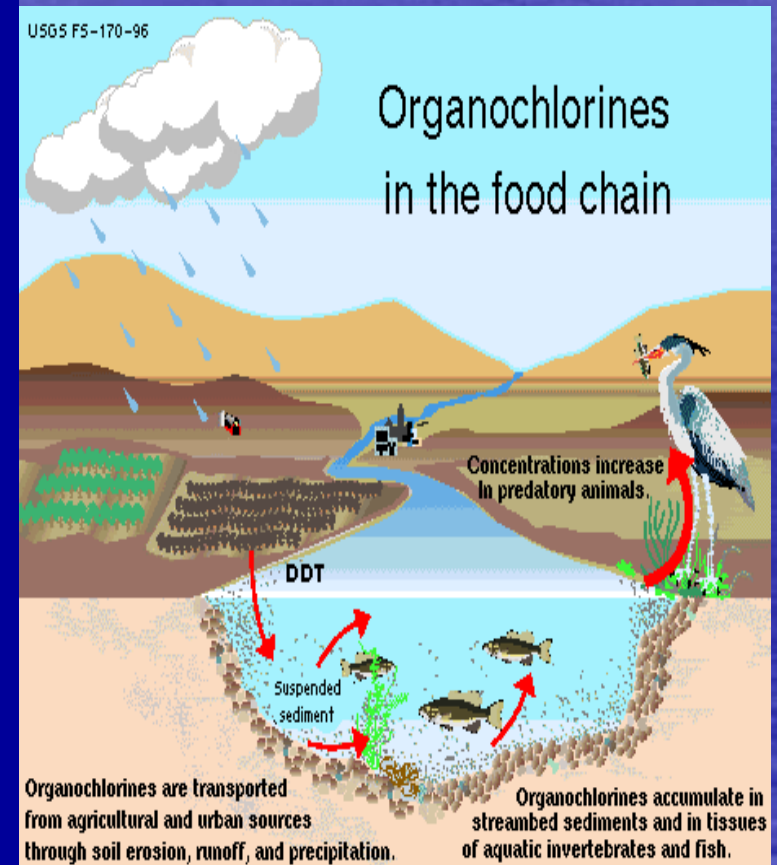
Cheaper Dredged Material Disposal Due to Decreased Flow of Contaminants to Harbor

Cost Savings of \$1 to 1.4 Billion to 2060



Project Components

- River & Bay Sampling
- Modeling
- Risk Assessments
- Treatment Technology Review
- Natural Resource Damages Assessment
- Cleanup and Restoration Plans
- Socio-Economic & Real Estate Studies (Lower Passaic River)



Completed Activities

Lower Passaic River Restoration Project

- Mapping the River Bottom
- Sediment Stability
- Some Sediment Coring
 - For Dredging & Decontamination Pilot
- Hydrodynamic Survey
- Geophysical Survey



Upcoming Field Work – Lower Passaic River

- **Collect Sediment Cores (Sept-Dec)**
- **Analyze for Contaminants**
 - **Determine Extent & History of Contamination**
- **Collect Surface Water (Sept-Nov)**
 - **Determine Levels of contamination**



Upcoming Field Work – Newark Bay Study

- Conduct Bathymetry Survey (October)
[to map the bottom of the Bay]
- Determine Depth of Biologically Active Zone (October)
- Collect Phase 1 Sediment Cores (November - December)
- Determine Physical Characteristics of Sediment
- Analyze for Contaminants
 - Determine Extent & History of Contamination



Dredging & Treatability Pilot

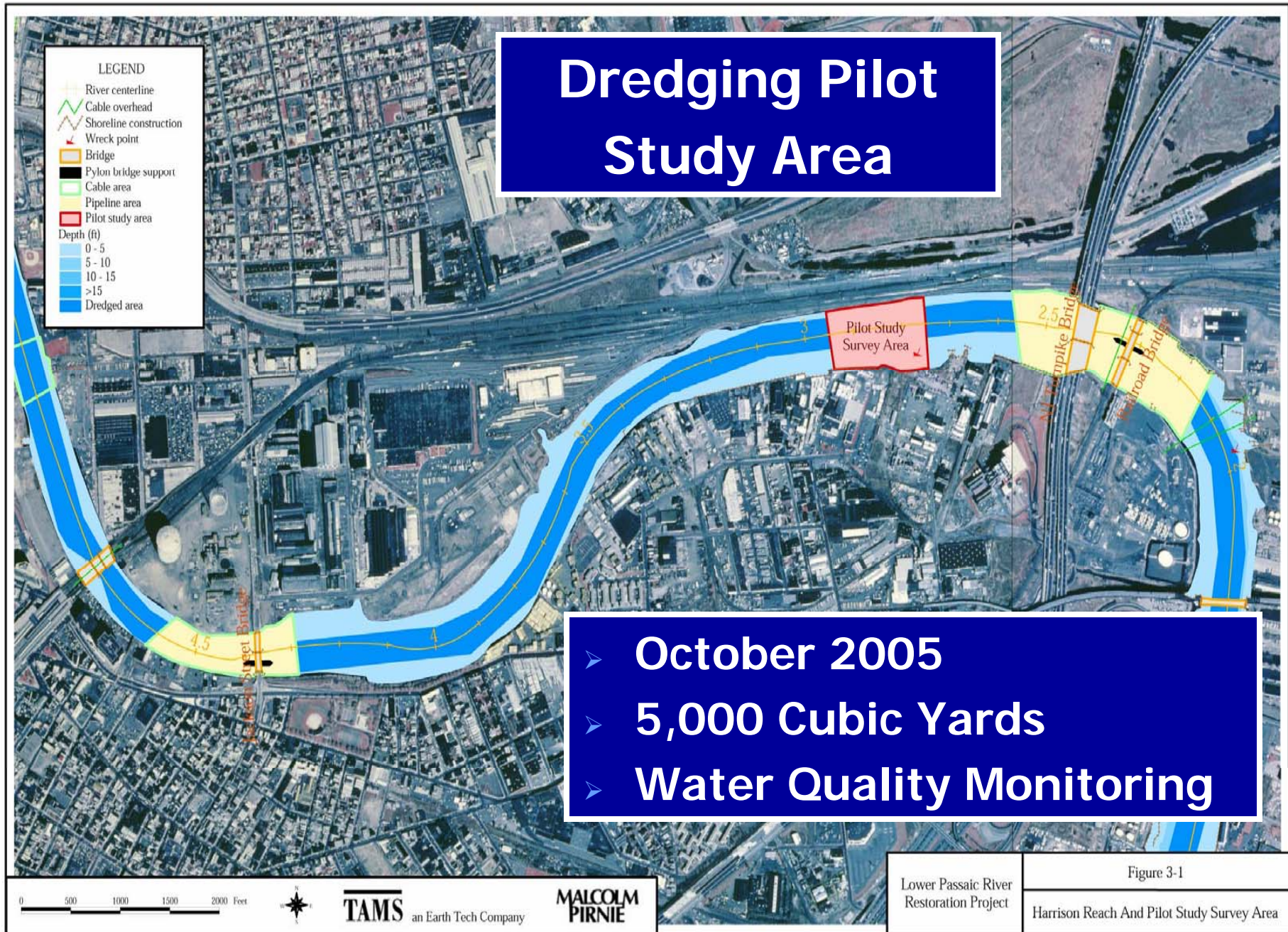


- In Passaic River (October)
- Test Dredging Equipment Performance
- Monitor Sediment Resuspension
- Use Information to Help Choose Cleanup Options

