

**COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND
FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A
FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN**

January 2, 2025

City of Apalachicola
192 Coach Wagoner Boulevard
Apalachicola, FL 32320
850-323-0985

These notices shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Apalachicola.

**FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A
FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN**

The City of Apalachicola, Florida, (the "City") has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under FloridaCommerce's Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program, Award No. M0016. The proposed project includes portions of Avenues A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I; intersection of Avenue F & 4th Street; 5th Street; 6th Street; 7th Street; Water Street; and the Battery Park Outfall, which are all major components of the downtown commercial district's stormwater system. Project activities will be implemented in Apalachicola, Franklin County, and are located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using 0.2 percent flood approach.

This project will repair Hurricane Michael damage and rehabilitate the stormwater system along Avenues A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I; intersection of Avenue F & 4th Street; 5th Street; 6th Street; 7th Street; Water Street; and the Battery Park Outfall, which 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, thus correcting the effects of Hurricane Michael and mitigating against future impacts. Major elements of this project include:

- Use of a CIPP reinforced epoxy resin impregnation process to repair approximately 14,000 linear feet of damaged clay sewer lines. CIPP is considered a trenchless technology; little to no digging is involved in this trenchless process, making for a potentially more cost-effective and less disruptive method than traditional "dig and replace" pipe repair methods.
- Replacement of undersized pipes to larger diameters capable, improving the system's ability to handle large amounts of rainwater.
- Installation of protective outfall tidal gates and backflow protection at approximately

18 stormwater outfalls to prevent backup of storm surge waters from Apalachicola River or Apalachicola Bay into the stormwater water system.

- Installation of trench drain systems as a secondary means of conveying stormwater to Apalachicola Bay without utilizing the existing system. The trench drain system will act independently of the existing system and provide the ability for the basin to drain when the existing system becomes inundated.
- Repair of concrete streets that have experienced settling due to infiltration and inflow from the stormwater conveyance systems. These streets will be repaired by demolishing the existing concrete and replacing with asphalt pavement.

The project may include approximately 2.57 acres of work in the FFRMS floodplain. No wetland impacts are anticipated for this project.

The City has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain:

1. No Action: The “No-Action” alternative is not feasible, as it would result in continued deterioration of stormwater infrastructure and negative service impacts to local residents.
2. Replacement of all damaged pipes in lieu of the use of CIPP reinforce epoxy resin impregnation – This alternative was determined not to be in the best interest of the City’s use of resources given the expense when the CIPP option is available and is more cost effective. Additionally, the CIPP approach is less disruptive which means less impact for the surrounding property owners.
3. Use CIPP epoxy resin impregnation to reinforce / repair existing pipes that have been determined to be adequate in size and replace undersize pipes with correctly sized pipes for the stormwater system, as determined by the project engineer.
4. Locating the proposed project outside of the floodplain area – This option was determined not feasible as the stormwater infrastructure is existing and located in existing road rights-of-way that service the community.

The City has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain 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. 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 floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 23, 2025, the City of Apalachicola will submit a request to the FloridaCommerce for the release of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as M0016 – Avenues Stormwater Repair Project for the purpose of repairing and rehabilitating stormwater infrastructure of the City of Apalachicola. Total estimated project funding is \$3,887,869.00 (\$3,862,869.00 CDBG-DR / \$25,000.00 Local). The project is located at various sites in the City of Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida (along Avenues A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I; intersection of Avenue F & 4th Street; 5th Street; 6th Street; 7th Street; Water Street; and the Battery Park Outfall, which are all major components of the downtown commercial district's stormwater system).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Apalachicola has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Apalachicola, 192 Coach Wagoner Boulevard, Apalachicola, FL 32320, and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. local time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Apalachicola at the address provided above (ATTN: Bree Robinson) or via email (brobinson@cityofapalachicola.com). All comments received by **January 22, 2025**, will be considered by the City of Apalachicola prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Apalachicola certifies to FloridaCommerce that Brenda Ash in her capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. FloridaCommerce's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Apalachicola to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

FloridaCommerce will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Apalachicola's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Apalachicola; (b) the

City of Apalachicola has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by FloridaCommerce; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to FloridaCommerce, Office of Long-Term Resiliency, MSC-400, 107 East Madison Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-6508. Potential objectors should contact FloridaCommerce to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Brenda Ash, Mayor
City of Apalachicola

POSTED TO CITY WEBSITE: Thursday, January 2, 2025