

# Lake Charlene Outfall Project Receives FEMA Grant Award

Escambia County has been awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Lake Charlene Outfall Project, to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters.

The goal of this mitigation project is to improve drainage for the Lake Charlene area. The project begins at the channel intersecting Lake Joanne Drive on the west and expands east to the intersection of South 61st Avenue, then south to the outfall at U.S. Highway 98.

The grant is set up in two phases: design and construction. Federal HMGP funds total \$314,274 for Phase 1, the design phase. It is expected this phase will begin this fall and take nine months to complete, pending contract negotiations for professional services, design time, permit approvals, and FEMA review and approval.

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After design, easement acquisition, environmental permitting and bid packages are complete and delivered to FDEM-FEMA for review, Phase 2 for construction will be considered by FEMA for funding and agreement amendment.

The current plan for Phase 2, the construction phase, is to install approximately 1,600 feet of double 60-inch concrete pipe from the channel intersecting Lake Joanne Drive, east to 61st Avenue, and then south on 61st Avenue. At minimum, another 800 feet of 66-inch pipe and 110 feet of 60-inch pipe will be installed to reach the U.S. 98 outfall location. The construction schedule will depend on identification of needed easements and issues associated with those easements.

Upon completion, Phase 1 will provide protection against a 50-year storm event. A public meeting will be scheduled upon completion of 60 percent design. Discussion will focus on the balance of safety for residents and aesthetic concerns.

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