

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

January 6, 2020

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Project Title:

BRIC-FL-2020- SFWMD Building Flood Resiliency at Critical Basins in South Florida: C-7 Basin, Drainage

Location of Proposed Work:

The S-27 Coastal Structure is located in the C-7 Canal, near its mouth, about 700 feet from the shore of Biscayne Bay at the Florida East Coast Railway crossing. Access to the coastal structure is through a suburban residential neighborhood of greater Miami at approximately the intersection of NE 82nd Street and NE 4th Place. The C-7 Canal extends easterly approximately 10.3 miles from the C-6 Canal. Canal bank enhancements are also being proposed in different locations along the C-7 Canal and connected secondary systems. The Larchmont Pump Station Conveyance Line Drainage Project is located along NW 83 Street to NW 85 Street between NW 2nd Avenue and NW 4th Avenue.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The proposed project for the C-7 Basin consists of local and regional flood mitigation strategies, to allow for the maintenance of peak stages within canal banks and increasing discharge options when the gates at the S-27 Coastal Structure are closed due to high tide elevations. As seen during the recent Tropical Storm Eta, basin flooding can occur with significant rainfall and reduction in the ability of the S-27 Coastal Structure to discharge to tide due to higher tailwater (sea levels rise). Enhancing the structure with pumps and increasing gate and service bridge heights rise is necessary to provide flood control now and into the future. A significant associated benefit of the proposed project is the protection of water supply sources (including the Biscayne Aquifer – a sole source aquifer) by retrofitting the structure to prevent sea water overtopping at the gates and reduce saltwater intrusion vulnerability. Specifically, the SFWMD, in partnership with Miami-Dade County, propose the implementation of innovative regional flood mitigation strategies consisting of the installation of a 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) forward pump at the S-27 Coastal Structure to maintain basin discharge capacity while sea levels rise, and increasing the height of its gates and service bridge to prevent overtopping, as well as enhancing the top of bank elevations of secondary canals under Miami-Dade County control within the C-7 Basin. Elevation deficiencies have been identified in a total of six (6) secondary canals totaling eight (8) miles. Moreover, the proposal includes drainage enhancements at one of the most vulnerable and lower income downstream community – Larchmont Gardens Area. The Larchmont Drainage Project includes the installation of 1,350 LF of 48" diameter watertight conveyance pipe. The proposed improvements will help mitigate against repetitive flooding in the area during and after major storms.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative, and to 2) create emergency management storage areas to accommodate the equivalent volumes of the reduced peak discharges rates, as a result of sea level rise, and install corrugated metal conveyance pipe to increase the capacity of the drainage

system into the pump station. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) repetitive flooding is not alleviated and the needs of the community would not be served; and Alternative 2) given the locations of these canals and costal structure in highly urbanized areas, only 5% of vacant land areas are available. Also, the water table elevation in the area is high and the use of corrugated metal pipe will allow groundwater infiltration into the pipe and ultimately reduce the conveyance capacity to the pump station.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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