

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

WASTEWATER FACILITIES GENERATORS PROJECT (PHASE 1) HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA HMGP-4683-931-043

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the Humboldt Community Services District (HCSD or Subapplicant) in Humboldt County, California, to mitigate impacts from utility power loss caused by extreme weather by completing Phase 1 activities associated with installing permanent backup generators at three different wastewater facility stations named the Artino Lift Station, Bailey Lift Station, and Pine Hill Lift Station (Proposed Action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives considered.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce hazards related to extreme weather that result in utility power loss. The Proposed Action consists of the following Phase 1 activities: 1) develop preliminary design drawings and conduct technical surveys, including topographic and floodplain studies; 2) perform biological assessments, including focused surveys and wetland delineation at all three project areas; 3) coordinate permitting requirements, including potential engagement with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and local agencies; and 4) prepare documentation compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act, including filing a Notice of Exemption with Humboldt County.

The project areas are depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 06023C0843G, effective date June 21, 2017. The FIRM shows that the Artino Lift Station and Bailey Lift Station project areas are located within Zone X, an area with a minimal flood hazard. The Pine Hill Lift Station project area is located within Zone A, an area with a 1 percent probability of flooding every year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map shows four wetlands, including riverine habitat directly adjacent to, but outside of, the Pine Hill Lift Station project area.

Maps of all three project areas, their locations within the floodplain, and proximity to wetlands is available for public review. Parties interested in reviewing a copy of the maps should contact the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

One alternative to the Proposed Action was considered: the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, no Phase 1 activity would occur to address the lack of utility backup generators at the three project areas. This Alternative is not recommended because if no action is taken, power outages that could occur as a result of extreme weather could disrupt electricity, water, and wastewater services.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain and directly adjacent to, but outside of, wetlands. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain and wetlands and would benefit the Humboldt Community Services District by reducing the risk of utility power loss. The Subapplicant has stated that the Proposed Action conforms to local floodplain standards and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the Proposed Action.

Additional information about the Proposed Action may be requested by writing to the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.