

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and
Riverine Wetland**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Sarasota County Resilient SRQ under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Infrastructure & Public Facilities Program HUD grant B-23-UN-12-0004 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and riverine wetland, and Resilient SRQ will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is along North Port Boulevard, crossing the Cocoplum Waterway, between Sam Shapos Way and Espanola Avenue in the City of North Port, Sarasota County. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. The Zone AE 100-year floodplain (base flood elevation 10.3 feet) was determined using FEMA Flood Map Panel 12115C0386C dated March 27, 2024 and riverine wetlands were identified using the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Mapper.

The proposed project is to repair and rehabilitate the bridge to restore its structural integrity after Hurricane Ian caused both hydrodynamic and bridge scour, undermining piers and structural components. The damage was initially addressed as an emergency repair to prevent bridge failure. The scope of work includes repairing concrete spalling and cracks at the post tension anchor, bridge pilaster, piles, and bent cap, repaving the bridge deck, removing and replacing expansion joints, and installing new guardrail cushion blocks, as needed.

The Cocoplum Waterway is a 13.1-mile stream located within the Myakka River Watershed. It is mapped critical habitat, water levels are weir-controlled, and it serves as raw water supply to the North Port Water Treatment Plant. The existing bridge to be rehabilitated is approximately 375 feet long and covers an area of about 5,000 square feet (0.11 acres). The footprint of the bridge, including structural piles and existing riprap along the banks will not be altered.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplains and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain and wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Resilient SRQ on or before September 16, 2024, at the following address:

Resilient SRQ
301 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 200
Sarasota, FL 34232
Attention: Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA-CM, County Administrator

You may also submit comments by phone by calling 311, 941-861-5309, or TTY: 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 during business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM), or via email at ResilientSRQ@scgov.net.

Date: August 30, 2024