



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Laura H. Hogshead, Director

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND

LEGEND ROAD WATER TANK 176 LEGEND ROAD, LUMBERTON, ROBESON COUNTY, NC 28358 January 20, 2024

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) has received an application from Robeson County to use U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding from the Infrastructure Recovery Program to implement the Legend Road Water Tank project (Proposed Activity) located at 176 Legend Road, Lumberton, Robeson County, NC 28358 which contains 100-year floodplain and wetlands. NCORR is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations (24 CFR Part 55). There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity, including alternative locations outside of the floodplain and wetland. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

The State of North Carolina was adversely impacted by the landfall of Hurricanes Matthew (October 8, 2016) and Florence (September 14, 2018). The Proposed Activity is needed to prevent future water service interruptions as experienced during Hurricane Matthew and to allow for the continued operation of the public facilities located along Legend and Sanchez Roads during future storm events. During and immediately following Hurricane Matthew, potable water had to be transported to these facilities, both by truck and through individual bottled servings. The Proposed Activity's installation of an elevated water storage tank in the vicinity of the Robeson County Emergency Operations Center, Sheriff's Office and Jail, Emergency Medical Services, Water Department, and Public Utilities buildings will avoid system pressure loss at these County facilities and the adjacent NC Department of Corrections' Lumberton Correctional Institution. In addition, the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) Public Water Supply Section's water systems requirement to maintain a minimum pressure of 30 psi for normal conditions and 20 psi for fire flow will be achieved. It is critical for public health and continued operations that these facilities have adequate water supply during emergencies and future storm events.

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 110465
Durham, NC 27709



Phone: (984) 833-5350
www.ncdps.gov
www.rebuild.nc.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

The Proposed Activity will construct a 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank, altitude valve vault, fire hydrant, water mains, gravel access drive, and associated improvements. The Proposed Activity includes procurement of architectural and engineering services, soils testing, boundary surveys, and construction. Construction will involve extensive land clearing and excavation, trenching, placement of concrete foundations, installation of a 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank and piping, and connections to the existing 12-inch water main on Legend Road and the existing 8-inch water main that ties into Sanchez Road. There is an existing chain link fence and gate around the Proposed Activity development area where the elevated water storage tank and altitude valve vault will be located. There will be an estimated 0.20 acre of ground disturbance.

The Proposed Activity will not result in any direct or indirect impacts to wetlands, 500-Year Floodplain, 100-Year Floodplain or Floodway. This 60.96-acre County-owned parcel contains approximately 38.21 acres of 500-Year Floodplain, 0.61 acre of 100-Year Floodplain, and no Floodway. The Proposed Activity's limit of disturbance (LOD) will occur approximately 50 feet from the 500-Year Floodplain, 0.24-mile from 100-Year Floodplain (Zone AE), and 0.25-mile from Floodway. The Little Jacob Swamp riverine is located north of the parcel boundary approximately 0.25-mile from the Proposed Activity's LOD and will not be adversely impacted by the Proposed Activity. The closest onsite USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)-mapped riverine (R5UBH) and potential wetland is approximately 250 feet northwest from the Proposed Activity's LOD. Another NWI-mapped riverine (R4SBC) and potential wetland connects north to Little Jacob Swamp. These potential wetland areas encompass approximately 5 acres of the parcel. The Proposed Activity will comply with all applicable federal, State and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements and conditions which shall be obtained before commencing work. NC DWR buffers and Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 permits are not required. Best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control such as silt fencing will be utilized during construction and native plants used in site restoration. Natural floodplains and wetlands provide flood risk reduction benefits by slowing runoff and storing flood water. In addition, floodplains and wetlands are beneficial by providing diverse wildlife habitat, flood and erosion control, surface water quality maintenance, groundwater recharge, and educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational resources. Wetlands have unique natural characteristics that play an integral role in the ecology of the watershed. The Proposed Activity has been designed to avoid wetlands and floodplain, thus, there are no anticipated impacts on the natural and beneficial functions and values of the wetlands or 100-Year Floodplain. There has been previous, significant site modification including fill and development for the existing fenced-in water treatment plant and roads where site disturbance is planned. The Proposed Activity is wholly located in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard (outside of floodplain), and will not adversely impact these special areas.

The location maps, site plans, FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Preliminary FIRM, USFWS NWI Map, USACE and NC DWR correspondence, and supporting documentation are available for review at <https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/about/plans-policies-reports/environmental-reviews>. A full description of the Proposed Activity may also be viewed in person, by appointment only, at: NCORR, 200 Park Offices Drive, Durham, NC 27709. Call (984) 833-5350 to make an appointment.

Written comments must be received by NCORR at the following address on or before February 5, 2024: Matthew Arlyn, Chief Recovery Officer, NCORR, ATTN: Legend Road Water Tank, P.O. Box 110465, Durham, NC 27709. Comments may also be submitted by email to publiccomments@rebuild.nc.gov with "ATTN: Legend Road Water Tank Comments" in the subject line.

January 20, 2024