

Exhibit C**PROJECT FINANCING AGREEMENT**

This **PROJECT FINANCING AGREEMENT**, dated November ____, 2023 (as the same may be modified, amended, supplemented, replaced, renewed or extended from time to time in accordance with the terms hereof, the “Agreement”), by and between the **JOINT MEETING OF ESSEX AND UNION COUNTIES** (the “Joint Meeting”), constituting a joint meeting of various municipalities located in the Counties of Essex and Union in the State of New Jersey (the “State”), and the **TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX**, a municipal corporation duly created and validly existing under and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State (the “Local Unit”) (capitalized terms used herein but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the hereinafter defined Note).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Joint Meeting has determined that there exists a need to acquire, construct, renovate or install, as applicable, a project consisting of the Local Unit’s allocable share of a capital improvement project that is being undertaken by the Joint Meeting (such allocable share being referred to herein as the “Project”), all as more specifically defined and described in the Note; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Meeting is not statutorily authorized to incur debt obligations for any purpose, including, without limitation, in order to finance the Project, and, therefore, any capital improvements that are undertaken by the Joint Meeting must be financed by its member municipalities and other participating municipalities, including the Local Unit, through the incurrence of debt thereby or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Local Unit to finance the Project through the issuance of debt and by its participation in the environmental infrastructure financing program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (the “I-Bank”); and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has determined to temporarily finance the Project with the proceeds of a short-term loan to be made by the I-Bank (the “Loan”) to the Local Unit, pursuant to the Construction Financing Loan Program of the I-Bank (the “Construction Financing Loan Program”); and

WHEREAS, in order to (i) evidence the Loan by the I-Bank to the Local Unit, (ii) evidence and secure the repayment obligation of the Local Unit to the I-Bank with respect to the Loan and (iii) satisfy the requirements of the Construction Financing Loan Program relating to the Loan, the Local Unit shall issue and sell to the I-Bank its “Note Relating to the Construction Financing Loan Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank” in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$[_____] (the “Note”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, the Joint Meeting shall covenant and agree to certain terms and conditions, *inter alia*, relating to the undertaking and completion

of the Project and the maintenance and operation of the Environmental Infrastructure System (as defined in the Note); and

WHEREAS, (i) in furtherance of the undertaking and completion of the Project and the financing thereof with the proceeds of the Loan and the issuance of the Note by the Local Unit, and (ii) in satisfaction of the requirements of the Construction Financing Loan Program, the Joint Meeting and the I-Bank have entered into that certain Memorandum of Agreement, dated October 28, 2020 (the “MOA”), by and between the Joint Meeting and the I-Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit and Joint Meeting desire to enter into this Agreement in order to define and confirm the Joint Meeting’s obligations with respect to the Project and the ownership, operation and maintenance of the Environmental Infrastructure System and, therefore, satisfy the conditions precedent of the Construction Financing Loan Program to the making of the Loan by the I-Bank to the Local Unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, and intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

REPRESENTATIONS OF THE JOINT MEETING. The Joint Meeting hereby represents for the benefit of the Local Unit and the I-Bank, as follows.

Project. The Joint Meeting has determined that there exists a need to acquire, construct, renovate or install, as applicable, a capital improvement project of the Joint Meeting, the Local Unit’s allocable share of which shall constitute the Project that is being financed by the Local Unit through its issuance of its Note to the I-Bank, and the Joint Meeting intends to undertake and complete the Project in a manner consistent with the terms of the Note, including, without limitation, the Exhibits to the Note.

Organization. The Joint Meeting: (i) is a joint meeting of various municipalities located in the Counties of Essex and Union in the State, organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:63-68 *et seq.*, and is duly created and validly existing under and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State, (ii) has full legal right and authority to execute, attest and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, and (iii) has duly authorized, approved and consented to all necessary action to be taken by the Joint Meeting for: (A) the due performance of its obligations hereunder and (B) the execution, delivery and due performance of all certificates and other instruments that may be required to be executed, delivered and performed by the Joint Meeting in order to carry out and give effect to this Agreement.

Authority. This Agreement has been duly authorized by the Joint Meeting and duly executed, attested and delivered by authorized officers of the Joint Meeting. This Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of the Joint Meeting, enforceable against the Joint Meeting in accordance with its terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be affected by bankruptcy, insolvency or other laws or the application by a court of legal or equitable principles affecting creditors’ rights.

