

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

DUNAWEAL WATER BOOSTER PUMP STATION (PHASE 2) NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA HMGP-4344-398-100R

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the City of Calistoga (Subapplicant) in Napa County, California, to mitigate flood risk by replacing and modernizing critical potable water distribution infrastructure in Napa County right-of-way and within a wastewater treatment plant owned by the City of Calistoga (Proposed Action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives considered.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve potable water distribution service and reliability for residents, consisting of the following activities in four project areas and three staging areas: replacement of an existing pump station in the Dunaweal Pump Station project area and one staging area; demolition of an existing pump station in the Pope Street Pump Station project area; construction of a new pump station in the Rutherford Hill Road Pump Station project area and two staging areas; and replacing a regular underground water valve with an automated valve in the Napa Meter Automated Valve Site project area.

The four project areas and three staging areas are depicted on four FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels: Map Numbers 06055C0235E, 06055C0385E, 06055C0264E, and 06055C0385E (each FIRM panel has an effective date September 26, 2008). The Dunaweal Pump Station project area is within Zone AE, a Special Hazard Flood Area with a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where base flood elevations have been established, and the Dunaweal Pump Station staging area is partially within the regulatory floodway of Zone AE. The Pope Street Pump Station project area is entirely within the regulatory floodway of Zone AE. The Rutherford Hill Road Pump Station project area is within Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard, but the Rutherford Hill Road Pump Station staging area is partially within Shaded Zone X, an area with a 0.2-percent probability of flooding every year. Lastly, the Napa Meter Automated Valve Site project area is entirely outside of the floodplain in Zone X. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map shows riverine habitat, classified as R4SBAX, within the Dunaweal Pump Station project area. No other project areas or staging areas overlap NWI-mapped wetlands.

Maps of the project areas and staging areas and their locations within the floodplain and riverine habitat are available for public review. Parties interested in reviewing a copy of the maps should contact the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the Proposed Action were considered: the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1. Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur within the four project areas to address potential potable water distribution service and reliability issues. This Alternative is not recommended because if no action is taken, residents and local infrastructure would be exposed to the risks of reduced pumping capacity and potential equipment failure. Under Alternative 1, the Dunaweal Pump Station would be relocated to the Pope Street location, and the City would elevate the new pump station above mapped floodplain elevations. Alternative 1 is not recommended since key water infrastructure in the Pope Street Pump Station project area would remain sited in the regulatory floodway, and due to the higher costs associated with sufficiently elevating equipment above mapped floodplain elevations.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain and riverine habitat. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain or riverine habitat and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage. However, the Proposed Action would include the following measures to minimize potential impacts that could result from the project: the local construction permit and stormwater management plan would include proper disposal of water after any dewatering activities; standard pollution prevention actions would be implemented as erosion and sediment control measures; traffic flow would be managed while trenching takes place (i.e., by trenching halfway across the road while maintaining one-way traffic with flaggers at the Rutherford Hill Road Pump Station project area); and temporary fencing would be located on the north side of Silverado Trail where staging and equipment laydown areas would be set up for the Rutherford Hill Pump Station project area. Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain and riverine habitat are not necessary. The City of Calistoga has confirmed that the Proposed Action conforms to local floodplain standards, and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the Proposed Action.

Additional information about the Proposed Action may be requested by writing to the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.