

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies include all Federal, State, and Local, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Wewahitchka [under 24 CFR Part 58](#) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and Executive Order 11990, 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 Florida Commerce CDBG M0118. The proposed project(s) is located throughout the City Limits of Wewahitchka in Gulf County, Florida and is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain/wetland. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined by the 0.2 percent flood mapped on the FEMA Firm maps. The City of Wewahitchka is proposing to replace damaged wastewater infrastructure inside the city limits. More specifically, replace/repair all damaged manholes inside the City limits, replace 3 existing lift stations, as well as replace damaged gravity sewer lines. A few locations of this proposed project lie within the "A" and "AE" Flood Zones. The project proposes that the existing wastewater infrastructure be replaced in the same locations. The work taking place within the "A" and "AE" Flood Zone is approximately 0.25 acres within the City's Right of Way throughout the City limits.

The City of Wewahitchka has reevaluated and considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures listed below to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain. Although these alternatives were considered, the most practical and preferred option would be to repair/replace the damaged infrastructure in its existing location to keep gravity flows consistent and maintain the effectiveness of the system, to serve those residents that lie within said floodplain (which infrastructure is in dire need of replacement), and to be able to be the most effective with the budgetary restraints and fix as many areas within the City limits of Wewahitchka as possible (most wastewater infrastructure in the city is around 50-60 years old). All applicable permits will be obtained for this project as well as all mitigation requirements required.

A. Relocate the Project to a New Site.

1. This option would include relocating all proposed activities outside of the floodplain onto a new site. In doing so, this would require the acquisition of a new City Right of Way. This would also require several new lift stations in the City to redirect the flow around the floodplain area as the existing gravity flows would not function properly. This option has been rejected as the time frame and cost needed to acquire a new Right of Way and install additional lift stations, force mains, etc. would exceed the project budget.

B. Conduct the replacement of the wastewater repairs outside the floodplain.

1. This option would entail replacing all of the wastewater sewer system outside of the floodplain. This would include installing new lift stations to pump the sewage around said floodplain areas as the existing gravity flows of the system would not function properly. This option has been rejected due to the issues of the infrastructure serving those residences inside the floodplain and the overall cost would exceed the budget of the project.

C. No Action or Alternative Actions that Serve the Same Purpose

1. A no action alternative was considered and rejected because of the infrastructure issues observed and tested throughout the city, more specifically some areas inside the floodplain. The damaged infrastructure inside the floodplain areas is in dire need of

replacement/repairs and the condition of said infrastructure will continue to deteriorate until a failure resulting in harmful environmental impacts occurs.

The City of Wewahitchka 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, and Executive Order 11990, 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.

Written comments must be received by the City of Wewahitchka at the following address on or before November 12, 2024: Rachel Jackson, City Clerk, 211 N. Highway 71 in Wewahitchka, Florida, and 850-639-2605 Attention: Michael Gortman, Certifying Officer/City Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am-4:00pm at the above address. This notice is available at <https://www.cityofwewahitchka.com/>. Comments may also be submitted by email at Hunter.Baumgardner@SoutheasternCE.com.

Date: 11/4/2024