Pending Litigation. There are no proceedings pending or, to the knowledge of the Joint Meeting, threatened against or affecting the Joint Meeting that, if adversely determined, would adversely affect (i) the condition (financial or otherwise) of the Joint Meeting, (ii) the authorization, execution, attestation or delivery of this Agreement, and (iii) the ability of the Joint Meeting to otherwise observe and perform its duties, covenants, obligations and agreements under this Agreement, including, without limitation, the undertaking and completion of the Project.

Compliance with Existing Laws and Agreements; Governmental Consent. The observation and performance by the Joint Meeting of its duties, covenants, obligations and agreements hereunder, including, without limitation, the undertaking and completion of the Project, will not result in any breach of any of the terms, conditions or provisions of, or constitute a default under, any existing ordinance or resolution, agreement or other instrument to which the Joint Meeting is a party or by which the Joint Meeting, its Environmental Infrastructure System or any of its properties or assets may be bound, nor will such action result in any violation of the provisions of the charter, applicable law or other document pursuant to which the Joint Meeting was established or any laws, ordinances, injunctions, judgments, decrees, rules, regulations or existing orders of any court or governmental or administrative agency, authority or person to which the Joint Meeting, its Environmental Infrastructure System or its properties or operations are subject. The Joint Meeting has obtained all permits and approvals required to date by any governmental body or officer for the making, observance and performance by the Joint Meeting of its duties, covenants, obligations and agreements under this Agreement, and for the undertaking and completion of the Project.

FEMA Reimbursement. The Joint Meeting expects that a portion of the costs of the Project will be reimbursed to the Joint Meeting by the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, and thereupon disbursed by the Joint Meeting to the I-Bank, on behalf of the Local Unit, pursuant to the terms hereof, for purposes of prepaying or repaying all or a portion of the Loan obligation of the Local Unit in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Note.

Reliance. The Joint Meeting hereby acknowledges that (i) the I-Bank is making the Loan to the Local Unit pursuant to the terms of the Note, and (ii) the Local Unit is issuing the Note to the I-Bank to evidence and secure the Loan, in each case, in reliance upon each of the representations of the Joint Meeting set forth in this Section 1.

COVENANTS OF THE JOINT MEETING. The Joint Meeting hereby covenants and agrees for the benefit of the Local Unit and the I-Bank, as follows.

Participation in the Anticipated Financing Program. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall undertake and complete in a timely manner all conditions precedent identified by the I-Bank relating to (i) the participation by the Local Unit in the Anticipated Financing Program and (ii) the qualification by the Local Unit for receipt of the Anticipated Long Term Loan.

Disposition of Environmental Infrastructure System. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall not sell, lease, abandon or otherwise dispose of all, substantially all or any

essential component (other than for obsolescence) of its Environmental Infrastructure System without the express written consent of the I-Bank, which consent may or may not be granted by the I-Bank in its sole discretion.

Financing With Tax-Exempt Bonds. The Joint Meeting acknowledges, covenants and agrees that it is the intention of the Local Unit to finance the Project on a long-term basis with proceeds of I-Bank Bonds hereinafter issued, the interest on which is excluded from gross income for purposes of federal income taxation pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code (“tax-exempt bonds”). In furtherance of such long-term financing with tax-exempt bonds, the Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that, except to the extent expressly permitted in writing by the I-Bank, the Joint Meeting will not take any action or permit any action to be taken which would result in any of the proceeds of the Loan being used (directly or indirectly) (i) in any “private business use” within the meaning of Section 141(b)(6) of the Code, (ii) to make or finance loans to persons other than the Local Unit, or (iii) to acquire any “nongovernmental output property” within the meaning of Section 141(d)(2) of the Code. In addition, the Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that no portion of the Project will be investment property, within the meaning of Section 148(b) of the Code. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that any Costs of the Project to be paid or reimbursed with proceeds of the Loan will result in the expenditure of proceeds under Treasury Regulations §1.148-6(d) and Treasury Regulations §1.150-2.

Operation and Maintenance of Environmental Infrastructure System. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall maintain its Environmental Infrastructure System in good repair, working order and operating condition, and promptly make all necessary and proper repairs and improvements with respect thereto.

