

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
Loudoun Water Community Water Storage Project
PDMC-PJ-03-VA-2019-005

Loudoun Water has applied through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program for funding to convert a former quarry into a raw water storage reservoir in Loudoun County, Virginia. The PDM funds were made available through Congressionally directed spending in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Pub. L. No. 116-6). This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA procedures for NEPA compliance (FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1). The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 ("Floodplain Management") and EO 11990 ("Protection of Wetlands"), FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands. The proposed project is within Zone AE (1% chance annual floodplain) and Zone X (0.2% annual chance floodplain), and wetlands including palustrine forested, palustrine scrub-shrub, and palustrine emergent. An evaluation as required by EO 11988 and EO 11990 was conducted to determine the potential effects of the proposed activities in the floodplains and wetlands.

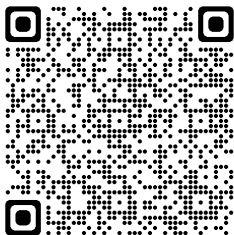
The purpose of the proposed project is to ensure a safe, reliable, and sustainable supply of drinking water for Loudoun Water's customers by constructing and operating a water storage and banking system as identified in the Potomac Water Supply Program. The proposed project would allow Loudoun Water to store more than 1 billion gallons of water, offline from the Potomac River raw water intake. Providing the proposed raw water storage capacity would ensure a reliable water source for existing and future customers. During periods of drought, permitted water withdrawal from the Potomac River may be insufficient to meet Loudoun Water's demand, which could require the placement of water restrictions. Additionally, water cannot be withdrawn from the Potomac River during significant water quality impairments and alternative options must be utilized by Loudoun Water to ensure continued potable water service for its customers. The proposed project would address the need for a supplemental source of water during drought and water contaminant events that would mitigate future risks of water shortages for Loudoun County's customers.

Alternatives discussed in this EA include no action, the proposed action, and an action alternative. The Proposed Action would convert a retired Luck Stone quarry (formerly known as Quarry A) into a raw water storage reservoir (known as Milestone Reservoir). The Proposed Action project area consists of the 48-acre reservoir site on the east side of Goose Creek (39.068657, -77.516132) and the 21-acre pump station

site (also known as the Two Creeks Trail Area [TCTA]) on the west side of Goose Creek (39.070897, -77.519801). Proposed activities at the reservoir site include installation of a quarry tunnel plug and a reservoir drain. Proposed project components that would be constructed at the pump station site (TCTA) include a pump station, raw water transmission mains, and a bridge and access road across Sycolin Creek. The pump station would be a 275-foot-deep shaft pump station configuration consisting of a main pump station building, a vertical deep shaft, and three horizontal tunnels under Goose Creek. The raw water transmission mains would consist of two 42-inch diameter lines that would fill and withdraw water from Milestone Reservoir and a 36-inch diameter line that would be used for the reservoir drain. The proposed Sycolin Creek bridge, which would provide the main vehicular access to the TCTA, would be a 330-foot-long continuous deck bridge across Sycolin Creek with simple span beams divided into three even 110-foot spans. During construction, a culvert crossing consisting of three 10-foot by 6-foot concrete box culverts would be installed in Sycolin Creek to provide a temporary construction access road. Due to the increase in impervious surface at the TCTA, a storm sewer system with a bioretention facility would be constructed. The outfall from the bioretention facility would discharge to a riprapped drainage ditch to Sycolin Creek, which would also serve as the discharge location of the reservoir drain. The Proposed Action would result in approximately 11 acres of ground disturbance including 4 acres at the reservoir site and 7 acres at the TCTA, including approximately 6 acres of tree clearance at the TCTA. The Action Alternative would also convert Quarry A into a raw water storage reservoir (Milestone Reservoir) and construct a quarry tunnel plug, but a quarry raw water pump station would be constructed along the east rim of the proposed Milestone Reservoir where three horizontal tunnels would connect the pump station deep shaft to the adjacent reservoir. Additionally, a raw water transmission main would be constructed around the eastern and southern quarry rim and through a tunnel under Goose Creek to connect to existing infrastructure.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with all requirements of NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EO 11988, EO 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, for the purpose of assessing the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose of and need for the project, alternatives considered, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences of the project including to the floodplain and wetlands.

It is available for review and comment and can be viewed on and/or downloaded from FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>, or using



Additionally, a hardcopy of the draft EA is available for review at the Loudoun Water Dale C. Hammes Administration Building, 44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn, VA 20147, and the Ashburn Public Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn, VA 20147.

The comment period will conclude on **October 30, 2023**, 30 days after the initial publication of this Public Notice. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or emailed to the contact listed below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated FONSI will become final. Substantive comments received will be addressed as appropriate in the Final EA/FONSI.

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ATTENTION: Loudoun Water Project NEPA Comments

Email: FEMA-R3-EHP-PublicComment@fema.dhs.gov

Appendix A is included in the Draft EA. Other appendices are available for review upon request; please contact FEMA-R3-EHP-PublicComment@fema.dhs.gov.