

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain or Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Apalachicola under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Florida Commerce Award No. M0034 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and/or wetland, and the City of Apalachicola will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and/or wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain and/or wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 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 Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed project is generally located along 4th Street, from Avenue D to Battery Park; along Commerce Street from Avenue G to Battery Park; and along Water Street from Avenue M to Battery Park, in Franklin County, Florida.

The City will use the funds to demolish buildings damaged by Hurricane Michael and return them to productive commercial use, repair and rehabilitate important community assets which benefit the community, including the following:

- (1) Demolition and Dock Repair at Water Street Seafood
- (2) Dock Repair at Scipio Creek Marina;
- (3) Extension of the walkway/sidewalk/lighting at Commerce Street;
- (4) Dock Repair at the Water Street Hotel;
- (5) Dock demolition and repair at J.V. Gander Oil;
- (6) Demolition and Dock construction at the former Coast Guard Station property;
- (7) Demolition of the old Apalachicola Fire Station damaged by the Hurricane and convert it into parking area;
- (8) Improve sidewalks and lighting along Water Street down to Battery Park, which are critical areas for pedestrian travel and community walkability; improve sidewalks and lighting from Gibson Inn area down to Battery Park, which are critical areas for pedestrian travel and community walkability;
- (9) Built over the water, the historic Popham building is Apalachicola's last surviving post-and-beam structure from the early 1900s. The Hometown Revitalization grant will attempt to stabilize the existing structure with new pilings and repair/replace the riverfront boat docks, creating jobs and immediate new revenue for ongoing operations;
- (10) Rebuild Pier and repair dock at the Andres Pier.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach. The proposed project would temporarily impact +/- 7.21 acres of floodplain area associated with the sidewalk improvements and Popham building stabilization; and impact +/- 1.64 acres of wetland and/or surface water area associated with the demolition and dock repair / reconstruction projects referenced above.

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

Written comments must be received by the City of Apalachicola at the following address on or before September 6, 2024: City of Apalachicola, 192 Coach Wagoner Boulevard, Apalachicola, FL 32320 and 850-323-0985, Attention: Bree Robinson, City Planner. A full description of the project may also be reviewed at the address above during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at brobinson@cityofapalachicola.com.

Date: August 21, 2024