



# RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Daniel J. McKee, Governor  
Marc R. Pappas, Director

## HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE OF INTEREST (NOI) FORM

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) is responsible for managing the state's participation in FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs, which provide grants for eligible hazard mitigation projects. The HMA includes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grants and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants. This survey is intended for subapplicants that would like to pursue a hazard mitigation grant.

**HMA Program (select one):**             BRIC             FMA             HMGP

**Application Type (select one):**     Planning (Questions 1-6 & 16)  
    Project  
    Project Scoping (BRIC only)

**1. Sub-Applicant: City of Newport, RI**

**2. Project Title: South Easton Pond Dam Flood Resilience Project**

**3. Contact Information:**

**First Name Robert**

**Last Name Schultz**

**Title Director of Utilities**

**Phone 401-845-5600**

**Email rschultz@newportri.gov**

**4. Project Description:** North and South Easton Ponds are critical fresh drinking water reservoirs that service the City of Newport and Middletown. These ponds are located in a low-lying coastal area and are susceptible to saltwater intrusion and inland flooding. Both ponds are formed by earthen embankments. This project will improve the flood resilience of this public water supply by raising the South Easton Pond earthen embankment and armoring the upstream embankment with articulated concrete blocks (ACB) to provide protection against wave attack, saltwater intrusion, and overtopping. This project includes reconstructing the South Pond Primary Spillway and installing a crest gate at the spillway to prevent saltwater intrusion. The Easton Ponds are part of a nine reservoir interconnected system serving approximately 35,000 year round residents plus the increased seasonal population, Naval Station Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth and regional wholesale customers. This is the only public drinking

water source on Aquidneck Island. Design freeboard and crest elevation are set against the NOAA Intermediate High sea level rise scenario combined with Category 3 storm surge per the 2019 Climate Resiliency Assessment. Project aligns with the 2024 RI State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City of Newport HMP Update, and the Town of Middletown Strategy for Reducing Risks from Hazards. Preliminary BCA basis: avoided loss of single source water supply to Aquidneck Island.

5. **Estimated project cost: \$25 million**

6. **Cost Share - Does your agency have the 25% Non-Federal share?** (Cash, in-kind, other)

Yes:  No:

- If yes, what is the source of funding: The 25% non-federal match will be funded through the Newport Water enterprise fund, supported by bond authorization through the Newport City Council. Source of repayment is water rates.

*Project and Project Scoping only (Planning Application proceed to Question 16)*

7. **Project Location:** South Easton Pond, Newport and Middletown, Rhode Island

8. **Does the project relate to a strategy/priority identified in the state and/or a local mitigation plan?** Yes:  No:

9. **Reference plan or section (optional):** Both the City of Newport Hazard and Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update and Town of Middletown Strategy for Reducing Risks from Hazards in Middletown, Rhode Island identify the risks of failure for this dam.

10. **Will project reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life or property from a natural hazard?** Yes:  No:

11. **Hazards the Project Mitigates Against** (select all that apply):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Winter Weather                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sea Level Rise         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Wind or Lightening                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drought                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Heat                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tropical & Extratropical Storms | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Cold                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Incident                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thunderstorm                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Failure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dam Failure                     |  |

12. **Is the project located in a flood zone?** Yes:  No:

13. **Are there environmental impact issues or concerns associated with project?** Yes:  No:

- If yes, please describe: Project will require RIDEM Dam Safety, RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands, ACOE Section 404, and CRMC review. No fatal flaws identified. Environmental, permitting, and cultural

resource review will be advanced through preliminary and final design.

**14. Are there historical/cultural preservation concerns associated with project?** Yes:  No:

- If yes, please describe: Section 106 consultation will be conducted with the RI State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The project area is in proximity to Newport historic resources. No known eligible resources have been identified within the direct project footprint at this stage.

**15. Can project be completed within 3 years?** Yes:  No:

- Comments (optional) Schedule assumes preliminary design at NTP, parallel permitting tracks (RIDEM Dam Safety, Wetlands, ACOE Section 404, CRMC, SHPO Section 106), and an 18 month construction window.

**16. Has any work been done on this project?** Yes:  No:

- If yes, please describe: A Climate Resiliency Assessment Technical Memorandum was completed in 2019 which included hydrologic/hydraulic modeling for inland and coastal flooding and four design alternatives. In 2023, a Conceptual Design Report was completed defining the proposed plan for the dam. The City is now completing preliminary design and permitting.

**17. Which statement best describes the level of support you will need to complete a mitigation grant application?**

- I have previous experience with grants.
- I may need some guidance but am comfortable developing an application
- I have access to a Grants Coordinator in my agency who will help me develop the application.
- I do not have a Grants Coordinator in my agency or much experience with grant writing.
- I will need significant assistance from the RIEMA State Hazard Mitigation Officer to help me through the application process.
- Other (please specify) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**X I acknowledge that FEMA/RIEMA awards are reimbursement grants, and the funds will be allocated after the project is completed and forms are submitted for reimbursement.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DIRECT SUBMISSIONS VIA EMAIL TO:**

Rae-Anne Culp  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency  
[raeanne.culp@ema.ri.gov](mailto:raeanne.culp@ema.ri.gov)