



Hudson County Master Plan Re-examination Report

Hudson County, New Jersey
August 2016





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Prepared and Administered by the Hudson County Planning Board

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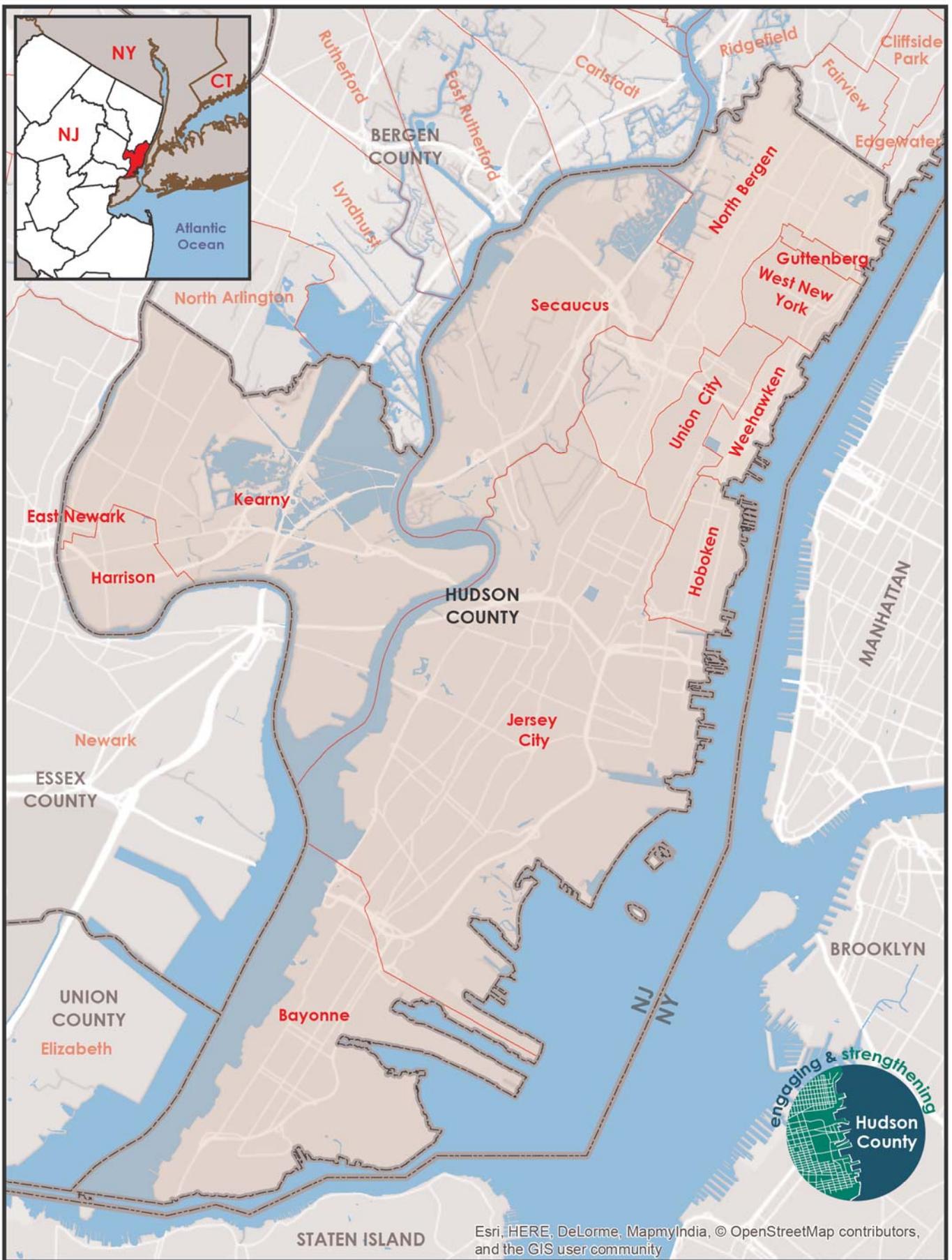
The Hudson County Engaging and Strengthening Planning Initiative, funded by the NJ Department of Community Affairs Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program, establishes the goals, objectives, and guiding principles in creating a unified vision for planning and resiliency in Hudson County. This Master Plan Re-examination Report is one of the four planning documents that are a result of this larger effort.

Hudson County is surrounded and intersected by several bodies of water, including the Hudson, Hackensack, and Passaic Rivers. The county's proximity to water adds value to people's quality of life, increases property values and enhances visitation by tourists. Along with the benefits of being near water, comes inherent risk. In the case of Hudson County, this comes by way of coastal, inland and localized flooding, some of it chronic in nature.

The county and its municipalities have a combination of risky conditions: a past of filling of low-lying wetlands, combined sanitary and stormwater sewer systems and dense development in high hazard areas. In fact, 34 percent of the county is in the floodplain, with certain municipalities (e.g. Hoboken) having a substantially higher percentage. With the acceleration of sea level rise, it is reasonable to project that the frequency and magnitude of flooding will

be exacerbated, making exposure to coastal storms worse. While Hurricane Sandy caused the most damage, it was just one of many storms to hit the county in recent years.

The county must address not only the probability of flooding and the vulnerability of its structures and infrastructure, but the consequences of those hazards to populations and their communities. The county has identified social vulnerability as being as significant as the damage to the built environment. People and communities have difficulty bouncing back after significant flooding events. Hurricane Sandy demonstrated that the damage to infrastructure and critical facilities, the displacement of people and businesses, and the disabling of transportation systems had great impacts to people's psyche. While ratable loss, business interruption and tourism losses can be accurately estimated, the toll on the fabric of communities is more difficult to quantify and has a pervasive and long-lasting impact. It is for all these reasons that Hudson County wishes to integrate resilience into its planning efforts. A resilient county supports public safety, economic stability and future prosperity.



Regional Context Map

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary