

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HOUSE ELEVATION PROGRAM PHASE 7, SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA PDMC-PJ-09-AZ-2019-010

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) intends to provide federal financial assistance under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program to Sacramento County, California, Department of Water Resources to mitigate flood risk from the Sacramento River and its tributaries by elevating 13 residential structures (proposed action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The purpose of the proposed action is to mitigate flood risk from the Sacramento River and its tributaries by elevating 13 residential structures above the base flood elevation in the communities of Hood, Franklin Pond, Sutter Island, Beachstone Lake, and Sacramento. The existing residential structures are in the 100-year floodplain of the Sacramento River and are susceptible to damage during flood events. The scope of activities at each residence would involve separating the house from its foundation, bracing and lifting the house, resting it on timber cribbing, constructing the foundation and stem walls to support the raised house, lowering it onto its new support walls or piers, and constructing stairs and decking necessary for access. Trees and any environmentally sensitive areas would be marked for avoidance during construction, and staging would occur in driveways or on surface streets adjacent to each home.

The project areas are depicted on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) Numbers 06067C0410H effective June 18, 2010; 060067C0415 effective August 16, 2012; 06067C0450H effective August 16, 2012; 06067C0285H effective August 16, 2012; and 06067C0295H effective August 16, 2012. The FIRMs show that the project areas lie within Zone AE, an area with a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the proposed action were considered. Alternative 1 would be to take no action. Taking no action is not recommended because homeowners would continue to bear the risk of flooding, the NFIP would retain existing exposure to insurance payout, and FEMA would retain existing exposure to public assistance costs. Alternative 1 would not avoid work in the floodplain. Alternative 2 would be to install structural flood control systems. Alternative 2 is not recommended because it would not be cost-effective. Alternative 2 would require installation of flood control systems for the Cosumnes River, in areas around the town of Hood (including the

Sacramento River), and in areas around Sutter Island. The Cosumnes River is the last remaining major Sierra Nevada stream system without significant water impoundments. It is highly unlikely that constructing structural flood control, such as a dam on the Cosumnes, would be feasible. Regarding the town of Hood and adjacent lands to the north, certification of the railroad embankment, cross levee, and Sacramento River levee to secure a ring would cost roughly \$40 million. Regarding Sutter Island, certification of the perimeter levees protecting Sutter Island, would cost roughly \$90 million. As a whole, Alternative 2 would carry significant costs, making it less cost-effective than the proposed action.

FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the proposed action must be located in the floodplain. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage as well as the associated health and safety risks to residents. Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain are not necessary. The County of Sacramento has declared 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 FEMA's proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.