

***Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Floodplain and Wetlands
City of Pinehurst Sewer System and Lift Station Improvements***

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Pinehurst (City) has determined that the following proposed action under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant 2019 Disasters Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Infrastructure Competition Program is in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands. The City will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 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. EO 13690 amended EO 11988 to establish the FFRMS, which HUD adopted through the guidance and amendments to 24 CFR Part 55 that was published in 89 FR 30850. The proposed City of Pinehurst Sewer System and Lift Station Improvements project will repair and strengthen sewer systems and lift stations that were damaged during the 2019 Disasters. The improvements proposed under the project are intended to reduce risk of future disaster-related loss of life, suffering and hardship, injury, and property damage.

Sewer system improvements include the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer lines and installation of sanitary services and sanitary sewer cleanouts along select roadways; removal, replacement, and installation of manholes; and completion of associated appurtenances. Approximately 11,661 linear feet (LF) of existing underground city sanitary sewer pipes will be improved via pipe bursting, expanding each pipe two inches in diameter. Pipe bursting machinery will access the project areas through 26 existing manholes that will be replaced and five new manholes that will be installed. All sewer system improvement activities, including construction staging areas, will be within existing city rights-of-way (ROW) and land acquisition will not be required. Pipe-bursting will occur at the following locations: 1,000 LF along MacArthur Drive (center point 30.09377, -93.75190); 1,187 LF along Dal Sasso Drive (center point 30.09665, -93.75563); 600 LF along 34th Street (center point 30.10490, -93.77122); 1,820 LF along easement between Strickland Drive and King Arthur Court (center point 30.10734, -93.77264); 450 LF along Gunn Drive North (center point 30.10958, -93.77342); 450 LF along Gunn Drive South (center point 30.10831, -93.77347); 130 LF along Pinewood Circle (center point 30.11090, -93.76870); 1,325 LF along Pelican Street (center point 30.11246, -93.77161); 260 LF along Peacock Street (center point 30.11151, -93.77104); 254 LF along North 30th Street (center point 30.10786, -93.76750); 415 LF along Pheasant Street (center point 30.11340, -93.77000); 1,220 LF along 33rd Street (center point 30.111725, -93.770638); 1,275 LF along West Park Avenue (center point 30.10999, -93.76854); 915 LF along 29th Street (center point 30.10882, -93.76679); and 360 LF along Lazy Hollow Drive (center point 30.10339, -93.76645).

The project will also include the reconstruction and elevation of six lift stations, including electrical equipment; the installation of new platforms and stairs; the removal, extension, and rehabilitation of wet wells; the removal and replacement of pumps, valve vaults, guide rails, and fences; and the completion of all associated appurtenances. The lift stations are open structures, and the electrical racks/platforms will consist of galvanized structural members. The pole width of the platforms is 16 inches, and the maximum depth of each footing is 14 feet. If any fences need to be replaced, they will be replaced in the same location. The dimensions of each lift station vary depending on the existing site. All project activities will occur within the boundaries of the existing city lift station properties: Dal Sasso Drive Lift Station (30.097313, -93.758180), Broad Street Lift Station (30.094290, -93.753490), Highway 90 Lift Station (30.110145, -93.782306), 33rd Street Lift Station (30.110150, -93.770480), 34th Street Lift Station (30.105620, -93.771900), and Warbler Street Lift Station (30.118590, -93.768350). Minimal ground

disturbance will occur during construction at the Broad Street and Dal Sasso lift stations. The maximum depth of disturbance will be five feet. Lift stations are considered a Critical Action by HUD; therefore, the project design will include elevation and/or floodproofing of pumps, generators, and electrical systems as required. The applicable Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certifications for floodproofing and/or elevation will be obtained post-construction confirming the requirements have been met.

All project activities, including construction staging areas, will be within existing city-owned property. No vegetation removal is required. When complete, the project is expected to benefit approximately 2,453 people, of which 78.56 percent (1,927 people) are low to moderate income.

The floodplain provides drainage for surrounding areas as well as the opportunity for natural wetlands and habitats to thrive. Maintaining the floodplain is an invaluable service to the community. Natural benefits of the floodplain and wetland will not be significantly impacted. The FFRMS floodplain for the project area was defined using the Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA) model established by Climate.Gov (<https://floodstandard.climate.gov/>) using an estimated service life of 56 years and the critical action designation for the six lift stations and the non-critical action designation for the remaining project activities. The total project area is approximately 13.6 acres in extent; the CISA Report does not note the specific project areas that are within the FFRMS floodplain. The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 48361C0160D (effective 12/16/2021), show approximately 0.10 acres of the project components (one existing sewer line and one new manhole [Manhole 31 at 30.093805, -93.750455]) are in the regulatory floodway; 7.73 acres of the project components (11 existing sewer lines, three existing lift stations, 16 existing manholes, and two new manholes) are in the AE Zone; and 4.97 acres of the project components (nine existing sewer lines, two existing lift stations, 12 existing manholes, and two new manholes) are in the X-shaded Zone. The sewer lines, lift stations, and 26 manholes being extant, have already directly impacted the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Based on mapped National Wetland Inventory data, the prior construction of the project resulted in the loss of approximately 0.04 acres of Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetlands (PFO) and 0.05 acres of Riverine wetlands. Improvements within the mapped wetland areas are limited to portions of the existing underground sewer lines, the 33rd Street Lift Station, and the Warbler Street Lift Station. The proposed action is not anticipated to cause any additional loss to wetlands due to the construction methods that will be used.

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 wetlands, 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 City of Pinehurst at the following address on or before August 27, 2024. Attention: Mr. Jerry Hood at City of Pinehurst via 2497 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Orange, Texas 77630. Comments may also be submitted via email at jhood@cityofpinehurst.com.

Date: August 12, 2024