

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
for
CITY OF OMAHA
PAPIO CREEK INVERTED SIPHON RECONSTRUCTION
SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA
FEMA-4420-DR-NE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations in order to provide federal funds to the City of Omaha, through Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Severe winter storms, straight-line winds and flooding throughout Nebraska resulted in a Presidentially declared Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-DR-4420-NE, dated March 21, 2019, as amended. This declaration makes federal disaster assistance available to affected communities and certain nonprofit organizations in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act; 42 U.S.C. 5172), as amended.

The City of Omaha Papillion Creek inverted siphon (GPS:41.179784, -96.091332) in La Vista, Sarpy County Nebraska, consisting of two 16-inch and one 12-inch cast iron pipes, is a critical component of the community's sanitary sewer system. Excessive rain and flooding in the spring of 2019 caused a sharp increase in water velocities through West Papillion Creek (also known as West Papio Creek) exacerbating streambed erosion and exposing the Papillion Creek inverted siphon making the system vulnerable to damage from debris flow and a potential break or leak in the system. The inverted siphon serves approximately 26,000 residential customers in Omaha, La Vista, and Sarpy County with a service area of approximately 3,700 acres. Papillion Creek Inverted Siphon is located in FEMA flood zone AE, a regulatory floodway and a Special Flood Hazard Area.

The proposed project is to assist the City of Omaha in the protection of critical infrastructure under West Papillion Creek to maintain sanitary service to the community. The city is proposing to reconstruct the siphon at a lower elevation to protect it from ongoing channel degradation along with comprehensive streambank stabilization. Stream channel stabilization will encompass approximately 1,700 linear feet of West Papillion Creek and along the left bank of South Papillion Creek including the installation of multiple grade control structures that will slow the flow of water to reduce erosive potential. The streambanks will be graded back to a more stable slope (2:1) and stabilized with Armorflex blocks and native vegetation to prevent channel erosion from progressing further upstream.

FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) for the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and FEMA's Implementing Instruction 108-1-1. The Draft EA assesses the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment. It evaluates alternatives for compliance with applicable environmental laws and executive orders, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice).

The City of Omaha Papio Creek Inverted Siphon EA will be available for download from FEMA's website at [Region 7 - Environmental Documents and Public Notices | FEMA.gov](#). A copy of the EA is also available for public viewing at the City of Omaha, City Hall (1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183) as well as the Millard Branch, Omaha Public Library (13214 Westwood Lane, Omaha, NE 68144), La Vista Public Library (9110 Giles Road, La Vista, NE 68128), and the Papillion Public Library (222 North Jefferson

Street, Papillion, NE, 68046). This public notice will also be publicized in the Omaha World Herald, as well as on the websites of the City of Omaha, and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Input received during the 30-day public comment period will be documented, together with responses thereto, in a subsequent Final Environmental Assessment and FEMA decision document. All public comments can be sent via email to FEMA Region 7 Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at: teri.toye@fema.dhs.gov. In accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12(c) this notice will also constitute a final public notice for Step 7 of the 8-Step Floodplain Analysis required by EO 11988, Floodplain Management.

The public comment period will end 30 days after the date of this publication on the FEMA website listed above. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or e-mailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: FEMA Region 7-DR 4420, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 11224 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131, or via email at teri.toye@fema.dhs.gov