

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed

Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Live Oak, Florida, under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed action under the Rebuild Florida 2023 and 2024 Storms Infrastructure Repair Program (IRP) / Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, Grant No. MS020, may be located in or may affect the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and mapped wetland areas. The City will identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the action in the FFRMS floodplain and wetland areas and will evaluate the potential impacts on those resources, as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55, including 24 CFR 55.20.

The proposed activity is the City of Live Oak Potable Water System Improvements Project. The project includes construction of a 100,000-gallon ground water storage tank with aeration; installation of two high-service pumps with variable frequency drives; electrical and instrumentation upgrades; associated site work to harden critical water facilities; and installation of PVC water main, including valves and fire hydrants, to create distribution system looping and redundancy. Work will occur at City of Live Oak Parcel No. 25-02S-13E-07396-001000, located off Lee Avenue, Live Oak, Florida 32064, and along the water-main route beginning at that site and extending generally south along Lee Avenue SE to 94th Street, east along 94th Street to County Road 49, and north along County Road 49 to the Suwannee River Water Management District facility at 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. The total estimated project cost includes \$3,895,500 in budgeted IRP / CDBG-DR Program funds.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain has been evaluated using available FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain approach where mapped information is available. FEMA mapping prepared for the project shows portions of the proposed water-main route in proximity to mapped Zone A flood hazard areas, while the 100,000-gallon ground water storage tank site is outside the mapped 100-year floodplain. The attached FEMA 100-Year Floodplain Map depicts the proposed storage tank site and approximately 11,800 linear feet of 12-inch water main within the mapped project corridor. The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory map identifies freshwater emergent wetlands, freshwater forested/shrub wetlands, freshwater ponds, lakes, other waters, and riverine features in the broader project vicinity. The City will use the site-specific environmental review record, FEMA mapping, NWI mapping, field observations, engineering plans, and applicable permit reviews to avoid and minimize floodplain and wetland impacts.

The natural and beneficial values of the floodplain and wetland areas in the project vicinity include floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater recharge, stormwater attenuation, water quality protection, and habitat values. The proposed project is an infrastructure resiliency project within an existing public utility system and previously developed or maintained rights-of-way and utility areas. The project is not expected to induce new development, change land use, create new residential occupancy in the floodplain, or permanently displace persons. Temporary construction activities may include trenching, excavation, grading, compaction, placement of fill, staging, and restoration of disturbed surfaces. The City will require standard erosion, sedimentation, stormwater, and construction best management practices and will restore disturbed areas following construction.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the FFRMS floodplain or wetland areas, and those who have an interest in protecting the natural environment, should have an opportunity to express concerns and provide information. Commenters are encouraged to offer practicable alternatives outside the floodplain or wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate potential project impacts. Second, public notice can be an important educational tool that helps reduce risks and impacts associated with occupancy and modification of floodplains and wetlands. Third, as a matter of fairness, when federal assistance is considered for actions that may occur in or affect floodplains or wetlands, the public should be informed of potential continued or increased risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Live Oak on or before August 18, 2026. Comments may be submitted to: City of Live Oak, Attention: Yolanda Tanksley, Project and Procurement Specialist, 101 White Avenue SE, Live Oak, Florida 32064, telephone (386) 362-2276, Ext. 210, or by email to ytanksley@cityofliveoak.org. A full description of the project may be reviewed Monday through Friday, during regular business hours, at the same address.

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