

## EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100 YEAR FLOODPLAIN

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Fairhope proposes to undertake the following:

Fairhope Working the Waterfront Greenspace Restoration Project (ADCNR Grant# M1A14-FHWW)

The City of Fairhope is requesting to use US Department of Treasury Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies (RESTORE) Act entitlement funding to conduct engineering and design and implementation to replace the existing bulkhead and perform restoration and improvement activities at the South Beach Park in Fairhope. Specifically, the project is located at 4 North Beach Road, Section 18, Township 6 South, Range 2 East, Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama.

In deciding how to effectively fund the project, the US Department of Treasury is obligated to follow the requirements set forth by Executive Order 11988 ("Floodplain Management") and Executive Order 13690 ("Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input"). This Notice of Intent is being provided in fulfillment of the aforementioned Executive Orders.

This project will involve the replacement of the existing bulkhead with a prefabricated redi-rock bulkhead that measures approximately 652 linear feet. The bulkhead is located within the 100-year floodplain (Zone VE) as shown on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Number 01003C0643M (dated 4/19/2019). Improvement areas will occur within the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) as shown on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Number 01003C0643M (dated 4/19/2019). Base flood elevation (BFE) varies between 10 feet and 15 feet above sea level. Measures would be taken during construction work to ensure that construction is performed in a manner that minimizes any negative impact to the floodplain. Minimal changes to the existing ground elevations will occur during the process because the existing bulkhead is being replaced. Beautification in existing areas that include the installation of birdhouses, benches, and landscaping of the existing park will, likewise, result in minimal changes to the existing ground elevations.

The site's floodplain designation is a result of its proximity to Mobile Bay along with the related impacts of coastal flooding. The anticipated flooding in this area is a result of storm surge due to tropical weather systems moving through the area. If this area is flooded due to tropical weather systems and coastal flooding, the proposed improvements will have an indistinguishable impact on this area's ability to drain after the storm event. This area's ability to drain will be limited/dictated by the storm surge duration. The area will drain as the water elevation in Mobile Bay recedes back to normal conditions. In short, the minimal proposed improvements at this site will have a negligible impact on the existing floodplain.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain 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 a floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments on the proposed activity. Additional information on the proposed activity is available for review by calling Leslie Lott, Ephriam Environmental, at 251.378-8081. Written comments must be received by Ephriam Environmental by emailing [leslie@ephriamenvirollc.com](mailto:leslie@ephriamenvirollc.com) on or before DATE 3/28/2022 (at least 30 days from the notice of publication). All comments will be considered prior to constructing the proposed activity.

Date of Notice of Publication 3/2/2022