

Hazard Mitigation Grants

Joint Federal, State, Local Public Notice

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) have received an application for Federal grant funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Funding for this grant was made available after the 4241 Presidential declaration was made regarding the flood of October 2015. 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.

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 and 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.

Applicant: Beaufort County

Project Title: Outdoor Warning Siren

Project Description:

Beaufort County is looking to bid and procure a warning system project that would include a master controller that would receive notification from NOAA to automatically activate the warning system located at the Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division (2001 Duke St Beaufort, SC, 2nd floor). The purchase and installation of the 17 sirens would be strategically placed throughout the county to reach the most area covered. Placement of these sirens have been selected based on data that was provided from The Beaufort County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Lowcountry Council of Government. This data included vulnerable populations, age, and households without phone services. The sirens would be automatically tied to the NOAA warning system and activated automatically by radio signal originating from the master controller.

Project Location:

The 8 Outdoor Warning Sirens would be deployed in the most exposed positions (where the most people are likely to be at risk). The following are the proposed locations for the sirens:

- 1) 600 Wilmington St. Beaufort, SC
- 2) Russ Point Boat Landing - 15 Russ Point Boat Landing St Helena, SC
- 3) Fire Station 6 Palmetto Dunes – 12 Dalmation Lane Hilton Head, SC
- 4) Fire Station 893 Shell Point – 602 Parris Island Gtwy Beaufort, SC
- 5) Fire Station 23 Ladys Island – 632 Lands End Rd St Helena, SC
- 6) May River High School – 601 New Riverside Rd Bluffton, SC

- 7) Port Royal Golf and Raquet Club – 10 Clubhouse Dr Hilton Head, SC
- 8) Fire Station 2 Hilton Head – 65 Lighthouse Rd Hilton Head, SC

Russ Point Boat Landing and Hilton Head Fire Station #2 are located in a special flood hazard zone as determined by FIRM/wetlands map, but were selected due to location of vulnerable population, largely populated areas, and areas determined to reach citizens that may not have access to technological notifications or cellular/telephone device.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternatives for this project have been considered and rejected. An alternative to the project would be to have hand held radios to alert officials from NOAA or the NWS. Designated personnel could then alert the public by bull horn or mass text notification but this may not be the most timely option for immediate hazardous weather and will require personnel to be redirected from their original job tasks.

Comments Period:

Beaufort County will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the proposed project. Interested persons may direct any comments or questions to Pamela Cobb with Disaster Recovery at 843-255-2721 or email at pcobb@bcgov.net. These are due within 15 days of this notice.

Locations of warning siren sites

