

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

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of North Little Rock Community Development Agency (CDA) has determined that the project site of the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants B-18-MC-05- 0005 and B-19-MC-05-0005, is partially located in the 100-year floodplain and floodway, and in a wetland. The CDA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed activity is a street and storm water drainage improvements project on the four blocks of West 50th Street from Camp Robinson Road to Allen Street in North Little Rock, AR, in Pulaski County. Heavy rain causes flooding and pooling of water in yards, driveways, and street, resulting in unsafe conditions for residents, pedestrians and drivers. The project may include repair or replacement of existing underground pipes and installation of additional quantities of underground pipe, culvert, and/or junction boxes in footprint of existing storm water management system in the City right of way. Project will also include removal of existing street to sub-grade and installation of new street, inlets, curbs, gutters, driveway aprons, ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps. Approximately a 0.5 acre area of 50th Street falls within a FEMA 100 year floodplain and floodway, per Community Number 050182 Flood Insurance Rate Map Number 05119C0342G, dated July 6, 2015. Because of the site's partial location in a floodway, this project is being treated as a functionally dependent use as defined by HUD floodplain regulations found at 24 CFR 55.2(b)(6), which includes any land use that must necessarily be conducted in close proximity to water (e.g. bridges). A portion of 50th Street serves as a bridge. A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) indicates the floodway channel is classified as a riverine wetland. The bridge crosses an approximate 0.01 acre area of the wetland.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetland, 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 floodplains 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 floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the CDA at the following address on or before August 2, 2019: City of North Little Rock Community Development Agency; Attention: Melissa Ervin, Director; 500 West 13th Street; North Little Rock, AR 72114. A description of the project may be reviewed at above address from 9:30am to 3:30pm Monday-Friday or on the web at www.nlr.ar.gov/communitydevelopment. Comments may also be submitted via email at mervin@nlr.ar.gov. Direct telephone inquiries to 501-906-6279.

Date: July 17, 2019

Equal Opportunity in Housing and Employment.