Records and Accounts; Inspections. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall keep accurate records and accounts for the Environmental Infrastructure System, which shall be audited annually by an independent registered municipal accountant and shall be made available for inspection by the I-Bank upon prior written notice. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall permit the I-Bank (and any party designated thereby to act on its behalf or to assist it, including, without limitation, its professional advisors), at any and all reasonable times during construction of the Project and, thereafter, upon prior written notice, (i) to visit, inspect and examine the property constituting the Project and the site on which the Project is located, and (ii) to inspect (and make and retain copies of) any Joint Meeting accounts, books, records, correspondence and files, including, without limitation, Joint Meeting records regarding contracts, receipts, disbursements, investments and the overall financial standing of the Joint Meeting, and any other matters related to the Joint Meeting, the Project and the forgoing list of deliverables. In furtherance of the intent of this subsection, the Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall promptly prepare and provide such written reports and informational summaries as the I-Bank may reasonably require.

Insurance. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall maintain insurance policies providing against risk of direct physical loss, damage or destruction of its Environmental Infrastructure System, in an amount that will satisfy all applicable regulatory requirements. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall include, or cause to be included, the I-Bank as an

additional “named insured” on any certificate of liability insurance procured by the Joint Meeting and by any contractor or subcontractor for the Project.

Exhibits. The Joint Meeting covenants and agrees that it shall comply with the terms, procedures and requirements as set forth in each of the Exhibits attached to the Note, including, without limitation, those relating to the undertaking and completion of the Project, which Exhibits shall be deemed to be incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if set forth herein in their entirety.

Reliance. The Joint Meeting hereby acknowledges that (i) the I-Bank is making the Loan to the Local Unit pursuant to the terms of the Note, and (ii) the Local Unit is issuing the Note to the I-Bank to evidence and secure the Loan, in each case, in reliance upon each of the covenants of the Joint Meeting set forth in this Section 2.

SUBMISSION OF REQUISITIONS BY THE JOINT MEETING; LOAN DISBURSEMENTS TO THE JOINT MEETING.

The Joint Meeting and the Local Unit hereby acknowledge and agree that disbursements of the Loan shall be made by the I-Bank pursuant to and in compliance with the terms and provisions of Section 4 of the Note; provided, however, that notwithstanding the terms and provisions of Section 4 of the Note to the contrary, (i) the Joint Meeting and the Local Unit hereby acknowledge and agree that the submission of Loan Disbursement Requisitions to the I-Bank, as required by the terms and provisions of Section 4 of the Note, shall be the obligation of the Joint Meeting, acting for and on behalf of the Local Unit in furtherance of the undertaking and completion of the Project, (ii) all proceeds of the Loan shall be disbursed by the I-Bank to the Joint Meeting, acting for and on behalf of the Local Unit, in furtherance of the undertaking and completion of the Project, and (iii) the Local Unit shall have no obligation to oversee, monitor or enforce the proper allocation of proceeds of the Loan, as shall be disbursed to the Joint Meeting by the I-Bank, to the Costs of the Project. Further, the Joint Meeting hereby acknowledges and agrees to each of the terms, provisions, conditions and limitations set forth in Section 4(d) of the Note with respect to disbursements of the Loan.

Notwithstanding the terms and provisions of this Section 3 (or any other term or provision of the Note), the Joint Meeting and the Local Unit acknowledge and agree that any and all Loan repayments and all other amounts due under the Note shall be the exclusive payment obligation of the Local Unit, and the Joint Meeting shall have no obligation to make payment of any Loan repayments or any other amounts due under the Note. Notwithstanding the provisions of the proceeding sentence, the Joint Meeting hereby covenants and agrees to disburse to the I-Bank, on behalf of the Local Unit, all reimbursement payments, if any, received by the Joint Meeting from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency that relate to the Project, and the costs of the Project financed through the Water Bank Construction Financing Program of the I-Bank with proceeds of the Note, for application, on behalf of the Local Unit, pursuant to the terms of Section 3(k) of the Note. Such disbursement by the Joint Meeting of reimbursement payments to the I-Bank, on behalf of the Local Unit, shall be completed by the Joint Meeting as expeditiously as is practical following receipt of such reimbursement payments by the Joint Meeting, but no later than three (3) business days thereafter. The Joint Meeting shall

