

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse Orange County for eligible costs to reduce flood risk in the Orlo Vista neighborhood. This notice applies to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) eligible project for the drainage improvements to the Orlo Vista neighborhood, implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207.

Under the major disaster declaration, FEMA-DR-4337-FL, signed by the President on September 10, 2017 and amended September 11, 2017, September 13, 2017, October 2, 2017, October 5, 2017, October 11, 2017, October 18, 2017, January 10, 2017, April 2, 2018, and August 29, 2018, 49 counties were designated adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for Individual Assistance (IA), 47 counties were eligible for Public Assistance (PA) Category A through G and additional 21 counties were eligible for PA Category A and B, and the entire State of Florida, which includes Orange County, was designated eligible for HMGP funding.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the drainage improvements for the Orlo Vista neighborhood. The proposed project will excavate three existing ponds to increase depth and capacity, decommission the existing pump station, and construct a new pump station and force main. The three ponds are West Pond (GPS coordinates: 28.546001, -81.455712), North Pond (GPS coordinates: 28.547016, -81.453103), and South Pond, also known as Lake Venus (GPS coordinates: 28.545055, -81.452897). Each pond will be graded and armored with geo-web filled with crushed coarse aggregate where necessary. Three reinforced concrete pipe culverts will provide connectivity between each pond. The new pump station will be constructed at the southern slope of West Pond (GPS coordinates: 28.544284, -81.454419) and will include submerged axial/mixed flow pumps and a permanent backup generator. The existing pump station will be removed and a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe force main will be connected to the existing force main in order to convey water from the new pump station to the existing pump station to continue conveying water to Shingle Creek.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and FEMA have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). An alternative analysis was performed, which included the evaluation of the proposed action and the no action alternative. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the EA conducted by FDEM and FEMA or by contacting FEMA-R4EHP-Florida@fema.dhs.gov for a copy. The draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed on FEMA's and the applicant's website at the following locations:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_OEHP-environmental-assessment-orlo-vista-neighborhood-drainage-improvements-Orange-County-Florida-FEMA-DR-4337-FL_102021.pdf

<https://www.ocfl.net/Environment/FloodAwareness.aspx#.YWb5nnDD-dI>

A hardcopy of the EA is available for review at Orange County Public Works, Stormwater Management Office: 4200 South John Young Parkway, Orlando, Florida 32839. The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertaking on

historic properties. FEMA preformed consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and received concurrence for a determination of no historic properties affected. Tribal consultation letters were submitted to Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Tribal consultation responses were received from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida concurring with FEMA's determination of no historic properties affected.

Presidential Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 11990 direct federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the impacts associated with the destruction and modification of floodplains and wetlands. Agencies are directed to avoid construction and development of floodplains and wetlands whenever there are practicable alternatives. Projects affecting the floodplain or wetlands are reviewed for opportunities to relocate and evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. The Orlo Vista drainage improvements are mapped in zone AE, per Orange County FIRM Panel # 12095C0240F, dated September 25, 2009 and the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) 19-04-2940P, effective March 11, 2020. If no action is taken to reduce flood risk in the area, the Orlo Vista neighborhood will continue to experience loss and suffer economic and social losses.

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA HMGP program. Interested persons may obtain information about this action by email FEMA-R4EHP-Florida@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, HMGP 4337-0023 Orange County, at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.