

ExhibitGLongTermCommitment

Applicant: The State of Connecticut

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Exhibit G.a. Lessons Learned: The Connecticut Long-Term Recovery Committee and the Shoreline Preservation Task Force laid the foundation for two laws passed since Sandy: An Act Concerning the Permitting of Certain Coastal Structures by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (PA 13-179, passed June 21, 2013) and An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation and Data Collection (SA 13-9, passed June 6, 2013). PA 13-179 required the consideration of sea level rise (SLR) in the State’s civil preparedness plan, applications to the Clean Water Fund, state and municipal plans of Conservation and Development, as well as in municipal evacuation or hazard mitigation plans, and also required the development of best practices for coastal structures. The second law led to the creation of CIRCA, a UConn-DEEP partnership, which was established to support adaptation to rising sea levels. The tables show actions taken, comparison against baseline condition, goals, outcome metrics, and other factors.)

The State of Connecticut is making a long-term commitment to resilience. During the process of developing this NDRC proposal, the State has established SAFR, is working to incorporate resilience planning and policy into its nine partner agencies, has created an expansive partnership that includes regional and local government, science and technology and private investment partners. The State is piloting transformative projects in order to replicate resiliency throughout the state, is developing resilience plans in fifteen municipalities as a first phase towards a statewide program, is introducing new funded programs focused on resilient solutions and re-evaluating its current programs to determine how they can be more effectively aligned with SAFR’s resilience mission. These actions will serve to embed resiliency into the day-to-day structure of the government and bring resiliency to the forefront of its planning for the future.

Exhibit G.b. Legislative Action – In response to Hurricane Sandy and recent damaging storms, and to respond to this NDRC application, the State of Connecticut formed the State Agencies Fostering

Resilience (SAFR) in December 2014. This organization has set into motion a series of changes to ensure that Resilience in the State of Connecticut will be last lasting and transformative. The effort undertaken by SAFR as a loose connection of agencies with a shared mission has resulted, via an Executive Order signed by Governor Malloy in October 2015, in the formalization of SAFR as a permanent State Policy Making Body. The formalization of SAFR and its role within the government of the State of Connecticut is essential to ensuring the long-term commitment of the State's resilience mission.

The baseline for this factor is that there were no effective policies or programs established in the state of Connecticut to address resilience prior to Hurricane Sandy. Beyond CIRCA, which was only a UConn-DEEP partnership, there was no organization within the State focused specifically on developing resilient solutions at the local level and resilient policies and programs to be implemented across the State. The measurable outcomes of the formalization of SAFR, will be the total dollars in funding that result from development of new programs and legislative actions that focus on resilience. The State will quantify the totals for both outcomes annually. SAFR will monitor these programs and legislative actions to measure how much funding is directed towards resilient solutions.

Exhibit G.c – Raising Standards.

The Long Island Sound Stewardship and Resiliency Program being introduced in 2016 (\$20 million) is dedicated to the protection of coastal marshes and other natural buffer areas. A second new program funded for 2016 for \$20 million provides grants-in-aid to municipalities to encourage low impact design of green municipal infrastructure to reduce nonpoint source pollution. These programs have been identified by DEEP, CIRCA and SAFR as funding focused directly towards resilient solutions. DEEP is committing \$1 M from Grants-in-Aid to the pilot projects to introduce a new technology/innovation to street reconstruction that will serve as a replicable pilot for a set of “green”

street design guidelines that will be rolled out across the State. CTDOT has set-aside \$1 million from LetsGOCT for this initiative and its LTAP and LoTCIP programs both fund street planning, design and construction can support these advancements in resilient “green” street design across the State.

The baseline is that the CTDOT has a complete streets policy, but no specific program in place for funding “complete” streets. DEEP also has policies in place to support “green” streets, but no specific design standards in place. The specific measurable for resilient streets funding will be the number of lane miles of “green” streets funded and built based upon the new resilient street design guidelines that will be developed by SAFR.

