

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain

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 Florida Commerce, previously known as Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Award No. M0033 is located in the floodplain. 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.

The project proposes to repair damage caused by Hurricane Michael and provide economic revitalization for businesses located in the city’s Hill Community, which includes any CDBG-DR eligible activity that demonstrably restores and improves some aspect of the local economy. As documented, Hurricane Michael caused catastrophic damage to Apalachicola and the city is currently focused on long-term community recovery activities and economic revitalization planning as a result of Hurricane Michael’s impacts.

The City proposes a range of strategies to promote the recovery of economic activity in commercial area of Hurricane Michael-impacted community, facilitating the return and recovery of businesses, jobs, and provision of goods and services to the area. To aid in economic development for this community, the City would include façade improvements, repairing structural damage to commercial buildings, sidewalk improvements and lighting, demolition of dilapidated structures, removal of blight, as well as improve connections and walkability between The Hill and Downtown commercial area. Specifically, the City proposes to use CDBG funds to provide improvements to the following commercial properties and sidewalks within the Hill Community:

Sidewalk Improvements:

- 8th Street – Repair / replace / construct sidewalks and lighting along 8th Street between Avenue F and Avenue K.
- 7th Street - Repair / replace / construct sidewalks and lighting along 7th Street between Avenue K and MLK Blvd.
- MLK Blvd - Repair / replace / construct sidewalks and lighting along MLK Blvd between 5th Street and 12th Street.

Commercial Property Improvements:

- Croom’s Mini Mall – Roof replacement, exterior lighting, façade improvements, electrical improvements.
- Keep it Clean Game Room – Additional structural evaluation to determine the structural integrity of the building. Roof repair, interior ceiling, and flooring are contemplated; however, this scope may require modification, pending structural investigations.
- 120 MLK Jr. Boulevard (formerly AJ’s) – Roof replacement, windows, floors, and siding.

No wetland impacts are anticipated for this project. No impacts are proposed in the 100-year floodplain. However, the southeast end of the sidewalk improvements of 7th Street and 8th Street, approximately 750 SF (0.02 acres), are located within the 500-year floodplain. No filling/grading changes to the existing elevations are proposed; as such, no permanent impacts to floodplains over the current conditions are anticipated.

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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 August 16, 2024: City of Apalachicola, 192 Coach Wagoner Boulevard, Apalachicola, FL 32320, and 850-323-0985, Attention: Bree Robinson, City Planner, during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at brobinson@cityofapalachicola.com.

Date: July 30, 2024