

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Mexico Beach has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) as a sub- recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: City of Mexico Beach

Project Title: Canal Dredging

Location of Proposed Work: Municipal Harbor and Canal, including 8th St. Canal

Facility	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Construction
Municipal Harbor and Canal	Canal Parkway Canal outlet to the 8 th St. Canal outlet.	29.949875 TO 29.93605	-85.430208 TO - 85.402489	1955

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project is for vegetative and C&D debris removal by way of dredging of the Municipal Harbor and the Canal system which was heavily inundated with debris filled flood waters. All work is located in an AE or VE zone (1% annual chance flood elevation). Location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) was determined by Gulf County Insurance Rate Map, Panel Number: 12005C0508J and 12005C0509J dated Issued. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of Florida and local floodplain regulations. There is a potential for the harbor and canal system to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within SFHA and CHHA.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Due to Hurricane Michael's severe storm surge removing beach sand dunes, municipal fishing pier structures, commercial buildings, residential homes, boats, and other storm-driven debris and deposited large quantities of this material into the Canal system, the Municipal Harbor and navigable portions including the 8th Street Canal with two separate outlets to the Gulf of

Mexico. The City of Mexico Beach conducted debris removal by way of dredging with applicable US Army Corps of Engineers permits issued to the City for three primary activities. One is operation and maintenance dredging to maintain the navigation outlet (37,234 CY). The second is the navigable harbor and marina (33,260 CY). The third is for the 8th Street canal (14,804 CY). This Project is organized using the individual Permit areas as a method for distinguishing damages and responses. Three lined temporary spoils sites were constructed for this project under the FDEP Emergency Final Order. Uncontaminated, beach compatible sand was screened to remove debris and hauled to the Eastern Beach to be used for a separate project. Two permitted landfill sites were used for final disposal. Cost \$12,926,961.30

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No action): The 'no action' alternative would ultimately result in a negative impact on the City of Mexico Beach's Canal System and Municipal Harbor. If the debris were not removed, then adverse economic, social, health, and safety impacts to the community would occur.

Alternative #2: Removing the vegetative, construction, and demolition debris to restore the navigable functions of the harbor and canal to its pre-disaster conditions and capacity within the original permitted limitations. Furthermore, alleviating the health and safety hazards of the debris scattered throughout the project area as a result of Hurricane Michael. The Municipal Harbor and Canal System's current topographical location is the only practicable choice and it is cost effective and will not result in additional impacts on the natural values of the floodplain.

Comments:

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described actions funded by the FEMA PA Program. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region IV - EHP, 3005 Chamblee Tucker Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341-4112 or by email at FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please include in the subject line of the email "DR-4399-FL EHAD." Comments should be sent in writing at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice. Please remove after 15 days after posting.

POSTED ON: (September 15, 2020)

End of Notice