



## JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide assistance to the City of Columbia for the repair and restoration of critical utility and infrastructure assets that were damaged during the October 2015 storm and flood disaster, designated DR 4241. Such assets include the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1200 Simmon Tree Lane, and various water and wastewater utility lines, mains, and lift and pump stations throughout the City.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed projects will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

### **Applicant:**

City of Columbia

### **Project Title:**

Various; Projects are for repairs to City infrastructure damaged during the October 2015 storm and flood disaster (DR 4241) and include the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, city wastewater and water service mains and lines, pump and lift stations, and associated electrical connections and erosion repairs.

### **Location of Proposed Work:**

Various locations within the City of Columbia including the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, various sewer and water lines, pump and lift stations.

### **Proposed Work and Purpose:**

The City of Columbia proposes to repair infrastructure assets indicated above that have been damaged during the October 2015 storm and flood disaster (DR 4241). Some of the assets that require repair are located in the Special Flood Hazard Area, or within the base or one percent chance floodplain (also known as the 100-yr floodplain). The properties will be repaired in compliance with applicable permits and laws, in a manner to minimize temporary environmental/wetlands impacts, and to restore and/or conserve the natural floodplain functions. All construction will comply with South Carolina and local building code requirements and specifications.

### **Project Alternatives:**

The alternatives to the projects that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) mitigation reconstruction. Alternative 1 to the proposed project is not viable because the infrastructure assets requiring repair are critical assets to the City of Columbia's ability to provide safe and compliant utility services to citizens. Alternative 2 will be considered on a case-by-case basis when mitigation measures such as relocation or additional asset protection are viable engineering solutions to the problem. In such cases the City will evaluate the impacts to the environment and the cost-benefit of the mitigation measures in conjunction with, or as opposed to, the proposed repair back to pre-storm condition.

### **Comment Period:**

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed projects. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Ms. Jeanne Yacoub, 1136 Washington Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action including area maps, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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