

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

Waste Water Repair
City of Wewahitchka
211 N Highway 71
Wewahitchka, Florida 32465
850-639-2605

To: All Interested Agencies [**include all Federal, State, and Local**], Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that **The City of Wewahitchka** has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection to determine the potential affect that the activity in the floodplain and/or wetland will have on the environment. The activity is funded by the Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program under Grant Number: **M0118**

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 2 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 is proposing 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 alternatives (listed below) to remain outside of the floodplain/wetland, but due to the infrastructure locations and residents it serves within the Floodplain/wetland area, there are no practical alternatives to serve the existing residents other than replace the wastewater infrastructure in the same location as the existing within a reasonable budget. All construction shall be in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of [**Executive Order 11988 and/or 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.

The City of Wewahitchka considered several alternative options to satisfy these requirements:

- A. Conclude the replacement of the water main outside the floodplain.
 - 1. This option would entail replacing all of the wastewater sewer system outside of the floodplain. This option has been rejected due to the issues of the infrastructure serving those residences inside the floodplain.
- B. No Action or Alternative Actions that Serve the Same Purpose

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.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in **[floodplains/wetlands]** 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/wetland]**, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about **[floodplains/wetlands]** 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/wetlands]**, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by **[Rachel Jackson: City Clerk]** at **[211 N. Highway 71 in Wewahitchka, Florida]** and **[850-639-2605]** on or before **[September 5, 2024]**. *A full description of the project may also be reviewed from [8:00-4:00]*. Additional information may be obtained by contacting **[Hunter Baumgardner: City Engineer]**. Comments may also be submitted by email at **[Hunter.Baumgardner@SoutheasternCE.com]**.

Michael Gortman: City Manager
Environmental Certifying Official
8.23.2024