



Exhibit D: Public Notice

Escambia County
Floodplain Property Acquisition

Project Application – DR-4486

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
April 7, 2022**

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-4486-DR-FL *Escambia County - Floodplain Property Acquisition*

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:

- Dowdy Drive, Pensacola, FL
- El Dorado Drive, Pensacola, FL
- Silverado Court, Pensacola, FL
- Tempest Drive, Pensacola, FL
- Thayer Avenue, Pensacola, FL
- Whippoorwill Drive, Pensacola, FL

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Escambia County (the County) is vulnerable to flood risk from multiple sources: coastal, riverine, and stormwater flooding. The County maintains an open flood questionnaire on their website to identify at-risk properties with repetitive flood losses and ascertain appropriate mitigation measures to address flooding. Through this system, the County has identified seven eligible and interested households within the Bayou Marcus watershed that have experienced localized flooding and are located within FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) based on current and preliminary flood map products. All seven property owners have experienced physical damage to their property, some dating back to 2012.

According to the County's documentation, property owners included in this application have experienced 2 - 3 damaging flood events within the last 10 years. Each flooding event greatly impacts households emotionally and financially. Without intervention, residents can expect to suffer from continued losses in the form of physical, fiscal, and health impacts. The property owners included in this application estimate that they have incurred structure damage and contents losses totaling over \$1.8 million since 2012.

The proposed project will acquire and demolish seven residential structures in the SFHA, eliminating future flood damages to these properties. FEMA 551 states that, "acquiring and demolishing or simply demolishing a flood prone structure is the most successful means of ensuring that a structure will not accumulate additional losses from future flood events." As demolished properties will remain deed-restricted open space into perpetuity, this action offers additional protection to remaining area residents and reduces flood risk to capital infrastructure.

All work will be done in accordance with all FEMA program requirements as described in 44 CFR 206.434(e). Additionally, the work executed shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations, including the Florida Building Code. The County has a well-established property acquisition process, in which the County will obtain a certified property appraisal that meets Uniform Residential Appraisal requirements to develop a purchase offer. Each property owner will have the opportunity to appeal the purchase offer. Upon agreement of a purchase price, the County will issue a Contract for Sale and acquire the property. Once the owner has vacated the premises, any above ground structures or site improvements will be removed within 90 days of closing, including main residences, accessory structures, and pools. All utilities and septic tanks will be capped and rendered inoperable. Properties will be inspected for asbestos containing material (ACM) and lead-based paint. Properties with ACM present will follow proper containment, removal, and disposal procedures for this material in accordance with EPA and FDEP regulations.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) is to elevate the subject properties. This alternative would reduce the likelihood of damages to structures on the property but would not completely eliminate that risk. Raising the first-floor elevation (FFE) of structures to the proper elevation will remove those properties from the danger of inundation from most floods, however, does not guarantee their safety from the worst events.

These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) repetitive flooding is not alleviated and the needs of the community would not be served; and Alternative 2) Although the risk of damages to structures would be reduced, they would not be altogether eliminated. In the instance of future flood events residents will either be trapped within their homes or prevented from accessing them inevitably necessitating some sort of rescue or alternative arrangement for housing, or both. The elevation of structures may also result in daily access issues for homeowners, especially those with limited mobility who would be required to use stairs or ramps to enter and exit their home. Finally, although homes may be elevated above BFE for the alternate project structures such as sheds, utilities such as septic tanks, and personal property such as vehicles will not be. The impacts of flooding on these assets not only cause damages but can have environmental consequences as well. In addition to the presence of what would become general debris, fluids in vehicles, chemicals kept in storage structures, as well as fecal matter from septic tanks are all at risk of being released into floodwaters. This is not only a source of environmental degradation but may also result in a secondary health crisis.

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 15 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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