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York County EMA – Coastal Resilience Briefing Fall 2025

I. Category B Update (5-Year Flood Protection) *see Appendix for Category B/G Definitions*

Description

Three York County towns have been deemed eligible by FEMA for Category B replenishment in certain sections of beach. The Category B projects slated for this Fall/Winter include:

Municipality	Category B Approved from FEMA	Anticipated Project Start Date
Wells*	Yes	November 2025
Saco*	Yes	January 2026
Old Orchard Beach	Yes	January 2026

*Project includes use of the county-owned dredge for sand replenishment

II. 6-12 Month Objectives

- Finish Category B work before the end of the dredging season in March 2026
- Secure additional funding for Category G implementation
- Pursue funding opportunities where available
- Continue to educate elected officials on our coastal vulnerabilities
- Work with municipalities to develop long-term beach management plans that will help them maintain Category G status in the future

III. Category G Grant Progress *see Appendix for details*

- We have been awarded \$260,000 to date for Category G Dune and Beach Design
- We anticipate \$1.76M in design funds and nearly \$500,000 in construction funds by the end of Spring 2026

Appendix

A. Category B/Category G Definitions

FEMA Standards	Description
Category B	These are emergency protective measures that will provide protection from a 5-year storm
Category G	These are long-term measures to design a beach to a specified elevation, width, and slope. We intend for this to provide protection from 100-year storms

Important Note: Both Category B and Category G measures require extensive engineering work. For Category G in particular, the engineering standards are to the same rigor as a building/seawall.

B. Details on Grants for Category G Design, Engineering & Construction Work

Grants Awarded

Grant	Amount
Maine GOPIF Community Action Grant (Joint Saco/OOB)	\$180,000 for Category G Design
Maine GOPIF Community Action Grant (Biddeford)	\$80,000 for Category G Design

Grants Applied For

Grant	Amount	Expected Decision
Congressionally Delegated Spending (CDS) Grant for multiple York County Municipalities	\$1.76M for Category G Design	By End of 2025
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Old Orchard Beach	\$467,000 for Category G Design & Construction	Spring 2026