

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

BETA STREET FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT (PHASE 1) SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA HMGP-4699-1114-007

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 the City of San Diego (Subapplicant) in San Diego County, California, to mitigate impacts from localized flooding by preparing technical studies, design drawings, and other environmental documentation associated with Phase 1 storm drain improvements (Proposed Action). 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 for Phase 1 consists of the following: 1) preparation of technical studies such as a geotechnical survey, biological survey, wetland delineation report, and cultural resources report; 2) completion of design drawings; 3) completion of a cost-effectiveness evaluation; 4) permitting coordination; 5) community outreach events; and 6) preparation of California Environmental Quality Act-compliant documentation.

The project area is depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 06073C1903H, effective date December 20, 2019. The FIRM shows that the Proposed Action lies within Zone X, an area of 0.2-percent probability of flooding every year and Zone AE, an area with a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map shows the freshwater emergent wetlands, freshwater forested/shrub, and riverine habitat within the project area.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain and wetlands is available for public review. Parties interested in reviewing a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

A total of two alternatives to the Proposed Action were considered: the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1, involving Phase 1 activities for a new pump station and earthen berm. Under the No Action Alternative, no Phase 1 activities would occur to address increased flooding and continued drainage issues. This Alternative is not recommended because if no action is taken, almost any rain event could inundate the stormwater infrastructure in the community. Alternative 1 would investigate solutions to upgrade the pump station, flood barriers and berms, and storm drains with new infrastructure to achieve protection from flooding caused by 100-year storm events. However, Alternative 1 is not recommended due to concerns with cost-effectiveness, system vulnerability,

and community impacts, such as visibility of the area after installation and associated ongoing operation impacts.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain and wetlands. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain and wetlands and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and associated damage. The City of San Diego 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. Further notices will be posted for Phase 2 Proposed Actions.

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-R9-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.