

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

BANK STABILIZATION AND PROTECTION PROJECT SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA HMGP-4683-1158-068R

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 Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (Subapplicant) in Sonoma County, California, to mitigate impacts from flooding by stabilizing eroding banks and protecting exposed infrastructure (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 reduce flood hazards and protect infrastructure against flooding and climate change. The Proposed Action consists of: 1) extending the concrete casing and installing engineered streambed material (ESM) around the sanitary sewer trunk line at Kohler Creek; 2) stabilizing Kohler Creek's upper streambanks with fabric-reinforced earthen fill (FREF); 3) extending the concrete casing around the siphon pipe at Sonoma Creek and installing FREF and rock slope protection (RSP) above it; and 4) installing root wads, logs, boulders, and FREF along the banks of Sonoma Creek upstream and downstream of the siphon pipe.

The project area is depicted on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 06097C0910E, effective date December 2, 2008. The FIRM shows that the Proposed Action is within Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard, and Zone AE, an area with a 1 percent probability of flooding annually and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map shows two types of riverine habitat, classified as R2UBH (Riverine, Lower Perennial, Unconsolidated Bottom, Permanently Flooded) and R4SBA (Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed, Temporary Flooded), within the project area.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain and wetlands is available for public review. Parties interested in reviewing a copy of the map 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, the Reduced-Size Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur to address flood hazards. This Alternative is not recommended because if no action is taken, the creek banks and channel bed would be left in their existing unstable conditions and continue to erode. Under Alternative 1, repairs would only be implemented in the most eroded areas of the creeks. Alternative 1 is not recommended because it would likely result in adjacent erosion and the eventual failure of the repair measures and the sewer pipe.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain and wetland. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain and wetland and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and infrastructure failure. In addition, various best management practices, such as a Spill Prevention and Response Plan and erosion control measures (e.g., straw wattles), would be implemented during construction activities. The Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District has stated 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-R9-EHP@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.