- Test Decontamination Technologies
 - Sediment Washing
 - Thermal Destruction



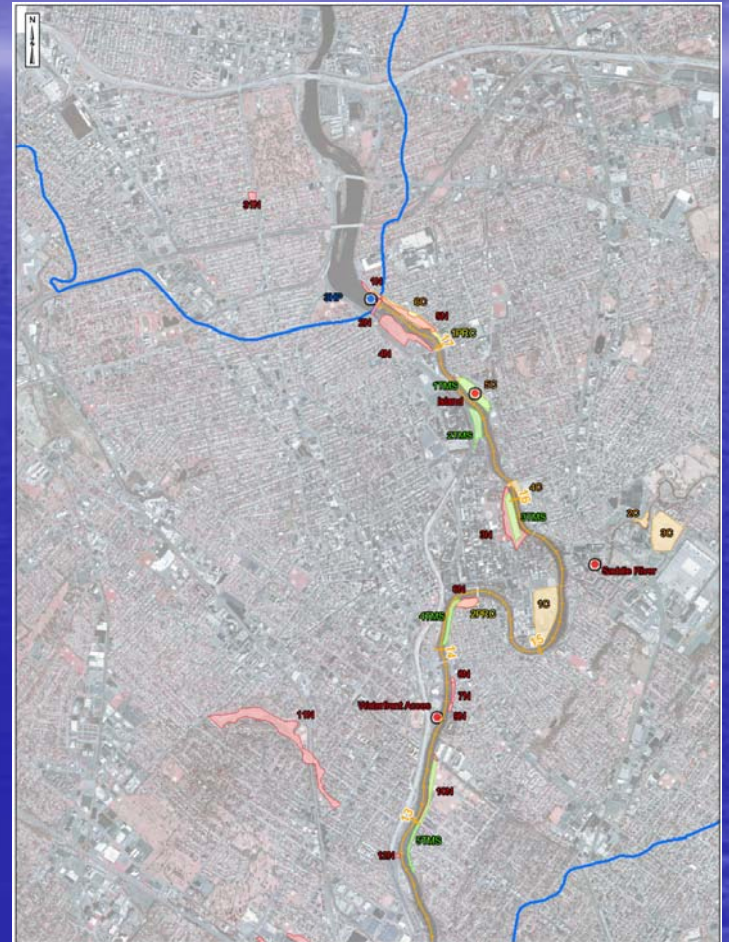
Dredging Pilot Study Area



Restoration Opportunities



- Benthic Habitat Restoration
- Tidal Wetland Restoration
- Vegetative Buffer Creation
- Shoreline Stabilization
- Aquatic Habitat Improvement
- Public Access



Natural Resources Damage Assessment

- Newark Bay/Lower Passaic River
- Assess Past, Present & Future Injuries
- Determine Restoration Needed to Compensate Public for Injuries & Lost Use
 - Responsible Party Settlement/Legal Action
 - Coordination & Info Sharing on Project Studies & Plan Development

Future Milestones – Lower Passaic River Restoration

- **NEPA Public Scoping Meeting - Late 2005**
- **Hydrodynamic/Sediment Transport Modeling 2005/2006**
- **Characterization of Restoration Sites - 2006**
- **Biological Sampling - 2006**
- **Fate & Transport/Food Chain Modeling - 2006/2007**
- **Risk Assessments – 2007/2008**
- **Draft Feasibility Study - 2010**
- **Final Feasibility Study - 2011**
- **Select Clean Up Plan - 2012**

Future Milestones – Newark Bay Study

- **Hydrodynamic/Sediment Transport Modeling - 2005/2006**
- **Biological Sampling - 2006**
- **Phase 2 Sediment Sampling - 2006**
- **Water Quality Sampling - 2006/2007**
- **Fate & Transport/Food Chain Modeling - 2006/2007**
- **Risk Assessments - 2007/2008**

Community Involvement

- **Shared Responsibility Among All Six Federal & State Agencies**
- **Encompasses Cleanup, Injury Assessment & Restoration Activities in the Lower Passaic & Newark Bay Watershed Study Areas**
- **Builds on Past Agency Efforts & Outcomes**
- **Focuses on Community Issues & Needs Identified During 2004/2005 Community Interviews**
- **Draft Community Involvement Plan Tailored to Community Profile and Community Concerns**

Community Profile

- **Urban & Sub-Urban Communities
(Approximately 3 Million in Project Area)**
- **Active Community Groups, Faith-Based Organizations**
- **Active Local, Regional & National Environmental Organizations**
- **Strong Community Interest In Environment & Public Health Issues**
- **High Degree of Past Community Involvement & Influence**

Community Profile

- **Large & Growing Immigrant Population**
- **Presence of Low-Income Populations**
(Below Poverty Line in Some Areas)
- **Homeless Populations in Several Areas**
- **Racial Composition Varies Significantly**
- **Overall Composition in Project Area:**
 - 23% Hispanic, 12% Black, 7% Asian, 67% White
- **Non-English Speaking Populations**
(Spanish, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean)
- **Cultural & Subsistence Fishing**

