**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

The City of Lake Charles, as Responsible Entity under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, 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 activity is funded under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program and P-21-LC-22-LDZ1. The proposed project is located at 1110 1st Avenue N, 1411 Katherine Street, 1415 Katherine Street, and 1417 Katherine Street in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish. The center coordinates for the project area are 30.2515, -93.2007, and the project is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain**.** The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach (FVA)**.**

The City of Lake Charles proposes awarding approximately $2 million in CDBG-DR funding to the Greater St. Mary Community Development Foundation to utilize approximately 1.00 acre of land for the construction of a new facility, the Hope Center Nonprofit Hub and Neighborhood Center. The proposed facility will operate primarily as a non-profit hub and neighborhood community center and will also serve as a disaster response center when needed. The proposed project will also include the acquisition of 1415 Katherine Street and 1417 Katherine Street. The 1417 Katherine Street property includes two residential structures that will be demolished; the addresses for these houses are 1417 Katherine Street and 1103 N. Lyons Street.

Approximately 0.75 acres of the 1-acre property is located with the FFRMS floodplain. The potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the construction of the new facility within the floodplain include potential for flood damage to the structure from future storms. These impacts will be greatest for structures where elevation is below the FFRMS floodplain elevation. To ensure the facility can continue to operate in the event of an unexpected flood at this site, elevation and other resiliency measures will be incorporated into the building construction.

The City of Lake Charles has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain/wetland:

-Locate the Project Outside of the Floodplain: Moving the project to another site located outside of the floodplain would not sufficiently meet the goal of the proposed project. Relocating the facility outside of the floodplain could place it farther from the target community, limiting access to important year-round public services—such as life skills training, financial literacy, and after-school tutoring—and reducing its effectiveness as a rapid disaster response center during storm events for LMI residents.

- No Action Alternative: The impact of taking no action would fail to meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. The proposed Hope Center aims to address the critical need for a resilient, centralized facility that primarily supports community development but can also serve as a rapid disaster response during emergencies. The “no action” alternative would not allow for the LMI residents to receive these essential public services.

The City of Lake Charles has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain 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 floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Lake Charles at the following address on or before May, 19, 2025 City of Lake Charles, Office of Community Development, Box 900, Lake Charles, LA 70602 and 337-491-1440, Attention: Mark Tizano, Community Development Director. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 326 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70602 and www.cityoflakecharles.com. Comments may also be submitted via email at CommunityDevelopment@cityoflc.us.

Date: