JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL PUBLIC NOTICE March 17, 2022

HMGP-DR-4564-024 Escambia County, Bristol Park and Ashbury Hills, Acquisition

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

Escambia County

Project Title:

HMGP-4564 (State # 024) - Escambia County, Bristol Park and Ashbury Hills, Acquisitions

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations: Escambia County, Bristol Park, Harlington Street, Silhouette Drive and Ashbury Lane, Cantonment, FL 32533

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Escambia County proposes to provide flood protection to twenty-four (24) single family properties located in Cantonment, Florida 32533. The proposed scope of work is to acquire and demolish twenty-two (22) one-story residential structures and two (2) two-story residential structures located within the community's 100-year floodplain. Site stabilization shall follow demolition including the removal of residual building elements, debris, and backfilling existing pools, where applicable. Existing septic tanks shall be capped and rendered inoperable, where applicable, and all utilities shall be disconnected and abandoned. The Town of Cantonment, a suburb north of Pensacola in Escambia County, has been impacted by several flood events in the past. In particular, the Bristol Park and Ashbury Hills neighborhoods located around the Eleven-Mile Creek, have experienced chronic flooding for decades. These neighborhoods are bounded upstream and downstream by tributaries into the Eleven-Mile Creek placing them at a vulnerable junction subject to increased flows and dangerous flash flooding during high intensity rain events. The proposed project shall remove homeowners from risk areas and permanently eliminate structural and content flood loss.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are: 1) the no action alternative and 2) elevation of the subject properties. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) the risk of flooding is not alleviated, and the needs of the community would not be served; and Alternative 2) does not completely eliminate the risk of impacts from flooding. While physical damages would be reduced, residents are not removed from the flood hazard area. In the instance of a flood event residents would likely be either trapped in their homes or prevented from accessing them unless they were to traverse the flood waters placing themselves and potentially first responders at risk. Finally, the alternative is also cost prohibitive, and therefore not considered practicable or cost reasonable.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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