

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
9/30/2020**

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:

Collier County Board of County Commissioners

Project Title:

4337-225 Freedom Park Bypass Ditch

Location of Proposed Work:

The project is located in the stormwater conveyance ditch along the northern boundary of Freedom Park between Goodlette-Frank Road to the west and the Gordon River to east.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

This project involves the widening of an existing drainage ditch which provides an outflow connection from the Goodlette-Frank Road roadside swale east to the Gordon River. The work includes construction of two (2) in-line control structures, installing a new weir at the upstream western end where the pump station is located and developing a spreader swale system at the downstream eastern end where the ditch terminates. The project will sever the direct connection between the ditch and the Gordon River by filling in approximately 200 linear feet of the eastern most portion of the existing ditch and restoring the area to the original wetland ground elevations. The project will widen the existing ditch approximately 65 feet top to top in order to enhance the conveyance of stormwater and develop approximately 180 ft long spreader swale into the natural wetland to polish the stormwater prior to entering the Gordon River. The spreader swale will distribute the flow of water from the ditch into the existing natural wetland removing the point discharge. Work also includes constructing a stabilized road running the entire length of the ditch along the south top of the bank to provide service and maintenance access.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) constructing a new stormwater outfall approximately ¼ mile south of Freedom Park. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) repetitive flooding is not alleviated and the needs of the community would not be served, and Alternative 2) the costs associated with new construction on a currently unimpacted site.

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 30 days of this notice (October 30th, 2020). 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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Capital Project Planning, Impact Fees and Program Management Division

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