

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair or replace facilities damaged by **Hurricane Matthew (FEMA-DR-4283-FL)** occurring **October 3 to 19, 2016**, and **Hurricane Irma (FEMA-DR-4337-FL)** occurring **September 4 to October 18, 2017**. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) project for the construction of emergency beach berms along the coast of St. Johns County, Florida, implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207.

Under a major disaster declaration, **FEMA-DR-4283-FL**, signed by the President on **October 8, 2016 and amended October 17, 2016, October 19, 2016, October 24, 2016, October 25, 2016, October 27, 2016, November 4, 2016, and December 12, 2016**, St. Johns County was designated as adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for PA funding. St. Johns County was again designated under a major disaster declaration, **FEMA-DR-4337-FL**, signed by the President on **September 10, 2017 and amended September 11, 2017, September 13, 2017, September 14, 2017, September 16, 2017, September 18, 2017, September 21, 2017, October 2, 2017, October 5, 2017, October 11, 2017, October 18, 2017, January 10, 2018, April 2, 2018, and August 29, 2018**.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the construction of emergency beach berms along the coast of St. Johns County. The project will include the construction of emergency beach berms along nine (9) different beach reaches. FEMA will fund approximately 585,396 cubic yards (CY) of lost sand attributable to Hurricane Matthew and approximately 471,036 CY of lost sand attributable to Hurricane Irma, for a collective total of approximately 1,056,432 CY of sand. The berms will be constructed along an approximately 30.6 mile stretch of coastline under the authority of St. Johns County. The sand will be obtained from commercial upland sources. St. Johns County will be coordinating the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to obtain any necessary permits and will comply with applicable conditions.

FEMA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). An alternatives analysis was performed, which included the evaluation of the proposed action and the no action alternative. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the Environmental Assessment conducted by FEMA or by contacting FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov for a copy. The draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed on FEMA's and the applicant's website at the following locations:

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/183271>

<http://www.sjcfl.us/DisasterRecovery/FEMA.aspx>

A hard copy of the EA is available at the St. Johns County Administration Building, Disaster Recovery Section (within the Land Management Office) located at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084 during normal business hours.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species. An existing Programmatic Biological Opinions with USFWS was utilized to minimize impacts to listed species by applying appropriate terms and conditions.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. FEMA performed consultation with the State Historic Preservation

Office (SHPO) was conducted and concurrence received for a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties.

Presidential Executive Orders (EO) 11988 and 11990 require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate and evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. The coastline of St. Johns County is located within the coastal high hazard area, otherwise known as the VE zone, per St. Johns County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel Numbers 12109C0019J, 12109C0082J, 12109C0101J, 12109C0103J, 12109C0111J, 12109C0113J, 12109C0204J, 12109C0212J, 12109C0214J, 12109C0302J, 12109C0306J, 12109C0308J, 12109C0316J, 12109C0384J, 12109C0392J, 12109C0394J, 12109C0413J, 12109C0501J, 12109C0503J, 12109C0511J, and 12109C0512J, dated 12/07/2018. The St. Johns County emergency beach berms are functionally dependent upon their location in the floodplain, provide open space uses for recreational activities and habitat for wildlife, and will temporarily increase the level of storm protection of improved property in the vicinity to withstand a 5-year flooding event. If no action is taken to construct the emergency beach berms, the St. Johns County coastline would be vulnerable to higher wave action and erosion. In addition, the surrounding areas would suffer economic and social losses.

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions or a specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, FL-4283-PW-01061 and FL-4337-PW-02743, St. Johns County, at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.