Exhibit G.c. Raising Standards - Improving the built environment, Flood Requirements. One year after Sandy, the Shore Up CT program was created and supported with \$25 M in bond funds. Shore Up CT, administered by CT DOH, helps property owners located in flood zones VE or AE finance or refinance property elevations and retrofits for flood and wind proofing. Eligible properties include those not otherwise eligible for assistance programs such as second homes, commercial properties, and owner-occupied multifamily units. The Shore Up CT program elevates all residential properties higher than the minimum standard to the 500-year flood height +1’, which adds 3’ of protection on average. Shore Up CT program completed 6 loans in the year 1 for a total of approximately \$1M in financing, For FY 16 – approximately \$3M in financing for 10 additional applications is pending. Applications correlate well with the areas hit hardest by Sandy, which demonstrates that the program is reaching target areas.

The baseline for this measurable is that there was no program in place prior to Sandy to elevate homes. DOH will continue to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the program, measuring the number of applicants and number of loans.

Easements. In areas impacted by Irene and Sandy, some residents have chosen to relocate outside of the floodplain. **Action.** Floodplain easements will be acquired on 32 properties through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program. **Outcome(s).** Number of properties in the buy-out. As the program continues, acres of open space in the flood plain will be removed from development, preserving open space, and creating new public amenities and continuing the growth of the local economy while reducing risk. **Duration.** The easements will be converted to open space in perpetuity and will prevent future damages and risks to public safety and improve critical habitat.

Exhibit G.c. – Raising Standards, Building codes and Freeboard Requirements. Several local communities have enacted regulations providing an additional safety margin for vulnerable structures (See Phase 1 application Exhibit G p.43). These communities have set the bar for local and statewide zoning and building code standards conducive to risk avoidance. **Action.** SAFR will monitor these local measures statewide and support future rezoning and building code modifications to respond to sea level rise. In both pilots, the raising of streets will set new datum for future development by lifting the public infrastructure that supports new development. This pilot will serve as a precedent for other street raising pilots to structure opportunities for development in denser communities where relocation may not be viable. **Baseline.** There were no programs for resilient building codes in place prior to Hurricane Sandy. **Outcome.** Total number of buildings taken out of the flood zone through enacting legislation and the economic value of new developments outside the flood zone. The BCA recognizes actions taken in New Haven and Bridgeport such as lifting existing housing out of the flood plain and quantifying the value of these homes in the avoidance of replacement, reconstruction, displacements, and the reduction in insurance costs associated with homes being removed from the flood plain.

Duration. SAFR will monitor these changes through spring 2020 with the final meeting of the SAFR Advisory Committee.

Exhibit G.d. Resilience Actions related to Plan Updates or Alignment – In 2014 CIRCA was formed to develop programs to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities along the coast and rivers to the impacts of climate change. CIRCA has been funded with state and federal resources to create and disseminate transferable and replicable adaptation solutions. CIRCA will organize and implement plans in the 13 municipalities in our target region to develop resilience strategies tailored to each community – the *Connecticut Connections Coastal Resilience Plan*. SAFR will align the State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans, State Plans of Conservation and Development, and the State Climate Preparedness Plan. This plan will coordinate resilience actions with new programs and existing modified programs established to support SAFR’s resilience mission, thereby coordinating the expenditures of funds to promote resilience across the region and the State. Additional plans that we will align with include the State Clean Water Fund and Coastal Zone Management Plan (to be updated 2018), both of which are scheduled to be updated and will incorporate the findings of this NDRC effort and subsequent pilot projects and resilience plans to align with these statewide programs.

Baseline. There have been no State-directed resilience plans undertaken in Connecticut. **Outcomes.** The number of communities that advance through the planning program and the total funds expended to plan, design and implement resilient measures in keeping with SAFR’s resilience mission. Additional outcomes of this effort will be the monies saved in planning, design and construction by having clear and accepted SLR targets.