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When a project involves the termination of outdoor recreation use of City-owned parkland that has received federal funds for acquisition or improvement under either the Land and Water Conservation Fund or the Urban Park Recreation and Recovery Program, the project requires the approval of the U.S. National Park Service (USNPS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI). The conversion process is governed by rules and regulations of the USNPS and requires the substitution of lands of at least equal fair market value that offer reasonably equivalent recreation opportunities as the parkland to be converted. The conversion process is in addition to the parkland alienation authorization required by state law.

### 340. HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITY

When funding for a project is provided through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (USHUD), a City or state agency may be responsible for performing all of USHUD's NEPA obligations pursuant to [24 CFR Part 58](#). As the "responsible entity," the City or state agency would certify compliance with NEPA and be subject to the jurisdiction of the federal courts. As an example, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) is funded through the CDBG program and acts as the responsible entity for USHUD for all projects receiving those funds.

### 350. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In February 1994, President William J. Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, entitled "*Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*." The Presidential Executive Order mandates that each federal agency "identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." The Environmental Justice Executive Order was created to combat the fact that poor and minority groups often have been exposed to greater human health and safety risks than society at large and have borne more than their share of the negative effects of development. The Executive Order directs federal agencies to disclose the distribution of social and environmental effects on minority and poor populations, and to ensure that such groups are afforded opportunities to participate fully in agency decision-making procedures. Each federal agency has developed its own procedures to incorporate consideration of environmental justice into its projects and decision-making.

If a project would involve a permit, funding, or a direct action by a federal agency, the CEQR lead agency should be aware that the environmental reviews performed by federal agencies pursuant to NEPA usually require consideration of environmental justice.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is the lead federal environmental justice agency and provides technical assistance, courses, guidance, and grants in support of environmental justice. [Plan EJ 2014](#), which is meant to mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 12898, is the USEPA's strategy for advancing environmental justice in the USEPA's day to day activities and across the federal government. The USEPA maintains an extensive environmental justice website: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/index.html>.