

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse Escambia County Board of County Commissioners for the eligible costs to reduce flood risk in the Delano Street Drainage Improvement Area. This notice applies to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project for the drainage improvements for the Escambia County Delano Street Drainage Improvement Area, 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-4177-FL, signed by the President on May 6, 2014, four (4) counties were eligible for Individual Assistance (IA), four (4) counties were eligible for Public Assistance (PA), and the State of Florida, which includes Escambia County, was designated eligible for HMGP funding.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the drainage improvements for the Delano Street Drainage Improvement Area. The proposed project will create four (4) new dry retention ponds and formalize and expand one existing pond. The new pond locations are as follows: the Herman Pond site, the CBDF Pond, the Fairfield Pond, and the Palafox Pond. The existing pond to be formalized and expanded is the Herman Pit. Additional activities include the replacement of the L Street Pond’s existing cistern and pumping system with a gravity flow connection, the acquisition and demolition of three (3) commercial structures, clearing and grubbing, sodding, and installation of pipes, manholes, headwall, mitered end sections, and other necessary ties to existing infrastructure.

Pond Site	Location Details	GPS Coordinates
Herman Pond	A 2.9-acre county-owned parcel located on Herman Street northwest of the intersection with Pace Boulevard	NW: 30.4498907, -87.2415701 NE: 30.4498553, -87.2402508 SE: 30.4490310, -87.2398663 SW: 30.4490755, -87.2415980
CBDF Pond	A 4.7-acre county-owned site located at 1200 West Leonard Street	NW: 30.4424639, -87.2333959 NE: 30.4423722, -87.2318991 SE: 30.4415386, -87.2319355 SW: 30.4415902, -87.2335051
Fairfield Pond	A 9.5-acre site located south and west of the county Animal Shelter along Fairfield Drive	NW: 30.4472819, -87.2329036 NE: 30.4462615, -87.2308243 SE: 30.4457567, -87.2314531 SW: 30.4459856, -87.2329689
Palafox Pond	A 4.08- acre proposed pond located along Herman Street starting near the intersection with N Palafox Street and ending near Sycamore Drive	N: 30.4515210, -87.2276153 E: 30.4510429, -87.2274181 SE: 30.4493972, -87.2299890 SW: 30.4497503, -87.2302265

Pond Site	Location Details	GPS Coordinates
Herman Pit	A county-owned site that was a borrow pit established for the construction of Pace Boulevard by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and is located near the intersection of North Pace Boulevard and West Herman Street	NW: 30.4502868, -87.2391990 NE: 30.4502470, -87.2373956 SE: 30.4488398, -87.2374420 SW: 30.4489898, -87.2392350
L Street Pond	A county-owned site located on the southeast corner of Leonard Street and L Street, adjacent to Englewood Park	NW: 30.4413022, -87.2348399 NE: 30.4413022, -87.2345424 SE: 30.4410166, -87.2345543 SW: 30.4410226, -87.2348399

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and FEMA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). An alternatives analysis was performed, which included the evaluation of the proposed action, the acquisition and demolition of at-risk structures alternative, 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-escambia-county-draft-hmgrp-4177-0018-r-ea_9-1-21.pdf

[https://myescambia.com/open-government/projects/project-details/delano-drainage-\(l-street-herman-leonard-street\)](https://myescambia.com/open-government/projects/project-details/delano-drainage-(l-street-herman-leonard-street))

A hardcopy of the EA is available for review at Escambia County Central Office Complex (COC), 3363 West Park Place, Pensacola, Florida 32505 between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:00PM, Monday to Friday.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) for effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species. An informal consultation was conducted with the USFWS to determine the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. USFWS concurred that the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Eastern Indigo Snake, the Gopher Tortoise, and the Wood Stork.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. FEMA performed 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-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Tribal consultation responses were received from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, concurring with FEMA's determination of no historic properties affected.

Presidential Executive Orders (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 the 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 Delano Street Drainage Improvement Area is mapped in an area of minimal flood hazard, otherwise known as Zone X (unshaded), per Escambia County FIRM Panel # 12033C0380G, effective 09/29/2006. However, due to repetitive flood damage and the extent of flooding in the area caused by FEMA-DR-4177-FL, FEMA considers the project area to be within the floodplain. If no action is taken to reduce flood risk in the area, the Delano Street Drainage Improvement Area will continue to experience flood 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 4177-0018-R Escambia County, at the above address within 30 days of the date of this notice.