Key Community Concerns

Clarify Who's Doing What:

- Federal & State Agencies, PRPs,
Municipalities, Other Authorities

"Another Study Without End" Syndrome

Lack of Credibility

Need for Interim Action

Key Community Concerns

Dispelling Myths:

- The River is Dead/Not Worth Saving

Environmental Justice

- Number/Location of Polluters
- Lack of Open Space
- Sustenance Fishing

Awareness (Lack Of) Fish/Shellfish Advisories

Can We Eat the Fish & Crabs? What Are the Risks?



DANGER!



**DO NOT CATCH!
DO NOT EAT!**

**BLUE CLAW CRABS
IN NEWARK BAY COMPLEX MAY CAUSE
CANCER
AND MAY HARM BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
IN UNBORN AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

Fines up to \$1,000 could be imposed (N.J.A.C. 7:25-14.10A)
For further information call toll free 1-800-DEP-KNOW
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services



Key Community Concerns

Public Education:

- Contaminant Risks
- Sediment Cleanup Alternatives
- Restoration Alternatives
- Project Activities Timeline & Purpose

Public Perception and Expectations:

- Use Existing Information
- Fix All Watershed Problems
- Make the Polluters Pay

Key Community Concerns

Legacy of Diamond Alkali Site:

- **Still a Source of Contamination?/Future Use For the Site?**

Quality of Life Issues:

- **Recreation, Air Quality, Open Space**

Waterfront Development:

- **Preservation of Open Space**
- **Coordination with River Cleanup & Restoration Work**

Promote & Increase Access to River:

- **People Need To Connect with the River**

Goals of the Community Involvement Plan

- **Provide Accurate, Timely, & Understandable Information**
- **Use Tools & Methods Appropriate To The Target Audience**
- **Establish Process For Public Input & Assist Public in Understanding Their Role in Decision-Making Process**
- **Provide Access to Project Team/Decision-Makers**

Community Involvement Plan

31 Outreach & Involvement Tools

Surveys/Focus Groups

TAG

Public Comment Periods

Toll-Free Hotline

Field Notifications/Signs

Mailing List

Media Notification/Events

PSAs

Public Access Television

Project Roadmap

Speaker's Bureau

Community Events

Public Forums

Stakeholder Meetings

Email

Coordination w/ Local Officials/Other Agencies

TOSC

Public Input

Workshops/Seminars

Fact Sheets

Info Repositories

Maps/Visual Aids

Newsletters

Project/Site Tours

Project Web Sites

School/Educational Outreach

Community Advisory Group

Environmental Justice Activities

Public Meetings

Video Production

Public Notices

Comments on the Draft CIP

- **Send Comments by October 3, 2005**

- Mail, Fax or Email to:

- David Kluesner
- U.S. EPA - Region 2
- Public Affairs Division
- 290 Broadway, 26th Floor
- New York, NY 10007-1866
- kluesner.dave@epa.gov
- (212) 637-4445 (fax)
- (212) 637-3653 (phone)

- Carolyn Vadino
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Harbor Programs Branch
- 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2119
- New York, NY 10278-0900
- carolyn.j.vadino@nan02.usace.army.mil
- (212) 264-5779 (fax)
- (917) 790-8306 (phone)

How Can You Get Involved?

Stay Informed:

- Visit the Project Web Sites
- Subscribe to the Project Listserv
- Attend Future Meetings, Workshops, Tours

Help Raise Awareness:

- Include an Article in Your Group's Newsletter
- Post Project Flyers
- Make Project Fact Sheets Available

How Can You Get Involved?

Provide Input & Share Your Vision:

- Comment on Plans**
- Submit Ideas for Restoration Projects**
- Give Us Suggestions on Community Events & Outreach Activities**
- Give Us Feedback on Our Outreach Materials & Overall Performance**
- Identify Areas for Improvement**

Who To Call

EPA	David Kluesner	(212) 637-3653
Corps	Carolyn Vadino	(917) 790-8306

Project Web Sites:

www.ourpassaic.org

www.ournewarkbay.org



QUESTIONS