FOCUS ON: RIPARIAN CONSTRUCTION

Developing within or near riparian areas can certainly be challenging, especially since Superstorm Sandy in 2012. There have been tremendous changes taking place with regards to federal, state and local regulations addressing development near water, whether at the shore or inland in flood-prone areas. This is significant since Mother Nature is not expected to get any nicer.

In a recent study conducted by researchers at Columbia University, future coastal flood risk will be strongly influenced by sea-level rise (SLR), and the frequency and intensity of storms on the East Coast is predicted to surge.

FEMA continues to update flood maps to reflect the continuously changing floodplains caused by natural forces and new developments. Riparian areas are found at every elevation and in every landform but can differ depending on local physical conditions (water vs. soil) and locations (elevation, valleys, canyons, etc.). These areas were – and continue to be – directly impacted by flooding.

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. According to floodsmart.gov, just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. High-risk areas, or special flood hazard areas (SFHA), require a more in-depth analysis, risk assessment and understanding of changing regulations.

At PS&S, we recognize that one size does not necessarily fit all types of development and construction plans in these areas. Our integrated team of experts encompasses every discipline needed for designing and developing in riparian areas. You can learn more about our riparian experience [here].

For more information or if you have questions regarding riparian construction, please email PS&S at riparian@psands.com

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