

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO PREPARE A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA)  
FOR WATERSHED RESILIENCY PROJECTS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

The Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for watershed resiliency projects throughout the State of North Carolina. This PEA covers a range of proposed actions that promote watershed resiliency, either as a primary or secondary goal, through nature-based solutions, bioengineering, or green infrastructure, instead of relying solely on grey or hard infrastructure approaches characterized by heavy reliance on rock, concrete, or steel. Proposed actions may involve projects eligible for federal funding or require federal licensing or permitting. Federally funded projects may involve repair, replacement, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of manmade or natural waterway components including stream embankments, shallow channels, drainage structures, and other such features. A breakdown of the proposed actions is detailed in the Summary of Actions. The PEA will address the purpose and need for the proposed actions, project alternatives considered (including the “No Action” alternative), affected environment, environmental consequences, and mitigation measures.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.4(k) and 1501.11), the PEA will identify, by project type, the potential adverse and beneficial effects associated with projects that involve mitigation and resiliency work along freshwater bodies. The PEA will allow FEMA to streamline subsequent environmental compliance review for site-specific grant applications and eliminate repetitive discussion by referencing relevant discussion included in the PEA (known as “tiering”) and focusing project-specific analyses on characteristics that are unique to each action.

The proposed actions have the potential to affect historic, cultural, and archaeological resources; floodplains; wetlands; and threatened and endangered species. In fulfilling its responsibilities to consider how its actions will affect these human and natural environmental resources, FEMA hereby publishes this notice of intent to prepare a PEA for these actions, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (PL 91-190), FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, and other applicable environmental laws, including, but not limited to, the National Historic Preservation Act, 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 11988 (Floodplain Management).

A comment period to solicit input on the scope of the analysis, including the purpose and need, alternatives, and potential impacts, will remain open for 30 days following publication of this notice. Once the draft PEA is completed, a notice of availability will be provided to the public to review and comment. Additional information, including the Summary of Actions are available on FEMA’s website: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>.

The public; local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; and other interested parties are invited to comment on the Summary of Actions’ the purpose and need of the proposed action, alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and measures to reduce those impacts. To comment or request more information about the PEA efforts, contact Kari Elkins, Unified Federal Review Coordinator, FEMA Region 4, 3005 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, GA 30341; or by email at [FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov).