

## FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Columbus County. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice was published Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 for DR-4494 Hurricane Florence. 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. - Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 requires FEMA to consider alternatives - and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

President Biden issued new Executive Orders 13985 and 14008 in January 2021 to further address the need to achieve environmental justice and equity across the federal government. The issuance of the new executive orders more than 20 years after Executive Order 12898 was signed indicates the administration's directive to federal agencies to renew their energy, effort, resources and attention to environmental justice. FEMA is working with applicants/subapplicants to identify communities with Environmental Justice concerns and provide an avenue for local groups and non-profits with an Environmental Justice mission to self-identify so that FEMA Programs can start to work with them on specific projects from the beginning of the application process.

This notice serves as a project- specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined the only practicable alternative is to fund acquisition of properties located within the Special Flood Hazard Area prior to the event. 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. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

**Responsible Entity:** FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

**Applicant:** Columbus County

**Project Title(s):** Columbus County Acquisition Project; Flood Mitigation 2020

### Location of Proposed Work and Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels:

Site Name	GPS Coordinates	FIRM Panel
111 C O Moss Road, Whiteville NC 28472	Lat: 34.34672 Long: -79.66008	1200 6/2/2006
328 Rogers Circle, Tabor City NC 28463	Lat: 34.15528 Long: -78.85638	0144 12/6/2019
638 Water Tank Road, Delco NC 28436	Lat:34.31 Long:-78.24228	2220 12/6/2019
690 Water Tank Road, Delco NC 28436	Lat:34.30951 Long: -78.24291	2220 12/6/2019
893 Water Tank Road, Delco NC 28436	Lat: 34.30649 Long: -78.24485	2220 12/6/2019
929 FM Watts Road, Whiteville NC 28472	Lat: 34.1785 Long: -78.78591	0164 6/2/2006
24605 Andrew Jackson Hwy East, Bolton NC 28423	Lat: 34.31712 Long: -78.24322	2220 12/6/2019
192 Forest Drive West, Whiteville NC 28472	Lat: 34.33745 Long: -78.73615	0271 6/2/2006
1833 Clarendon Chadbourn Road, Chadbourn NC 28431	Lat: 34.30176 Long: -78.80807	0240 6/2/2006

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All Panels effective as stated above. Sites are located within regulatory floodways. Sites are located within or adjacent to wetlands.

**Proposed Work and Purpose:** This will be a voluntary acquisition program. For all property owners who decide to participate in this voluntary program, the properties will be acquired and demolished using HMGP grant funds. The properties will be returned to greenspace in perpetuity and deeds restricted in accordance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions as a means of mitigating against future flood damage and losses at these sites.

### Project Alternatives:

- (1) Alternative #1 (No action): The 'no action' alternative would continue to place these structures at a high risk of being affected by the floodplain. The subject properties would remain susceptible to any future flooding events. The damages and risk of potential loss of life would continue to be a threat if no action is taken.
- (2) Alternative #2 (Elevation): The owners of these residential properties do not want stay in their homes due to the continuing costs of damages from storms and flooding. Elevating these structures will not fully eliminate the risk of future damages and would be cost prohibitive. Further, HMGP is a voluntary program the homeowners involved with this project has selected "acquisition" as their preference.

**Comments:** This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA FMA program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, at the above addresses within 15 days of the date of this notice.

**THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING**

**NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December 2021**