Combined Public Notice

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

## October 22, 2025:

City of Lake Charles

326 Pujo Street

Lake Charles, LA 70601

(337) 491-1440

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lake Charles.**

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

The City of Lake Charles, as Responsible Entity under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation 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 (CDBG-DR) program and grant number B-21-DZ-22-0001.

The proposed project is located in several areas across Lake Charles**,** Calcasieu Parish, LA, and is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain**.** The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach and freeboard value approach (FVA).

The City of Lake Charles, as RE and Grantee, proposes utilizing approximately $14,279,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding for the rehabilitation of the wastewater collection system in Basin A. Proposed work includes rehabilitation of approximately 15,000 linear feet of pipe in existing large-diameter gravity sewer mains in several sub-basins, ranging in size from 15 inches to 46 inches in diameter. Rehabilitation of smaller diameter existing pipes will also occur in sub-basins A-06 (~28,000 LF of 6 – 10 inch pipe), A-02 (~17,500 LF of 8 – 12 inch pipe), and A-09 (~31,000 LF of 6 – 12 inch pipe). Activities will involve trenchless technologies that include cured in place lining (CIPP) and pipe-bursting to rehabilitate existing pipe infrastructure. CIPP involves the insertion and subsequent curing of a felt liner to the host pipe. Pipe-bursting involves the pulling of a bursting head through the host pipe; a new pipeline is connected to the bursting head and is pulled in place. There is no expansion of footprint beyond what is already existing in the project areas. The proposed project areas encompass several acres within the FFRMS floodplain. The project areas currently serve as wastewater infrastructure. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel 22019C0480F, effective on 02/18/2011, the proposed large diameter project site is located in Zones shaded and unshaded X, A, AE, and a floodway. The proposed A 02 project site is located in Zones shaded and unshaded X, and AE, per FIRM panel 22019C0320F, effective on 02/18/2011. The proposed A 06 project site is located in Zones shaded and unshaded X, per FIRM panel 22019C0480F, effective on 02/18/2011. The proposed A 09 project site is located in Zones shaded and unshaded X, A, AE, and a floodway per FIRM panel 22019C0480F, effective on 02/18/2011.

Floodplains are beneficial by providing natural moderation of floods, surface water quality maintenance, groundwater recharge, diverse wildlife habitat, cultural resources (archaeological, historic, and recreational), and agricultural, aquacultural, open space, and forestry resources. The proposed work is not anticipated to adversely impact the FFRMS floodplain, as the work to the wastewater collection system will be localized and will improve its function and capacity; thereby helping to protect the community from overwhelm and spills.

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:

-Locate the Project Outside of the Floodplain: No alternative locations were considered for this project as the proposed work consists of rehabilitation to existing infrastructure and relocation of the wastewater pipes to new sites is neither cost-effective nor feasible. The project will be providing community infrastructure repairs to existing sewer system services for the city. The project will also support health benefits to the surrounding community through protecting against sewer system overwhelm and spill risk.

- No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative will not meet the needs of the community. There is a need for existing wastewater pipes to be upgraded to meet the challenges presented by more frequent and severe weather events and to improve existing collection system conditions. The proposed repairs to pipes will protect employees and public health by preventing sewer system overwhelm and potential spills. Under the No Action Alternative, the wastewater system would not be repaired and the aforementioned benefits to the community as well as resiliency to future storm events would be forfeited. Therefore, the No Action Alternative is not considered to be a viable option.

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/wetland 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 the floodplain/ wetland 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/ wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

# REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about November 7, 2025the City of Lake Charles will submit a request to the Louisiana Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery (LOCD-DR) for the release of Louisiana Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program funds under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117–43), September 30, 2021, as amended, and as authorized by related laws and policies to undertake a project known as Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation for the design and implementation of rehabilitation activities to wastewater collection system areas including the rehabilitation of pipe in existing large-diameter gravity sewer mains in several sub-basins, as well as smaller diameter existing pipes in sub-basins A-06, A-02, and A-09. Activities will involve trenchless technologies that include cured in place lining (CIPP) and pipe-bursting to rehabilitate existing pipe infrastructure. There is no expansion of footprint beyond what is already existing in the project areas and minimal ground disturbance will occur.

The project locations are in several areas throughout the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana and the estimated funding is $14,279,000.00.

# PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Lake Charles, Office of Community Development, Box 900, Lake Charles, LA 70602 and (337) 491-1440.Comments may also be submitted via email at dena.jourdan@cityoflc.us.All comments received by 4:00 p.m. on November 6, 2025 will be considered by the City of Lake Charles prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Lake Charles certifies to LOCD-DR that Marshall J. Simien, Jr. in his capacity as Mayor/Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. LOCD-DR’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lake Charles to use CDBG-DR program funds.

# OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

## LOCD-DR will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Lake Charles’ certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lake Charles; (b) the City of Lake Charles has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the LOCD-DR; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR 58.76) and shall be addressed to Gina Campo, Executive Director, LA Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery, 617 N. Third Street, 6th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, Phone: (225) 219-9600, or emailed to Murilo.Martins@la.gov. Potential objectors should contact Louisiana Office of Community Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

*Marshall J. Simien, Jr., Mayor, City of Lake Charles, LA*