



## Rahway River Watershed Flood Control group funds legal study of South Mountain dam

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**IP** By **Independent Press**

Governing boards of the communities that are represented on the Mayors Council on Rahway River Watershed Flood Control have agreed to enter into an interlocal agreement to fund the legal analysis on the development of the South Mountain Reservation detention dam.

The project, once constructed, is projected to detain storm water at peak flow conditions that will reduce water elevations in communities such as **Millburn**, Springfield, Union, Kenilworth, Cranford and Rahway. An Army Corps of Engineer's hydrology assessment indicated the project could reduce water elevations by almost three feet at the Route 78 confluence of the Rahway River.

The cooperation shown by the communities that have decided to move forward is forward looking and is an attempt to implement solutions to flooding, said Millburn Mayor Haimoff. Cranford Mayor David Robinson said "Cranford is pleased to participate to ensure the project takes a [step](#) forward to mitigate some of the flooding concerns our region has faced."

The legal analysis will be done to work out agreements with the City of Orange and Essex County where the project is being sited. The Mayors Council has made a funding request to the state of New Jersey for planning [funds](#) to perform the environmental and design assessments. Most area legislators have made request on the watershed communities behalf to include state funding for this effort.

Some communities have not signed on to the agreement as yet given the river doesn't directly impact homeowners during storms. The Mayors Council is striving to ensure all watershed communities better understand the quantity and quality of the storm water contribution they make to what eventually reaches the river and then over flows its banks.

On Sept. 20, along with the Rahway River Association, the Mayors Council will be sponsoring a regional storm water management conference in Millburn. Mayors, administrators, engineers, planning and zoning board members and others will be invited to learn about the impact poor storm water management has and to set objectives to mitigate.

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