

**COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND FINAL NOTICE AND
PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK
MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND**

January 15, 2025

Panama City Beach, City Hall
17007 Panama City Beach Pkwy
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

(850)233-5100

These notices shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Panama City Beach.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **February 04, 2025** the City of Panama City Beach (City) will submit a request to FloridaCommerce for the release of 2018 Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program funds under Division I of Public Law 115-254, the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2018 and Public Law 116-20, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019, to undertake a project known as Front Beach Road Stormwater Offshore Outfall Project for the purpose of combining two continuous stormwater outfalls and three intermittent outfalls into one continuous outfall to combat flooding due to beach erosion caused by Hurricane Michael. Storm and surface water that currently discharges to the beach seaward of Front Beach Road between South Arnold Road and Hill Road via five separate outfalls will be combined into a single discharge point in the Gulf of Mexico located approximately 1,500 feet seaward of 16709 Front Beach Road. The project will be funded with \$21,330,720.33 in CDBG-DR funds supplemented with \$1,200,000 of local funding for design and planning.

**FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A
FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN
AND WETLAND**

This is to give notice that the City has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery grant number M0008. The proposed project is located on the beach seaward of Front Beach Road between South Arnold Road and Hill Road and adjacent Waters of the State in Panama City Beach, Bay County. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Approach. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Numbers 12005C0282H, 12005C0284H, 12005C0301H, and 12005C0303H effective June 2, 2009, show that portions of the project are within special flood hazard areas subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood including Flood Zone VE, Flood Zone AE, and Flood Zone A.

The project involves reconfiguration of the City's stormwater system by combining five beach outfalls into a single offshore outfall. The activity involves upgrading and replacing an existing 60-inch stormwater pipe with twin 84-inch stormwater pipes, installing stormwater treatment vaults, and removing the existing Lullwater Lake outfall at 16709 Front Beach Road. The new twin pipes would extend approximately 1,500 feet offshore into the Gulf of Mexico to discharge to a new outfall. This project site includes areas mapped as Zone VE, the 100-Year Coastal Flood Zone, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Gulf of Mexico is classified as a Marine Subtidal Unconsolidated Bottom Subtidal wetland. Portions of the onshore and offshore construction work would be performed within the 100-Year floodplain and all offshore construction work would be performed within a marine wetland. Work at the other four outfalls primarily involves work within the Front Beach Road right-of-way and does not include construction in floodplain or wetlands. Construction would temporarily impact 7.1 acres of wetland, with 2.44 acres of direct impact and 4.66 acres of indirect impact. Mitigation measures would be employed to minimize impacts to water quality and habitat during construction and permanent impacts would be limited to approximately 10,000 square feet stone armor at the new outfall. Approximately 2.86 acres of floodplain would be temporarily impacted by construction and minor permanent impacts would result from removal of the existing outfall. The natural values of floodplain and wetland would not be negatively impacted by the project.

The City has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: construction within wetland and floodplain with mitigation measures (Alternative 1), construction outside of wetland and floodplain (Alternative 2), and no action (Alternative 3). Alternative 2 was rejected because the existing outfalls are located within the floodplain and therefore cannot be repaired without floodplain construction. Alternative 3 was rejected because damaged infrastructure would not be repaired and upstream flooding would continue.

Several methods for accomplishing Alternative 1 were considered; construction of a single offshore outfall at the existing Lullwater Lake outfall location was ultimately selected because it would have less impact to wetland and floodplain than constructing new outfalls at multiple locations or an outfall at different location than an existing outfall. The following mitigation measures will be used to minimize adverse effects: no storing or stockpiling of tools, equipment, materials, etc. within littoral zones, surface waters, or sensitive seafloor habitats, and no anchoring or spudding of vessels within these areas; turbidity monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with permit conditions; best management practices and/or inspection requirements for erosion and turbidity control, equipment stockpiling, servicing, and fueling, spill prevention and containment, soil stockpiling, and vessels; emergency spill equipment on site; environmentally-friendly hydraulics, suspension of on-water operations when weather conditions exceed vessel/equipment capabilities, and inspections of site and equipment. All work will be performed in accordance with United States Army Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection permits.

The City has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain and wetland development. Environmental files that document compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location specified under "Finding of No Significant Impact," below. This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons: 1) the majority of the project area will be returned to existing conditions upon project completion, 2) no loss of floodplain capacity will

occur, and 3) mitigation measures will be employed to protect wetlands and floodplains during construction.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Panama City Beach City Hall, 17007 Panama City Beach Pkwy, Panama City Beach, FL 32413 and may be examined or copied weekdays 7:30 A.M to 4:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Panama City Beach Department of Public Works. All comments received by **February 03, 2025**, will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City certifies to FloridaCommerce that Drew R. Whitman in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. FloridaCommerce's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

FloridaCommerce will accept objections to its release of fund and the City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by FloridaCommerce; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to FloridaCommerce,

Office of Long-Term Resiliency at 107 East Madison Street – MSC 400, Tallahassee, Florida
32399-6508. Potential objectors should contact FloridaCommerce to verify the actual last day of
the objection period.

Drew R. Whitman, City Manager