

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Santa Cruz 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 Public Assistance Grant Program (PA).

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).

Executive Orders 13985 and 14008 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/sub-applicants 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 the repairs of the canal embankment and associated features 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:** City of Watsonville  
**Applicant:** City of Watsonville  
**Project Title(s):** Canal at East Lake and Bridge Street

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

Site Name	GPS Coordinates	FIRM Panel
Canal at East Lake and Bridge Street	36.93058, -121.74401	06087C0411E

*All Panels effective AH Zone.*

**Proposed Work and Purpose:** The City of Watsonville will utilize force account and/or contracts for repairs to the East Lake & Bridge Street canal components to restore the facility to pre-disaster function and capacity within its existing footprint. Repairs will consist of replacing precast concrete staggered sound walls, precast concrete staggered sound wall support beams, and metal fence posts as well as repair 250 cubic yards of rip rap and embankment fill, metal mesh wire fence gates, and 119 LF of metal mesh wire fencing. The city will install an additional 187 cubic yards of rip rap along the embankment along a 72' long x 35' wide x 2' deep area to mitigate against future erosion. No work in water will occur during repairs.

**Project Alternatives:**

- (1) Relocation of facilities outside of the floodplain** – Relocating the facilities would require rerouting the canal, potentially altering public access to certain properties and disproportionately affecting property owners as land is seized for the construction of the new route. The damages to the facilities are limited in scope and the cost of relocation would likely outweigh the cost to repair the damages at current locations. Floodplain avoidance by relocating the facilities is not a practicable alternative and would adversely impact social or economic resources for the community.
- (2) No action alternative** – This alternative is not feasible as the repairs are necessary to ensure that the canal remains operational in its current location to perform its designed function. The canal provides ingress for water throughout the community while the canal embankment serves to prevent erosion from impacting the water. With the no action alternative, continued negative impacts may be experienced.

**Comments:** This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9, 1111 Broadway #1200, Oakland, CA 94607 [A. or by emailing FEMA-](#)

[EHP-DR4683CA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:EHP-DR4683CA@fema.dhs.gov). Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "4683 Canal at East Lake and Bridge Street" 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 15 DAY OF December 2023**