

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS
EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
IN A 100-YEAR/500-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND/OR WETLAND

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, & Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Bonita Springs has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant- Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) and HUD grant agreement number IR015 is located in the 100-year floodplain and in wetland areas, and the City of Bonita Springs will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain/wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain/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 Imperial Bonita Estates/Quinn/Downs/Dean west of Imperial Parkway Stormwater Improvement Flood Mitigation Project is located entirely within the City of Bonita Springs and is bound on the north by the Imperial River, Downs Drive on the east, Bonita Beach Road on the south and Oak Creek on the west. The purpose of the project is to provide flood mitigation measures to reduce future flooding risk in the Quinn/Downs/Dean neighborhood, protecting lives and improved property from future damages.

This project will receive financial assistance from HUD via the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program (FloridaCommerce Grant Agreement No. IR015).

The flood mitigation project will improve the floodwater storage capacity as well as stormwater runoff conveyance. Specifically, the project involves the acquisition of parcels of land to accommodate the construction of storm water detention basins. Additionally, the City of Bonita Springs will install backflow preventers at critical locations in the various neighborhoods and will construct storm sewer systems to convey runoff through various points in the neighborhoods to the Imperial River to expand the storm sewer network to help the area drain more efficiently.

The construction area encompasses a total of 19.97 acres, of which 18.77 acres are located within Special Flood Hazard Areas Flood Zone AE) and a floodway associated with Imperial River. The area is located within FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Areas or floodplains within Flood Zone AE (with base flood elevations ranging between 9.5 and 12.8 ft, NAVD, approximately) and are recognized as having a 1% chance of flooding any given year.

The project and proposed activities will have no adverse effects on any wetland. Drawdown of the proposed detention basins would have a negligible effect on groundwater levels at surrounding surface waters. There is no net loss of wetland or other surface water functional value associated with the proposed project. Regarding floodplain impacts, the project will be beneficial as it will increase flood protection and will reduce flooding risk in the area, preventing future property loss from flooding, reduce emergency rescues, and reduce loss of access to the area.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/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. Where appropriate, commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/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 about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks

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/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Bonita Springs at the following address on or before ***February 5, 2024***, Attention: Ms. Elly McKuen, Project Manager, 9101 Bonita Beach Road SE, Bonita Springs, Florida 34135, 239- 949-6262. Comments may also be submitted or further information can be requested via email at elly.mckuen@cityofbonitasprings.org. A full description of the project may also be reviewed Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm at the above address.

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