**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed**

**Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Lake Charles, as Responsible Entity under Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program and P-21-LC-22-LDZ1 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and the City of Lake Charles will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The City of Lake Charles proposes awarding approximately $2 million in CDBG-DR funding to the Greater St. Mary Community Development Foundation to utilize approximately 1.00 acre of land for the construction of a new facility, the Hope Disaster Nonprofit Hub. The proposed facility will be operated as a non-profit disaster response center. The proposed project location is 1110 1st Avenue N, 1411 Katherine Street, 1415 Katherine Street, and 1417 Katherine Street in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish. The center coordinates for the project area are 30.2515, -93.2007. The proposed project will include the acquisition of 1415 Katherine Street and 1417 Katherine Street. The 1417 Katherine Street property includes two residential structures that will be demolished; the addresses for these houses are 1417 Katherine Street and 1103 N. Lyons Street.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach, and approximately 50% (or half an acre) of the project area is located within the FFRMS floodplain. New construction associated with the proposed project may have an adverse impact on the FFRMS floodplain. Floodplains are beneficial by providing natural moderation of floods, surface water quality maintenance, groundwater recharge, diverse wildlife habitat, cultural resources (archaeological, historic, and recreational), and agricultural, aquacultural, and forestry resources. To minimize impacts, the proposed action will be completed in accordance with all applicable best management practices (BMPs) and federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements and conditions. New construction of a non-residential structure using CDBG-DR funding must also demonstrate compliance with the elevation mitigation requirements outlined in 24 CFR 55.20(e) when located within the FFRMS floodplain.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain 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, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain 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, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Lake Charles at the following address on or before from March 6, 2025 until March 24, 2025. City of Lake Charles, Office of Community Development, Box 900, Lake Charles, LA 70602 and 337-491-1440, Attention: Mark Tizano, Community Development Director. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 326 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70602 or at [www.cityoflakecharles.com](http://www.cityoflakecharles.com). Comments may also be submitted via email at CommunityDevelopment@cityoflc.us.