Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain or Wetland

Date of Publication: August 14, 2025
Name of Responsible Entity: City of Umatilla, Florida
Address: 500 North Main Street South Central Avenue
P.O. Box 2286
Umatilla, Florida 32784
Contact: Aaron Mercer, City Manager
Telephone Number: (352) 669-3125

This is to give notice that the City of Umatilla under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and/or Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activities are funded under the Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and subgrant agreement number 23DB-N17.

The City of Umatilla, Florida, located in Lake County has been awarded $700,000 in CDBG-SC grant funding to improve the potable water distribution system in three low-and-moderate-income (LMI) service areas. The project will involve the replacement of the existing undersized potable 2" water mains with new increased 6" size water mains, replacement of fire hydrants, reconnection of water services, removal and replacement of roadways and driveways disturbed during the construction, and associated iron fittings, valves, and connections to existing mains. Based on preliminary assessments, no portions of the three Project areas are located within the FFRMS 100-year floodplain or in a wetland. Additionally, none of the proposed construction in Project Area One and Project Area Three will be carried out in the FFRMS 500-year floodplain. A small portion (approximately 1.25 acres) of Service Area Two is located within the FFRMS 500-year floodplain. Based on the area of Project Area Two being partially within the FFRMS 500-year floodplain, the City is completing the 8-step process. No portions of the project areas are located in a wetland.

The FFRMS assessment was completed utilizing the FEMA Floodplain Maps to determine that no portions of the proposed three (3) project areas are located within the FFRMS 100-year floodplain. Due to the fact that the FEMA Floodplain Maps do not include designations for the FFRMS (.2) 500-year floodplain, elevations of each project area were acquired using the US Geological National Map application and were compared to the elevations of the closest FFRMS 100-year floodplains. Project Areas One and Three were determined to not be located within the FFRMS 500-year floodplain. Comparisons of the elevations within Project Area Two determined that approximately 1.25 acres are located with the FFRMS 500-year floodplain. Additionally, the assessment concluded that no portions of the project areas are located within a wetland. The proposed CDBG funded potable water main replacement work within the three (3) project areas will provide the City with more reliable potable water and fire protection and no adverse effect on the FFRMS floodplain is anticipated.

Service Area #1 Potable Water Main Replacement - Mebane Street, Lakeshore Avenue, Wafford Street and Lakeview Street:

03J – Water Line Replacements: The City of Umatilla will replace 1,500 linear feet of two-inch water mains with new six-inch water mains in the City of Umatilla, Florida, on Mebane Street, Lakeshore between South Central Avenue (SR-19)Avenue, Wafford Street and Lakeview Street. The work will additionally include the installation of three fire hydrants, reinstallation of 18 services, removal and replacement of disturbed roadways and driveways, and associated iron fittings, valves, and connections to existing mains. The proposed work will take place along Mebane Street and East Lakeview Street, on Lakeview Street from South Central Avenue (SR-19) to Lakeshore Avenue, Lakeshore Avenue between Lakeview Street and Wafford Street and Wafford Street between Lakeshore Avenue and where the street terminates to the southeast.

The proposed CDBG-funded potable water distribution improvements in Project Area One will provide improved water delivery and fire protection to the 24 households in the project area, and will serve 61 people, of which 40 (65%) are LMI residents.

The activity, CDBG dollar amounts and Leverage Funding in Service Area #1 are as follows:

Activity # and Name	Description	CDBG Budget	Local Match For Points
03J – Water Line Replacement	Replace 1,500 LF of 2" water main With 6" mains, and 3 Fire Hydrants, And 18 Service Connections	$215,000.00	$0.00

Service Area #2 Potable Water Main Replacement – Roberts Street and Blanche Avenue:

03J – Water Line Replacements: The City of Umatilla proposes to replace 1,800 linear feet of two-inch water mains with new six-inch water mains in the City of Umatilla, Florida on Roberts Street from Golden Gem Drive on the west to South Central Avenue (SR 19) on the east, and Blanche Avenue from Roberts Street on the south to Devault Street on the north. The work will additionally include the installation of two fire hydrants, reinstallation of nine services, removal and replacement of disturbed roadways and driveways, and associated iron fittings, valves and connections to existing mains.

The proposed CDBG-funded potable water distribution improvements in Project Area Two will provide improved water delivery and fire protection to the 12 households in the project area, and will serve 32 people, of which 28 (87.5%) are LMI residents.

