

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed flood reduction and mitigation project in the City of St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. § 4331, et seq.), associated environmental and historic preservation laws, and FEMA implementing regulations for NEPA (44 C.F.R. part 10), FEMA prepared a Draft EA to evaluate the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. Two alternatives were evaluated in the Draft EA - a No Action and a Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is to construct a seawall 12 feet waterward of the existing historic seawall along Avenida Menendez and south of the Bridge of Lions. The space between the new seawall and the historic seawall would be filled and a promenade would be constructed on the filled area.

The Draft EA summarizes the Proposed Action's purpose and need, describes the project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences from the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action. The public comment period will be 15 days from the date of this notice. Written public comments on the Draft EA or related matters may be faxed to FEMA's Region IV Office at (770) 220-5440; emailed to FEMA at R4EHP@dhs.gov; or mailed to FEMA R4, Regional Environmental Officer, 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta GA, 30341-4112. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm>. The Draft EA will also be available for public review at the St. Augustine City Hall, City Clerk's Office (Lobby B, 2nd Floor), 75 King Street, St. Augustine, FL 32085 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

Based on FEMA's findings to date, FEMA anticipates no significant adverse impacts on historic and cultural resources or the natural environment. If new information is received that results in a change, then FEMA will revise its findings and issue a second public notice for additional public comment. If no substantive, contrary comments are received, then the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this Initial Public Notice will also serve as the Final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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