

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

CRITICAL SYSTEMS FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT NYE COUNTY, NEVADA HMGP-4708-006-002

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to Nye County (County or Subapplicant) in Nye County, Nevada, to mitigate impacts from floods by constructing a floodwall and culvert and implementing drainage and erosion control measures to protect existing County-owned government office facilities in Pahrump, NV (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action would mitigate impacts from flooding in the vicinity of government office facilities by redirecting flood waters away from the Nye County Courts Complex, Information Technology Building, Sheriff's Office Complex, and Nye County Assessor, Recorder, and Treasurer's offices and into culverts and drainage channels. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives considered.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce flood hazards. The Proposed Action consists of the following: 1) installation of a 1,102-foot-long concrete floodwall comprised of rebar, concrete, and grout with a drainage system to collect and divert stormwater; 2) removal or replacement of ancillary infrastructure, including 46 feet of sidewalk and curb south of the property's north driveway, and an existing pedestrian footbridge across an existing drainage channel; 3) replacement of an existing cinderblock dumpster enclosure located along the edge of the proposed floodwall, with a new enclosure nearby that would not conflict with the proposed floodwall; and 4) construction of a 24-foot by 48-foot concrete culvert over an existing drainage channel to support the floodwall, divert stormwater, and serve as a vehicle driveway.

The 6.1-acre project area and 15.8-acre staging area are depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 32023C8850F, effective date December 2, 2015. The FIRM shows that the entire project area and the majority of the staging area are within Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard. Only 0.1 acres along the western edge of the staging area are located within Shaded Zone X, which represents the 500-year floodplain, an area with a 0.2 percent probability of flooding every year. Despite the majority of the project area and staging area being in Zone X, the project area and its vicinity have been subject to extreme flash flooding during monsoonal and atmospheric river flood events, which prompted the County to propose a floodwall to protect the government office facilities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map also shows a riverine wetland that passes through the project area. There are no potential wetlands identified on the NWI map in the staging area.

Maps of the project area and staging area and their location within the floodplain and wetland are available for public review. Parties interested in reviewing a copy of the maps should contact the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the Proposed Action were considered: the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1, Relocation. Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur to address flood risks. This Alternative is not recommended because if no action is taken, the existing facilities would remain vulnerable to future flooding events and resulting property damage and public safety risks. Under Alternative 1, the facilities would be relocated from the flood-prone area to an area with lower flood risk. Alternative 1 is not recommended because it would result in higher costs and greater environmental disturbance.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain and wetland. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain or wetland and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage. Nye County has stated that the Proposed Action conforms to local floodplain standards and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the Proposed Action.

Additional information about the Proposed Action may be requested by writing to the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.