pay such reimbursement payments to the I-Bank via electronic transfer of funds pursuant to transfer instructions that shall be obtained by the Joint Meeting from the I-Bank upon the request of the Joint Meeting. The Local Unit hereby acknowledges and agrees to such disbursement by the Joint Meeting of reimbursement payments, upon receipt thereof from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, to the I-Bank, on behalf of the Local Unit, for application, on behalf of the Local Unit, pursuant to the terms of Section 3(k) of the Note.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT. The following events shall constitute an “Event of Default” hereunder: (i) failure by the Joint Meeting to observe and perform any duty, covenant, obligation or agreement on its part to be observed or performed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement; (ii) any representation made by the Joint Meeting contained in this Agreement or in any instrument furnished in compliance with or with reference to this Agreement is false or misleading in any material respect; (iii) the occurrence of a default by the Joint Meeting with respect to the performance of its duties and obligations pursuant to the terms of the MOA; and (iv) a petition is filed by or against the Joint Meeting under any federal or state bankruptcy or insolvency law or other similar law in effect on the date of this Agreement or thereafter enacted, unless in the case of any such petition filed against the Joint Meeting such petition shall be dismissed within thirty (30) days after such filing and such dismissal shall be final and not subject to appeal, or the Joint Meeting shall become insolvent or bankrupt or shall make an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or a custodian of the Joint Meeting or any of its property shall be appointed by court order or take possession of the Joint Meeting or its property or assets if such order remains in effect or such possession continues for more than thirty (30) days. The Joint Meeting hereby acknowledges that an Event of Default hereunder shall constitute an “Event of Default” pursuant to, and as defined in, the Note.

REMEDIES UPON EVENT OF DEFAULT. Whenever an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing pursuant to the terms hereof, the Joint Meeting and Local Unit hereby acknowledge and agree to the rights of the I-Bank to take any action permitted or required at law or in equity to enforce the observance and performance of any duty, covenant, obligation or agreement of the Joint Meeting hereunder. If an Event of Default shall have occurred, the Joint Meeting and Local Unit hereby acknowledge and agree that the I-Bank shall have the right to (i) immediately cease disbursements of the proceeds of the Loan, and/or (ii) declare all Loan repayments and all other amounts due under the Note to be due and payable by the Local Unit immediately without further notice or demand, as and to the extent provided by the terms of the Note. The Joint Meeting and Local Unit hereby acknowledge and agree that no remedy herein is intended to be exclusive, and every remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to every other remedy given under this Agreement or the Note or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity. The Joint Meeting and Local Unit hereby further acknowledge and agree that no delay or omission by the I-Bank to exercise any remedy or right accruing upon any Event of Default shall impair any such remedy or right or shall be construed to be a waiver thereof, but any such remedy or right may be exercised as often as may be deemed expedient.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Third Party Beneficiary. The I-Bank is a third-party beneficiary to this Agreement and is entitled to the rights and benefits hereunder and may enforce the provisions hereof as if it were a party hereto.

Modifications. This Agreement may not be modified, amended, supplemented, replaced, renewed or extended except by an agreement in writing signed by the parties and acknowledged and agreed to by the I-Bank.

Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State.

Miscellaneous. (a) The obligations of the Joint Meeting pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as long as the Note remains outstanding. (b) This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns. (c) The obligations of the Joint Meeting pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Agreement may not be assigned thereby for any reason, unless the I-Bank shall have approved said assignment in writing. (d) In the event any provision of this Agreement is held illegal, invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate, render unenforceable or otherwise affect any other provision hereof. (e) Whenever the Joint Meeting may seek to obtain the determination, approval or consent of the I-Bank in connection with the terms and provisions of this Agreement, such determination, approval or consent may be either granted or withheld by the I-Bank in its sole and absolute discretion. (f) The Joint Meeting and the Local Unit hereby acknowledge and agree that, consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 58:11B-13, neither the directors of the I-Bank nor any officer of the I-Bank taking any action with respect to the Loan shall be liable personally with respect to the Loan or any matters or transactions related thereto.

Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterpart copies and by the parties hereto on separate counterparts, but all such copies shall constitute one and the same instrument. Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to this Agreement by electronic transmission shall be effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart. Any party so executing this Agreement by electronic transmission shall promptly deliver a manually executed counterpart, provided that any failure to do so shall not affect the validity of the counterpart executed by electronic transmission.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE NEXT PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, have duly executed and delivered this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

**JOINT MEETING OF ESSEX AND
UNION COUNTIES**

By: _____
HANIFA Z. JOHNSON,
Executive Director

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE,
IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

By: _____
SUSAN MCCARTNEY,
Mayor

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED:

NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

By: _____
David E. Zimmer
Executive Director

[Project Financing Agreement Signature Page]