

## **Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain or Wetland**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Apalachicola, Florida, (the “City”) has determined that a portion of the following proposed action under FloridaCommerce, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Award No. M0016 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and the City will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain, and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed project location is in the City Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. These construction activities will occur within existing City rights-of-way and drainage easements of Avenues A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, the Intersection of Avenue F & 4th Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Water Street, and the Battery Park Outfall.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach. No wetland impacts are anticipated for this project. No filling/grading changes to the existing elevations are proposed; as such, no permanent impacts to floodplains are anticipated. Temporary impacts in the 100-year floodplains are approximately 2.57 acres.

A previous early notice for Avenues D, E, F, G, H, and I, the Intersection of Avenue F & 4th Street, and the Battery Park Outfall of this project was sent. However, based on completed CCTV survey, the project engineer has determined that additional stormwater infrastructure rehabilitation along Avenues A, B, C, 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 6th Street, 7th Street and Water Street may also be needed, for a total of 14,000 LF of pipe area. All of these areas are major components of the downtown commercial district's stormwater system and critical pieces of infrastructure for an economically and culturally important section of the City. The proposed stormwater system renewals and replacements are necessary to rehabilitate the existing stormwater infrastructure damaged by the storm surge, correct existing stormwater infrastructure deficiencies, alleviate floodwater drainage issues, and improve the City's stormwater infrastructure resiliency.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Apalachicola, Florida, at the following address on or before September 6, 2024: City of Apalachicola, 192 Coach Wagoner Boulevard, Apalachicola, FL 32320, and 850-323-0985, Attention: Bree Robinson, City Planner. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the same address above. Comments may also be submitted via email at [brobinson@cityofapalachicola.com](mailto:brobinson@cityofapalachicola.com).

Date: August 21, 2024