

**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 (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] grant No. B-23-UN-12-0004) under the Infrastructure & Public Facilities Program is within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and riverine wetland. Resilient SRQ will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on these areas 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 site consists of a previously developed lot totaling 1,026,786 square-feet (23.572-acre) in the City of North Port. It is located at 4445 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289 (27.09581 North, -82.15819 West), bound on the north by Interstate 75, east by Career Lane, south by Cranberry Boulevard, and west by the Creighton Waterway. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. Zone X, a 500-year floodplain, was determined using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Map Panel 12115C0381F effective November 4, 2016, and wetlands were identified using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Mapper.

The proposed project would consist of the construction of a new building to offer more career and technical education programs, renovate the student services area to meet the needs of expanded enrollment, increase safety and security through a single-entry point, and install an awning to provide a covered area for the trades programs to expand their lab space. The expansion will also create additional space in the main building to expand healthcare programs. The Suncoast Technical College student population is comprised of mostly young adults attending their programs to begin their first career. This investment into construction trades training programs will lead to careers with a sustainable wage for students in the low to moderate income level (LMI). These programs will help reduce the skilled workforce shortage that is continuing to grow in the City of North Port and Sarasota County, the greater Florida area, and nationwide. The training provided will lead to the attainment of career certificates, industry credentials, and certifications that will help North Port and its surrounding citizens to employment in high wage, high demand careers. The proposed project would be constructed using the latest design standards and resilient building materials.

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 wetlands. 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 of flood impacts.

Written comments must be received by Resilient SRQ at the following address on or before January 26, 2024: Resilient SRQ, 301 N. Cattlemen Rd. Suite 200 Sarasota, FL 34232 Attention Steve Hyatt, MBA, CPM, Program Management Division Manager, or by phone by calling 311 or 941-861-5000 or TTY: 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at shyatt@scgov.net.

Date: January 10, 2025