

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
02/26/2021**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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 to and to provide 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 or low-income populations.

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.

Applicant:

City of Mexico Beach

Project Title:

HMGP-4399-205 City of Mexico Beach, Wastewater Permanent Bypass Pumps, Utility Mitigation

Location of Proposed Work:

The pump stations (PS9, PS11, PS13) are located at 14th Street, 7th Street, and Florida Ave in Mexico Beach, Florida 32456.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The proposed project will provide ongoing operations to key pump stations by installing three fixed/permanent mount bypass pumps at PS9, PS11 and PS13, three of the City's major lift stations, which remain vulnerable to storm surge and electrical outages. These pumps will enable the City to continue providing back-up pumping capacity and electrical service if the City system is down. Bypass pumps not only provide an alternate power source during electrical outage but also provide external pumping capacity to the wet well if the pumps become inoperable.

During significant storm surge events like Hurricane Michael, the existing pumps are prone to filling with sediment/debris which makes the pumps inoperable, and susceptible to power outage. In both cases, the pumps will become inoperable like they did after Hurricane Michael; the City's sewer system cannot operate properly without these pump/lift stations. This project will protect the City's sewer against future storms and electrical outages. The permanent-mount bypass pumps will be elevated above the 500-year flood event as determined by local floodplain ordinance requirements on platforms or elevated using the built-in double wall fuel tanks for protection against flooding and storm surge. Electrical controls associated with these mitigation measures will also be elevated. The permanent-mount bypass pumps will have their built-in double wall fuel tank with composite/plastic enclosure to avoid corrosion. All controls will also be elevated and accessed by a platform for use/maintenance (if necessary). This project provides redundancy in the City's sewer system to enable functionality during electrical outage, electrical surge, and storm surge events.

Project Alternatives:

1. No Action Alternative

No action will result in continued vulnerability of the City's sewer system to future storms or electrical grid failure. No action would result in continued risk of future releases and sewage overflows if the City sewer is down and there is no back up bypass pumping/power supply for the lift stations.

2. Generators

A feasible alternative to this project is to utilize back-up generators in lieu of the permanent-mount bypass pumps. The pros for this alternative are providing back up power to the liftstations. However, the cons to this alternative is that backup generators do not address inoperable pumps. Many of the City's lift station pumps were inoperable post-Michael because surge caused significant sedimentation/debris within the wet wells that caused the pumps to fail. This alternative project is also expected to be slightly more costly than the proposed alternative. The proposed project addresses this issue by providing both power source and external pump. A generator will only address the power supply outage.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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