

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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the 2025 CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Mitigation Projects Orange County Recovers Program for Hurricane Ian grant B-23-UN-12-0003. The proposed Lake King Stormwater Infrastructure Project is located around Lake King in Eatonville, Orange County, Florida, and is located in the floodplain and wetland. The proposed project area includes Frances Jerry Park (201 Campus View Drive), 294 Campus View Drive, and a linear project corridor extending between Lake King, Lake Lovely, and Lake Shadow. The project consists of a series of stormwater infrastructure and resiliency improvements designed to reduce future flood risks, enhance stormwater storage and treatment capacity, and improve natural habitat conditions throughout the project area.

The project proposes to upgrade the existing stormwater infrastructure at Lake King by increasing the number of downstream outfall pipes that connect the lake to the outfall ditch located west of the basin. The existing single 36-inch drainage pipe will be replaced with four 36-inch discharge pipes approximately 10,950 linear feet from Lake King to outfalls terminating westerly between Lake Lovely and Lake Shadow. This upgrade aims to reduce the maximum water stage within the Lake King basin by expanding the conveyance system, thereby significantly increasing pipe capacity.

Key components of the improvement include replacing the pipe segment crossing Campus View Drive, upgrading the segments along Katherine Avenue and Mustard Seed Lane that connect to the Lake King outfall ditches, and enhancing the main outfall pipe system running parallel to Kennedy Boulevard. These infrastructure improvements are expected to substantially increase discharge capacity and reduce flood risk in nearby residential areas. To ensure long-term functionality of the Katherine outfall ditch from Lake King to Mustard Seed Lane, a geotextile stabilization product will be installed along the ditch banks. This treatment will inhibit excessive vegetation growth that currently obstructs stormwater flow, thereby improving conveyance and enhancing the overall efficiency of the stormwater management system.

The proposed project also includes the installation of new green infrastructure systems within Francis Jerry Park located west of Lake King, at 201 Campus View Drive. Planned improvements consist of constructing additional stormwater retention basins and rain gardens, along with planting native and wetland vegetation to promote infiltration and improve water quality. These features will enhance surface permeability, reduce runoff, and increase the site's ecological value. Additionally, storm damaged and deteriorated walkways, trails, boardwalks and other passive infrastructure within the existing park will be replaced in accordance with best practices for floodplain management.

Finally, the proposed project includes the purchase of an adjacent 8.62-acre parcel located at 294 Campus View Drive (Parcel ID: 34-21-29-0000-00-030), positioned at the southwest corner of Campus View Drive and Katherine Avenue. The property contains an existing wetland area that will be expanded through modifying the existing grade, particularly in upland zones, to increase stormwater storage capacity. Approximately 26 acre-feet (42,000 cubic yards) of excavation will be undertaken to achieve the proposed

wetland elevation of 90 feet. Expansion of the existing wetland would enhance storage volume and reduce peak flows during storm events.

According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number 12095C0235F, effective date of September 25, 2009, Lake King has a base flood elevation of 95.7 feet NAVD88. Lake King and the adjacent property is located in Zone AE, a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) requiring compliance with floodplain management. The proposed wetland expansion is in Zone X, shaded, a moderate flood risk with a 0.2% annual chance of a flooding occurrence (i.e., 500-year floodplain). The Cowardin System classified Lake King as Lacustrine, unconsolidated waterbottom, permanently flooded, excavated (L1UBHx) and the wetland as Palustrine, forested, broad-leaved deciduous, continuously saturated, partially drained/ditched (PFO1Cd). A total of 9.5 acres of floodplains (2.3 acres in SFHA and 7.2 acres in Zone X, shaded) and 8.67 acres of wetlands may potentially be impacted.

The Orange County Housing and Community Development Division 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: The action must take place in the floodplain/wetland because no practicable alternative sites are available adjacent to the existing stormwater infrastructure outside of the floodplain. Additionally, there are no alternative locations of sufficient size to provide the needed increase in stormwater storage capacity and associated stormwater treatment benefits. The "no action" alternative was considered; however, the "no action" would not meet the purpose and need of alleviating flooding in the area. Impacts will be minimized through thoughtful design measures as well as best management practices. All impacts will be mitigated in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

The Orange County Housing and Community Development Division 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, and/or Executive Order 11990, and 24 CFR 55, 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 comment 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 by the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division at the following address on or before September 29, 2026: Orange County Housing and Community Development Division, 525 E. South St, Orlando, FL 32801 and (407) 836-5150, Attention: Mitchell Glasser, Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the same address as above. Comments may also be submitted via email at lnalbert.ramos@ocfl.net.

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