The activity, CDBG dollar amounts and Leverage Funding in Service Area #2 are as follows:

Activity # and Name	Description	CDBG Budget	For Points
03J – Water Line Replacement	Replace 1,800 LF of 2" water main With 6" mains, and 2 Fire Hydrants, And 9 Service Connections	$189,200.00	$0.00

Service Area #3 Potable Water Main Replacement on Bufford Avenue, Lake Enola Drive, Davis Avenue, and Kentucky Avenue:

03J – Water Line Replacements: The City of Umatilla proposes to replace 1,900 linear feet of two-inch water mains with new six-inch water mains in the City of Umatilla, Florida on Buford Avenue from Guerrant Street on the north to Lake Enola Drive on the south; Lake Enola Drive between Buford Avenue on the east and Davis Avenue on the west; Davis Avenue from Guerrant Street on the north to Lakeshore Drive on the south; and Kentucky Avenue from Guerrant Street on the north to where it terminates near Lake Enola on the south. The work will additionally include the installation of two fire hydrants, reinstallation of sixteen services, removal and replacement of disturbed driveways and roadways, and associated iron fittings, valves and connections to existing mains.

The proposed CDBG-funded potable water distribution improvements in Project Area Three will provide improved water delivery and fire protection to the 21 households in the project area, and will serve 52 people, of which 36 (69.23%) are LMI residents.

The activity, CDBG dollar amounts and Leverage Funding in Service Area #3 are as follows:

Activity # and Name	Description	CDBG Budget	Local Match For Points
03J – Water Line Replacement	Replace 1,900 LF of 2" water main With 6" mains, and 2 Fire Hydrants, And 16 Service Connections	$228,000.00	$0.00

The sources and uses of funds for the project are as follows:

Activity	CDBG	Local Match	Total
Water Line Replacement	$ 632,200.00	$ 0.00	$ 632,200.00
Engineering	$ 11,800.00	$50,000.00	$ 61,800.00
Administration	$ 56,000.00	$ 0.00	$ 56,000.00
Total	**$ 700,000.00**	**$50,000.00**	**$ 750,000.00**

The City of Umatilla proposes to utilize $50,000 in General Fund dollars for local leverage for points in the applications. These funds will be budgeted toward the engineering for the project.

The City of Umatilla has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain/wetland: 1) The City of Umatilla considered conducting the CDBG-funded work in Project Areas One and Two, and excluding the work in Project Area 2, however doing so would leave the residents / beneficiaries with inadequate water pressure and fire protection; 2) The City considered relocating the water mains, however, the alternative locations (from the rear of the homes) that could potentially serve the residents on Roberts Street and Blanche Avenue, however, by elevations taken these location are also located within the FFRMS 500-year floodplain; 3) The City considered not doing the entire project, however, not conducting the proposed work would leave the residents/beneficiaries without the improved water pressure and fire protection putting their property in potential peril in the event of a fire; and 4) The City considered moving forward with the replacement of the water mains on Roberts Street and Blanche Avenue, and will ensure that the design plans and specifications incorporate mitigation measures that ensure the construction work is conducted in a manner that protects the 500-year floodplain. As for the proposed replacement of the water mains, fire hydrants, valves and connectors, restoration of streets driveways, and service connections, potential flooding would not be a detriment to the investment, leaving mitigation to protect the FFRMS 500-year floodplain during construction as the best practice and most acceptable path forward to provide the vital benefit to the residents on Roberts Street and Blanche Avenue.

The City of Umatilla is committed to compliance with all state and local floodplain/wetland protection procedures**.**

The City of Umatilla has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain/wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and/or Executive Order 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain/wetland 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comments about floodplain/wetland 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 floodplain/wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received on or before August 25, 2025 at City of Umatilla at 500 North Main Street South Central Avenue or by mail at P.O. Box 2286, Umatilla, Florida 32784 and (352) 669-3125, Attention: Aaron Mercer, City Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM at 500 North Main Street South Central Avenue, Umatilla, Florida 32784. Comments may also be submitted via email at amercer@umatillafl.org.

Chris Creech, Mayor
Environmental Certifying Official
500 North Main Street South Central Avenue
P.O. Box 2286
Umatilla, Florida 32784
Telephone Number (352) 669-3125